



Safari Club International

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Mr Lou Sanson
Director General
Department of Conservation
Wellington 6141.

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Dear Sir,

At a recent executive meeting of SCI(NZ), several 1080 poisoning programmes that DOC has carried out without the use of deer repellent were discussed. The two examples we specifically discussed were the 2014 poisoning of the Wakatipu Whitetail deer herd in Glenorchy and the more recent poisoning last year of Red deer on Molesworth Station. Both programmes were characterised by the non-use of deer repellent and the reassurance from DOC that this would not result in a significant by-kill of deer. That reassurance has been proven to be incorrect for the Whitetail deer herd with a significant by kill of whitetail deer proven scientifically. Anecdotally for Molesworth, there appears to be substantial evidence also of a significant by-kill of red deer, which will be confirmed scientifically in due course.

The questions SCI(NZ) has for DOC in this respect are:

1. Why is DOC not using deer repellent in all 1080 poisoning programmes?

If the answer is one of cost or logistical difficulty, then:

2. What is DOC doing to develop cheaper, more logistically efficient alternative options to the current deer repellent?

It is SCI(NZ),s firm view, and indeed that of tens of thousands of New Zealander's , that deer repellent should be mandatory use in all 1080 poisoning campaigns to protect New Zealand big game animals which are an important and valuable recreational hunting resource as well as an important organic wild food source. We look forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Knowles
President – SCI(NZ)

