

From: Declan Little [mailto:declanlittle@gmail.com]
Posted At: 05 October 2012 12:24
Posted To: Inbox
Conversation: Deer Policy submission
Subject: Deer Policy submission

Sir/Madam

On behalf of Woodlands of Ireland I would like to make the following submission on the recently published 'Draft Deer Management Policy Vision' draft discussion document (2nd draft). Firstly I would like to commend the Inter-Agency Deer Policy Group for the considerable efforts at incorporating the submissions from the previous consultation phase. As Woodlands of Ireland has been centrally involved in lobbying for a dedicated deer policy and has also endeavored to advance some of the many complex issues involved there are a few suggestions I will make that should advance policy development further:

- (1) A stronger emphasis on education should be made in the Executive summary, especially in relation to forestry and ecology/environmental science courses, especially at 3rd level level.
- (2) Section 2.3 is somewhat vague, please elaborate by giving examples of the 'wider ecological impacts' and examples of the research required here.
- (3) Strong legislation with hefty fines is required re Section 2. re illegal introductions of deer.
- (4) Re Section 3.4 some ref to how market development for venison is achieved, i.e. via Bord Bia and the retail wild game sector. Also clarity is required re the legislation that applies re number of animals that can be shot by each hunter, butchering standards/larders, etc as this was very unclear when I enquired with the Dept of Agriculture in 2010. Does EU legislation need to be translated to Irish Law in this case?
- (5) Under 4.41 it should be clearly stated that a 'Deer ecology and management' module be introduced in forestry and environmental Sc./ ecology courses at 3rd level.
- (6) Re section 4.5. branding could be mentioned to ensure the highest possible standards in food products derived from deer, i.e. venison.
- 7) Under 4.6 hefty fines would be a deterrent that could be mentioned re illegal introductions of deer.
- (8) Under 7.3.17 linkage between 3rd level courses and training re deer management could be mentioned here.
- (9) Re 8.0 Stakeholder group a strong, independent chair with a facilitator is recommended to ensure sectoral interests are catered for. Equal voting rights in the decision making process should be afforded to the hunting/recreational, conservation and forest/timber production sectors.

Yours Sincerely,

Declan Little

--

Dr Declan Little
Project Manager
Woodlands of Ireland
Seismograph House
Rathfarnham Castle
Dublin 14

Mobile: 087-6685823 E-mail: woodsofireland@iol.ie www.woodlandsofireland.com