

Thompson S (Siobhan)

From: Lamont W (Willie)
Sent: 09 December 2019 16:08
To: Thompson S (Siobhan)
Subject: FW: Fox policy in confidence.

From: Lamont W (Willie)
Sent: 08 August 2019 15:58
To: Macleod A (Alex) <Alex.Macleod@forestryandland.gov.scot>
Subject: Fox policy in confidence.

Alex

I am well through both a background paper and policy doc for foxes. I thought I might let you see a draft summary position. This has not been viewed by anyone other than myself. I'll be starting refining etc. with Chris Nixon tomorrow. Just thought you may be interested in my suggested direction of travel-

Widespread effective fox control is reliant on the control of both fox immigration and juvenile dispersal during the autumn and winter.

The control of juvenile and immigrant foxes on a landscape scale is not feasible or in the case of Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) desirable.

The culling of foxes on Scotland's national forest and land estate will be in reaction to proven incidents of foxes adversely impacting on legitimate neighbouring land use interests or for FLS's targeted conservation or research purposes.

Of the three traditional methods of controlling foxes, hunting with hounds, killing foxes at their dens and winter shooting, the most effective is killing foxes at dens. Where the particular problem fox and any dependants may be targeted and dealt with.

Flushing foxes with foot packs of hounds to guns taking place during the autumn and winter months will have a very low impact on fox numbers and population size, mainly due to the fact that the activity takes place when there are significant numbers of dispersing and immigrating foxes.

Foot packs of hounds can cause potential disruption to the safe public enjoyment of the forest estate

Out with the autumn winter period the use of foot packs of hounds is undesirable due to known and in some cases unintended consequences for mammal protection on the national forest and land estate. Especially during the relevant breeding season.

The use of foot packs of hounds and any other use of hounds will not be a method of fox control on the national forest and land estate.

Winter shooting of foxes due to the random nature of the activity has significantly less impact on fox numbers than targeted control at dens.

The method of controlling problem foxes on the national forest and land estate will be shooting problem foxes at dens. Taking into account at all times associated animal welfare issues.

On occasion where targeted fox control may be required for conservation reasons, or in reaction to neighbouring land users complaints, limited fox shooting away from dens during the vulnerable part of the breeding cycle of the predated species may take place.

I intend sending the completed and much bigger draft round all relevant parties when its sorted out including Delivery Managers. In other words this is just a confidential heads up for you. Happy to discuss any early observations.

Regards

W.

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