

**A      Background**            The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Bay of Plenty is pleased to be given the opportunity to make submissions on the draft of the Te Kawa o Te Urewera.

Our parent body made a submission early in December 2013 where our country wide views were discussed. They mentioned a “special relationship” that has been forged with Te Urewera.

We at NZDA BoP Branch made a submission to your board in April 2016 where our regional views were discussed and again we emphasised the “special relationship” that had been forged with Te Urewera. We think that this will survive the passage of time because it is in every ones’ interests that it does.

**B      Management Plan** We support the draft Management Plan for the following reasons;

- 1.**      **Human** activity has more affect on the land than almost any other natural event that could be mentioned. If you could remove the human factor, controlling other factors would be simple, except of course severe natural disasters. Therefore, to let the land look after itself and concentrate on the manageable factors makes good sense.
- 2.**      We support the principle of putting **nothing** into the land that was not already there. The reservation that has to exist is that in an emergency situation, all means of remedy must be considered. We refer particularly to the control of invasive weeds and animals. We believe that the control of problematic species must not be carried out at the expense of desirable species. Our native birds for example have dramatically declined in numbers with various control methods associated with possums in the past!
- 3**      The NZDA BoP Branch is able to support Te Urewera with **observations** when our members visit Te Urewera forest. Monitoring of tracks, huts, the general state of the bush and animal numbers is a task that we can easily be involved with.
- 4**      We believe that there are many **business** opportunities in Te Urewera which should be investigated. However, any business ventures introduced must have zero impact on the environment. It goes without saying, ventures must be well managed.
- 5**      Inevitably, there will be some **human effect** if humans can access an area. Keeping the effects to a minimum is the tricky part. We do support the maintenance of tracks and huts to a good standard. In conjunction with this, controlled but relatively free access. We support the upgrading of toilets to modern standards where the effluent is either removed or composted. We support the Great Walk concept, particularly as it is so will used by tourists.

**6** We believe that Te Urewera must have **income** streams to support the maintenance of assets. There are many possibilities.

**7** NZDA BoP Branch is happy to **partner** Te Urewera in hunting related activities where your assets (people and forest) would benefit from our expertise.

**C Conclusion** We are privileged to have been consulted and are delighted to have been able to contribute to your consultation process.

It is essential that we continue with this dialogue in the development of a lasting “partnership” both for the peoples of the Te Urewera and NZDA BoP Branch. We are very happy to assist in any way we can with regard to matters hunting.

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