

GPS Tracking Sika in Kaweka Forest Park 2010-2012



Purpose

To use GPS/VHF/satellite tracking collars to determine how time of day, weather, seasonality, population density, hunting pressure, sex, age and breeding cycles influence habitat use, dispersal and home ranges of sika deer in the Kaweka Forest Park. This information will promote more efficient herd management by the Department of Conservation and recreational hunters.

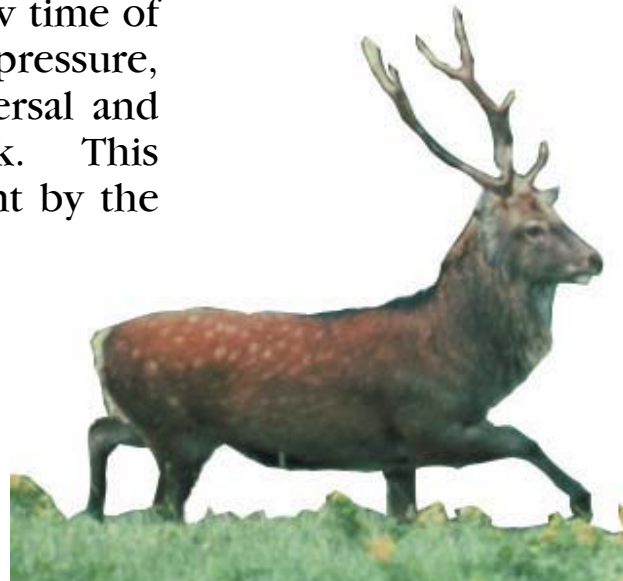
30 Deer (20 sika hinds and 10 sika stags) have been captured using net guns, fitted with transmitters mounted on neck collars, and will be monitored until May 2012 when collars are programmed to drop off. The spatial data will be analysed to measure home range sizes of hinds and local and long-distance movements by stags. We will overlay the satellite data on land cover maps to learn what habitats are used and avoided by sika.

Information will be analysed and shared with the supporters of the project, recreational hunters and any other interested parties.

Hunters are asked not to shoot collared deer as the information gained from this study is of great interest to recreational hunters, however if collared deer are shot please hand the collar in to a DOC office or one of the supporters listed below.

Embedded in each collar is the following message:

PLEASE RETURN THIS COLLAR
To DOC, 59 Marine Parade
Napier. PH. 068343111



Get involved

If you wish to be part of this project or want any further information, contact any of the supporters below or the DOC HB Area Office;
59 Marine Parade Napier
PH, 068343111
napier-ao@doc.govt.nz

During the course of the study, opportunities will arise for supporters to monitor the survival of the collared deer, and recover the collars once they have dropped off. If you would like to assist with this work, contact Lakeland Aviation 07 3780085, East Kaweka Helicopters 06 8398693 or DOC HB Area Office.

Prizes will be drawn for anybody who manages to get a photo of a collared deer during the study. Note that deer must be alive and detail of location, time and date must also be given. To enter, e-mail or post your photo and detail to DOC HB Area or to one of the supporters below.

At the conclusion of this study, a working group will be formed to analyse; the results of this study, vegetation monitoring data, deer density data, and deer kill data in order to review future control of the Sika herd in the Kaweka Forest Park. This working party will incorporate a variety of interested parties and user groups, including the supporters of this project.

Get in touch with DOC or any of the supporters for updates on this project



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