

Public Administration Committee

From: Bruce Hale
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 2:41 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Inquiry into the potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Hon. Members conducting the inquiry,

I am a regular walker on the Bibbulmun Track and other walking paths in WA's state forests and I believe it is vital that recreational hunting not be allowed under any circumstances in National Parks.

Negative impacts

- The added vehicle traffic will obviously cause increased degradation of forested areas.
- The likelihood of accidental or careless shooting of native wildlife.
- The likelihood of accidental or careless shooting of other users, bushwalkers etc.
- The likely damage and misuse of Bibbulmun Track camp sites and facilities.

It is suggested that recreational hunting can assist with the control of feral species. This is a furphy.

There is no evidence that recreational hunting has ever been an effective control of feral animals. Just the opposite in fact. The added degradation of the natural environment puts added pressure on native species leading to an open field for feral animals.

If we are serious about feral control then only 'evidence based' control programs are useful. These may include hunting but carried out by professional hunters who can adequately target the right species and carry out the necessary monitoring required to ensure that whatever is done, does actually work.

Thank you,

Bruce Hale