



Local Land  
Services  
Central Tablelands

## Wilbertree North Wild Deer Management Project



Anecdotal evidence based on field observations, landholder accounts, years of experience and gut feeling

## Situation (deer)

- Fallow deer present in the region for 40 + years
- Extremely mobile when disturbed
- Herd sizes of up to 60 individuals
- Regular reports of new incursions
- Preference open woodlands
- Regular reports of infrastructure damage
- Unknown biosecurity impacts
- Unknown human health risks

## Current situation (Perceptions)

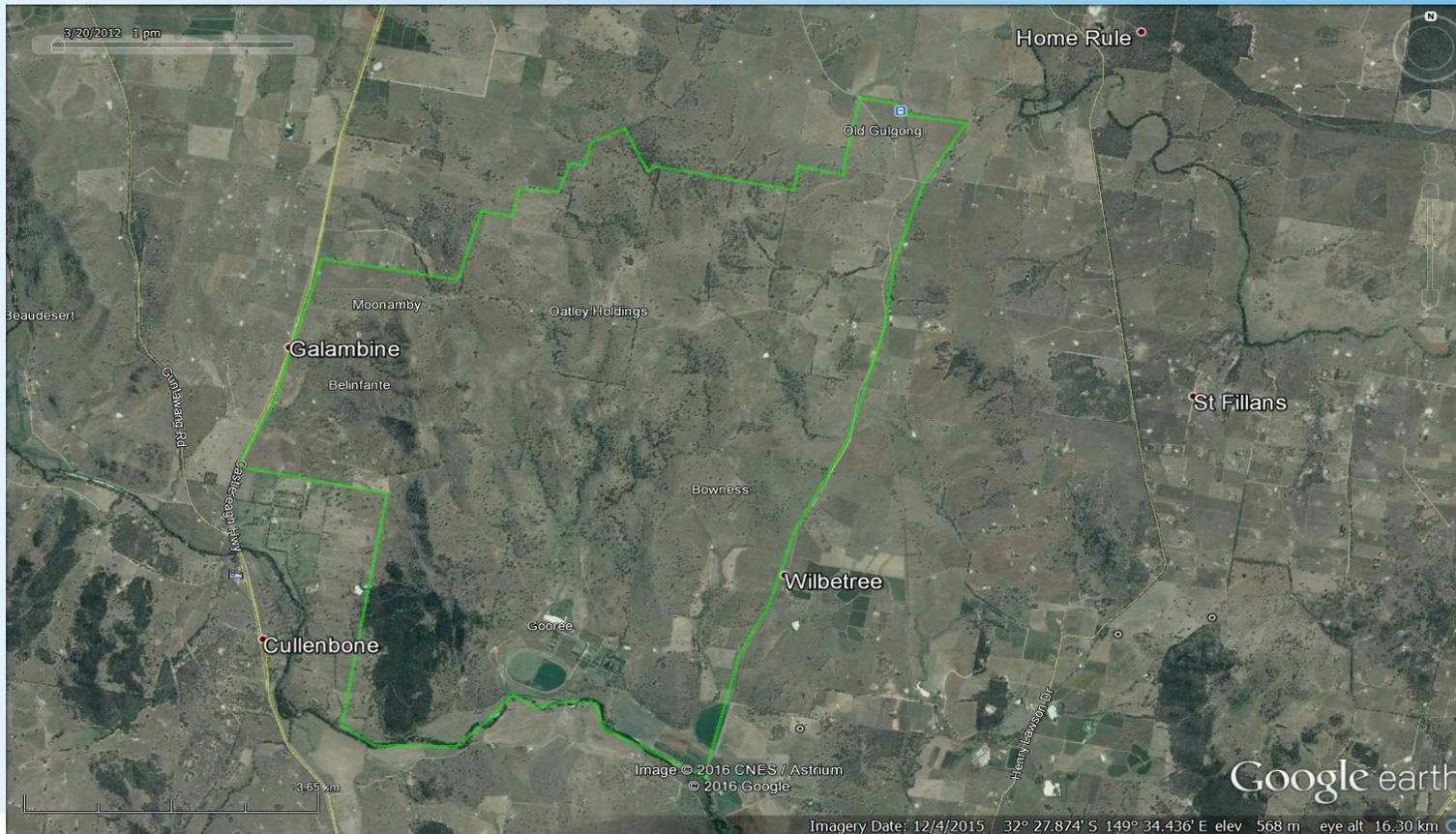
- Not regarded as a pest (bambi factor)
- Game species and should be conserved and managed as a hunting resource
- Land managers struggle with available effective control options
- Public and land owner perception of deer often differ

## Current situation (Project Site)

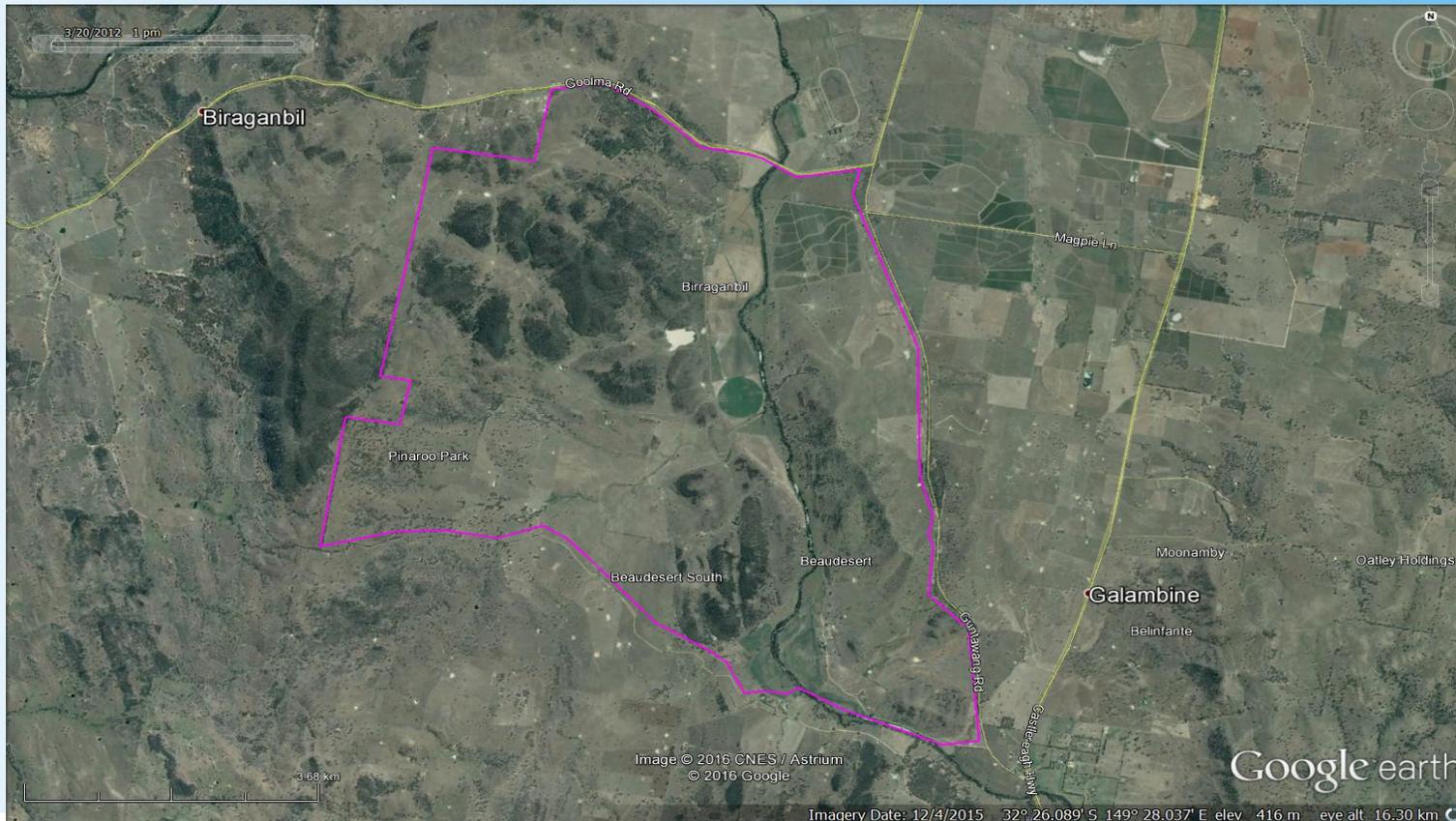
- Six Holdings 250 - 1200
- 4100 ha (treatment site)
- 4000 ha (nil-treatment site)
- 350 – 450 deer (landholder estimate)



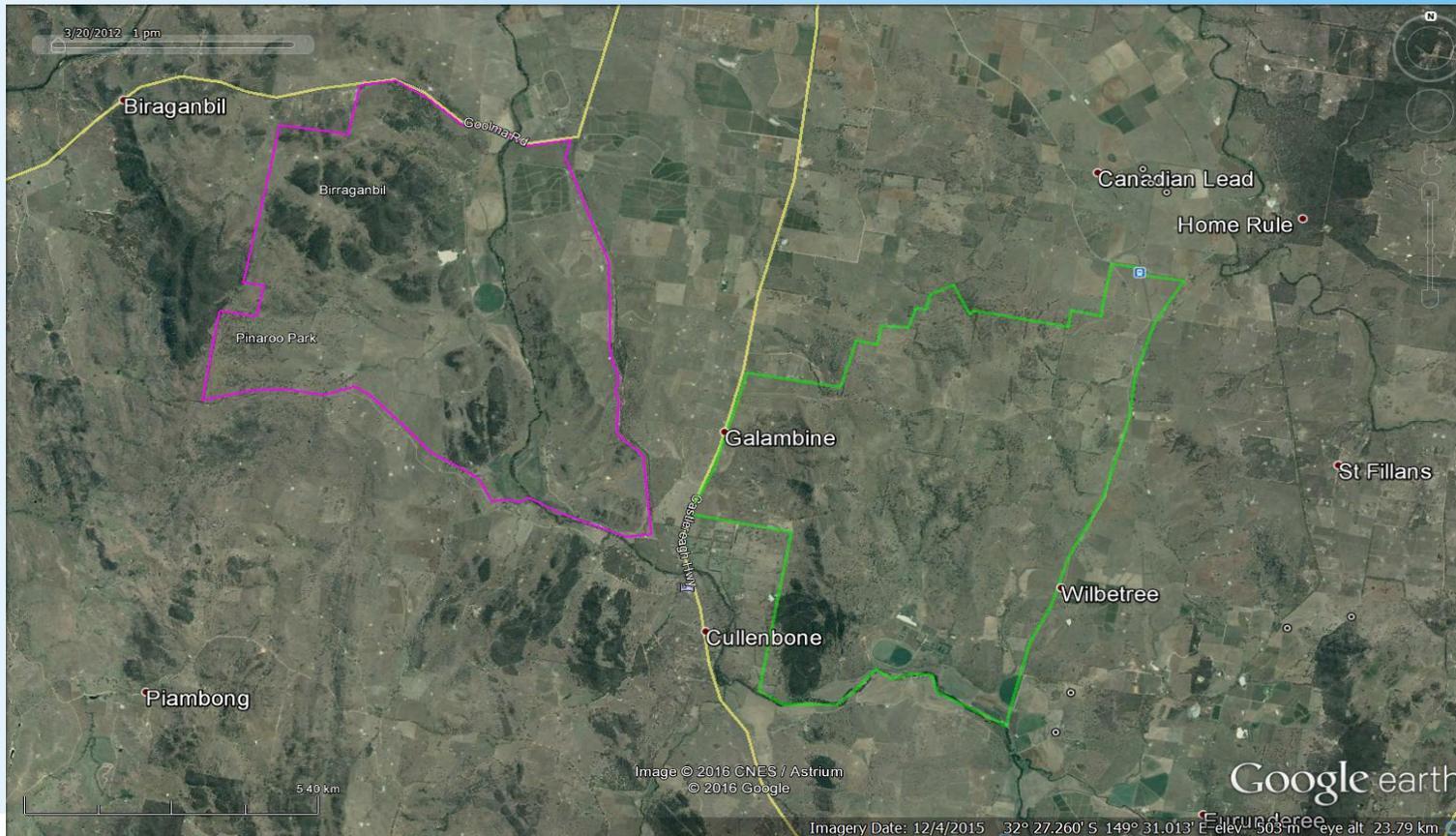
# Treatment site



# Nil treatment



# Project site



# Project mission

1. Establish population (Control & nil-treatment)
2. Collect specimens for necropsy/testing to establish biosecurity and human health risk
3. Deliver a low density population to the project landholders
4. Determine landholder ability to maintain low numbers over 12 months and beyond
5. Determine pressure on population from migration and natural increase

# Survey

- Pre control survey of landholders (LLS)
- Pre control surveys (DPI both sites)
- Post control surveys (DPI both sites)
- Post control survey of landholders (LLS)
- 12 month post cull survey (DPI)
- Possibility of ongoing survey (DPI)

# Timeframe

- Aerial survey – March '17
- Disease surveillance – March/April '17
- Culling operations – April/May '17
- Post control survey – July '17
- 12 month survey – April '18
- 12 month culling operation – May/June '18



## Special considerations

- Media interest
- Public understanding of the issue
- Hunter sensitivity
- Lack of available control options
- Location (horses, traffic, public)
- Kangaroo management onsite
- FAAST



# Post Cull Discussion

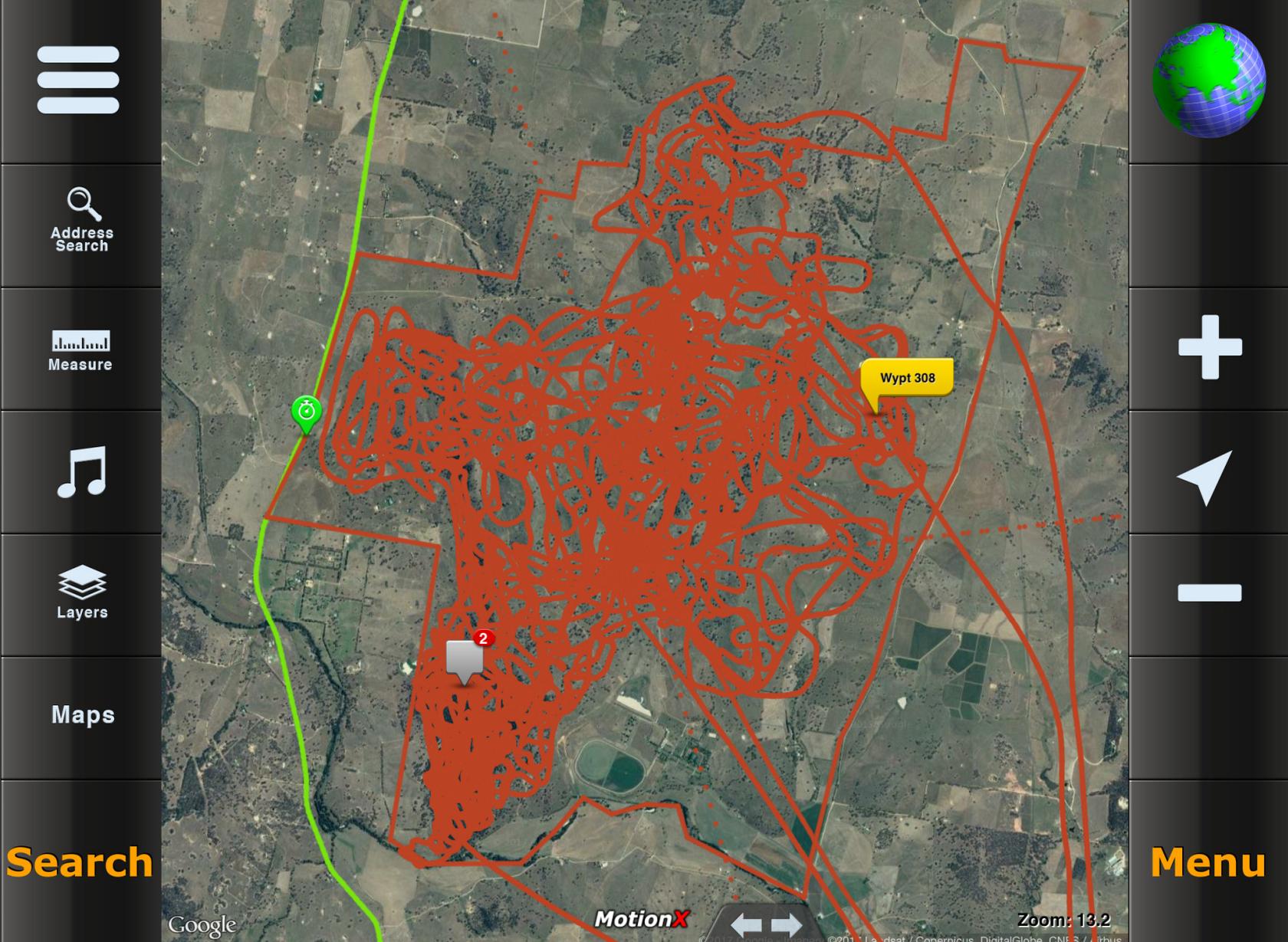
## *landholder observations*

Was there a noticeable decline?  
Residual herd size?  
Has any ground based control occurred?  
Has there been any negative feedback?  
Has there been any positive feedback?  
Would you consider aerial control as a control tool in the future?



# Aerial Cull Data

		Date	Air time	Deer Culled	Total Ha Treated	Animals culled/Hr	Ha Treated/hr
2017	Cull 1	27-Apr	1.6	83	1500	52	938
	Cull 2	4-May	2.8	106	1700	38	607
	Cull 3	16-May	3.5	168	3800	48	1086
	Cull 4	25-May	4.5	150	3800	33	844
	Cull 5	2-Jun	2.1	50	3550	24	1690
2018	Cull 1	29-May	2.5	81	3400	32	1360
	Cull 2	8-Jun	1.4	21	3550	15	2536



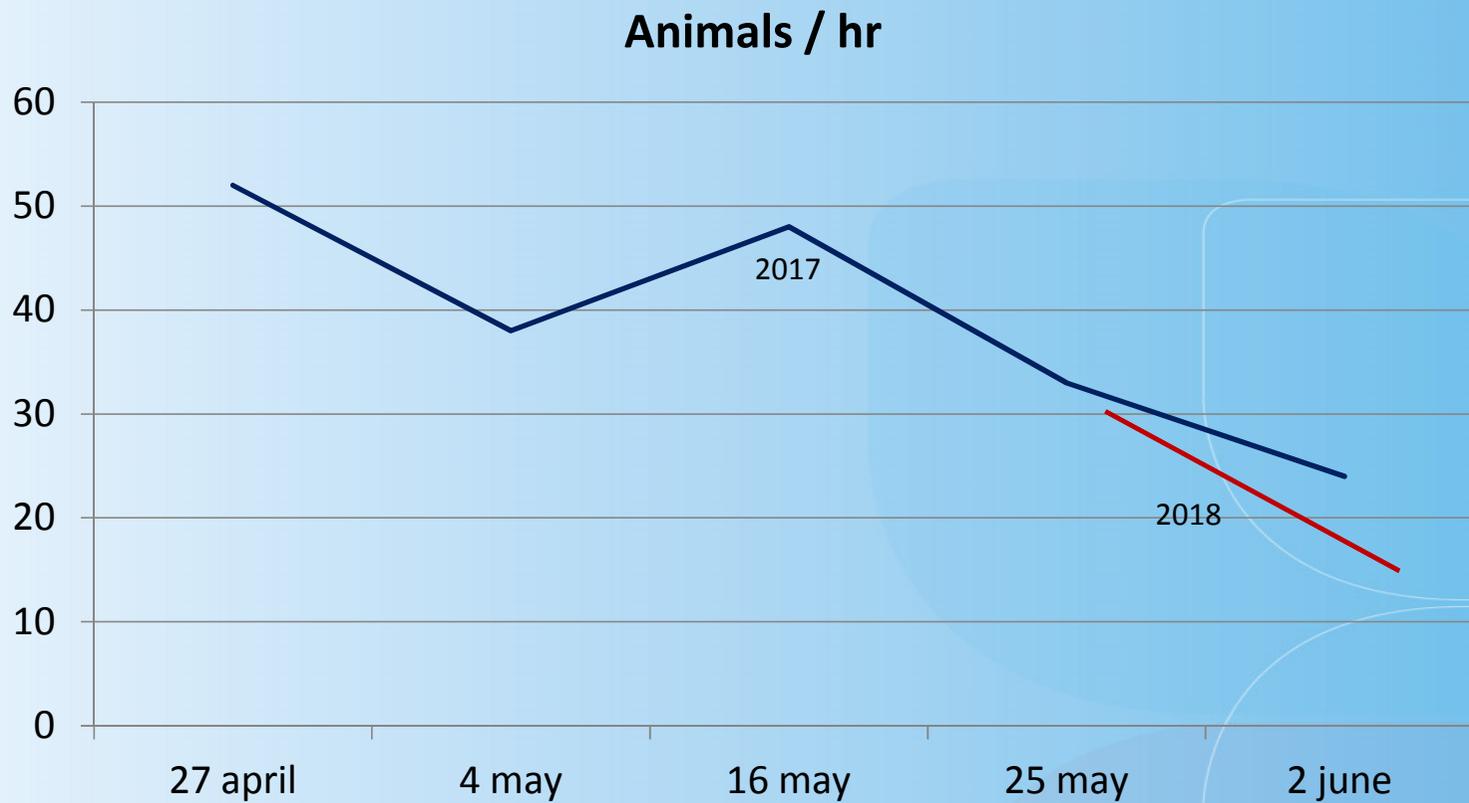
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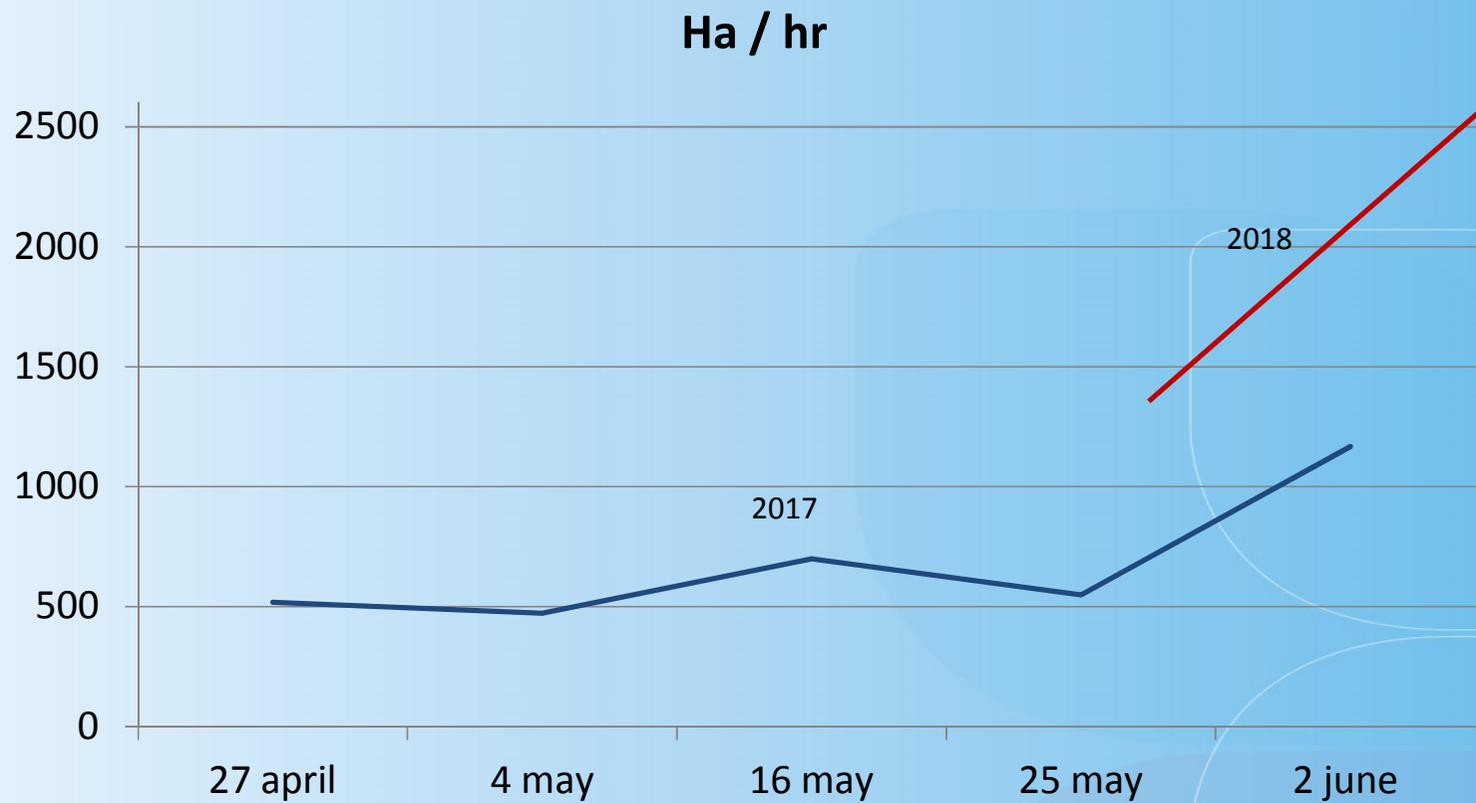
# Deer Removed



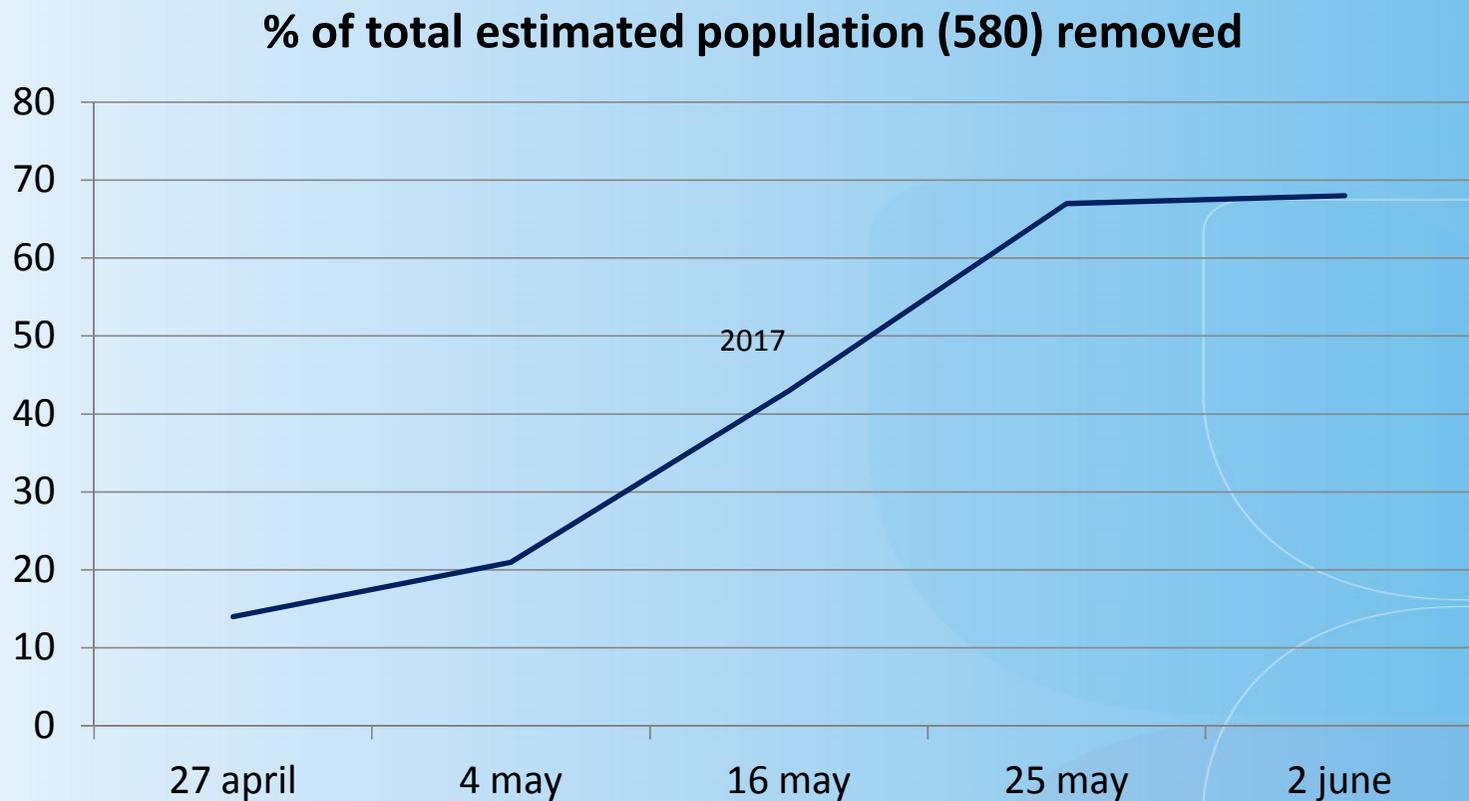
# Animals removed per hour



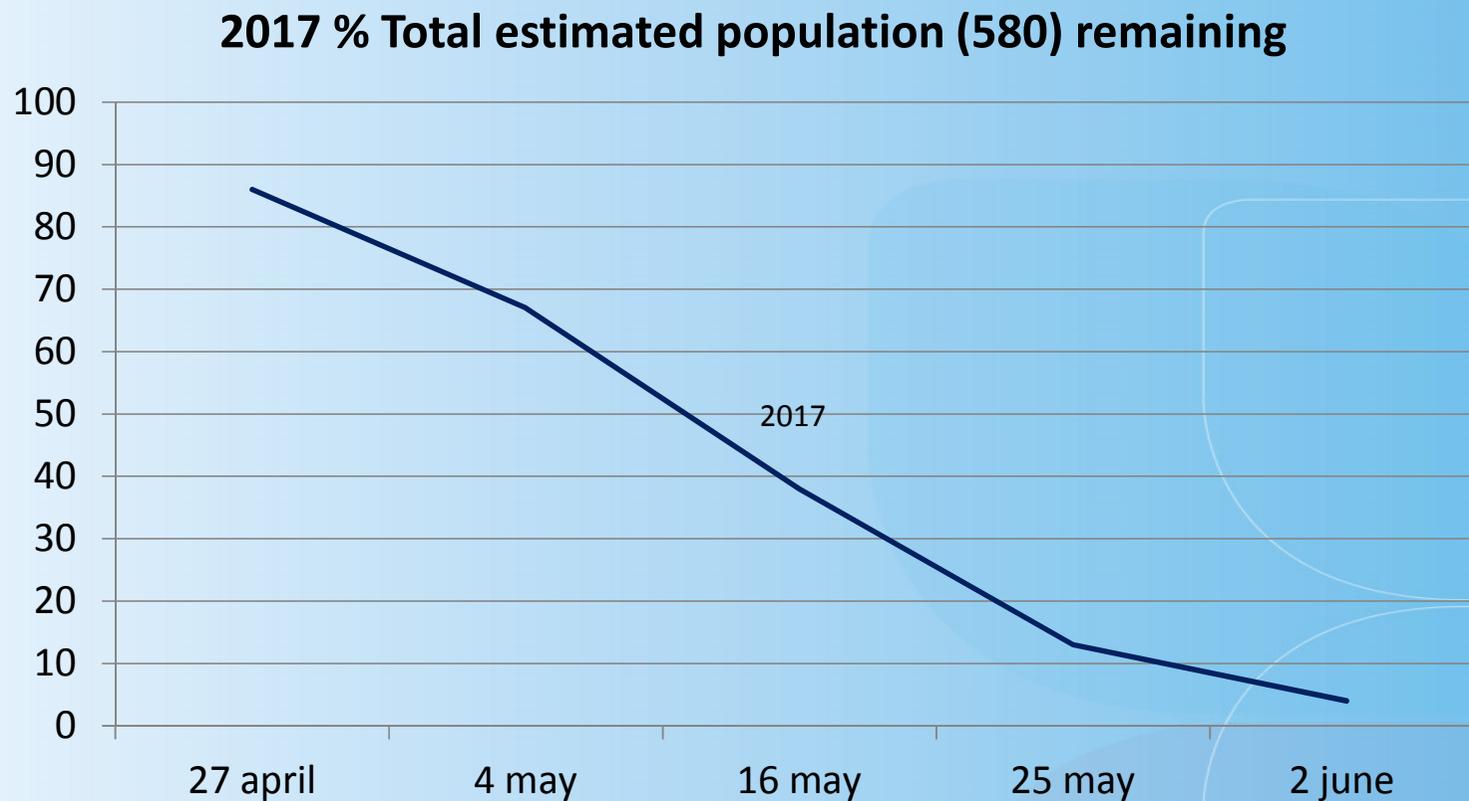
## Area treated per hour (ha)



# Animals removed per hour



# Animals removed per hour



# What Now ?



- Landholder control activities
  - Spotlight control
  - Opportunistic shooting
  - Recreational hunting
- Reporting
  - Animals observed
  - Animals culled
- Aerial surveys
- Future of aerial control