

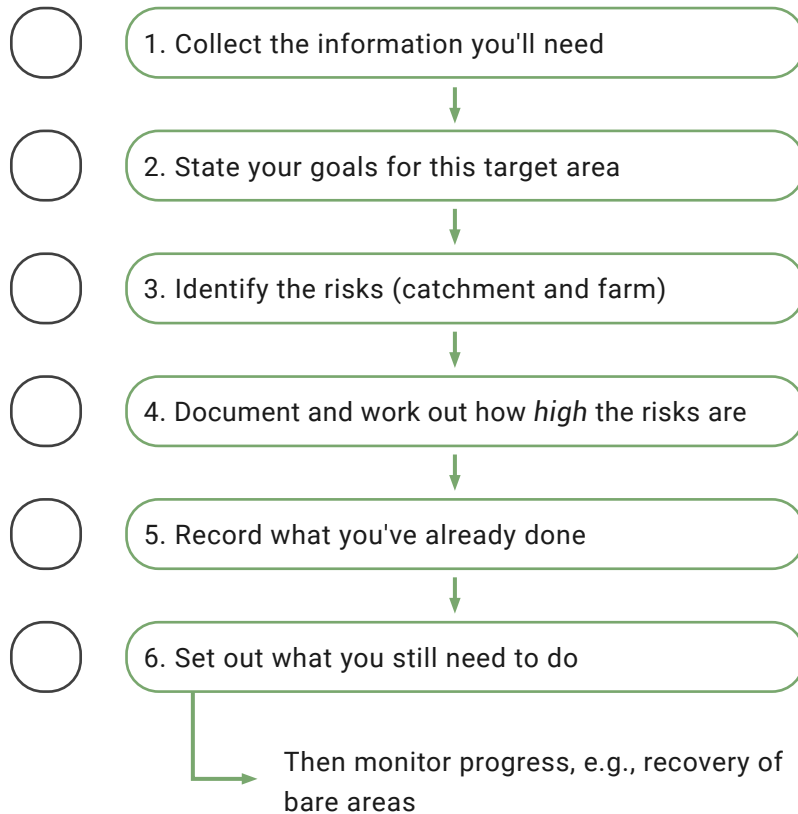
ACTION PLAN: **CAMP AND PLAY SITES**



01 What information will I need?

- Farm map and risk assessment
- Farm soil map to identify the most vulnerable soil types
- Deer Industry Environmental Management Code of Practice: p30 Good management practices and mitigation options in camp sites; Mitigation options for play behaviour p31

Tick these off as you go



There's a place to fill these in at the end of the document



02 Goals

Start by setting simple overall goals for camp and play sites. **Here are some examples:**

My goals for managing camp and play sites are:

1. I want to stop stock camps from becoming critical source areas

2. I want to provide a stress-free environment for deer that fits their natural behaviours



Go to the template at the end of this document to fill in your goals and the other parts of your Action Plan.



03 What are the risks from camp and play sites?



DID YOU KNOW...

It's natural behaviour
.....

- Unlike fence pacing, damage around stock camps and play areas can result from normal behaviour in mobs of healthy and relaxed deer. Deer will play for exercise, social reasons or if they are bored.
- Deer will rest in a favoured area where they feel comfortable and safe, e.g. where it is flat, sheltered and they can keep an eye on their environment.
- Lone trees can become a focus for stock camps too.
- Deer also like to play, especially young stock. This often happens on erosion-prone slopes where soil is easily disturbed.
- If there are no campsites available or the paddock is small, deer can fence pace instead, or just camp by the gate.



It's natural behaviour cont.

- If there's no shelter in hot weather, deer will seek out windy knobs or exposed ridges to cool down.

? **Camping and play leads to damage**

The combination of camping and play behaviour in deer can destroy any plant cover and expose and damage soils. This creates critical source areas and a risk of sediment loss into waterways as well as E. coli from the concentrated dung.



HANDY HINTS

Distraction is good

- A felled tree/branches, large rocks or clean/empty drench drums make great toys to distract bored young deer and help prevent soil damage from play.





04 How high are the risks from camp and play sites?

Record the risks from camp and play sites. **We've started with some examples below.** Tailor this to your situation using the template at the end. See the "Risk Assessment" module for how to assess level of risk:

Activity/location examples	Risk assessment	Comment (make a note of anything specific to your place)
Bare soils in stock camp on slope	○ ○ ●	Spring in area, so could become a critical source area; might need fencing
Deer camping out under shelter by the fence which has a creek adjacent	○ ● ○	Will become a critical source area when wet with sediment and faeces running off into the creek
Bottom paddock with a slight slope and a swale is being pugged and eroded by young deer	● ○ ○	Only happening with the young deer when in that paddock – so infrequent.

Examples: Typical stock camp areas

This corner and shelterbelt provide a favoured area for stock to camp.



A corner and gateway have created a stock camp site here. Moving the feed trough away will help take the pressure off this area.



Examples cont.

Stock have worn away all the pasture in this corner.



Deer have been camping and playing on this vulnerable slope around some springs.



DID YOU KNOW

Getting on top

Being “king of the castle” is a common behaviour when deer play. The area among the trees is also attractive as a stock camp. Note also the impact of deer on the tree trunk at right.



Photo: Glenys Travers

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Environment Waikato (2002) Trees on Farms: pp12-13. Information on tree planting to mitigate stock camps. See: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/PageFiles/3354/section1.pdf



05 Actions to reduce damage from camp and play sites

Write down (a) what you've already done to mitigate any damage from camps and play sites and then (b) what you have got planned. Link it back to your goals and risk assessment (above). Include timing and who's responsible. **We've started with some examples below.** Record your own completed actions and planned actions in the template at the end.

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
Stop stock camp from becoming a Critical Source Area (CSA)	Soil damage and loss from play area on slope	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Use electric fencing to protect soils damaged on slope by deer playing on stock camp area to prevent sediment loss. Lay geotextiles over worst areas Avoid long stock rotation Plant shade and shelter to provide several good camping sites	Visual inspection – reduced soil loss visible down slope	1 Oct 2021	Me, farm staff
Repair existing damage	Bare soils in large stock camp area in corner	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Repair damaged soil in stock camp by cultivating, re-sowing and fencing off to protect while it recovers	Visual inspection – new vegetation starts to establish	Underway	Me, farm staff
Create an alternative play area	Current play areas are eroding sediment that washes into creek if heavy rain	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Create safe wallow (depression away from waterways), provide play objects like drench containers, tree stumps or felled tree in a less risky location	Photos before planting, and will take every couple of years at one of the bends to show the difference over time	2021	Me

TEMPLATE: CAMP AND PLAY SITES

Fill out your Action Plan for camp and play sites here.



02 Goals

My goals for managing camp and play sites are:



03 How high are the risks from camp and play sites?

See the "Risk Assessment" module for how to assess level of risk:

Activity/location	Risk assessment (low/medium/high)	Comment (make a note of anything specific to your place)
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	



Actions: What I've already done to protect against damage at camp and play sites

Write down what you've already done to protect against damage at camp and play sites. Link it back to your goals and risk assessment (above). Include timing and who's responsible.

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				



Actions: How I will protect against damage at camp and play sites

Write down what you've still got planned to protect against damage at camp and play sites. Link it back to your goals and risk assessment (above). Include timing and who's responsible.

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				

When you've completed this template, save this document onto your computer. You can amend it later if you need to.

Low

Medium

High