

June 2015

Report to European Bowhunting Federation about the SCAES-FMC Program

Servicio de Controladores con Arco de Especies Silvestres de la Federación Madrileña de Caza (from now on, SCAES-FMC)

(Madrid Hunting Federation's Bowhunting Controllers for Wild Species)

INFORM

The SCAES-FMC was created in December 2011, because Madrid Environmental Agency, (from now on, MEA), decided to investigate how bowhunting could be utilized to manage the problems created by the over population of wild boars existing all around the urbanized areas located in the north of the city of Madrid.

MEA's top executive director required Madrid Hunting Federation, (from now on, MHF) to create a small team of bowhunting specialists to start with an experimental urban bowhunt. The three months trial urban bowhunting phase resulted in the successful culling of 45 urban wild boars. Based on this the SCAES-FMC has been approved.

The approval has also been granted because the harvested 45 wild boars did not result in any wounding loss. Forty-eight arrows have been released three of them hitting the spinal cord and requiring a second dispatching arrow. The requirement of the bowhunt was that all taken wild boars had to be macro-analyzed by an official MEA's veterinary team. The conclusion of the veterinarian team was that the death of the animals was quick due to the effectiveness of the sharp broadheads used (reference to info letter of veterinarian team).

The selection and acceptance of SCAES-FMC bowhunting team members is requiring a special bowhunting course by SCAES-FMC instructors. The course includes a tree climbing training and a first aid course specially focusing on bowhunting related accidents. After this initial training, the new bowhunting team member is accompanied on every hunt by a SCAES –FMC veteran bowhunter for the first 6 months. If his behavior is approved, the new bowhunter becomes a fully accepted team member.

After several months of bowhunting and harvesting more wild boars with similar good results, MEA required SCAES-FMC to keep up the hunting pressure on the urbanized surroundings. In addition, bowhunting of wild boars and red deer for studying if tuberculosis disease was expanding has been conducted in a special wildlife sanctuary in the CAÑACERRAL UNESCO'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE. This is an extra preserved area (390 hectares), where only MEA's biologists are permitted to enter. This culling program by SCAES-FMC also achieved excellent results, which lead to the expansion of bowhunting as a managing tool in other urbanized areas because different Madrid's Mayor Houses and private properties with wild boar problems required SCAES-FMC assistance.

In the period May-June 2013, another bowhunting program has been started. An experimental selective culling of Spanish wild ibex has been organized by MEA in the PARQUE NACIONAL DE GUADARRAMA (Guadarrama National Park). The bowhunt has been conducted by SCAES-FMC's 10 most experienced bowhunters and in 28 days, 52 specimens were culled without a wounding loss albeit three of the animals shot were not found immediately after the shot but a longer period after the hunt.

This trial bowhunt has been started because MEA and the Guadarrama National Park's managers urgently needed to lower the drastic over population of Spanish wild ibex existing in the Park. In the long-term, they are planning to cull 60 % of the park's wild goat population in a 10-year period. The goal is to maintain a level of around 1.500 specimens. The selective culls made during the SCAES-FMC trial bowhunt were aimed only at age classes of up to three-year-old males and females and seven years or older females of the Spanish wild ibex specimens.

That's why in December 2014, MEA announced that over the next ten years, the Guadarrama National Park's Spanish wild Ibex population numbers would be lowered and aligned with the area's sustainable carrying capacity. This reduction will not be carried out with any recreational or economical purposes and performed by MEA's specialists. The selected methods for the reduction will be live trapping and relocation, use of rifle sharpshooting and the usage of bowhunting experts whenever and wherever the application of these methods is most useful and possible.

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