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Ten more brumbies killed in State forests near Tumbarumba

30 Dec 2009

Forests NSW is appealing to the public to help find the person or persons responsible for the shooting of another 10 brumbies in Maragle and Bago State Forests near Tumbarumba.

The horses were most probably killed during the weekend, with the majority shot in Maragle State Forest near West Power Line Road, approximately 30 kilometres south-east of Tumbarumba.

Six of the horses were shot within 50 metres of each other with what appeared to be a high-powered rifle.

A further two mares were found shot dead near East Bago Power Line Road in Bago State Forest.

These shootings bring the total killed in the region to more than 100 in the past 18 months.

Forests NSW feral animal control officer/ranger, Mark Goldspink, located the horses on Monday after being alerted to their deaths by a member of the public.

He said it was an appalling, heart-breaking slaughter of horses that were well known to people in the area.

'One of the horses shot appears to be a domestic palomino mare, who had escaped from a property and joined the brumbies.

'She has been brutally shot approximately three times - in the flank, ribs and neck - 20 metres off West Power Line Road, which is used by locals and tourists.

'This area is highly visible to the public and very busy at this time of the year.

'Nearby a small foal has been shot through the shoulders and a grey mare and her foal were shot together,' Mr Goldspink said.

The local police and Game Council have been notified of the shootings and the police have visited the site and gathered forensic evidence.

The police are hopeful that with assistance from the public the offenders will be caught and prosecuted.

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