



## **Information for hunters on permits, ballots and facilities**

The Department of Conservation has released information on hunting permits, ballots and facilities ahead of hunting resuming on public conservation land under COVID-19 Alert Level 2.

### **Permits**

- Recreational hunters can apply online for a hunting permit from 5.00pm Tuesday 12 May. Permits will be valid once we go to Alert Level 2 at 11.59am Wednesday evening. Hunters should first check their existing permit as it may still be current.

### **Tahr ballots**

- Several tahr rut ballot periods have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, however the remaining 2020 tahr ballot periods will recommence from Saturday 16 May 2020.
- DOC will contact ballot holders to check whether they would still like to take up their ballot.
  - If a ballot holder is unable to take up a ballot and notifies DOC within seven days of being contacted, their ballot will be rolled over to next year.
  - If the hunter does not respond to DOC's email, DOC will assume the ballot holder has accepted the hunting block for 2020 and it won't be rolled over to 2021.
  - Any remaining hunting blocks in the 2020 ballot that are no longer required by hunters will become available to other parties on a first in first served basis through the DOC website.
- If hunters' ballots were affected by COVID Level 3 and 4 restrictions, they will have an opportunity to move their ballot to the same time period in 2021.

Note: Travel and helicopter transport for hunting ballots are still subject to any COVID-19 restrictions. You should contact the helicopter operator for specific information around their operations.

## **Deer roar ballots/blocks**

- Some hunting blocks assigned to hunters as part of the 2020 deer roar ballots did not go ahead during Alert Level 3 and 4.
- Ballot holders can choose to have their allocated block transferred to the same period next year. Where ballot holders did have the opportunity to take up their blocks, these will be either re-drawn in a limited ballot, or made available to book for 2021.
- DOC will contact ballot holders whose hunting trips were partially affected by COVID-19 in due course.

DOC staff are focused on ensuring any hunting ballots or bookings planned for the next few months go ahead. Once this process is complete, they will contact affected ballot holders regarding next year's ballots and hunting blocks.

The following roar ballots were affected by COVID-19. If hunters were unable to hunt on the hunting block, their ballot will be rolled over to 2021.

### Northern South Island

- Molesworth roar ballot

### West Coast

- Haast roar ballot

### Southern South Island

- Wanaka roar ballot
- Greenstone/Caples roar ballot
- Coastal Otago ballots: Waianakarua, Glencoe, Mill Creek, Waipori Falls
- Murihiku ballots: Waikaia, Leithen Bush, MacLennan, Tautuku, Blue Mountains
- Rakiura/Stewart Island booking system

## **Restricted hunting areas**

Prior to moving to COVID-19 Alert Level 4, some hunters will have had a permit or booking to hunt in a restricted hunting area. Due to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 and 4, these bookings did not go ahead.

- Permits will not be rolled over once we return to Level 2 and hunters will need to contact their local DOC district office to apply for a new restricted hunting permit/booking.

- DOC will honour any remaining restricted hunting permits or bookings (booked prior to Alert Level 4) once New Zealand has returned to Alert Level 2. Restricted hunting permits will be subject to any COVID-19 restrictions that may apply, as well as local restrictions.

## **Huts, campsites and intentions**

At Alert Level 2, all DOC facilities, including huts and campsites will reopen for public use.

- To maintain the government's guidelines for gatherings, bookable accommodation is capped to 10 people and there should be no more than 10 people at any of the larger non-bookable huts.
  - It's a good idea to carry a tent should huts be busy or physical distancing is difficult to manage
- Be prepared to clean surfaces before and after you use them and leave the facilities fit for other users.
  - Carry your own cleaning equipment in and out of the area you visit.

It is more important than ever to be able to trace your contacts during your trips. This includes letting a friend or family member know of your intentions and putting your details in hut intentions books as you go.

More information is available at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/covid-19-and-hunting>