

10 December 2020



Game Animal Council
NEW ZEALAND

Hunters needed for conservation boards

DOC is now accepting nominations for conservation board appointments and the Game Animal Council (GAC) is encouraging hunters to get their applications in.

The GAC believes that New Zealand's 15 conservation boards would gain a lot from the backcountry expertise and perspective of hunters, and the hunting sector would also benefit from greater representation in these organisations.

Hunters, who make up around 10 percent of the users of public conservation land, are chronically underrepresented on conservation boards yet have a crucial role in ensuring the sustainable management of valued introduced game animals alongside enhancing conservation values. The fact is, if we want conservation policy to better reflect hunting interests, we need to be far more proactive in putting ourselves forward.

For those that don't know much about what they do, conservation boards are independent bodies that have a big say in the management of conservation areas. They are heavily involved in the review and monitoring of conservation management strategies, national park and conservation management plans for their region. While this may sound a bit bureaucratic these plans and strategies are extremely important as they have a large role in determining how our public conservation lands are managed.

Anyone can be nominated, or nominate themselves, for a position on one of the geographically-defined boards. The main criteria is an interest in conservation. Appointments are made by the Minister of Conservation with applications due by 29 January 2021. Please go to <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/>.