

Applying for Access to Undertake Mineral Related Activities on Public Conservation Land



Mineral related activities (including exploration, prospecting, mining and conducting minimum impact activities) are authorised under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Anyone wishing to undertake mineral related activities requires a permit from New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals and permission from the landowner for access to its land.

For activities on public conservation land, the permit holder requires permission to enter the land from the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Minimum Impact Activities

- If you want to undertake a minimum impact activity on public conservation land you need to get a consent from DOC as well as a permit from NZ Petroleum & Minerals.
- Minimum impact activities generally involve surveying and initial soil sampling undertaken by hand or hand held methods only.

Note: Recreational gold fossicking (hand panning) does not require permission if undertaken at designated sites. Contact your local office for the locations of designated gold fossicking sites.

Exploration, Prospecting and Mining Activities

- Access to public conservation land for non-minimum impact exploration and prospecting activities or mining activities requires a permit from NZ Petroleum & Minerals as well as an access arrangement from DOC. In some cases, access arrangements will be jointly decided by, or on behalf of, the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Energy and Resources.
- Exploration, prospecting and mining activities include a wide range of activities involved with locating and extracting minerals.
- Applications for access are unable to be accepted in some cases. This is primarily dependent on the status of the land (for example in wilderness areas and most areas of national parks). If you are unsure please contact mining staff at the Hokitika Shared service centre to discuss your proposal.



Applying for a Minimum Impact Activity Consent or an Access Arrangement

- Application forms and guidelines are available from staff in the Hokitika shared service centre or on the DOC website.
- The amount of detail necessary in your application will depend on the scope and scale of your proposed operation. Providing a sufficiently detailed application will assist with the efficient processing of your application.
- You are encouraged to discuss your proposal with mining staff in the Hokitika shared service centre before lodging your application.
- If you would like to check the land status of the area you are considering for access please contact your local office or check online at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/maps-and-statistics/docgis/>
- Applications for access will be considered with regard to: the objectives of the various legislation, the purpose for which the land in question is held; the Conservation Management Strategy and any Management Plans in place for the land; the safeguards to be put in place against any potential adverse effects of carrying out the proposed activity; the direct net economic and other benefits of the proposed activity in relation to which the access arrangement is sought; and the summary of submissions received if an access arrangement is publicly notified
- The decision on whether the application will be successful may also include giving regard to other matters considered relevant such as compensation.

Costs

- The actual and reasonable costs of processing applications (for both minimum impact activity consents and access arrangements) are charged. Mining staff in the Hokitika shared service centre will be able to provide you with an estimate of processing costs.
- The payment of costs does not imply that your application will be successful. Should you withdraw your application at any stage, you will be liable for the processing costs up until that time.

Timeframes

- The time taken to process consents and access arrangements will depend on the complexity of the application, the level of detail included in the application, the amount of further information required from the applicant, and whether an application needs to be publicly notified.

Note: Minimum impact activities, prospecting, exploration and mining are defined in section 2 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Sections 50, 59, 60, 61 and Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 are relevant to accessing Crown land for minerals related activities.

For further information, to request an application form, or to discuss your proposal, please contact mining staff in the Hokitika shared service centre: permissionshokitika@doc.govt.nz or Private Bag 701, Hokitika 7842. Further information and application forms are also available online at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/mineral-exploration/>