

WARO Key Fact Sheet



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Background

The current national Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) concession permit was granted in 2015 and expired on 30 June 2018. A process is underway to develop a new national WARO permit to be offered to operators. Interim permits have been issued to allow continuity of operations until the new national WARO permits are issued.

When is a WARO permit required?

A WARO permit is required any time an aircraft is used on public conservation land to search for, shoot and recover wild animals or parts of wild animals.

What is the national WARO permit?

The current national WARO permit is primarily for the recovery of deer carcasses for supply to Ministry of Primary Industries approved processors. The permit allows (subject to conditions) aircraft to be used for:

- Deer, pig, and goat carcass recovery, plus live capture of deer, pigs and goats (North Island permit)
- Deer, pig chamois and goat carcass recovery and live capture of deer (South Island permit)

You can see the current permits online at www.doc.govt.nz/waro

What activities are not allowed under the national WARO permit?

The permit excludes the carriage of recreational hunters and fee-paying passengers. Other WARO activities, such as aerially assisted trophy hunting (AATH) or chamois live-capture and conveyance, have their own, separate WARO permits and processes.

What are the key steps and timeframes for the new national WARO permit?

The table below shows the key steps and expected timeframes for the new national WARO permit process.

Steps	Timeframes
Department staff will do a regional land assessment process to develop draft WARO land schedule	Mid-April – mid May 2018
Department external targeted consultation on draft WARO land schedule. Operations Directors and/or Operations Managers will decide the format of the consultation to be undertaken in their region/district	June/mid-July 2018
Targeted follow up engagement in respect of finalised land schedule, if required	November
Decision expected on new national WARO permit	2019

What is a land assessment process?

The land assessment process assesses which public conservation land should be included in the new national WARO permit. The 2018 land assessment focus is on new land or land that has had a change in land status or is

covered by a management plan which is new or has been revised since 2014. The land assessment process also looks at land that was previously assessed for the 2015 WARO permit but where issues have come up that may mean a change in WARO access is needed. This change could mean more or less WARO access.

Will the national WARO permit conditions be reviewed?

Yes – where this is considered necessary, the WARO permit conditions will be reviewed.

Will there be formal consultation for the new WARO permits?

No - The 2018 national WARO permit process does not include formal public notification under the Conservation Act 1987. Instead, targeted consultation will occur with WARO operators and interested stakeholders at a regional level to make sure everything that needs to be looked at is considered when drafting the WARO land schedule.

How does the permit allow for other users of public conservation land?

The national WARO permit does not allow WARO activity in gazetted Recreational Hunting Areas, and it also will not allow WARO activity when any Herds of Special Interest are gazetted under the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

Across public conservation land where WARO activity is allowed under the national WARO permit, there are restrictions on the activity. For example, to avoid peak recreation periods and the deer Roar period, the current national WARO permit excludes operations between:

22 December – 15 January and 15 March – 30 April (North Island)

22 December – 5 January and 23 March – 9 April (South Island)

There are also additional restrictions for some public conservation land based around things like recreational hunter ballot blocks and specific requirements of management plans.

