

REVISED WARO LAND ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FEEDBACK March – April 2022

Background

In 2018, the Department began a process to review the 2015 national WARO land schedule and operating limits to undertake certain wild animal control activities on public conservation land. This included considering feedback from stakeholders on recommended changes and, once finalised and approved, forms the basis upon which a National WARO Concession is issued to WARO operators.

Recommended changes were first made available for feedback in June and July 2018. 430 submissions were received and considered by a national panel (comprising legal, technical and concessions staff). Subsequent amendments, including additional new land, were made available for feedback from December 2018 to February 2019 but limited only to those that submitted on the first round. 63 submissions were received and considered. Little progress has been made since then.

Purpose of a third round of consultation

This third round of consultation is intended to provide a final opportunity for any potentially affected person to provide feedback on the second round of consultation recommendations, with some more recent amendments, to help move the process to completion. Feedback will again be considered by the panel and a report on submissions and final recommendations provided to the decision-maker.

Additional information on land recommendations

Feedback was assessed against the Wild Animal Control Act, Deer Control Policy, Conservation Act and other legislation as appropriate, relevant statutory planning documents, wild animal information and health and safety considerations. The national panel made recommendations based on all this information.

Proposed WARO access changes not listed in this document, or the previous consultation rounds, will be recommended to remain and will be presented along with the outcome of this round to the decision-maker for a final decision.

In this document

The majority of the proposed recommendations in this document are a re-circulation of the second round recommendations but with some more recent additions and corrections (presented in italics) and presentation of just two sections (see below) for easier understanding. Where applicable, draft land access recommendations previously consulted on are written in (brackets). The new or revised recommendations are written immediately below for each location. Areas of less than 20 ha have been excluded as these areas are generally the result of minor boundary adjustments, arising from improved mapping technology, or are too small to be considered for WARO access in their own right. Small areas adjoining public conservation land have been given the existing WARO access status of the adjoining land.

Section 1 contains access recommendations for new areas of public conservation land (since 2015), where the recommendations have changed from the first round of consultation.

Section 2 contains recommended changes access over existing public conservation land within the 2015 -2018 WARO schedule where these have been revised since the first round of consultation.

Maps showing the recommended access for the proposed National WARO schedule are available on the DOC website under “Get Involved”. You can scroll in on these maps to see better detail.

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1. RECOMMENDED WARO ACCESS FOR NEW PUBLIC CONSERVATION LAND GREATER THAN 20 HA IN SIZE

North Island

District	Land Addition (ha)	Location name	WARO access	Justification for recommended WARO access	Stakeholder Comment
Hawkes Bay	64.47	Kaweka Forest Conservation Area	(Permitted) Restricted	WARO access 1 June – 31 Oct dates are set to be consistent with proposed changes to the adjacent Kaweka Forest Park.	

South Island

Geraldine	2744.00	Conservation Area – Blue Mountain	(Not Permitted) Permitted	Land is held for conservation purposes, no sound justification to exclude WARO.	
Twizel	187.39	Ruataniwha Conservation Park (new addition)	(Permitted) Not Permitted	Change due to easy access, adjacent to NP, high visitor numbers (road with many tourists)	
North Canterbury	195.87	Conservation Area – Cass Valley	(Restricted) Permitted	Permitted is consistent with adjoining WARO access	
North Canterbury	296.18	The Poplars Conservation Area	(Restricted) Permitted	Permitted is consistent with adjoining WARO access.	
Buller	45.39	Conservation Area – Paparoa Range South	(Not Permitted) Permitted	Permitted is consistent with adjoining WARO access	
Greymouth	129.83	Conservation Area – Rough River	(Not Permitted) Permitted	Permitted is consistent with surrounding WARO access, insufficient justification to exclude access	
Central Otago	2010.37 and 443.00	Rock & Pillar CA and Rock & Pillar Scenic Reserve	(Not Permitted) Restricted	No WARO 23 March – 20 April + Easter, existing areas remain not permitted consistent with nearby PCL) Land is held for conservation and scenic reserve as their primary purposes (s19(2)(a) RA requires extermination of exotic fauna where possible). No	

				<p>justification to be closed for WARO but access restrictions should apply.</p> <p>Wild Animal Control Act and deer control policy position is that land should be open to WARO unless there is good justification for it not to be.</p> <p>Area is within CMS Central Otago Uplands Place (Rock and Pillar - Yellow & Green zones for aircraft access).</p> <p>CMS Table A6.1, referred to in Objective 1.5.1.7, requires that wild animals be controlled. This objective does not require that WARO (or other pest control activity) may only occur on the basis set out in the table. The table states where recreational hunting is not effective (shown by higher FPI counts) commercial aerial hunting could be considered.</p> <p>CMS policy 3.20.1 doesn't exclude WARO and permit conditions manage effects of WARO on other land users.</p>	
Central Otago	382.85	Kakaunui Conservation Area	(Not Permitted) Restricted	No WARO 23 March – 20 April + Easter. CMS policy 3.20.1 doesn't exclude WARO and permit conditions manage effects of WARO on other land users.	
	1948.84	Kopuwai Conservation Area	(Not Permitted) Restricted	CMS policy 3.20.3 refers to tahr and does not exclude WARO. CMS policy 3.20.1 doesn't exclude WARO. Excluding WARO 1 Nov - 31 May also accommodates the recreational needs of nearby Alexandra.	
Central Otago/Wakatipu	~10,639	Remarkables Conservation Area (FPI 63.2±44)	(Not Permitted) Restricted	No WARO 23 March – 20 April + Easter (existing areas remain not permitted). Land is held for conservation as the primary purpose. Insufficient justification to be closed to WARO, although access restrictions could apply.	

				<p>CMS policy 3.20.1 doesn't exclude WARO and permit conditions manage effects of WARO on other land users.</p> <p>Within CMS Western Lakes and Mountains Place where WARO access is supported.</p> <p>Provisions in CMS Table A6.1 apply here to allow consideration of WARO.</p>	
Murihiku	184.72	Mataura Range Scenic Reserve	(Not Permitted) Restricted	<p>All areas to be restricted, open to WARO from 1 June – 30 September consistent with recommended Mid Dome WARO access.</p> <p>Deer numbers over this area are high – neighbouring farmer has contacted DOC re significant feral deer problem coming off Mataura Scenic Reserve and East Dome SR & requesting control be undertaken on PCL.</p> <p>The area's shape and topography mean neighbouring landowner pesticide declarations will be required for WARO operations to occur over most of this land. Legislation requires DOC to protect natural values.</p> <p>Green aircraft access zoning and nothing else in CMS to restrict WARO at this place.</p>	
South Westland	55.87	Scenic Reserve - Okuru – Waiatoto	(Not Permitted) Restricted	<p>Restricted is consistent with adjoining land's WARO access (WARO excluded between last Sunday in March to last Saturday in April)</p>	
South Marlborough	3014.14	Tapuae O Uenuku "Scenic" Reserve Addition	(Restricted) Permitted	<p>Land is held for conservation purposes, insufficient justification to restrict WARO at this <i>stage and consistent with most surrounding land.</i></p>	

2. RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 2015 -2018 WARO ACCESS OVER EXISTING PUBLIC CONSERVATION LAND

Explanatory note – 2018 draft recommended status identified by (brackets) and revised recommendation is recorded below this

North Island

District	Area (ha)	Location	2015-20108 WARO status	Recommended 2018 WARO status	Justification	Comment
Wairarapa	1288	Rewa Bush Conservation Area	Permitted	Not permitted	Small reserve, popular rec hunting, tight canopy with no heli-shooting opportunities	This area was consulted over on the basis it was permitted and the regional recommendation was to change its status to not permitted. Further clarification of its 2015-2018 access status is that Rewa Bush was not permitted. As the recommendation is for the land to remain not permitted, no further feedback is sought at this time for this location.
	1781	Puketoi Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not permitted) Permitted	No change was proposed for this area prior to consultation, however, during consultation it was recommended by the local office to become not permitted due to its tight canopy & narrow shape making it unsuitable for heli-shooting. National panel consider it should remain permitted as there is insufficient justification to close (WARO operators will decide if suitable or not for WARO).	
	1098	Waewaepa Scenic Reserve	Permitted	(Not Permitted) Permitted	Retain status quo – insufficient justification to change current WARO status to not permitted.	
		Tararua Forest Park road ends – Tauherenikau, Waiohine, Mikimiki, Kiriwhakapapa, Putara, Mangaone, Mangahao, North Manukau, Waikawa, Kapakapanui	Permitted	(Not permitted) Restricted/ Permitted	<i>Road ends to reflect status of surrounding land as elsewhere.</i> WARO concessions allow operators to offload carcasses to chiller trucks at formed road ends, this ability is an essential component of the activity &	

					would not change if road ends were to become not permitted. <i>Permit conditions otherwise prohibit from flying over visitor facilities.</i>
		Tararua Forest Park – buffer areas around Powell/Jumbo Loop, Totara Flats	Restricted	(Not permitted) Restricted	No change to current WARO status proposed as not a Great Walk etc (currently WARO is excluded annually from 1 October – 30 April) – insufficient justification for year-round WARO exclusion.
	~300	Rimutaka Forest Park – Corner Creek exclusion area	Permitted	(Not permitted) Permitted	Retain status quo – <i>insufficient justification for WARO exclusion. WARO is permitted under Policy 4.15 with no restrictions in table 4.16 in the Wellington CMS 2019. Conditions require WARO to avoid visitor facilities.</i>
Gisborne	2650	Matawai Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not Permitted) Permitted	Insufficient justification to change current WARO status to not permitted
	957	Wharekopae Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not Permitted) Permitted	<i>Insufficient justification to change to not permitted and up to WARO to decide whether to hunt given pesticide declarations will be required.</i>
	184	Whakaroa Scenic Reserve	Permitted	(Not Permitted) Permitted	<i>Insufficient justification to change to not permitted and up to WARO to decide whether to hunt given pesticide declarations will be required.</i>
	196	Tutamoe Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not Permitted) Permitted	<i>Insufficient justification to change to not permitted and up to WARO to decide whether to hunt given pesticide declarations will be required.</i>

Hawkes Bay		Kaweka Forest Park/Kaweka Forest Conservation Area	Not permitted	(Not permitted) Restricted/Not permitted	Not consulted on but change recommended by national panel in consideration of high deer numbers and Deer Control Policy requirements. Dates for restriction- WARO allowed 1 June – 31 October, consistent with nearby Kaimanawa Forest Park. Only applies to land outside gazetted recreational hunting area (RHA). RHA to remain not permitted to WARO.
Manawatu	67,886	Part Ruahine Forest Park, Awarua Conservation Area, Ruahine Forest (East) & (West) Conservation Areas	Restricted (post 2015 Ruahine decision review)	Restricted/Not permitted	No change to current status proposed (i.e. part not permitted, part restricted – open to WARO 1 May – 30 November annually). Open for feedback because the June/July consultation website maps showed mapping according to the pre-Ruahine review decision where certain areas are permitted. Some pre-existing WARO concessions retained this permitted status until 30 June 2018.
Hauraki/ Waikato/ Whitianga		All of Coromandel Peninsula from Waihi township (SH2) north & SH26 east to be closed for WARO – (Coromandel State Forest Park FPI 11.6 ± 4)	Permitted/ not permitted	(Remove from the WARO land schedule) <i>Not Permitted</i>	<i>Not Permitted recognises sensitivity of Treaty negotiations and imminence of settlement legislation whilst preserving the option of a specific Hauraki/ Coromandel WARO permit being considered when all legislation is in place and DOC has a clearer idea of future consultation requirements.</i>

Waikato		Part Pirongia Forest Park	Permitted	(Not permitted) Permitted	<i>CMS states WARO could take place considering a range of factors and conditions in Table 5 that don't include PFP.</i>	
New Plymouth/ Taranaki		Tarere Conservation Area	Permitted	Permitted/part not permitted	Not included in initial consultation. Two significant waahi tapu sites (~2 ha) where it is inappropriate for helicopter landing on these sites to process/butcher animals.	
King Country		<i>Part</i> Pureora Forest Park, Conservation Area – Pureora	Permitted	(Restricted) Permitted	No change to current WARO status proposed – access is consistent with Table 5 Waikato CMS.	
		Cowan Wildlife Refuge	Permitted	(Restricted) Permitted	No change to current WARO status proposed – access is consistent with Table 5 Waikato CMS	
		Meyer Block Wildlife Refuge Reserve	Permitted	(Restricted) Permitted	No change to current WARO status proposed – access is consistent with Table 5 Waikato CMS.	
		Ngaroma Scenic Reserve	Permitted	(Restricted) Permitted	No change to current WARO status proposed – insufficient justification for restriction.	
Whanganui		Part Whanganui National Park	Permitted	(Not permitted) Restricted	Whanganui Journey Great Walk – Exclude WARO during Great Walk season (1 October – 30 April annually). High use area bordering river.	
		Opatu Conservation Area Koiro Conservation Area Koiro Farms Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not permitted) Permitted	<i>Retain status quo. These areas are not linked to the Whanganui Great Walk as previously stated. Insufficient justification to exclude WARO.</i>	

		Part Ahuahu Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not permitted) Permitted	Retain status quo as insufficient justification to make this location not permitted for WARO at this time.	
		Mangatawai Conservation Area Part Taheke Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not permitted) Part not Permitted	Not permitted buffer to match rest along cycle track with high year-round use.	
		Rotokahu Scenic Reserve, Kokaka Conservation Area, Retaruke Scenic Reserve, Part Taheke Conservation Area	Permitted	(Not permitted) Permitted	Retain status quo – insufficient justification to exclude WARO.	
Turangi	~817	Waingakia <i>Stream</i> Conservation Area	Not Permitted	Restricted	Not included in initial consultation – recommended WARO access to match adjacent Kaimanawa Forest Park access of 1 June – 31 October (inclusive).	

South Island

District	Area (ha)	Location name	2015 – 2018 WARO status	Recommended WARO status	Justification	Comment
Golden Bay		Part of Kahurangi National Park - Cobb/Tablelands area See map at: Doccm-5552554 Note: may also include the following area: Cobb Valley part of North West Nelson Forest Park CU 00001 + possibly also Conservation Area Sams Creek (CU 00110) + part of CA Takaka River (CU 00104) Conservation Area	Not Permitted	Not Permitted Area Increased	Herd of fallow deer. Kahurangi National Park management notes (p76) that "In areas where fallow deer occur, they will be controlled in the first instance by recreational hunting." Pg 116 of the plan notes: It is reasonable to allow commercial hunting under the Wild Animal Control Act to take place over most of the Park "...with the exception of the Cobb Valley, Mt Arthur and Tableland area..." for public safety	

					<i>reasons and to protect the experienced of visitors to these areas.</i>	
South Marlborough/ Nelson Lakes	~48,419 and ~5154	Leatham Conservation Area & adjacent Conservation Area – Leatham River	Permitted	Permitted (status quo remains)	<i>Although no change proposed, it was included in the last consultation so retained here for consistency. No sound justification to restrict WARO, land is held for conservation purposes. It is not a RHA, ballot block, Herd of Special Interest or restricted for WARO in CMS.</i>	
Motueka/Sounds /South Marlborough	~15,177	Existing area in SW of Mt Richmond Forest Park	Permitted	Permitted (status quo remains)	<i>Although no change proposed, it was included in the last consultation so retained here for consistency. Recreational interests in conservation parks are legislatively secondary to protecting natural values (Land is held for conservation purposes S.2 and specially protected area, s19 Cons Act), no justification for additional WARO restrictions as anything to do with hunting for recreation is subject to protection of natural and historic resources as its primary purpose. No preference should be given to one hunting method over the other.</i>	
Wakatipu	23,340	Mt Aurum: Mount Aurum Recreation Reserve (Skippers) (Faecal Pellet Index (FPI) 2) Whakaari Conservation Area (FPI 25.8)	Permitted	Restricted	Recommendation made following consultation (change not previously consulted on). Dates set to align with other Central Otago areas - WARO excluded 23 March – 20 April (+ Easter). Relatively low FPI & important & accessible area for recreational hunting	

					during the roar when increased number of deer can potentially be taken.
North Canterbury	~78,593	St James Conservation Area	Not permitted / restricted	(Not permitted) Restricted	Align with Nelson Lakes National Park dates i.e. open to WARO 1 June – 31 October. St James is held for conservation purposes & was purchased “to protect its natural, physical and cultural values and open it up to outdoor recreation and tourism” CMS Policy 2.3.12 gives priority to rec hunters up to Malings Pass, however, this doesn't mean WARO should be excluded year-round.
	~3233	Castle Hill Conservation Area (Torlesse Range NW face that is currently not permitted)	Not Permitted	(Restricted) Permitted	Insufficient justification for excluding or restricting WARO over this area. Permitted is consistent with adjacent WARO status.
		All land in North Canterbury that is currently permitted (green)	Permitted	(Restricted – extended roar period of 20 March – 20 April) Permitted	Retain status quo – insufficient justification to extend the standard roar period from the current 23 March – 9 April + Easter.
Geraldine		Rakaia Forest Conservation Area	Not Permitted	Permitted	No justification to close to WARO, no gazetted Herd of Special Interest and will also align with Rangitata/Rakaia Headwaters CA.
Twizel	8795.75	Ruataniwha Conservation Area	Permitted	Not Permitted	Change due to easy access, adjacent to NP, high visitor numbers (road with many tourists)
Greymouth		Paparoa Track/Pike29 Memorial Track & hut sites:	Permitted	Not permitted buffer 500 m either side of	The WARO access recommendation on the website for the June/July

		Part Conservation Area-Paparoa Range South Part Paparoa National Park Part Roaring Meg Ecological Area		Paparoa & Pike29 Memorial Tracks & huts & Memorial site (no change to June/July recommendation)	consultation was not clear. No change is proposed to the recommendation to create a buffer around the new Great Walk Track, Huts and Pike Memorial site. This access recommendation is open for comment, however, due to potential confusion over the initial access recommendation.	
Central Otago	~5978	Kakaunui Conservation Area	Not Permitted	(Not Permitted) Restricted	No WARO 23 March – 20 April + Easter. CMS policy 3.20.1 doesn't exclude WARO and permit conditions manage effects of WARO on other land users.	
South Westland	~1046	Westland National Park (Omeoroa Bluff area)	Not permitted	Permitted	Permitted makes these small, isolated parcels of land consistent with adjoining WARO access.	
Murihiku	~15534	Mataura Range Scenic Reserve & adjacent East Dome Scenic reserve	Not Permitted	(Not Permitted) Restricted	Open to WARO from 1 June – 30 September consistent with Mid Dome WARO access. Deer numbers over this area are high – neighbouring farmer has contacted DOC re significant feral deer problem coming off Mataura Scenic Reserve and East Dome SR & requesting control be undertaken on PCL. The area's shape and topography mean neighbouring landowner pesticide declarations will be required for WARO operations to occur over most of this land. Legislation requires DOC to protect natural values.	

					<i>Green aircraft access zoning and nothing else in CMS to restrict WARO at this place.</i>	
<i>Westport</i>		<i>Part Mokihinui Forks Ecological Area - Lyell Range Radiant Range Conservation Area</i>	<i>Permitted</i>	<i>(Not permitted buffer along Old Ghost Road track) Permitted</i>	<i>Retain status quo (permitted) until this area is added to Kahurangi National Park and the park management plan is revised with subsequent revision of bylaws.</i>	

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