

13 August 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 16 July 2025, in which you asked for:

*Any GIS data available for:*

- *Red deer distribution or management zones in Fiordland*
- *Wapiti range areas or management units*
- *Hunting block boundaries for red deer and wapiti*
- *Any spatial data used in deer control, monitoring, or habitat assessment in the region*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

In general, the Department does not manage deer on a by-species basis but seeks to achieve conservation outcomes by reducing environmental pressure from the range of deer (and other wild animals) species present in an area. In Fiordland, achieving conservation outcomes requires taking different management approaches at different places.

Areas which can be described as “management zones” for deer species in Fiordland include both those areas the Department maps and designates as “prescription management units” (PMUs), which are areas for active management to achieve priority conservation outcomes, and those areas specified for management under the Fiordland National Park Management Plan.

In Fiordland, deer are actively managed by the Department in the following PMUs:

- Eastern Murchison Mountains, Western Murchison Mountains – deer are managed in the PMUs and a buffer area to reduce impacts on takahē.
- Secretary Island, Anchor & Indian Islands – these are deer-free areas. Deer are managed through controlling populations in buffer areas and responding to any incursions to maintain the deer-free status of these areas.
- Arthur – this is a high-priority ecosystem. Deer are managed to reduce browsing impacts on the ecosystem, including in a buffer area.

Management areas under the Fiordland National Park Management plan include:

- The Cleddau, which is another deer-free area with a similar management approach to the deer-free islands.
- The Wapiti Area, which covers the Wapiti distribution in Fiordland, and is actively managed by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) under a community agreement with the Department.

Across most of the remainder of Fiordland National Park access is open to recreational hunters with an open area hunting permit, and commercial Wild Animal Recovery Operators (WARO) with a WARO concession.

Much of the spatial data you have requested is available on the DOC Open Spatial Data Portal (<https://doc-deptconservation.opendata.arcgis.com/>). The relevant specific files accessible via the portal are identified in italics.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Red deer distribution or management zones in Fiordland*
  - The distribution of red deer is available on the DOC open spatial data portal (*Distribution of Red Deer in New Zealand (2014)*).
2. *Wapiti range areas or management units*
  - The distribution of Wapiti is available on the DOC open spatial data portal (*Distribution of Wapiti in New Zealand (2007)*).
  - The spatial extent of the area managed by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is in the attached shapefile, including the 25 hunting blocks in the area.
3. *Hunting block boundaries for red deer and wapiti*
  - Hunting permits are granted for specific areas, rather than on a by-species basis. Open hunting area boundaries are available on the DOC Spatial Data Portal, including the open hunting permit areas in Fiordland. Red deer are the primary species present in the open hunting permit areas (*DOC Recreational Hunting Permit Areas*).
  - The *Wapiti Area and Ballot Blocks* layer shows the hunting blocks in the Wapiti Area.
4. *Any spatial data used in deer control, monitoring, or habitat assessment in the region*
  - For the areas in which the Department undertakes active management of deer for conservation outcomes:
    - The spatial extent of the Eastern and Western Murchison Mountains, Secretary Island, Anchor & Indian Islands, and Arthur PMUs can be found in the DOC Ecosystem Management Units layer available on the DOC Open Spatial Data Portal (*DOC Ecosystem Management Units*).
    - The Cleddau deer-free area, and the Secretary Island and Murchison Mountains Buffer areas can be found in the attached shapefile.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	5/08/2025	Wapiti Area and Ballot Blocks (shapefile)	Released in full
2	11/08/2025	OIA_fiordland_deer (shapefile)	Released in full.

*Note - the above files are shapefiles and cannot be published on the proactive release page. If you would like to view them, or put through a similar request, please email [governmentservices@doc.govt.nz](mailto:governmentservices@doc.govt.nz) with the reference number OIAD-5468*

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Reddiex".

Ben Reddiex  
Director National Programmes  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*