

Fiordland Hunting Information



Fiordland National Park, the nearby Pyke Forest and areas in western Southland provide a wide range of hunting opportunities.

What to hunt

Red Deer

Red deer are found throughout Fiordland National Park, generally in low to moderate numbers. Commercial helicopter recovery is permitted in the open access hunting areas throughout the year.

Wapiti

Wapiti deer are found in the area between Charles and Sutherland Sounds on the western coast, and the Doon and Worsley Valleys on the shores of Lake Te Anau.

Chamois

Chamois are found predominantly in the northern sector of Fiordland National Park.

Feral Pigs

Wild pigs can be found in small numbers within the Fiordland National Park (e.g Waitutu Forest) and in some of western Southland's Conservation Areas.

Dog access is controlled.

Possums

High densities of possums are found north of Milford Sound and around Lakes Te Anau, Manapouri, Hauroko and Monowai.

Permits

Open Area Hunting Permits

Available online for the whole of Fiordland National Park, excluding specially protected areas (e.g. Murchison Mountains, sanctuaries and the Wapiti area).

Possum Permit

A possum permit is valid for six months and is required for both poisoning and trapping. Contact the DOC Fiordland District Office for an information pack. Allow three weeks for processing.

Canada Goose Permit

There is a balloted goose block between Dunton Creek and Te Anau Lake shore available. Bookings and permits are required. Only one hunting party will be present on the block within a booking period. Contact the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre to apply.

Permits for Wapiti Area

Hunting of Wapiti is possible throughout the year, except for the bugle period from mid February until around the middle of April, when the wapiti area is subject to a ballot. There are three 10 day long ballot periods. No more than two hunting parties will be balloted a block at any one time. The wapiti area is divided up into 25 blocks for the bugle period and only parties which are successful in the ballot may hunt. Each block is limited to six hunters in total and permits for solo hunters will not be issued.

Applications for the ballot period

Applications for wapiti blocks are available online from August 1 through to early October via the [Fiordland Wapiti Foundation](#).

Applications outside the ballot period

Contact the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre.

Hunting with Dogs

Almost all of Fiordland National Park is a 'closed area' (**closed to all dogs**). Controlled access is allowed within the national park boundary in the Waitutu Forest, Supply Bay area (near Manapouri), and some small areas on the eastern side of Lake Te Anau between the Ewe Burn and Camp Bay.

For more information see: www.doc.govt.nz/dog-access-fiordland

Plan and prepare

Safety Tips

- Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
- Take: a compass/GPS, a minimum first aid kit, emergency blanket, cigarette lighter, piece of old car inner tube on hunting belt for fire starting.
- Remember the weather can change rapidly.
- Observe the firearms safety code.

Mountain Radios/Locator Beacons

Mountain radios are available in Te Anau from, Stews Place – 03 249 8363.

Personal locator beacons are available from;

Mobil, Te Anau – 03 249 7247

Bev's Tramping Gear Hire – 03 249 7389

Adventure Kayak & Cruise – 03 249 6626

Borland Lodge – 03 225 5464

Maps

Good navigational skills are required when hunting.

Maps are available from the DOC office in Te Anau.

The NZ Topo 50 topographical map series provide detailed information.



Huts

Hunters using backcountry huts are required to pay hut fees, payable in advance through the purchase of hut tickets or an annual pass, available at any DOC office. Users are expected to leave huts clean and tidy and remove carcasses and all rubbish from the huts and surroundings.

Transport

Access to hunting areas can be arranged via commercial operators (subject to conditions, for example landing permissions and operational conditions such as flooding and tides). Private owners/pilots must have a landing permit.

Further Information

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre,

P O Box 29

Lakefront Drive,

Te Anau

Phone: +64 3 249 7924

Email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz



Plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Take care with fires

Camp carefully

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

Enjoy your visit

Totu Te Whenua – Leave the land undisturbed



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

Stop the spread of Didymo and other freshwater pests.
Remember to **Check, Clean, Dry** all items before entering and when moving between waterways.