



# Review of restricted hunting permit designations

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We want to make it easier for hunters to enjoy public conservation land by installing a simpler, more user-friendly hunting permit system. Currently 97% of public conservation land is open to hunting, and 93% of that land can be accessed through our new online self-service hunting permit system.

The remaining 4% of huntable public land falls outside the new system. These are the hunting areas we are reviewing. They have a restricted permit designation and require hunters to apply through local DOC offices. We are looking at the logic behind these blocks being restricted, as some decisions date back more than 30 years.

3% of public conservation land is closed to hunting due to public safety risks or because there are no hunting opportunities. These areas are out of scope of this work.

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## Frequently asked questions

### What is a restricted hunting permit?

A restricted hunting permit is used by DOC to limit hunting access at locations where we need to manage high demand, environmental impacts, a biosecurity issue, or visitor safety risk.

### What is a restricted hunting block?

A restricted hunting block is a designated area on public conservation land where hunting is allowed only under specific conditions set by DOC. These blocks differ from open hunting areas in several ways. This includes the duration of the permit and number of hunters.

## What restricted permits are not being reviewed?

Restricted hunting areas that have been migrated to the new online hunting permit system. These areas are Rakiura, Queenstown and Molesworth.

Balloted blocks are also excluded from the review.

## Are there historical differences in restricted permits around the country?

Yes, there are historical regional differences. There are significantly more restricted hunting areas (shaded yellow) in the South Island than the North Island as can be seen on [DOC maps: Discover the outdoors](#).

## What guidance does DOC use for its decision making?

Existing policy that guides decisions:

- [Conservation General Policy](#)
- [General Policy for National Parks](#)
- [Deer Control Policy](#)
- [Access charter for recreational hunting and fishing on public conservation land](#)

## Does restricted access to public conservation land automatically mean a restricted hunting permit will apply?

No. There is no justification to restrict hunting on public conservation land just because access to public conservation land may be restricted. These are very separate issues and managed as such.

## Need further help?

Call the DOC Customer Service Centre on 0800 275 362 or e-mail [info@doc.govt.nz](mailto:info@doc.govt.nz)