

Alan Christie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 4:09 pm
To: Alan Christie
Subject: Midweek Hunting in Blue Mountains

Hi there Alan,

I have been watching with interest, and dismay, at the length of time it's taking to restore hunting access into the Blue Mountains RHA for mid week hunters.

Please provide me with a ray of hope that the current situation is not going to persist much longer. It must be coming up to three years now and that is barely good enough for a large area of public hunting to have such limited access.

The deer numbers are getting to concerning levels which isn't a good outcome for conservation either.

Regards
[REDACTED]

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Alan Christie

From: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 23 December 2022 5:37 pm
To: Alan Christie
Subject: RE: BM permit and application form

Hi Alan

This looks great

Thanks for your help with this.

Merry Christmas to you and family hope you have a great holiday.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2022 4:25 PM
To: otagodeerstalkers/
Cc: Nathan Larson
Subject: FW: BM permit and application form

Hi s9(2)(a)

Sorry about the 11th hour email.

Copies of amended Blue Mts Hunting Permit Application Form and permit attached. Wording as we had previously discussed. Nathan will contact our National Web Team staff to have the same alterations made to the DOC website attachments, although this is unlikely to be actioned until after the New Year break.

I'm just heading off on leave, not back at work until Monday 16 January. If you have anything urgent to discuss re these permits, then my personal cell is won't have my work phone on!

Have an enjoyable Xmas & New Year break.

Regards
 Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
 Supervisor, Community Engagement team
 Murihiku District
 Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
 M s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: Nathan Larson
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2022 4:01 pm

To: Alan Christie <
Subject: BM permit and application form

Cheers,
Nathan Larson
Business Support Officer | Āpiha Ūmanga Āwhina
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
DDI: s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku / Invercargill Office
33 Don Street, PO Box 743, Invercargill 9840
T: s.9(2)(a)

www.doc.govt.nz



Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:25 PM
To: otagodeerstalkers
Subject: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

Just a quick email to let you know that I finally have a meeting locked in tomorrow afternoon with John McCarroll & our administration staff to discuss your proposal.

I'm sorry for the delays with this. Will update you on how the meeting goes after that.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,
Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please

notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Alan Christie

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 9:29 am
To: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz
Cc: Nathan Larson
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Excellent, thanks s9(2)(a)

We'll get to work on those changes & I'll send you a copy of the revised permit application when we've got it sorted.

Cheers
Alan

From: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz <otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 9:34 pm
To: Alan Christie <achristie@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan

Thanks for the call the other day.

I agree with what you propose, it can be tweaked if needed later.

The contact email is beaumontaccess@xtra.co.nz
Leave a phone number off at this stage.

Thanks for arranging the one off extension for the Feb ballot.

Thanks Alan

s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie <achristie@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2022 2:48 PM
To: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

I have had a discussion with Nathan Larsen of our Admin Team.

He has confirmed that he is able to modify our Blue Mts hunting permit application form and the permit itself. I am looking to amend the documents to show the following messaging:

- When applying for a mid-week hunting permit you are acknowledging that responsibility for obtaining vehicular access to the hunting block via the forestry roads is your responsibility. It is recommended that you arrange this access prior to applying for a permit which can be done by emailing [*Otagodeerstalkers*]
- On being issued with a permit you consent to your name & hunting block details being shared with a third party solely to confirm eligibility for access via the forestry roads.

- No refund of permit fees will be given in the event of access not being prior obtained.

I will then work with our Web Team to amend the website with similar messaging.

Your thoughts on these would be appreciated.

We then intend that Nathan, once the successful monthly ballot persons are known, he will email those details to you. Regarding ad hoc permits being issued, he will email these to you either at the end of the day or when he has several to pass on.

We will just need the contact details you want us to use.

I'm on a couple of days leave now, back in the office next Tuesday morning. Perhaps we can catch up then?

Regards

Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - **s.9(2)(a)**

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [ota@odeerstalker:](#)

Sent: Monday, 5 December 2022 10:49 am

To: Alan Christie

Cc: John McCarroll

Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

> **s9(2)(a)**

Hi Alan

It's been some time since we discussed DOC willingness and commitment to issuing weekday permits. We appreciate your willingness to make this work.

I understand there was a couple changes you wished to put in place to make it clear to the applicant what is required to minimise any backlash to yourselves or Ernslaw.

Have the appropriate changes been made?

We would like to have this up and running by opening of next year's hunting season, 1 Feb 2023.

That means, in theory, you must be ready to receive applications by end Dec for Feb hunt.

Unless you will make exceptions for the first month given it will be the start of the new system.

If not, this leaves little time to advertise that the weekday hunting is open and you are taking applications.

I need your assurance, in writing, before I can put organise and confirm the relationships and systems required to issue the gate code for permit holders ready for Feb.

We look forward to getting this underway and "piloting" the new system of access to iron out any kinks after which time it can then be expanded to other groups allowing all hunters access to the mountain.

Kind regards

Just to clarify, is this the second proposal where you will issue permits without the gate code and it's up to the permit holder to obtain access from Ernslaw?

Or

The first proposal where you will issue both the permit and gate code but only to those on the approved list?

This makes a difference to how we move forward with Ernslaw.

Appreciate your effort in getting this resolved.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:51 PM
To: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

I'm pleased to report that hopefully, from DOC's end, we have got this proposal over the line.

I met with John McCarroll & our Admin Team, who issue the Blue Mts permits. There are still some reservations about how what is planned will be received by those not wanting to join NZDA. In the end however, DOC does not have any jurisdiction of the Public Access Easements, and neither are we required to guarantee access to DOC hunting blocks.

We don't want our office staff to field a slew of abusive phone calls going forward so the priority now, is to organise the alteration of the messaging on several of our websites etc to ensure it is clear that access via the PAE's is to be obtained via Ernslaw One. It will be recommended that hunters make sure they meet the criteria to be able to be granted access prior to applying for the permit from DOC. We intend making it clear that any hunting permit issued via the Blue Mountains ballot system will be both non-transferable and the cost non-refundable.

Is it worthwhile perhaps that all the parties, DOC, Ernslaw & NZDA now get together to make sure we are all on the same page with the way forward?

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 2:12 pm
To: Alan Christie <
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan
How did you get on with this?

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch
s.9(2)(a)



...cess to the mountain.

From: Alan Christie <achristie@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:41 AM
To: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Sorry s9(2)(a)

2nd Option. It is important that there is a clear separation, particularly regarding weekday access, in that DOC simply issues the permit & it is the sole responsibility of the hunter to obtain the necessary access via the PAE's through Ernslaw One. For our part, we will ensure this is clearly communicated through the various DOC websites that hunters utilise to obtain information or apply for permits etc.

If Ernslaw still wished to give DOC a weekend access code to give to those weekend hunters, as they do at present, then that is something that may well be able to continue as is.

Cheers
Alan

From: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz <otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 5:35 pm
To: Alan Christie <achristie@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan

Thank you for your reply.

That is great news, appreciate your efforts to get this far.

Alan Christie

From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Monday, 5 December 2022 10:49 am
To: Alan Christie
Cc: John McCarroll; s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan

It's been some time since we discussed DOC willingness and commitment to issuing weekday permits. We appreciate your willingness to make this work.

I understand there was a couple changes you wished to put in place to make it clear to the applicant what is required to minimise any backlash to yourselves or Ernslaw. Have the appropriate changes been made?

We would like to have this up and running by opening of next year's hunting season, 1 Feb 2023. That means, in theory, you must be ready to receive applications by end Dec for Feb hunt. Unless you will make exceptions for the first month given it will be the start of the new system. If not, this leaves little time to advertise that the weekday hunting is open and you are taking applications.

I need your assurance, in writing, before I can put organise and confirm the relationships and systems required to issue the gate code for permit holders ready for Feb.

We look forward to getting this underway and "piloting" the new system of access to iron out any kinks after which time it can then be expanded to other groups allowing all hunters access to the mountain.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted signature]

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



access to the mountain.

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:41 AM
To: otagodeerstalkers
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Sorry s9(2)(a)

2nd Option. It is important that there is a clear separation, particularly regarding weekday access, in that DOC simply issues the permit & it is the sole responsibility of the hunter to obtain the necessary access via the PAE's through Ernslaw One. For our part, we will ensure this is clearly communicated through the various DOC websites that hunters utilise to obtain information or apply for permits etc.

If Ernslaw still wished to give DOC a weekend access code to give to those weekend hunters, as they do at present, then that is something that may well be able to continue as is.

Cheers
Alan

From: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 5:35 pm
To: Alan Christie <
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan

Thank you for your reply.

That is great news, appreciate your efforts to get this far.

Just to clarify, is this the second proposal where you will issue permits without the gate code and it's up to the permit holder to obtain access from Ernslaw?

Or

The first proposal where you will issue both the permit and gate code but only to those on the approved list?

This makes a difference to how we move forward with Ernslaw.

Appreciate your effort in getting this resolved.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:51 PM
To: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

I'm pleased to report that hopefully, from DOC's end, we have got this proposal over the line.

I met with John McCarroll & our Admin Team, who issue the Blue Mts permits. There are still some reservations about how what is planned will be received by those not wanting to join NZDA. In the end however, DOC does not have any jurisdiction of the Public Access Easements, and neither are we required to guarantee access to DOC hunting blocks.

We don't want our office staff to field a slew of abusive phone calls going forward so the priority now, is to organise the alteration of the messaging on several of our websites etc to ensure it is clear that access via the PAE's is to be obtained via Ernslaw One. It will be recommended that hunters make sure they meet the criteria to be able to be granted access prior to applying for the permit from DOC. We intend making it clear that any hunting permit issued via the Blue Mountains ballot system will be both non-transferable and the cost non-refundable.

Is it worthwhile perhaps that all the parties, DOC, Ernslaw & NZDA now get together to make sure we are all on the same page with the way forward?

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Tūrihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 2:12 pm
To: Alan Christie
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan
How did you get on with this?

Regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



From: Alan Christie ·
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:25 PM
To: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Subject: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

Just a quick email to let you know that I finally have a meeting locked in tomorrow afternoon with John McCarroll & our administration staff to discuss your proposal.

I'm sorry for the delays with this. Will update you on how the meeting goes after that.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Alan Christie

From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Wednesday, 28 September 2022 1:41 pm
To: Alan Christie
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan

Thank you for clarifying.

The current process for weekend hunting works well, there's no need to change this. Ernslaw provide the Gate code to you which you then Text out to permit holders when appropriate. This is streamlined and works well.

If we can streamline the weekday access as efficiently would be appreciated and desirable for all parties. In order for Ernslaw to issue the gate code, in a similar way, firstly proof of permit will be required. To be as streamlined and efficient, as the weekend access, Ernslaw would need a list of successful applicants. Would it be possible for you to email a list of successful permit holders to Ernslaw each month? If this is a privacy issue a simple sentence on the application would provide permission from the applicant to do so.

One would assume this would simple and quick to do given the list is in a data base already. Ernslaw would then check off with approved hunters and the gate code issued when appropriate.

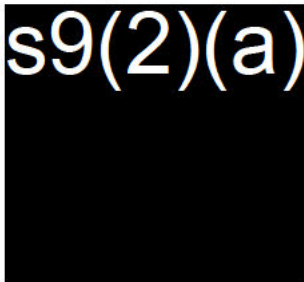
This would make the process simple for all and accommodate those that are not computer savvy. The only other way to prove this would be to scan and emailing a copy to Ernslaw, mail a copy or physically produce the permit at their office.

Whilst one could say "that's just what you need to do" but not all hunters are computer savvy as yourself or I. In our case, approx. 30% of hunters don't have a printer and struggle with email therefore this option would be difficult for them. Physically producing the permit at Ernslaw office would be time consuming, add more cost and not practical for most. Mailing a copy would still require printing, which could be done of course, but adds more time and expense.

I appreciate that we have come a long way to get this far, you have already made compromises and accept there will be some backlash, if we could work on this final logical solution as the last step in the process to achieve weekday access would be greatly appreciated.

Take care

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)


President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



From: Alan Christie
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:41 AM
To: otagodeerstalkers
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Sorry s9(2)(a)

2nd Option. It is important that there is a clear separation, particularly regarding weekday access, in that DOC simply issues the permit & it is the sole responsibility of the hunter to obtain the necessary access via the PAE's through Ernslaw One. For our part, we will ensure this is clearly communicated through the various DOC websites that hunters utilise to obtain information or apply for permits etc. If Ernslaw still wished to give DOC a weekend access code to give to those weekend hunters, as they do at present, then that is something that may well be able to continue as is.

Cheers
Alan

From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 5:35 pm
To: Alan Christie
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan

Thank you for your reply.

That is great news, appreciate your efforts to get this far.

Just to clarify, is this the second proposal where you will issue permits without the gate code and it's up to the permit holder to obtain access from Ernslaw?

Or

The first proposal where you will issue both the permit and gate code but only to those on the approved list?

This makes a difference to how we move forward with Ernslaw.

Appreciate your effort in getting this resolved.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 4:51 PM
To: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

I'm pleased to report that hopefully, from DOC's end, we have got this proposal over the line.

I met with John McCarroll & our Admin Team, who issue the Blue Mts permits. There are still some reservations about how what is planned will be received by those not wanting to join NZDA. In the end however, DOC does not have any jurisdiction of the Public Access Easements, and neither are we required to guarantee access to DOC hunting blocks.

We don't want our office staff to field a slew of abusive phone calls going forward so the priority now, is to organise the alteration of the messaging on several of our websites etc to ensure it is clear that access via the PAE's is to be obtained via Ernslaw One. It will be recommended that hunters make sure they meet the criteria to be able to be granted access prior to applying for the permit from DOC. We intend making it clear that any hunting permit issued via the Blue Mountains ballot system will be both non-transferable and the cost non-refundable.

is it worthwhile perhaps that all the parties, DOC, Ernslaw & NZDA now get together to make sure we are all on the same page with the way forward?

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s9(2)(a)

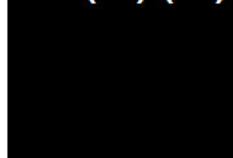
Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 September 2022 2:12 pm
To: Alan Christie <
Subject: RE: Blue Mountains

Hi Alan
How did you get on with this?

Regards

s9(2)(a)



President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



From: Alan Christie
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:25 PM
To: [otagodeerstalkers](#)
Subject: Blue Mountains

Hi s9(2)(a)

Just a quick email to let you know that I finally have a meeting locked in tomorrow afternoon with John McCarroll & our administration staff to discuss your proposal.

I'm sorry for the delays with this. Will update you on how the meeting goes after that.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Alan Christie

From: otagodeerstalkers@xtra.co.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 9:11 pm
To: s9(2)(a) Alan Christie; John McCarroll
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: Week day access Blue Mountains Beaumont

Good evening everyone

Firstly: Thank you for making yourself available to meet with myself to discuss the safety concerns of your staff and vandalism of equipment you have experienced from Hunters on the Blue Mountains.

Secondly: I appreciate your time is valuable and we thank you for your patience and perseverance in finding a solution that will provide you with reassurance and confidence your staff and contractors are safe around future Hunters and to allow access across your property that is acceptable and workable for all parties.

These meetings have been positive, I think we can agree that we are almost there in obtaining a solution that will work.

s9(2)(a)

Our discussion was valuable in understanding the other items Callum stated earlier in his email to be added to the induction.

Also discussing some "what ifs" that may arise as "due diligence" and "testing" of the process was well worth the time clarifying these situations.

To confirm, our proposal is as follows:

The below was the previous proposal

- NZDA will adopt an MOU with Ernslaw One outlining the process agreed upon.
- NZDA will carry out an induction for their members of any prospective Hunters to provide Ernslaw One with the confidence that their staff and contractors will be protected, and equipment left untouched.
- Each branch will be responsible for recommending the prospective hunter and completing the induction.
- A list of names will be forwarded to NZDA National office to provide one point of data collection.
- NZDA National office will supply a list of inducted Hunters to Ernslaw One as verification the Hunter meets the standard required to be approved for access.
- Annually, once a year say around April, after the member is financial, National will supply an updated list to Ernslaw.

To add to this, as a consequence of my meeting with Alan.

- Once the approved hunter obtains a permit, they are to contact Ernslaw One for the gate code at the appropriate time.

The reason behind this is the hunting permit will be issued by DOC however it is up to the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for access.

For this reason, the weekday permits will not be issued with the gate code, this will need to be supplied by Ernslaw One as the landowner, after confirmation of being an approved hunter.

Whilst s9(2)(a) and I have discussed this process, this is to be confirmed.

To make this work, more co-ordination and co-operation will be required by both parties.

IE Once the ballot has been completed, a list of successful permit holders should be supplied to Ernslaw One.

Once verified they are approved hunter's they can then be supplied the gate code at the appropriate time, similar to Ernslaw One current process for hunting in the forestry.

This is where the list of approved hunters would be used to confirm the request for access is permitted.

For this to work Doc will need to educate prospective hunters of this requirement however this is no different to any other permit being issued and is part of the Permit Conditions.

I suggest a higher degree of education be added to the website and perhaps on the application to ensure the prospective hunter understands their requirements to gain access not waste their money or create unnecessary conflict with all parties.

This step needs to be finalised between all parties as the final item to be agreed upon.

INDUCTION

The following is the draft induction:

Your feedback on this would be appreciated should you require any addition items to be added to the list.

Reiterating the Arms code in relation to safety issues experienced:

You shall not:

1. Drive a vehicle on a road with a loaded firearm.
2. Discharging a firearm in a public place so as to endanger property or to endanger, annoy or frighten any person.
3. Being in charge of a firearm while under the influence of drink or drugs.
4. Carrying a firearm that is loaded (whether in its breech, barrel, chamber or magazine) in or on a motor vehicle on a road or in any place to which members of the public have a right of access.

Reiterate the permit conditions in relation to the safety issues experienced:

1. Hunters using a firearm must abide by the NZ Police Arms Code and the Arms Act 1983.
2. The Permit is only valid for the specified block named on the permit and marked in green in the map associated with the permit area attached, nor does it confer a right of access except by way of defined legal road or right of way.
3. The following activities are strictly prohibited:
 - a. Hunting during the hours of darkness (half an hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise).
 - b. Hunting with spotlights, torches, vehicle headlights, or any other artificial light source.
 - c. Hunting with any night vision equipment, thermal imaging, infrared or heat detecting devices.
 - d. Attaching a torch or other light source to a firearm.
4. No firearm shall be discharged:
 - a. In the vicinity of huts, tracks, campsites, road-ends or other public places.
 - b. Within 500 m of a Great Walk Hut or track.
 - c. In a manner that endangers, frightens or annoys members of the public, or that endangers any property.
5. This Permit does not allow access over any private land. Permission to cross any private land must be obtained from the landowner or occupier.

Other rules:

The Hunter must:

1. Not Park their vehicles so they impeded logging traffic or other operations.
2. Adhere to all signage.
3. Not leave any rubbish behind.
4. Not damage any locks, gates, or other property within the forest.
5. Lock gates behind when used.
6. Follow designated public access easement to their hunting block.
7. Not use Ernslaw One lands and roads for sighting in a firearm.
8. Must not camp in the forest.
9. Remove firewood without a firewood permit.

Map reading:

Due to hunters claiming ignorance of physical location (when found), suggesting illicitly driving around the forest.

A basic induction to map reading will be completed, this will include:

1. Map orientation.
2. Ground to map appreciation.
3. Location of block within the map.
4. Understanding the legend.
5. Identifying easements access to blocks.

Alan

Our discussion was valuable in understanding the current status of DOC position on this. From what I understand Doc will issue weekday permits but no gate code as DOC has no jurisdiction over access therefore it is up to the permit holder to obtain access from the landowner, as per your permit conditions, in this case Ernslaw One.

As discussed, no one wants an angry hunter on the phone finding out after issuing the permit and spending their money they cannot gain access.

A level of education is required to "point out", more so than other areas, that permission is required for weekday access and will not be issued by default as per weekend hunting.

In order for this to work efficiently, co-ordination and co-operation needs to take place. IE Once the ballot has been completed, a list of successful permit holders should be supplied to Ernslaw One. I understand this may present some confidentiality issues however without this cooperation we will struggle to make it work.

The parties involved have secure storage are professional and act in confidence should not be a problem to provide this co-operation.

IN CLOSING

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy email. I trust I have captured our discussions correctly and you approve of the process and draft induction. Feel free to call to discuss anything within this email on

The final stage is to discuss in more detail, to ensure we agree on the process, for issuing the gate code and discuss how we deal with "ring ins" and last-minute access requests with some depth for support.

Take care

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

President
 New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
 Otago Branch



Alan Christie

From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 9:41 am
To: Alan Christie
Cc: s9(2)(a); Judy Ward; Nathan Larson
Subject: RE: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi Alan

Thank you for your quick reply and comments.

We have been aware of this centralisation for some time now however it doesn't appear to be happening within the time frames indicated.

I appreciate this will be difficult to achieve to cover all situations and tested before roll out.

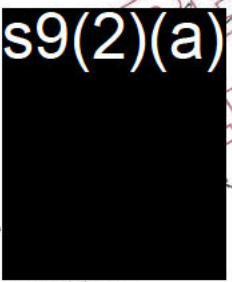
Given there is no confirmed rollout date of the centralised system, just a timeline to work towards, shall we push on with the current proposal until there is a confirmed changeover. In the meantime, we should work towards the solution to allow the centralisation to work.

This will allow the weekday hunting to commence in the meantime instead of being delayed further.

A thought is that we obtain a permit direct from Ernslaw for access however I'm not sure how this will crossover to the centralised system to allow permits to be issued.

Thanks again Alan for keeping matter moving forward.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)


President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



From: Alan Christie <achristie@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 9:00 AM

To: otagodeerstalkers

Cc: s9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi s9(2)(a)

Thanks for the email.

I'm not a mapping expert. Happy to discuss with the appropriate folk here regarding possible improvements but will probably need some indications as to s9(2)(a) thinking there.

Unfortunately, a bit of a "fishhook" our end with what is proposed. As I understand it, work is being done to, later this year, have all DOC hunting permit systems, including those locally based, integrated into a national system. I have discussed the initiative that is proposed between NZDA & Ernslaw One with our local admin staff and the advice is that we need to advise the national team leading this work so they can review and provide input.

Apologies for what must seem like a laborious process our end, but I'll do my best to keep this matter rolling.

Regards

Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: otagodeerstalkers

Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2022 4:06 pm

To: Alan Christie

Cc: s9(2)(a)

Subject: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi Alan

See below comments from s9(2)(a) who has recently become involved from Ernslaw. Over the past several weeks we have been trying to put together a meeting, this has now popped up.

Hi guys,

I am away in Blenheim for a controlled burn this week. Can we please arrange a meeting for later on this month to discuss the matter? Happy to do this via Microsoft teams if it will save everyone having to travel? I think with some small additions this plan will work. We just need to be able to tell our contractors that we are confident the weekday hunting will present no additional risks to them or their operations. I feel that the DOC hunting maps will need to be updated as a large number of people do not seem to be able to understand them, do not know what the public access easement is; or how to identify it on the map, and struggle to understand the boundaries in a native forest/exotic forest context. I have a list of points to discuss anyway.

Regards, s9(2)(a)

It appears s9(2)(a) main concern is the accuracy of the maps supplied.

Most of this can be sorted with through the Induction.

IE up to date maps could be supplied as part of the induction showing boundaries and easements for access.

I guess part of the issue may be people can't map read therefore do not understand them beyond a road map. Although getting caught and saying they don't understand is an easy cop out.

One would assume, in this case for NZDA members, this wouldn't be a problem.

Your comments to this would be kindly appreciated.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Alan Christie

From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 12:41 pm
To: Alan Christie
Subject: FW: Blue Mountains access

Hi Alan

In reply to your email.
See below email I sent after our discussion.

Just tidying up the MOU get back to you shortly.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)



President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 11:40 AM
To: John McCarrol
Subject: Blue Mountains access

Hi John and Alan

Firstly, thank you Alan for taking the time to call myself today to discuss the Blue Mountain week day access issue. I appreciate your time in discussing a resolution and how the permit issuing can be facilitated by your team.

Alan, it was great to hear you have also been in discussion with Phil, and your legal team, it appears our collective resolutions are similar, it's now just a matter of ironing out couple details to proceed.

An overview of our proposal:

1. NZDA will adopt an MOU with ErnsLaw One to satisfy their concerns outlining how we will deal with these issues.

2. NZDA will carry out an induction of any prospective Hunters to meet Ernslaw One concerns.
3. This will be completed at branch level.
4. A list of names will be forwarded to NZDA National office to provide one point of data collection.
5. NZDA National office will supply a list of inducted Hunters to Ernslaw One and DOC Invercargill, being the permit issuer, as verification the Hunter meets the standard required to gain weekly access.
6. From this list, Doc can then verify any hunters requesting weekly blocks have been vetted to be eligible to cross Ernslaw One land to access the Blue Mountains hunting blocks.

By having the branches complete the induction they have more control over their members, who can be trusted to adhere to the rules for access so not to jeopardise the relationship and carry out any disciplinary action that may be required.

By supplying the names of the inducted to National is two-fold. One it provides one point of data collection and supply to both Ernslaw and Doc, Two National can verify the Hunter is a financial member therefore has the insurance cover required and agrees to our own internal "Code of Ethics".

This would be the first step in the bigger picture to allow ALL HUNTERS access to the Mountain, not exclusive to NZDA alone.

Whilst one can say "they need to be part of NZDA to gain access" this will no doubt be challenged at some point. However this is a good place to start as working "Proof of concept" to grow from for all Hunters. Having said that, this is an "access over private land" issue not a "Doc permitting issue", therefore this model could be adapted as a simple solution for Ernslaw One to provide H&S of their staff and protection of their property as they currently do for the exotic areas.

Couple questions still to be considered:

- 1 • Will supplying a list of names, estimated to be around 100, be workable for issuing permits. Both for the ballots and ring-ins?
- 2 • How frequently will NZDA update the list, we have natural attrition and new members alike. One would say annually with membership renewals, however this doesn't address the above, an example is Otago Branch had 53 new members last year that some would like to hunt in Blue Mountains.
- 3 • Do we get involved in the public model or just refer any enquires to Ernslaw One as the land owner.
- 4 • How do we administer blocks within areas Ernslaw One teams are working, this is a discussion to be confirmed with Ernslaw One.

Thank you again for your time today.

Feel free to call myself on **s.9(2)(a)** to discuss any points above or items we need to cover off to enable this to proceed.

We look forward to a speedy resolution to allow week day hunting on the Mountain again.

Kind Regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch

Alan Christie

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 9:32 am
To: Mark Beardsley
Cc: Bon Scott
Subject: RE: Week day access Blue Mountains Beaumont

Thanks Mark

That's fantastic and good to hear you believe we are really on the only track that will resolve this.

Bon, I may give you a call over the next week or so to discuss what support you may be able to assist with if that's kay?

heers
lan

an Christie,

Kaitiaki Mātua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Pahi Mātua | Department of Conservation
M **s.9(2)(a)**

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: Mark Beardsley
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 4:10 pm
To: Alan Christie
Cc: Bon Scott **s.9(2)(a)** Mark Beardsley <
Subject: RE: Week day access Blue Mountains Beaumont

Hi Alan,

Unless we want to talk to the Ministry of State-Owned Services this is about as good as it gets for a resolution. As
s.9(2)(h)

We will let local hunters debate access with Ermslaw One and Otago NZDA.

Just one point; DOC does not educate hunters, rather we inform them, and so they can make their own decisions.

Next steps

There is a bit of work you will need to do. This is a restricted hunting permit issued by ballot.

This means it is issued by the District to meet the specific local requirements that the national permit system cannot meet.

The good news is that the District Office can get on and make the various changes to its restricted permit without consulting national office

The District Office needs to review the following to ensure they are fit for the purpose

- The Blue Mountains application form
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/hunting/southland/blue-mountains-hunting-permit-application-form.pdf>
- The template for the Blue Mountains restricted hunting permit and its conditions
- Update the Blue Mountains hunting page on the DOC website.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/where-to-hunt/southland/mainland-southland-hunting/where-to-hunt/blue-mountains-forest-conservation-area/>

I note so that hunters don't get lost there is a long list of hunting block maps and hunters can download a map directly to their GPS, nice one team.

Just be aware that today I use my phone and the Topo50 app as it has all the DOC hunting blocks including the restricted ones, and is my gps.

Block GPS file

This .gpx file is compatible with most GPS handheld units.

[Blue Mountains - RHA Blocks \(GPX, 1016K\)](#)

When reviewing the hunting information on the web page, put yourself in the shoes of the hunter and what information they want to know.

Your page is already pretty good, clutterless, and gives the hunter what they are seeking.... how to apply for a permit and access to the hunting block.

The person to help you with this is Bon Scott. He is very good and will help design a very slick page

Happy to discuss or peer review anything

Regards Mark

Mark Beardsley

Service Designer, Policy & Visitors Unit

Department of Conservation

Mobile: **s.9(2)(a)**

Care for
Aotearoa



Protect nature

Be prepared



Keep NZ clean



Show respect



From: Alan Christie

Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 12:12 pm

To: Mark Beardsley

Subject: FW: Week day access Blue Mountains Beaumont

Giddy Mark

I was wondering if, during your busy schedule, you could cast your eyes over the email below. **s9(2)(a)** Otago NZDA has summarised the way forward to sort out the Blue Mts hunting access issues.

To summarise from our point of view:

- **s.9(2)(h)**
- Hunters wishing to gain access to the Blue Mts RHA to hunt mid-week, using the Public Access Roads (PAEs), will have to be granted approval by Ernslaw One to do so. They will essentially have to join the NZDA to receive the induction & gain "Approved" status.
- DOC will need to amend their messaging online, on permit applications etc. to make it clear that this access should be negotiated with Ernslaw One before applying for a hunting permit.
- We would also have to consider amending the hunting permits to include words to the effect, "This permit in non-transferrable and fees paid non-refundable."
- DOC's role would then be simply to issue the hunting permit & leave the hunters to gain the necessary access, including gate lock codes etc, via Ernslaw One.

Whilst it is still a bit unpalatable that hunters are required to be NZDA members to access the PAEs, is that really DOC's issue as we do not guarantee hunter access over private land anywhere else in the country. If individual

hunters have a problem with this arrangement, then they have the recourse of challenging it through the Disputes Tribunal, Courts etc. Again, not DOC's role to advocate for hunters in my view.

Are we getting closer to a resolution? Also, are there any barriers from a national level that would impede this occurring?

Thanks for any further advice you can give.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: otagodeerstalkers

Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 9:11 pm

To: s9(2)(a); s9(2)(a)

Alan Christie

>; John McCarroll

Cc: s9(2)(a); s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)

Subject: Week day access Blue Mountains Beaumont

Good evening everyone

Firstly: Thank you for making yourself available to meet with myself to discuss the safety concerns of your staff and vandalism of equipment you have experienced from Hunters on the Blue Mountains.

Secondly: I appreciate your time is valuable and we thank you for your patience and perseverance in finding a solution that will provide you with reassurance and confidence your staff and contractors are safe around future Hunters and to allow access across your property that is acceptable and workable for all parties.

These meetings have been positive, I think we can agree that we are almost there in obtaining a solution that will work.

s9(2)(a)

Our discussion was valuable in understanding the other items s9(2)(a) stated earlier in his email to be added to the induction.

Also discussing some "what ifs" that may arise as "due diligence" and "testing" of the process was well worth the time clarifying these situations.

To confirm, our proposal is as follows:

The below was the previous proposal

- NZDA will adopt an MOU with Ernslaw One outlining the process agreed upon.
- NZDA will carry out an induction for their members of any prospective Hunters to provide Ernslaw One with the confidence that their staff and contractors will be protected, and equipment left untouched.
- Each branch will be responsible for recommending the prospective hunter and completing the induction.
- A list of names will be forwarded to NZDA National office to provide one point of data collection.
- NZDA National office will supply a list of inducted Hunters to Ernslaw One as verification the Hunter meets the standard required to be approved for access.
- Annually, once a year say around April, after the member is financial, National will supply an updated list to Ernslaw.

To add to this, as a consequence of my meeting with Alan.

- Once the approved hunter obtains a permit, they are to contact Ernslaw One for the gate code at the appropriate time.

The reason behind this is the hunting permit will be issued by DOC however it is up to the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for access.

For this reason, the weekday permits will not be issued with the gate code, this will need to be supplied by Ernslaw One as the landowner, after confirmation of being an approved hunter.

Whilst s9(2)(a) and I have discussed this process, this is to be confirmed.

To make this work, more co-ordination and co-operation will be required by both parties.

IE Once the ballot has been completed, a list of successful permit holders should be supplied to Ernslaw One.

Once verified they are approved hunter's they can then be supplied the gate code at the appropriate time, similar to Ernslaw One current process for hunting in the forestry.

This is where the list of approved hunters would be used to confirm the request for access is permitted.

For this to work Doc will need to educate prospective hunters of this requirement however this is no different to any other permit being issued and is part of the Permit Conditions.

I suggest a higher degree of education be added to the website and perhaps on the application to ensure the prospective hunter understands their requirements to gain access not waste their money or create unnecessary conflict with all parties.

This step needs to be finalised between all parties as the final item to be agreed upon.

INDUCTION

The following is the draft induction:

Your feedback on this would be appreciated should you require any addition items to be added to the list.

Reiterating the Arms code in relation to safety issues experienced:

You shall not:

1. Drive a vehicle on a road with a loaded firearm.
2. Discharging a firearm in a public place so as to endanger property or to endanger, annoy or frighten any person.
3. Being in charge of a firearm while under the influence of drink or drugs.
4. Carrying a firearm that is loaded (whether in its breech, barrel, chamber or magazine) in or on a motor vehicle on a road or in any place to which members of the public have a right of access.

Reiterate the permit conditions in relation to the safety issues experienced:

1. Hunters using a firearm must abide by the NZ Police Arms Code and the Arms Act 1983.
2. The Permit is only valid for the specified block named on the permit and marked in green in the map associated with the permit area attached, nor does it confer a right of access except by way of defined legal road or right of way.
3. The following activities are strictly prohibited:
 - a. Hunting during the hours of darkness (half an hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise).
 - b. Hunting with spotlights, torches, vehicle headlights, or any other artificial light source.
 - c. Hunting with any night vision equipment, thermal imaging, infrared or heat detecting devices.
 - d. Attaching a torch or other light source to a firearm.
4. No firearm shall be discharged:
 - a. In the vicinity of huts, tracks, campsites, road-ends or other public places.
 - b. Within 500 m of a Great Walk Hut or track.
 - c. In a manner that endangers, frightens or annoys members of the public, or that endangers any property.
5. This Permit does not allow access over any private land. Permission to cross any private land must be obtained from the landowner or occupier.

Other rules:**The Hunter must:**

1. Not Park their vehicles so they impeded logging traffic or other operations.
2. Adhere to all signage.
3. Not leave any rubbish behind.
4. Not damage any locks, gates, or other property within the forest.
5. Lock gates behind when used.
6. Follow designated public access easement to their hunting block.
7. Not use Ernslaw One lands and roads for sighting in a firearm.
8. Must not camp in the forest.
9. Remove firewood without a firewood permit.

Map reading:

Due to hunters claiming ignorance of physical location (when found), suggesting illicitly driving around the forest.

A basic induction to map reading will be completed, this will include:

1. Map orientation.
2. Ground to map appreciation.
3. Location of block within the map.
4. Understanding the legend.
5. Identifying easements access to blocks.

Alan

Our discussion was valuable in understanding the current status of DOC position on this.

From what I understand Doc will issue weekday permits but no gate code as DOC has no jurisdiction over access therefore it is up to the permit holder to obtain access from the landowner, as per your permit conditions, in this case Ernslaw One.

As discussed, no one wants an angry hunter on the phone finding out after issuing the permit and spending their money they cannot gain access.

A level of education is required to "point out", more so than other areas, that permission is required for weekday access and will not be issued by default as per weekend hunting.

In order for this to work efficiently, co-ordination and co-operation needs to take place.

IE Once the ballot has been completed, a list of successful permit holders should be supplied to Ernslaw One.

I understand this may present some confidentiality issues however without this cooperation we will struggle to make it work.

The parties involved have secure storage are professional and act in confidence should not be a problem to provide this co-operation.

IN CLOSING

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy email.

I trust I have captured our discussions correctly and you approve of the process and draft induction.

Feel free to call to discuss anything within this email on **s9(2)(a)**

The final stage is to discuss in more detail, to ensure we agree on the process, for issuing the gate code and discuss how we deal with "ring ins" and last-minute access requests with some depth for support.

Take care

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

BLUE MOUNTAINS HUNTING PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

Post To: **Hunting Permits**
Department of Conservation
P O Box 743
Invercargill 9840
Phone: (03) 211 2400



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

A FEE OF \$11.50 WILL APPLY FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2013

All party members must be listed, and incomplete applications may be rejected

Only One application per party/person. *All multiple applications will be rejected.*

If you are not able to hunt the block allocated to you, please advise us so we can issue it to another hunter

1. Applications close on the 1st of the month prior to the one you would like to hunt, ie February applications must be in by the 1st of January, March by the 1st of February, April by the 1st of March etc.
2. Only the following blocks are open during weekdays-Brandy Gully, Whisky Gully, Black Gully and Glenburnie

MONTH _____ WEEKEND or WEEKDAYS (circle preference)

DATES DESIRED _____ or ANY WEEKEND/ANY WEEKDAY

(USE BLOCK NAMES ONLY)

BLOCKS PREFERRED _____

or ANY BLOCK

(List in order of preference, use all the spaces provided)

NOTE!!! PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND INCLUDE THE CITY YOU ARE FROM. REMEMBER TO PRINT NEATLY - WE CAN'T PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION IF WE CAN'T READ IT!

NAMES (Maximum four)	ADDRESS AND POSTCODE

Number of Dogs ____ (Maximum four)

VEHICLE MODEL _____ COLOUR _____ REGN _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE __ / __ / __ PHONE _____

PAYMENT DETAILS: Debit Card/ Credit Card

Visa/ Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

To submit your application via email, please send your filled out application to invercargill@doc.govt.nz, then give us a call on 032112400 so we can take your credit card payment over the phone. For security reasons we cannot accept credit card details via email

Blue Mountains Forest Conservation Area hunting

Located in [Mainland Southland hunting](#) in the [Southland](#) region

You can hunt fallow deer and feral pigs in the Blue Mountains Recreational Hunting Area. The area has been divided into 23 hunting blocks which are balloted monthly from February through to the end of November.

Species

- Deer - Fallow
- Pigs

Brochures

- [Blue Mountains RHA overview map – A3 \(PDF, 3298K\)](#)
- [Blue Mountains RHA overview map – A4 \(PDF, 1116K\)](#)

Permit requirements

A permit is required to hunt on public conservation land.

This hunting area is covered by a 'restricted area permit' which must be obtained from the [DOC office](#) managing the hunting area.

Seasonal restrictions

Closed for hunting over December and January.

Dog access

Dogs with a DOC permit only. Contact the relevant [DOC office](#) to obtain a permit.

About this hunting block

The Blue Mountains Forest Conservation Area is gazetted as a Recreational Hunting Area (RHA). The area has been divided into 22 hunting blocks which are balloted monthly from February through to the end of November. The area is then closed for hunting over December and January.

Applications for the ballot close on the first of the month prior to the month applied for. Permits are issued for a maximum of 3 days during the week, or weekends only. Only one application per person/party will be accepted.

All permits issued for the Blue Mountains must be returned with the hunting returns section completed. Hunters who fail to provide hunting returns may not be issued with future hunting permits.

Landscape

The RHA is dominated by silver beech forest with large open tussock tops to the west. The bush in the northern area is much shorter and denser. The RHA is surrounded by exotic forest plantations to the east and northwest and by farmland to the southwest.

Access

From Hill Jacks Road end on foot to hunting blocks – Cattle Flat, Rankleburn, Smithys Spur, Brandy Gully and Whiskey Gully. All other access is via Ermslaw One Ltd. Forestry access is via combination lock through certain gates, details are provided on a map which is issued with the permit. From either SH1 or SH90, the Blue Mountains are accessed from forestry roads leading off Rankleburn Road.

Note: due to consistent vandalism and security issues Ermslaw One may restrict access to foot traffic only. To reduce the risk of this happening use only the gates specified and report any suspicious behaviour to Ermslaw One or DOC.

Landholders

Ermslaw One Ltd. +64 3 204 8061

Ermslaw One manage the exotic forest plantations and run their own balloted hunting blocks in that area. Permission to hunt within the exotic forest plantations must be sought from them.

David Edgar

Contact David for access to Brandy Gully, a phone number will be provided on the bottom of the Brandy Gully permits.

Application form

[Download the Blue Mountains RHA ballot application form \(PDF, 96K\)](#) or [\(Word, 44K\)](#)

To apply for the ballot, you will need to complete an application form and either post, email or drop it off to the Invercargill office. If you post your application you will need to include credit card or debit card details for payment. If you would like to email your application you will need to phone the Invercargill Office to pay, we can not accept credit card or debit card details via email. Alternatively, you can pop into the Invercargill Office and pay by credit card, debit card, EFTPOS, or cash over the counter.

Maps

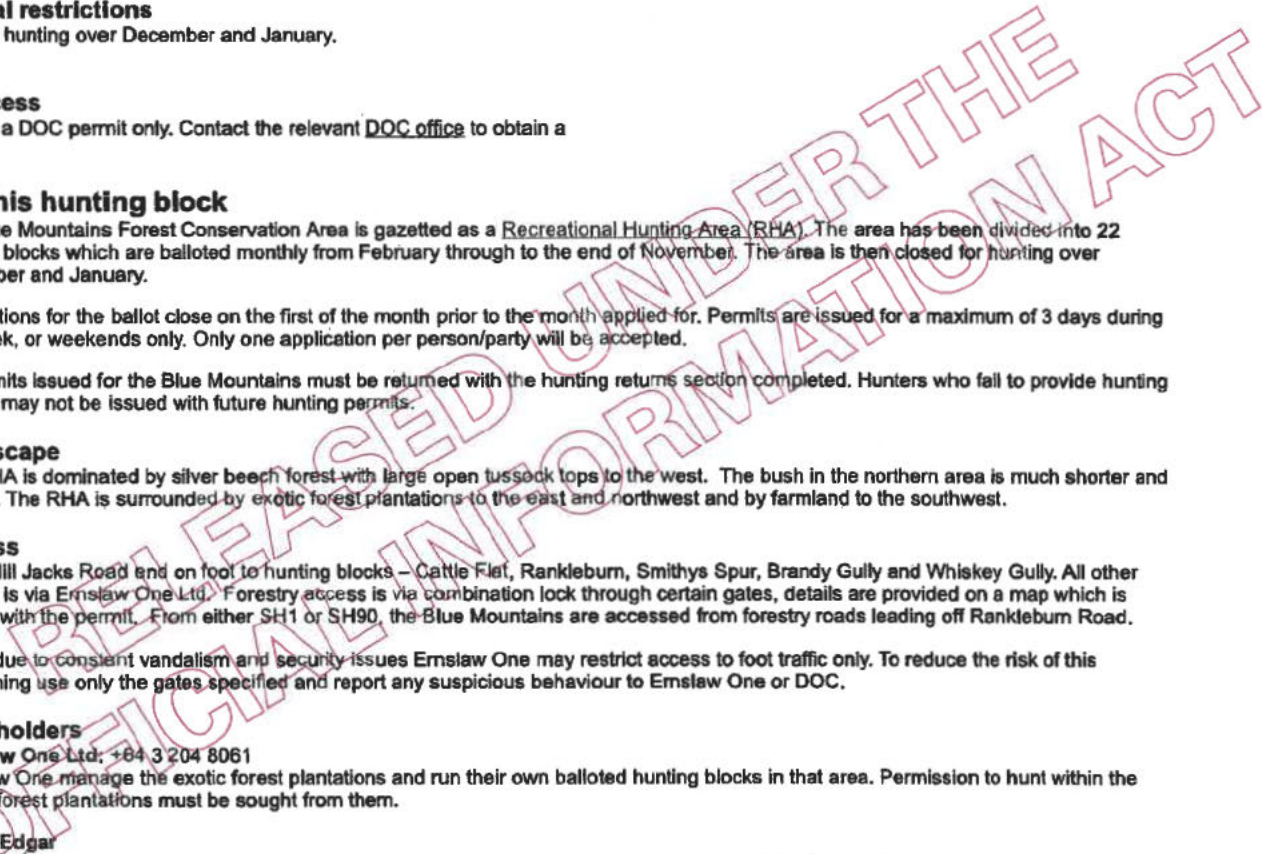
NZTopo50 maps - CE13, CE14, CF13, CF14

A selection of Topo50 maps which cover the Southland region are available to purchase from the DOC Murihiku Office.

If you require a map that is not supplied at the Murihiku Office, you can download maps or check out a list of other retailers on the [Land Information New Zealand website](#).

Block maps

- [Block Map - Armstrong \(PDF, 1577K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Back Stream \(PDF, 1548K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Black Gully \(PDF, 1469K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Blackcleugh \(PDF, 1577K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Brandy \(PDF, 1467K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Brooksdale \(PDF, 1455K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Carsons \(PDF, 1671K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Cattle Flat \(PDF, 1557K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Chris's \(PDF, 1867K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Clarks \(PDF, 1536K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Dish \(PDF, 1739K\)](#)
- [Block Map - Dunn Creek \(PDF, 1515K\)](#)



[Block Map - Garden Gully \(PDF, 1509K\)](#)
[Block Map - Glenburnie \(PDF, 1480K\)](#)
[Block Map - Gorge Creek \(PDF, 1546K\)](#)
[Block Map - Long Gully \(PDF, 1741K\)](#)
[Block Map - Myles \(PDF, 1635K\)](#)
[Block Map - Packers \(PDF, 1651K\)](#)
[Block Map - Rankleburn \(PDF, 1560K\)](#)
[Block Map - Smithys Spur \(PDF, 1521K\)](#)
[Block Map - Tramway \(PDF, 1656K\)](#)
[Block Map - Westwood \(PDF, 1557K\)](#)
[Block Map - Whisky \(PDF, 1460K\)](#)

Block GPS file

This .gpx file is compatible with most GPS handheld units.

[Blue Mountains - RHA Blocks \(GPX, 1016K\)](#)

Animals present

[Fallow deer](#) - high numbers

[Pigs](#) - moderate numbers

Dogs

- Dogs must be registered and are not allowed on conservation land without a permit.
- When crossing private land, dogs are to be on a leash until well into the forest and they must be kept under control at all times.
- DOC must be notified regarding missing or lost dogs on conservation land.

Huts

There are no DOC huts available.

Contacts

Murihiku / Invercargill Office

Phone: +64 3 211 2400

Fax: +64 4 471 1117

Email: invercargill@doc.govt.nz

Address: 7th Floor
CUE on Don
33 Don Street
Invercargill 9810

Postal Address: PO Box 743
Invercargill 9840

Give feedback

[Tell us about your visit](#)

Related

- [Southern South Island pesticide summary](#)
Latest pesticide summary for the Southern South Island covering most of the Otago, Fiordland and Southland regions.
- [Hunting know before you go](#)
How to hunt safely, rules for hunting on public conservation land, hunting with dogs, overseas hunters, and hunting gear lists.
-
-

Alan Christie

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Thursday, 5 May 2022 3:41 pm
To: Mark Beardsley
Cc: Judy Ward
Subject: RE: My Feedback - Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Thanks Mark

Excellent summary and some clear direction for us. If only we had this 18 months ago, but I think we have spent too much time on being a good neighbour and have tried to be a mediator & deal breaker which is not DOCs role!

There is a network of roads that give access through Earnslaw One to the RHA. They are public roads covered by Public Access Easements which grant the public a right of access. However, the "Occupier" (Earnslaw One) can close the roads off for reasons of H & S of staff etc. This is very much an issue between Earnslaw One & the recreational hunting fraternity. The main impact on DOC is any increased administration workload resulting from any arrangements that would allow the opening of the RHA to mid-week hunting again. And, is that workload acceptable or manageable??

Regards
 Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
 Supervisor, Community Engagement team
 Murihiku District
 Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
 M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: Mark Beardsley <mbeardsley@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 5 May 2022 3:02 pm
To: Alan Christie
Cc: Judy Ward · s.9(2)(a) Mark Beardsley
Subject: My Feedback - Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi Alan,

I have gone back through and read all the emails as well as talked with the Game Animal Council Chair who is monitoring the situation.

The emails from NZDA are solution driven, I believe we need to go back one step to confirm the facts and exactly what the position is for Earnslaw One as they control the access through the forestry land.

Context

- Since 2015 and the new H & S legislation, forestry companies have been lifting their H & S and compliance practices.
- They have a minimum set of H & S requirements for all staff and visitors when accessing a production forest. They are a work site.
- Forestry companies closing access to visitors during the weekdays is not uncommon.
- The new Earnslaw One CEO has been driving improved H & S within the company.
- There have been a number of interactions between recreational hunters accessing PCL with Earnslaw One staff leading to the forestry company closing road access to PCL weekdays.

- Earnslaw One does have a list of 'approved hunters' which are granted access to the production forest to go hunting. I do not know if the weekday rule applies to them. You would need to confirm this position with Earnslaw One.
- NZDA Otago has negotiated access (via an MOU) and become part of the Earnslaw One approved hunter list in one form or another.
- NZDA Otago would like to work with all parties to produce a long-term solution to allow access to PCL through the Earnslaw One road.
- Having to install Earnslaw One "approved hunter" compliance into the Blue Mountain Ballot process for DOC frontline staff could create significant cost and staff time. If so, the District Office is not in a position to deliver this. This is not just a cost issue.
- The final details on the NZDA MOU with Earnslaw are yet to be known. Earnslaw One and NZDA will need to manage these comms. There could be considerable backlash from local hunters. A risk is that our frontline staff may bear the brunt of the frustration even though DOC has no control/authority over access through the Earnslaw forest.

Out of scope

My understanding is that the road which hunters are using to gain access through the Earnslaw Forestry land is a public road. There is a paddocked gate at the start of this road. I have not looked into the legalities of the public road. Should hunters, DOC, or others wish to do so, then please engage with Walking Access NZ. They have the resources and expertise to establish its legal status, use, and who has authority over it.

My feedback on next steps

- I see the NZDA conversation as focused on solutions. There is a step before this that still needs to be completed by us. That is to establish the existing position of Earnslaw One on weekday hunting - access through the forest weekdays - their approved hunters list - has the NZDA MOU now replaced the approved hunters list or just for access through the forest to PCL? All just needs to be clarified. We will then have Earnslaw One position. It not 100% clear right now.
- To address the impact on our frontline staff DOC needs a statement from Earnslaw One to put up on the DOC website for hunters applying for a Blue Mountain permit. If there is an NZDA MOU in place, then Earnslaw One and NZDA need to provide the comms to inform hunters. The narrative for these comms sits with the landowner.
- If Earnslaw One's actual position is that all Forestry roads are closed to hunters and visitors weekdays, now is the time to install this position formally.
- Once the District Office has established Earnslaw One's position, clear on the NZDA MOU and its purpose/role, and we have something for the DOC website - you will be in a good position to assess impacts and outcomes on the Blue Mountain ballot. Staff time, any increased costs, etc.
- I realise NZDA is trying their best to find a solution that works for hunters and Earnslaw One. But this has to work for the local DOC staff and the District Office processing the ballots. It is the unintentional consequence always catches people out. The MOU rule of weekday access only being granted to NZDA members may well create tension within the local hunting community. There are not only the bill rights, but also Privacy Act, and compliance. All which NZDA needs to work through. I would get our own comms plan in place prior to making any changes or putting anything on the DOC website.

Hope this is helpful.

The bottom line for me is have the District meet with Earnslaw One, clarify their position, and their position on the NZDA MOU and role. Then work through the line item of what should DOC put on its website to inform hunters about access through Earnslaw One forests. Once you have that then everything else will start to fall in place, including any significant challenges.

Keep me in the loop. Happy to be a sounding board

Regards Mark

Mark Beardsley

Service Designer, Policy & Visitors Unit
Department of Conservation

Mobile: s.9(2)(a)

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature
Be prepared



Keep NZ clean
Show respect



From: Alan Christie <
Sent: Thursday, 5 May 2022 8:25 am
To: Mark Beardsley <
Subject: RE: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi
Can you do 11am this morning? Jude Ward would join us.
AC

From: Mark Beardsley
Sent: Thursday, 5 May 2022 7:17 am
To: Alan Christie <
Subject: RE: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

When is a good time to ring

Cheers Mark

Mark Beardsley
Service Designer, Policy & Visitors Unit
Department of Conservation
Mobile: s.9(2)(a)

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature
Be prepared



Keep NZ clean
Show respect



From: Alan Christie <
Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 4:43 pm
To: Mark Beardsley <
Cc: Judy Ward < s.9(2)(a) >
Subject: FW: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi Mark

And a further reply from Mark Hastie below too.

Keen to hear your thoughts on this and happy to discuss. It's now getting towards 2 years that the Blue Mts RHA has been closed to mid-week hunting & we are having difficulty resolving this from a DOC perspective.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

From: [otagodeerstalkers](#)

Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 9:41 am

To: Alan Christie

Cc: 'WS & LA Murray' <[REDACTED] s.9(2)(a)>; Judy Ward <[REDACTED] s.9(2)(a)>; Nathan Larson

Subject: RE: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi Alan

Thank you for your quick reply and comments.

We have been aware of this centralisation for some time now however it doesn't appear to be happening within the time frames indicated.

I appreciate this will be difficult to achieve to cover all situations and tested before roll out.

Given there is no confirmed rollout date of the centralised system, just a timeline to work towards, shall we push on with the current proposal until there is a confirmed changeover.

In the meantime, we should work towards the solution to allow the centralisation to work.

This will allow the weekday hunting to commence in the meantime instead of being delayed further.

A thought is that we obtain a permit direct from Emslaw for access however I'm not sure how this will crossover to the centralised system to allow permits to be issued.

Thanks again Alan for keeping matter moving forward.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

President

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

Otago Branch



From: Alan Christie <

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 9:00 AM

To: [otagodeerstalkers](#)

Cc: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a); [REDACTED] s.9(2)(a); Judy Ward <[REDACTED] s.9(2)(a)>; Nathan Larson

Subject: RE: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi s9(2)(a)

Thanks for the email.

I'm not a mapping expert. Happy to discuss with the appropriate folk here regarding possible improvements but will probably need some indications as to s9(2)(a) thinking there.

Unfortunately, a bit of a "fishhook" our end with what is proposed. As I understand it, work is being done to, later this year, have all DOC hunting permit systems, including those locally based, integrated into a national system. I have discussed the initiative that is proposed between NZDA & Ernslaw One with our local admin staff and the advice is that we need to advise the national team leading this work so they can review and provide input.

Apologies for what must seem like a laborious process our end, but I'll do my best to keep this matter rolling.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [otagodeerstalker](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2022 4:06 pm
To: Alan Christie
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: Blue Mountain week day hunting access

Hi Alan

Below comments from Callum Kyle who has recently become involved from Ernslaw. Over the past several weeks we have been trying to put together a meeting, this has now popped up.

Hi guys,
I am away in Blenheim for a controlled burn this week. Can we please arrange a meeting for later on this month to discuss the matter? Happy to do this via Microsoft teams if it will save everyone having to travel? I think with some small additions this plan will work. We just need to be able to tell our contractors that we are confident the weekday hunting will present no additional risks to them or their operations. I feel that the DOC hunting maps will need to be updated as a large number of people do not seem to be able to understand them, do not know what the public access easement is; or how to identify it on the map, and struggle to understand the boundaries in a native forest/exotic forest context. I have a list of points to discuss anyway.
Regards, s9(2)(a)

It appears s9(2)(a) main concern is the accuracy of the maps supplied. Most of this can be sorted with through the Induction. IE up to date maps could be supplied as part of the induction showing boundaries and easements for access.

I guess part of the issue may be people can't map read therefore do not understand them beyond a road map. Although getting caught and saying they don't understand is an easy cop out.

One would assume, in this case for NZDA members, this wouldn't be a problem.

Your comments to this would be kindly appreciated.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Alan Christie

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Wednesday, 6 April 2022 2:34 pm
To: Judy Ward; John McCarroll
Cc: Nathan Larson
Subject: FW: Blue Mountains mid week access
Attachments: RE: Blue Mountains Hunting Issues

Hi Judy

Thanks for the chat with you & Nathan this afternoon. Below is the email received from **s9(2)(a)** President of the Otago Branch of the NZ Deerstalkers Assoc.

It is encouraging to see the attempt to try and resolve the Blue Mountains RHA mid-week access issue through this proposed initiative between NZDA & Ernslaw One (**s9(2)(a)**). It has been my view from the outset, that DOC's role is to issue the hunting permits to hunters allowing them to hunt the RHA. Whilst, we want to be a good neighbour, how the hunters traverse the private Ernslaw One land, via the public access easement roads, to access the RHA is ultimately a matter between the hunters & Ernslaw One. I acknowledge Ernslaw One's concerns about staff safety & property protection but having the road closed to mid-week access for nigh on two years now isn't acceptable. This situation has come about due to the actions of a small number of badly behaved hunters and poachers.

The issue for us with this proposal is that it does provide a degree of exclusivity to NZDA members to go hunting mid-week. We know from experience that hunters will be quick to react if they sense a perceived injustice in the system! I have attached an email I received from Snr Solicitor Mike Bodie on this issue. He does not rule out us attempting this solution but quickly acknowledges that any challenge to this will most likely be a breach of the NZ Bill of Rights Act regarding freedom of association.

Thank you for offering to seek the input & views of Mark Beardsley & his team regarding this proposal. Given the pending review of the hunting permit system, and that the issuing of these Blue Mts. permits may be done through a national system, it is important to have their take on what is proposed.

Regards

Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
 Supervisor, Community Engagement team
 Murihiku District
 Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
 M - **s.9(2)(a)**

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 12:41 pm
To: Alan Christie <alan.christie@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Blue Mountains access

Hi Alan

In reply to your email.
See below email I sent after our discussion.

Just tidying up the MOU get back to you shortly.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



From: otagodeerstalkers
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 11:40 AM
To: John McCarroll
Subject: Blue Mountains access

Hi John and Alan

Firstly, thank you Alan for taking the time to call myself today to discuss the Blue Mountain week day access issue. I appreciate your time in discussing a resolution and how the permit issuing can be facilitated by your team.

Alan, it was great to hear you have also been in discussion with Phil, and your legal team, it appears our collective resolutions are similar, it's now just a matter of ironing out couple details to proceed.

An overview of our proposal:

1. NZDA will adopt an MOU with Ernslaw One to satisfy their concerns outlining how we will deal with these issues.
2. NZDA will carry out an induction of any prospective Hunters to meet Ernslaw One concerns.
3. This will be completed at branch level.
4. A list of names will be forwarded to NZDA National office to provide one point of data collection.
5. NZDA National office will supply a list of inducted Hunters to Ernslaw One and DOC Invercargill, being the permit issuer, as verification the Hunter meets the standard required to gain weekly access.
6. From this list, Doc can then verify any hunters requesting weekly blocks have been vetted to be eligible to cross Ernslaw One land to access the Blue Mountains hunting blocks.

By having the branches complete the induction they have more control over their members, who can be trusted to adhere to the rules for access so not to jeopardise the relationship and carry out any disciplinary action that may be required.

By supplying the names of the inducted to National is two-fold. One it provides one point of data collection and supply to both Ernslaw and Doc, Two National can verify the Hunter is a financial member therefore has the insurance cover required and agrees to our own internal "Code of Ethics".

This would be the first step in the bigger picture to allow ALL HUNTERS access to the Mountain, not exclusive to NZDA alone.

Whilst one can say "they need to be part of NZDA to gain access" this will no doubt be challenged at some point. However this is a good place to start as working "Proof of concept" to grow from for all Hunters.

Having said that, this is an "access over private land" issue not a "Doc permitting issue", therefore this model could be adapted as a simple solution for Ernslaw One to provide H&S of their staff and protection of their property as they currently do for the exotic areas.

Couple questions still to be considered:

- Will supplying a list of names, estimated to be around 100, be workable for issuing permits. Both for the ballots and ring-ins?
- How frequently will NZDA update the list, we have natural attrition and new members alike. One would say annually with membership renewals, however this doesn't address the above, an example is Otago Branch had 53 new members last year that some would like to hunt in Blue Mountains.
- Do we get involved in the public model or just refer any enquires to Ernslaw One as the land owner.
- How do we administer blocks within areas Ernslaw One teams are working, this is a discussion to be confirmed with Ernslaw One.

Thank you again for your time today.

Feel free to call myself on [redacted] to discuss any points above or items we need to cover off to enable this to proceed.

We look forward to a speedy resolution to allow week day hunting on the Mountain again.

Kind Regards

s9(2)(a)

President
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
Otago Branch



Alan Christie

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 12 October 2021 8:43 am
To: Alan Christie
Subject: RE: Leithen picnic area

Hi Alan

1. **Out of scope of request**

2. No issue with releasing all the correspondence requested.

3. I have no interest in a meeting to "reset things". There were two recommendations which the hunting group and Ernslaw put forward and were rejected by DoC. In particular, evening hunting during daylight saving, and vetting hunters for compliance respectively. There was a small DoC team that started on this in June 2020, so don't blame yourself. Anyone of them could have continued the process but they didn't.

Regards, s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Monday, 11 October 2021 5:14 pm
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Leithen picnic area

Hello s9(2)(a)

1. **Out of scope of request**

2. I am also contacting you in respect to an Official information Request I am responding to presently regarding the ongoing access issues affecting mid-week access to the Blue Mts RHA Blocks. This request has been made, I understand by an individual who recreationally hunts the RHA, requesting basically all information on file relating to this issue.

I have attached several documents that have been provided by either s9(2)(a) or yourself. Note that any reference to contact details have already been removed along with vehicle & person details contained within s9(2)(a) report. There are also numerous emails on file, some including Ernslaw One staff, which on review, do not I believe, contain any information of a commercially sensitive or personal nature. These emails have also had all reference to personal contact details removed.

I would be grateful if you could, at your earliest, advise if you are happy for the attached documents to be disclosed or would require them to be withheld under the "Commercially Sensitive Information" provisions of the Official Information Act, as these are documents generated by yourself & s9(2)(a)

3. It goes without saying, that progress on resolving the access issues have stalled, with a several other issues / commitments taking my time over recent times. I have indicated to John McCarroll that I believe it would be beneficial to have a meeting between yourself (Ernslaw One) and ourselves to reset where things are at from our respective positions and endeavour to agree on a way forward. I will contact you directly to discuss this further.

Thanks for your assistance.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation
M - s.9(2)(a)

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 3 October 2021 8:20 pm
To: Alan Christie > Brent Affleck
Subject: RE: Leithen picnic area

Hi Alan

Regards, s9(2)(a)

From: Alan Christie
Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 1:38 pm
To: s9(2)(a) s.9(2)(a) >; Brent Affleck
Subject: RE: Leithen picnic area

Hi s9(2)(a)

Out of scope of request

On a separate note, apologies from me as I am conscious that I haven't responded to your last reply regarding the RHA issues. I still have my thinking cap on around this & will be in touch with you as soon as I'm able.

Regards
Alan

Alan Christie,

Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori
Supervisor, Community Engagement team
Murihiku District
Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation

Murihiku District Office | 33 Don Street | PO Box 743 | Invercargill 9840 | New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 5 July 2021 5:04 pm

Alan Christie

From: Suzanne Tuna
Sent: Thursday, 5 May 2022 4:35 pm
To: Alan Christie
Cc: Judy Ward
Subject: Blue mountains
Attachments: Blue mountains data.docx

Hi Alan,

I did a quick compare Feb 2020 and Feb 2022. Blocks that require access through Ernslaw One are Armstrong, Back stream, Blackcleugh, Brooksdale, Carsons, Cattle flat, Chris's, clarks, Dish, Dunn creek, Garden gully, Gorge Creek, Long gully, Myles, Packers, Rankleburn, Smithy's Spur, tramway, and westwood. (19) Access without going through Ernslaw is possible for Black Gully, Brandy Gully, Glenburnie and Whisky Gully (scenic reserves) [Blue Mountains Forest Conservation Area hunting: Mainland Southland, Southland \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

On the website it says foot access is possible from Hill Jacks Rd (to Cattle Flat, Rankleburn, Smithy's Spur, Brandy and Whisky) but I have heard that the farmer doesn't like people crossing his land. Hunters have queried hunting s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(a) and possibly Blackcleugh off the Rongahere road. I have a map I will give you as well. If you look at the data, considering we charge \$11.50 for a ballot application and the same for our phoned in permit requests for the Blue mountains, there is a difference in revenue as well.

Let me know if you need any further info.

Cheers,

Sue

Sue Tuna

Customer Service Centre/Business Support Officer | Āpiha Umanga Āwhina
 Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Murihiku Invercargill Office

www.doc.govt.nz



	Feb 2020	Feb 2022
applications	89	85
Missed out	3	18
Phone or email block bookings Weekend	24	8
Phone or email Weekdays(blocks accessed via E1)	112	0
Blocks booked requiring no access via E1	13	19

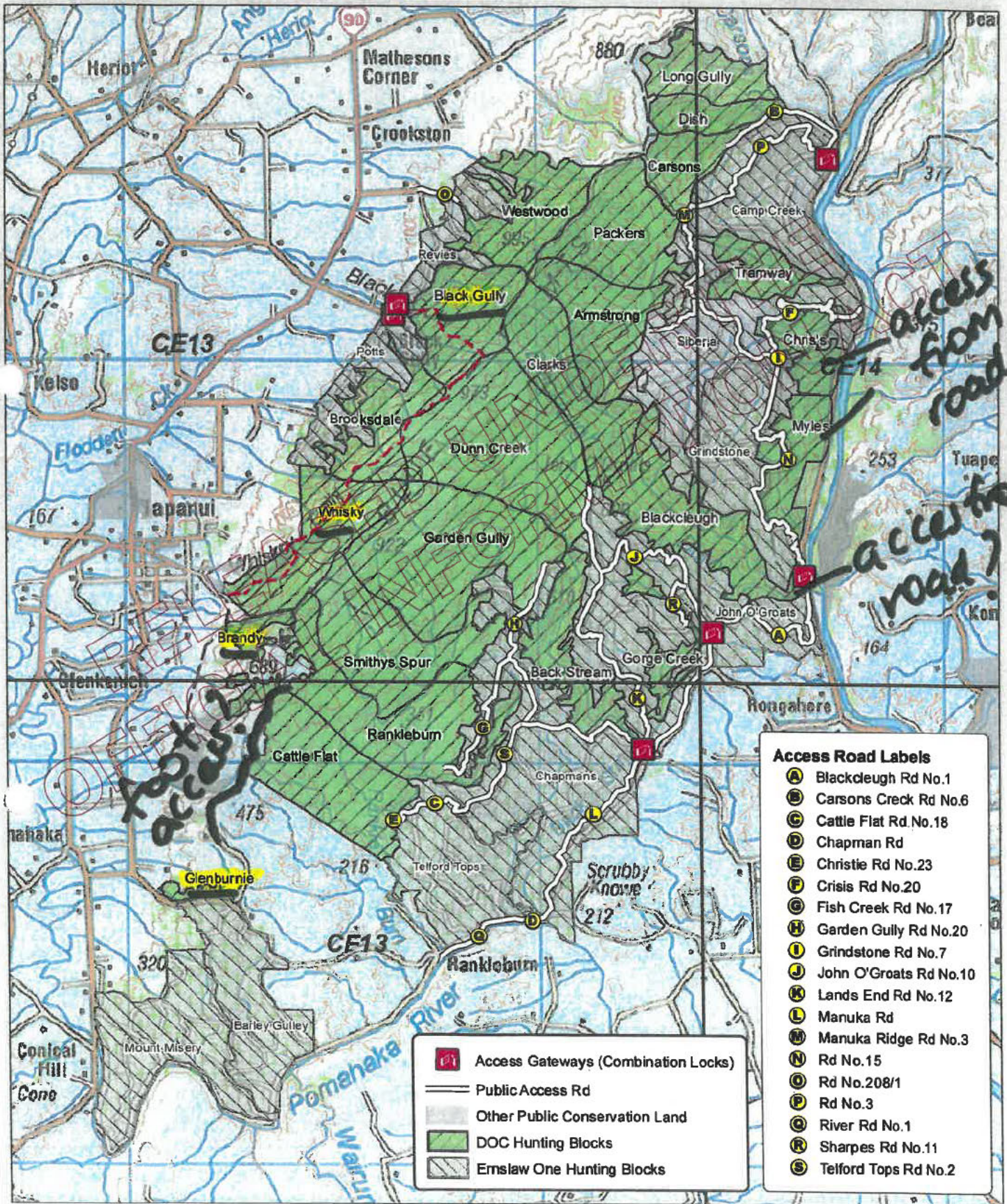
RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Recreation Hunting Permit Map Blue Mountains - Murihiku



Check your permit for conditions that may apply to this area

New Zealand Government



This map is a guide only and is not for navigation
Crown Copyright Reserved
Please contact Ernslaw One for their hunting blocks.

open at moment week days

Scale at A4 = 1:125,000
NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator
Tuesday, 24 March 2015
Hunting_blocks_Overview_Blue_mtns_A4_Mar2015.mxd

5 km



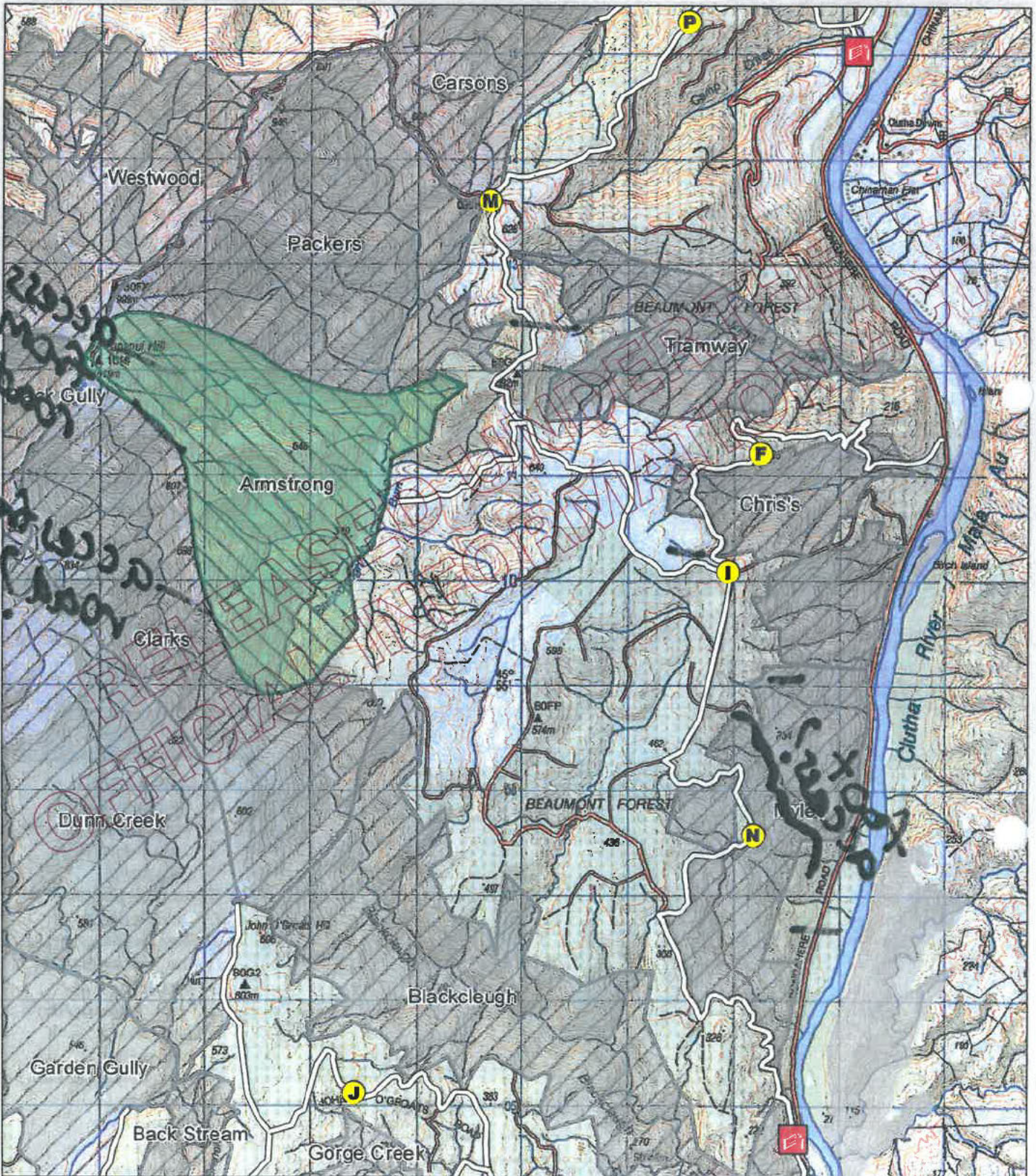
Recreation Hunting Permit Map Blue Mountains - Armstrong

Your permit is valid only for the area shown as green in the map



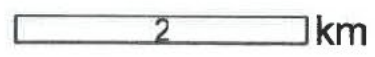
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government



Check your permit for conditions that may apply to this area and the overview map for expanded key

Tuesday, 24 March 2015
Not for Navigation
Copyright reserved
Hunting_blocks_Blue_mtns_A4_Mar2015.mxd





Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ref: CORD-752

21 July 2022

Ingrid Leary
Labour Party

ingrid.leary@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Leary

Thank you for your letter to the Minister of Conservation, dated 21 June 2022, which has been forwarded to me to respond. This is regarding access to the public conservation land gazetted as the Blue Mountains Recreational Hunting Area (RHA). Your constituent expresses concern about access being limited during the week by forestry company Ernslaw One Ltd, who own forestry land to the east of the Blue Mountain range.

I referred your letter to our Murihiku District Office, who administers this area, and they have advised me as follows:

The Murihiku District Office issues recreational hunting permits for the Blue Mountains RHA via a monthly ballot system. Hunters, and other recreational users, access the Blue Mountains RHA via a series of Public Access Easements (PAE) that run through Ernslaw One Forestry land.

Approximately two years ago Ernslaw One Ltd, citing several concerns, including safety issues for the public and their staff, closed the PAEs on weekdays. These safety concerns were due to the behaviour of some users while accessing Ernslaw One Ltd's roads. This was allowable under the terms and conditions of the PAEs.

The Department has been working with Ernslaw One Ltd, the NZ Deerstalker Association, Walking Access N.Z. and other interested parties to negotiate an agreement as to how weekday access can be restored. To date this has been unsuccessful.

Recent advice has been sought on the access issues in respect to PAE. This advice confirms:

- PAE's are created under the Crown Forests Assets Act 1989 with the Ministers responsible being the Minister for State Owned Enterprises and the Minister of Finance.

- Those Ministers have responsibility for the administration of these easements.
- The Department has no jurisdictional responsibility or enforcement powers in respect to the PAEs and is therefore not able to ensure access is available to the public. This role falls to the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises.
- The PAE's state that "the Occupier" shall permit and allow access by the public over and across the access areas unless they close or restrict access for one of the allowable circumstances.
- There is no statutory ability or obligation that enables the department to provide guaranteed access to recreational hunters, holding a valid hunting permit, to hunt any hunting area on public conservation land.
- If a member of the public or organisation seeks to dispute the actions of the forestry company and enforce the terms of the PAE's, then an appropriate option would be for that party to refer the matter to the Disputes Tribunal.

The Department acknowledges the frustrations expressed by users of the Blue Mountain Recreational Hunting Area and has acted within its legal mandate to enable access. We will continue our work with Ernslaw One Ltd and other parties to determine if we can find an agreeable solution.

Nāku noa, nā

s.9(2)(a)

Aaron Fleming
Director Operations Southern South Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai