

# Recreational hunting in Nelson/Marlborough



## There's great hunting in Nelson/Marlborough

The Nelson/Marlborough area offers good hunting opportunities on the 2.3 million ha of land in Nelson and Marlborough administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

There are red deer and goats throughout the area, and fallow deer in several places. Chamois frequent high-altitude alpine and sub-alpine zones, and pigs are generally found around forest margins and shrublands. See our online fact sheets for further information on red deer, fallow deer, chamois, pigs, possums and goats.

Introduced animals devastate plant species and communities, forest structure, native animals, and soil and water conditions. Recreational hunters play an important role in controlling these animals.

### Permits are required

You need a permit for non-commercial hunting on DOC-administered Crown land. Each person hunting must have a separate permit. Permits cannot be transferred to, or be used by, anyone else.

Obtain or renew your permit online at <https://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz>, or by contacting your local DOC office or visitor centre. You will need your current permit number and date of birth to renew your permit.

Permits are valid for 4 months and may be issued for any open areas throughout the country. Visit the DOC website for information on permits, pesticide use, where to hunt, and general hunting information: [www.doc.govt.nz/hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting).

Make sure you read the conditions on the permit and in this handout. Have a safe and enjoyable hunt!

### Access to boundaries

For specific information on any areas (including boundaries, contact numbers for obtaining access across private land, restrictions on dogs, etc) refer to hunting area information in the 'Find places to go hunting' section of DOC's website or contact the nearest DOC office. DOC boundaries and open hunting areas can be freely viewed at <http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer> (turn on the Recreational Hunting Permit Areas layer).

**Note: the hunting permit does not allow hunters to cross private or leasehold land, or land administered by other agencies** (eg Nelson City Council waterworks reserve, Molesworth Station, Clarence Reserve, Hori Bay, etc). **Obtaining permission is the hunter's responsibility.**

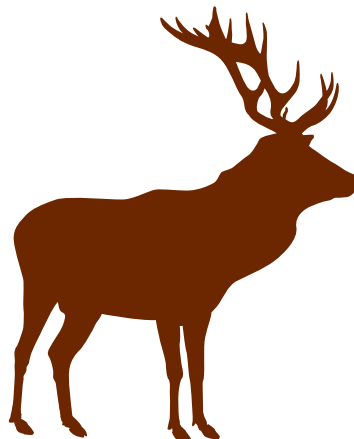
### Closed areas

- Farewell Spit Nature Reserve
- Within Marlborough Sounds: Pipi Beach, and Sounds Foreshore reserves
- All reserves on Arapaoa Island (except D'Urville and the southwestern reserves of Arapaoa, ie Ngaruru and Ruaomoko)
- Farm parks (Titirangi and Puponga) and other Crown leasehold land, except with the permission of the lessee
- Tapuae O Uenuku Scenic Reserve (South Marlborough)
- Mount Uerau Nature Reserve (Uwerau) (Seaward Kaikoura Range)
- Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve (Golden Bay)
- Mount Burnett, in North-west Nelson Forest Park (Golden Bay)
- Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area (part of Nelson Lakes National Park): on the western side of the St Arnaud Range from Lakehead Hut through to SH63, and from St Arnaud village west to the Buller River and south to include the front face of Mount Robert
- Heaphy and Wangapeka tracks: 500 m either side of the track
- All walkways

Often small portions of DOC-administered Crown land are also closed to hunting. Check that all areas you plan to hunt are open.

### Restricted areas requiring specific permits

- Northern Abel Tasman National Park (issued from DOC's Takaka office)
- Molesworth Station and Clarence Reserve (issued from DOC's Wairau/Renwick office)



Obtain specific permits from the relevant DOC office or visitor centre.

Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Periodic closures

The following areas close between sunset 22 December and sunrise 9 February:

- Kahurangi National Park (Cobb valley floor, Mt Arthur tablelands, Flora Stream headwaters)
- Nelson Lakes National Park (500 m adjoining the shores of lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa, and upstream to Travers swing bridge, Sabine gorge bridge and Bull Creek)
- Marlborough Sounds reserves (including Rangitoto ki te Tonga/ D'Urville Island)
- Abel Tasman National Park.

### Other periodic closures:

- Isolated Hill Scenic Reserve, south Marlborough – there is no hunting access across the private land of Blue Mountain Station between sunrise 1 December and sunset 29 February.

## Caution areas

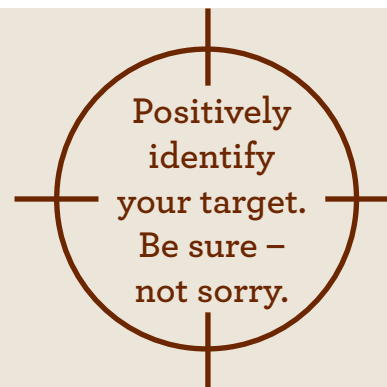
- Extensions to the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area (Teetotal/Big Bush, Sabine/D'Urville delta, Rotoroa lake head). Take extreme care – staff may be working in these areas at any time.
- Other areas may be closed for management (eg possum poisoning) or at lambing/calving time. These will generally be advertised. If in doubt, contact your local DOC office or visitor centre.

## Pesticide use areas information

A summary of areas where pesticides have been, or are planned to be used on Crown land is produced in February, June and October, covering the following 4 months. Get the latest version from the DOC website (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting>) or from your local DOC office or visitor centre.

## Additional permit conditions

- **Dogs:** permits to enter DOC-administered public lands with a dog can be obtained from the relevant DOC office or visitor centre. Not all areas are open to dogs due to the presence of ground birds (such as kiwi, weka and whio/blue duck), access across private land, and conflict with other recreational or management activities.
- **Bow/crossbow hunting** is allowed, subject to the specified permit conditions.
- **.22s/shotguns** may be permitted in some places for small-game hunting (eg rabbits, hares, game birds). A separate permit is required from the relevant DOC office.
- **Muzzle loaders:** permits to use black powder propellant apply to specific sites, and are issued by the relevant DOC office. As a guide, a minimum .45 cal round ball with a charge of 60 to 80 grains will be considered.
- **It is the hunter's responsibility to hold a current firearms licence.**
- **Hunting is not permitted in the hours of darkness** (30 min after sunset to 30 min before sunrise). Targets cannot be safely identified at night.
- Do not load a firearm in or near a hut – wait until you're hunting.
- Do not discharge firearms near huts, tracks, campsites, road ends or any other public place in a manner that endangers property or endangers, frightens or annoys members of the public.
- Do not load or discharge firearms within 500 m of a Great Walk hut.
- When in a hut or camp, remove and store your firearm's bolt and ammunition separately. Secure your firearm, if possible.



## Further information

### Whakatū/Nelson Office

Monro State Building  
186 Bridge Street, Nelson 7010  
Ph: 03 546 9335  
Email: [nelson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:nelson@doc.govt.nz)

### Nelson Visitor Centre

Millers Acre/Taha o te Awa  
79 Trafalgar Street, Nelson 7010  
Phone: 03 546 9339  
Email: [nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz)

### Takaka Office

62 Commercial Street, Takaka 7110  
Ph: 03 525 8026  
Email: [takaka@doc.govt.nz](mailto:takaka@doc.govt.nz)

### Motueka Office

Cnr King Edward and High Streets,  
Motueka 7120  
Ph: 03 528 1810  
Email: [motueka@doc.govt.nz](mailto:motueka@doc.govt.nz)

### Waitohi/Picton Office

Port Marlborough Building  
14 Auckland Street, Picton 7220  
Ph: 03 520 3002  
Email: [picton@doc.govt.nz](mailto:picton@doc.govt.nz)

### Wairau/Renwick Office

Gee Street, Renwick  
Marlborough 7204  
Ph: 03 572 9100  
Email: [renwick@doc.govt.nz](mailto:renwick@doc.govt.nz)

### Kaikoura Visitor Centre

West End, Kaikoura  
Ph: 03 319 5641  
Email: [info@kaikoura.co.nz](mailto:info@kaikoura.co.nz)

### Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre

View Road, St Arnaud  
Ph: 03 521 1806  
Email: [nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz)