



OIA 20-E-0439 – DOC-6403829

17 August 2020

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Dear M Hill

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 21 July 2020.

You requested the following:

All details of ammunition types used in DOC tahr culling this year 2020 including that used by your contractors

Context

Himalayan tahr

In New Zealand, following their introduction, Himalayan tahr (tahr) have established themselves over a feral range (the legal boundary of where tahr are allowed to be), which covers most of the central southern Alps between the Rakaia and Whitcombe rivers (in the north) and the Hunter and Haast rivers (in the south). Tahr are large, herbivorous goat-like animals.

Control of tahr

The management of tahr is governed by a statutory plan, the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan 1993, prepared under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.

This statutory plan defined a feral range of tahr, identified exclusion zones on the perimeter of that range to prevent the spread of tahr, and divided the feral range into seven management units. These management units collectively comprise 706,000 hectares of land - 573,000 hectares of which is public conservation land and a further 133,000 hectares of private or Crown pastoral leasehold land.

A key element of the statutory plan is that it sets a maximum population of 10,000 tahr across all land tenures in the tahr feral range. The Department has no plans to eradicate tahr and is taking a phased approach to meet the statutory plan's objectives.

The statutory plan is implemented through Tahr Control Operational Plans. Part of any Tahr Control Operational Plan (TCOP) includes and outlines tahr control intentions, for the period relevant to that plan, for the areas within and outside the tahr feral range.

TCOP 2020-2021

I have understood your use of "*DOC tahr culling this year 2020*" to 'equate' to the period of the Department's current TCOP.

The TCOP 2020-2021, in whatever final form it takes following the Department's reconsideration of the previously approved TCOP, will be effective from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Department's response

The types of ammunition used in any tahr control operational activity connected to the TCOP 2020-2021, undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Department, are:

- 12 gauge 00 non lead buckshot
- .308Win non lead ammunition

Yours sincerely,



Ben Reddiex
Director, National Operations – Issues & Programmes