



18-E-0673

15 November 2018

fyi-request-8725-2b3467eb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M Hill

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 20 September 2018. On 9 October 2018 we extended your request to 15 November 2018 due to the large quantity of information sought. Your question regarding the tahr cull and our response, is listed below:

*'information on how the estimate of 35000 Tahr on Conservation land is arrived at including model(s) and method(s) used, criteria/frameworks in data acquisition, discussions, conclusions, acknowledgments, accuracy and error margins'*

In 2014, a report on historic tahr impact monitoring was completed by Landcare Research. This revealed significant impacts of tahr on tussock and vegetation cover and concluded that the current tahr monitoring to estimate population numbers was not meeting the requirement of the 1993 Plan.

To address this, in the 2015/16 summer, DOC began a trial to integrate tahr abundance and impact monitoring with the national-level monitoring (Tier 1) undertaken as part of its Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System. Additional measurements targeted at estimating tahr abundance (helicopter aerial counts) were added to the programme for implementation at 111 sampling locations over a 5-year period within the tahr management units and exclusion zones.

Analysis of the tahr abundance (helicopter aerial counts) data collected from 2015-2017 at 38 sites was completed and a population estimate were obtained. The report detailing the method, analysis, results and confidence intervals is provided below

<b>Item</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	<u>Report</u> Tahr density estimates from aerial surveys (DOC-3233856). Available on DOC website: <a href="https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/hunting/west-coast/tahr-density-estimates.pdf">https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/hunting/west-coast/tahr-density-estimates.pdf</a>	Released in full

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege,

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

If you wish to discuss this response to your request, please contact Andy Roberts on phone number 027 280 9186 or by email: [aroberts@doc.govt.nz](mailto:aroberts@doc.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely



Andy Roberts  
Director – Operations, Eastern South Island