



ANNUAL REPORT 2026



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2026 Chairperson's Report

As ever, the pace and pressure in the tahr management space continues to grow.

In light of this, I want to expressly thank the team of the 2025/26 NZTF committee, and I think anyone reading this should too. It's a tireless and endless job. Late nights on top of work and family commitments are a strain on anyone, so I commend the people who step forward to help.

We have had a busy year of advocating for tahr, planning a

HOSI, implementing projects to demonstrate capability and making submissions on peripheral matters like the Arms Act.

Our core work is as always, centred around a HOSI for tahr. NZTF are grateful for Minister Meager's explicit commitment in August to strengthen the GAC and continue the HOSI program as well as firmly stating they will replace the HTCP.

"We have had a busy year of advocating for tahr, planning a HOSI, implementing projects to demonstrate capability and making on submissions on peripheral matters like the Arms Act."

A tahr HOSI is a big project, and while it can feel like it's taking a long time to develop a proposal we've got to remember the FWF has been running for 20 years, they had quite a head start in terms of an established process.

But, looking at this year's official control data, we're reminded more than ever for the need for a HOSI. We're hearing it through the community that some areas have significantly fewer tahr, and the ballot results appear to support this. There are hotspots of course, but the general impression seems to be a meaningful reduction in tahr across the range.

The problem is that the HTCP as it stands doesn't let DOC take their foot off the gas. I'll remind you what that means:

- 0 tahr in National Parks. None. The Karangarua, the Murchison – empty.
- 10,000 tahr present in NZ, that means private and leasehold land too. 10,000 sounds like a lot until

you really consider what that looks like across nearly 7000 square kilometres of tahr feral range.

- Tahr densities of between 1 and 2.5 per km²

If we look at those densities a little closer, MU6 (South Westland) is 540km². At the planned 1.5 tahr per km that would be 800 tahr. In this year's ballots alone (already regarded as having lower numbers observed and shot) there were 641 tahr shot.

Stop and think about the population dynamics of a herd of 800 tahr in even just the ballot areas, let alone the whole of MU6. About half of them would be nannies. So we're down to a pool of 400 bulls, a fraction of which will be mature enough to harvest. Spread across everything from the Jacobs in the north to effectively Haast Pass in the south. This year there were 352 bulls shot in the ballot sites alone.

It's clear that a HOSI is the only tool that will shift tahr out from under the HTCP and preserve a meaningful resource for Kiwi hunters. There will be compromises in a HOSI, it must deliver conservation outcomes. Public land isn't there as a playground for hunters, but tahr certainly have a valued place in that landscape. For more on HOSI see our team's update further on.

A useful aspect of the Centennial



Tag (more on that later) was the strengthening of NZTF's international ties. The interest and support for our tahr herd from international hunters will be a key part of it's success as a HOSI.

Following conversations at Sheep Show it was our pleasure to offer to host Everett Headley, SCI's Guides and Outfitters Liaison, for his first tahr hunt. Accommodated by Luke Romano of Monarch Outfitters we were able to discuss an array fundraising and scientific grant application avenues – all while hunting our magnificent tahr.

There is significant scope for assistance with international funding for enhancing our understanding of tahr habitat, behaviour and genetics. Yes, Everett did get a bull – two in fact.

One interesting 11.5 year old bull, a very small animal – probably less than 50kg live weight. Just the type of bull you'd like to remove from the herd. It's unclear what causes these 'midget bulls' – is it lack of feed, is it the result of injury or illness, or is it genetic? A wonderful research subject for someone one day.

After that Everett secured an absolutely beautiful 12.5 year old 13" classic. Clean, bleached east coast horns with annuli just stacked all up the length. He was truly a brilliant old bull, and a great hunt.

The Duke of Bedford award was presented at the Sika Show in November 2025 – to Cameron Rooney, for a score of 96 2/8 – a very impressive bull. Cameron won a taxidermy voucher with Big Game Artistry for taking home first place.

SIKA SHOW 2025 TAHR ENTRIES

Name	Age	Score
Ema Latu	11	78
Dave Keen	11	83 3/8
Brent Morgan	8	84 7/8
Sammi Holland	8	89
Cameron Rooney	12	96 2/8
William Rooney	11	93 7/8

The winner of the superb spot prize, the Swarovski ATC spotting scope (valued at \$4,700) was taken home by his brother, William Rooney, with a bull scoring 93 7/8. A great day out for the Rooney family!

Entries for 24/25 were low. We hope that some better communications and more scoring locations will improve turnout for 2026.

The NZTF would like to thank Swarovski, Big Game Artistry, the Sika Show and NZDA scoring team for their help in maintaining this programme. We're very excited to see what incredible bulls turn up this year. If you've shot a special bull over 8 years old, get it to the Sika Show on the 7th of November. Failing that bring it along to the AGM, or contact us directly for scoring.

The MU1 hunter-led management project is still without a community agreement, and was faced with some irksome delays. Some specific communications around placements for AATH offsets was undertaken through this avenue, but volunteer changes and both NZTF and DOC investment in Westland HLM

precluded much development. A Targeted Harvest operation was planned, but weather plagued the allocated window.

At the time of writing the AATH Systems Analysis has become a limited review, focussed solely on permit conditions – not so broad as to consider whether the activity should exist. NZTF have had a couple of rounds of consultation and our input has focussed on where effects are most felt in time and space and compliance.

The review will consider:

- Permit conditions
- Fees – DOC and Crown
- Updating compilation and analysis of relevant AATH data
- Testing permit conditions and land schedule against relevant policy settings, informed by data (complete)
- Land Schedule (where and when) engagement with DOC Districts, key stakeholders and concessionaires (review stage)

A mapping survey has been carried out, with 17 PCL user (often organisations like NZTF, not only

individuals) responses and 9 industry responses. NZTF would have liked to see this net cast wider, or had the time to at least survey members.

The timeline looks to have a draft updated permit to existing concessionaires during October 2026, with applications for the 2027 permit to open during November and close in December. Permits to be issued January 2027.

As yet the NZTF does not know any of the changes – be it changes to fees, offsets, timing or duration.

Read on further for specific reports on the HOSI, ballot comms, a drone trial, Targeted Harvest, Westland Hunter Led Management, the Select Committee process for the GAC Amendment Bill, minutes of the previous AGM and our financial report.

Congratulations to the tahr hunters who have been successful this year. The quality of bulls we continue to see is a testament to the value of our herd, and the decisions made by hunters on the hill.

We've had some very exciting developments since the end of financial year, including a fantastic brand partnership with an iconic Kiwi label and an imminent announcement regarding our ability to contract a project manager to aid in delivering a HOSI.



Herd of Special Interest Update for NZTF Annual Report

In the 2025 Annual Report I detailed that the Tahr Foundation had engaged a team of contractors to assist with preparing the concept document for a tahr HOSI. The team consists of Professor Ken Hughey, Professor Geoff Kerr, Dr Graham Nugent and Garry Ottmann (all of whom have extensive experience in this field of work).

This is the first formal document in the HOSI process and provides the Game Animal Council with an overview of the proposed HOSI so they can assess the viability and likelihood of it meeting the requirements of the further steps in the process which lead to formal designation of a HOSI. This is the precursor to the formal proposal which is sent to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing for approval.

Over the course of this time the team has been working with the Foundation to clarify process and identify ideas around what a HOSI might look like.

Two workshops with diverse participants have been held, supported by background material prepared by the team which was pre circulated to attendees.

The workshops were facilitated by the team to help refine this thinking. Following the first workshop in August 2025 we identified that there were two key legislative barriers to progressing further with a tahr HOSI. These were:

1. The National Parks Act 1980
2. The overriding considerations provisions in the Game Animal Council Act 2013

The Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Act 2026 passed its third reading in June 2026 which dealt with the National Parks Act issue. The government



does not believe the overriding considerations provisions will be an issue but if it is, they will as a priority fix the problem.

The most recent workshop was in July of this year. Over the course of the year and this workshop two key insights have emerged:

- A tahr HOSI is a far more complex and layered concept than either Wapiti or Sika – most notable is the huge range of often competing values that need to be provided for. The July workshop (and summary notes) identified these values and the extent to which some may compete and if so, how they might be made more compatible. We freely acknowledge more work is required in this area, including with mana whenua, and are embarking on this work in cooperation with both the team and the GAC.



- Given the above and the need to provide for these values it has also become very clear that a tahr HOSI will have to be large, something that also adds complexity. A larger size provides the opportunity to manage for different values over both spatial and temporal dimensions and this will be extremely important. Reconciling the diversity of the values and how they might be managed in this 'large' context will occur when these values are more clearly defined.

It is accepted by the team and the Foundation that the HOSI process is taking much longer than originally

planned for. The complexity of tahr, legislative barriers that needed to be addressed within the National Parks Act and overriding considerations, the ongoing need to properly engage with mana whenua, and the need to fully engage with value holders including those unable to attend the workshops have all legitimately contributed to these delays.

Some of these challenges remain but the Foundation is committed to progressing them and is working with the team and with the GAC to find a way forward. On the very plus side we have developed close working relationships among many key value holders



Westland Hunter Led Management

It's time for hunters in NZ to walk the talk. If we want a say in managing tahr, we have to show we can do it. If we want to do it our way, we've got to come to the table with resources.

These were the fundamental premises of the trial Westland Hunter Led Management programme. It is NZTF tahr management in Westland Tai Poutini National Park, resourced by two special aerial permits, which allowed for the fundraising hunts: The Centennial Tag and Resident's Tag.

The permit is active until August 2027 and allows NZTF aerial access for tahr management, a recovery permit for up to 100 female tahr (in a trial context, not for profit), aerial access to support managed ground hunts (operated under our Targeted Harvest principles) and to undertake the two fundraising hunts. These hunts are restricted

to 18 pre-selected options, shared below. This permit is groundwork for demonstrating hunter capability as we work toward a HOSI for tahr.

NZTF are very proud of the programme and its self-sufficiency. In this first year we have raised \$65,450NZD (gross before fees and GST), and an enormous thank you must go to those who graciously helped us on that journey, especially Dr Robbie Kroger of the Origins Foundation and Gray Thornton with the incredibly supportive and welcoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

There was significant time pressure to be able to make use of the Sheep Show as a venue for fundraising and the NZTF, GAC and DOC worked fast to make the most of the opportunity.

I'd like to highlight the adverse legislative environment we are currently working with. It is not set up with hunter's interests in mind, and it is difficult to foster community led projects like this. Below is an example of the language used in the permitting legislation:

"Overall, the Activity is consistent with the National Parks Act 1980 and aligned with the purpose of the Wild Animal Control Act, and is generally consistent with the Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan and West Coast Conservation Management Strategy. See policy 4.1.2(c), and in Policy 4.1.2(d): "Exterminate



within and actively control thar adjoining Westland Tai Poutini National Park”; and Policy 4.1.2(e): “Permit and actively encourage the extermination or control of animal pests in the park through the concessions process to the extent that the methods of control are consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan”.

During the planning regular changes in the proposed activity’s structure precluded any public communications. The Centennial Tag was initially planned as an opportunity to support the government’s Hunting and Fishing portfolio and intended to be championed by the Minister, however after advice from Cabinet Office and DOC the Minister directed NZTF and GAC to work directly with DOC not long

before Christmas. Conversations with DOC showed the only permission avenue would be as a management activity.

This provided less funding flexibility than NZTF desired as we were hoping to build staff capability for broader project coordination as well as helping to fund existing Targeted Harvest operations, but still provided for an extraordinarily positive project. NZTF committed to a baseline of 100 nannies per bull as an ‘offset’ to use an AATH permit phrase, this number was based on a typical Targeted Harvest operation.

This gave DOC confidence work would happen even if we didn’t turn a profit, though the structure evolved significantly to 8 hours of aerial work and 500 nannies – a significant offset compared to

"NZTF are very proud of the programme and its self-sufficiency. In this first year we have raised \$65,450NZD, and an enormous thank you must go to those who graciously helped us on that journey..."

AATH which can also operate in the National Parks. Though within the bounds of our resources thanks to the success of the tag.

CENTENNIAL TAG

The headline fundraising event was the ‘Centennial Tag’ auctioned at Sheep Show in Reno, Nevada in January of this year. Celebrating the 102 years since the tahr release, in what is now Mt Cook National Park



no less. The Sheep Show, run by Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) has strong themes of mountain hunting and public land hunting, the perfect venue and audience for the type of hunter who would appreciate our alpine tahr hunting. It was attended by NZTF Chair Luke Care, assisted by GAC CEO Corina Jordan.

WSF gifted NZTF booth 163 to promote our organisation and the sale of the tag. WSF had also made us an affiliate chapter, so in a programme sponsored by Gunwerks attendees visited all affiliates to have their page signed, which was then counted as one entry into the prize.

This was hugely valuable in opening up dialogue with hunters. One of the Centennial Tag bidders came around to introduce himself. A salt-of-the-earth Oregon mountain

hunter, who runs a small outfitting business and had never been to NZ but had always been drawn to tahr.

Approximately 90% of visitors aware of what tahr were, 80% were aware that there had been controversy around management in recent years. Many had visited NZ, probably as many as 25% who engaged with us.

Our auction item was on Friday night, introduced in person by Robbie Kroger as well as a recorded message from Hunting and Fishing Minister, Hon. James Meager.

The bidding started at 20k USD and finished at 30. It is a record price for any bull tahr, let alone a wilderness public land hunt – just the type of hunting our committee is passionate about. \$50,000NZD (gross before fees) for what Forest & Bird,

"The Sheep Show, run by Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) has strong themes of mountain hunting and public land hunting, the perfect venue and audience for the type of hunter who would appreciate our alpine tahr hunting.."

Federated Farmers and Eugenie Sage call a pest.

Aside from the fundraising some very important benefits of the Wild Sheep Foundation auction were profiling the plight of tahr on the international stage, and the simple value of setting a record price for a single bull tahr.



When it comes to defending the place of tahr in our landscape, their value is a key consideration – especially when talking to government. The NZTF also had the opportunity to cement ties with many contacts in the international hunting fraternity and foreign dignitaries with hunting responsibilities, such as Canada's Minister for Forestry.

RESIDENT'S TAG

The Residents Tag is the kiwi counterpart to the Centennial Tag.



The Centennial Tag was open to anyone, and online bidding came in from Spain and distant US states on the night, but it is angled toward the international audience and is unashamedly geared toward generating as much income for tahr management as possible.

The Resident Tag however is open only to NZ residents, and the model used a single-entry, fixed-price ballot to maximise a sense of fairness for kiwis.

The best system in a long term system would be a raffle, which allows people to contribute more to tahr management if they want to purchase multiple tickets. We must remember that is the fundamental premise.

However, due to NZTF's ambition to progress the Residents Tag quickly, we decided on a simple ballot for 2026, with a limited entry pool of 500 applicants. This kept us below the threshold of requiring a gambling licence as the maximum potential earnings would be \$30,000 – we still haven't received confirmation if this format would trigger the need for a licence though.

In the end we sold 309 entries over a promotional period of 25 days, generating \$15,450 (inc. GST). The winner was Allan Mackenzie.

A future event would benefit from a longer promotional period, and the promotional material gathered from this hunt (preliminary schedule

suggests May 2027) will aid in this, if the program is progressed in future under a HOSI.

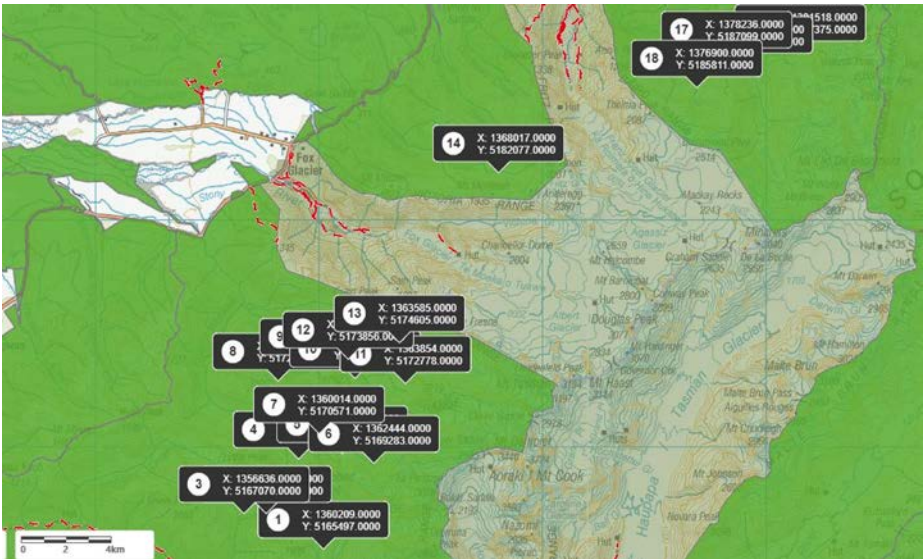
THE WORK

This fundraising will entirely fund the work required to meet the conditions of our permit – 8 hours of aerial control, and a minimum of 500 tahr shot. We have the flexibility to use ground hunters as well to work toward that total which was a major part of the aims.

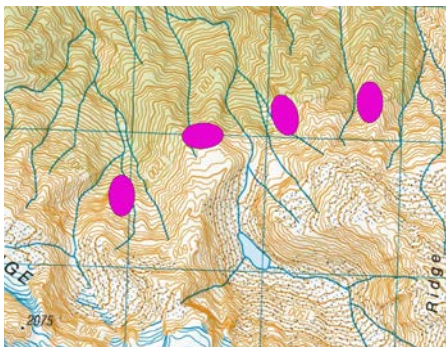
We are good at managed ground hunting, our work in the Wilderness Area is consistent, effective and efficient – we wanted to extend that to the National Parks. Densities are already low in many places in the NP, so we will be working to the same methodology – addressing hotspots.

These areas should have the lowest densities, and hunters need to accept this. The current legislation says there shouldn't be any – so this is where we should meet native conservation interests in the middle and aim for the lowest densities across the range. This would preserve natural values to the fullest extent – and, happily, will provide the best feed and conditions for the biggest bulls to reward those who want to brave those fantastic wilderness West Coast conditions.

At the close of the financial year we have undertaken the Centennial Tag hunt. The first round of aerial hunting has been successfully



Approved landing site options.



Significant nanny populations.



Individual bull sightings.

undertaken, but in the 2027 FY, so will be reported next year along with the remaining work.

THE CENTENNIAL TAG HUNT

NZTF was delighted to host our WSF hunter in Westland Tai Poutini National Park in July 2026. We selected site 18, below the Spa Glacier in the rugged Callery Valley.

The NZPHGA guide was Joseph Peter, NZTF represented by Luke Care and Callum Mckenzie as photographer. Collectively, these three volunteers donated 29 days to enabling this hunt.

We had six days of superb weather, with multiple close-up bull encounters and late rutting activity. Observations varied daily, but peak tallies for each category on any given day showed:

- 19 kea
- 3 whio
- 2 karearea

- 30 nannies/juveniles
- 20 bulls

The hunter chose his bull on day four, with a simple 220 yard shot in stunning West Coast scenery. The hunt provided precisely the experience we all value so much

– breathtaking scenery, physical challenge and regular encounters with both tahr and native birdlife. A very fortunate weather window aided in a highly successful trip.

During the trip we hunted seven nannies, and also put down a bull with a horrible compound fracture in his rear leg which looked to be about four years old – the bull was 10.

The hunter was interested in a chamois as well, and the hunt was provided by Monarch New Zealand on private land after the Centennial Tag and the proceeds were entirely donated to NZTF – a huge thank you to Luke Romano for one of the largest donations we have ever received.

NOTES ON THE AREA

Any entry on foot will be highly challenging, some of the most challenging anywhere in the tahr range. A low level route from the west, out of the Franz, may be possible, but is unknown to NZTF.

A route is quite likely over the Spa Glacier but would require the highest levels of alpine experience and suitable conditions. Access from the north or east appears impossible – the lower levels of Drummond Ridge above Spencer Rock Biv look like very unstable loose rock.

NZTF based themselves from the flat below the lake marked on the map (now dry). The area clearly had historically high populations



Dracophyllum, chelmisia and flax damage of varying ages.

with high levels of old damage. Reduced snowgrass communities, heavy damage to dracophyllum, some browse on flax and chelmisia. The area appears to be some of the most suitable tahr habitat in the catchment, along with the headwaters of the Callery.

The hunting country is relatively restricted, and would be even more restricted by ice or snow. Highest tahr populations are within the scrub belt, feeding out in the evenings. Some tahr are present

higher, but in lower numbers in clear response to helicopter culling. Animal numbers are reduced now with a bull bias, but still higher than needed. Nannies will be difficult to control from helicopter now, they are using scrub heavily.

Bull quality was average on the whole, especially in regards to older bulls which grew up in a high population. Some promising 4-5yo bulls showing better tips, appear to be a product of recovering environment.



Targeted Harvest Annual Report 2025/26

PURPOSE

This report was commissioned by the NZTF management committee to cover operational results for the past year of spring and autumn ground-based targeted harvest of female tahr populations in the Makawhio (Jacobs), Mahitahi and Troyte Valleys.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING 2025/26

Ground-based hunts over 3-5 days

were to be undertaken at each of the planned sites (Makawhio, Mahitahi and Troyte). Nanny group sizes and distribution recorded via tracking and kill waypoints. Vegetation status subjectively assessed at each site and photographs taken of notable observations. Tahr population, group sizes, animal and vegetation condition observations recorded to help determine if further population management is required in the year(s) ahead. Due

to harvest numbers not declining in the Makawhio valley and observations indicating that both animal and vegetation quality has progressively declined over the past 5 years the committee and volunteer hunters decided in an August 2025 meeting that for this catchment more intensive work was required. As a result, all tahr identified as not male in the Makawhio catchment would be targeted for the coming Spring and Autumn seasonal work.

MANAGEMENT TARGETS

As per the NZTF Standard Operating Procedures only identifiable nannies were to be targeted (with exception of the Makawhio). To achieve management targets hunting parties were to include at least 2 experienced hunters at each site, preferably with at least 1 of each party having been engaged on management hunts at site previously.

SEASONAL MILESTONES:

- Reduce adult female tahr populations in the Mahitahi valley (Upper and Lower sites) until group sizes are consistently fewer than 5 nannies, or significant vegetation recovery is observed – recognizing the difficulty in hunting the bush clad environments.
- Reduce adult female and juvenile tahr populations in the Makawhio (Jacobs) valley until group sizes are consistently fewer than 5 nannies, or significant

vegetation recovery is observed (Upper and Lower sites) recognising the annual harvest of nannies alone has not been swift in reducing animal numbers or aiding vegetation recovery.

- Reduce adult female tahr populations in the Troyte Valley until group sizes are consistently fewer than 5 nannies, or significant vegetation recovery is observed, recognising National Park land status.

GROUND-BASED MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

- Mature nannies only to be shot with a single exception – juveniles also in the Makawhio only
- Good shot placement
- Only non-toxic (lead free) ammunition to be used
- Track logs to be recorded during hunting or drawn on map after each hunt should equipment failure occur.
- Record location and number of tahr harvested on either a mapping app or GPS as well as notebooks.
- Photograph any kills able to be accessed without risk or significant time wasting
- Record numbers and approx. age /sex of observed of non-target animals
- Vegetation assessments to be supported by photos.
- Volunteers are encouraged to salvage meat which can be used or made available to community groups where



possible and sensible and where it does not impact significantly on hunting efficiency.

TAHR/VEGETATION MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Vegetation monitoring in both alpine and forest habitats is the responsibility of DOC. However, the NZTF hunters on site for management operations take notes and photographs of vegetation status. Future collaboration between NZTF and DOC for improved environmental monitoring is anticipated.

HEALTH & SAFETY

All volunteers are given a health and safety briefing before departure

as per the DOC Community Agreements approved Health & Safety plan. Once on site the teams hold discussions to identify any on site issues. In addition, hunters are to abide by the following:

- Each hunter is required to carry a first aid kit and each party hold a more comprehensive first aid kit at the tent base camp.
- Each morning the teams are to confirm where they are going to hunt and expected routes of travel and return.
- Each hunter is required to carry either a Personal Locator Beacon or an In-Reach device.
- Each party has at least 1 In-Reach device so they can

- communicate with the NZTF Operational Lead as required, or pilot directly if necessary.
- Each hunter is required to wear at least one hi-vis piece of clothing when away from camp.
 - Immediately after returning from each trip volunteers are required to report to the NZTF Operational Lead, confirm their safe return and report any incidents.
 - The Operational Lead submits to DOC a FSI (Field Safety Information sheet) before parties enter and then after extraction advises the DOC contact (of any incidents and that everyone has safely returned.

DATA ANALYSIS

Track logs and waypoints where tahr have been shot is recorded using a variety of methods e.g. in diaries, mapping programmes on cell phones. Hunter-days are calculated from the total hours hunting in the field for the operation divided by nine (the average hours spent hunting as a full day). Nanny tahr shot per hour averages are calculated for comparative reporting.

OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES

Unsurprisingly spring harvest plans were plagued by poor weather throughout late October/early November with no weather windows of sufficient time to undertake hunts before the 14th November cutoff date.

FEB-MARCH SOUTH WESTLAND TARGETED HARVEST RESULTS

Operation	#Hunters	#Hours	#Hunter Days	Harvest total	Av. Per Hour
Makawhio HW Basin	2	38	4.25	154*	4.05
Makawhio Upper	3	97.5	10.85	349*	3.58
Mahitahi	2	86	9.5	97	1.13
Troyte	2	60	6.65	101	1.68
Total *total includes juveniles	9	281.5	31.25	701	

February/March 2025 weather provided sufficient windows though cloud, and at times high winds, did reduce effective hunting time.

SPRING 2025 SOUTH WESTLAND TARGETED HARVEST PLAN

Timing: 15th October – 14th November – unable to be undertaken due to insufficient good weather. Spring kid drop has been determined to commence from around 15th November; hence no nanny harvest is to occur after 14th for humane reasons.

FEB/MARCH 2026 SOUTH WESTLAND TARGETED HARVEST PLAN

Late summer/autumn harvest in Wilderness Areas must be completed four weeks before Wilderness Area ballot hunts commence.

Makawhio/Jacobs

One team operating from each landing site (2 hunters at Jacobs head basin and 3 hunters at the

upper site). The lower site was not targeted by NZTF volunteer hunters this season as it was hunted by DOC contract hunters before NZTF hunts commenced.

Timing : 15th Feb – 28th March

Mahitahi

One team operating from lower ballot camp site covering area up to upper landing site. Areas below and opposite the lower camp are challenging to hunt due to heavy bush cover.

Timing: 1st – 28th March

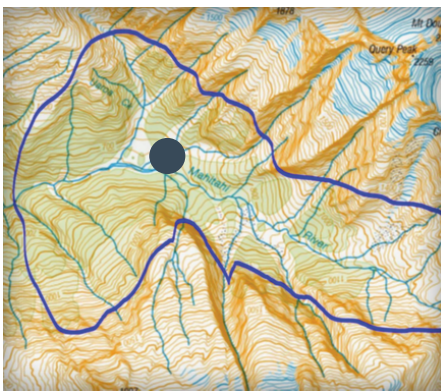
Troyte

The valley was previously identified as a bull stronghold and an important recreational hunting area. Previous control of nannies in spring of 2024 resulted in a substantial number of nannies being harvested indicating ongoing visits to reduce nannies was likely required.

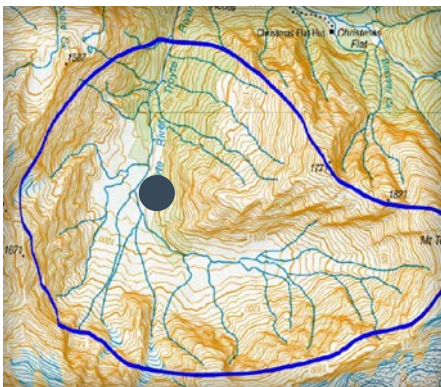
Timing: 1st – 31th March subject to volunteer availability and weather.



Makawhio/Jacobs: Upper ballot site – 3 hunters (1 helicopter load) Headbasin 2 hunters (1 helicopter load).



Mahitahi: Lower site 2-3 hunters (1 helicopter load).



Troyte: Single site – 2 hunters (1 helicopter load).

HUNTER REPORTING

The average tahr per hour (4.05) shot in the Makawhio/Jacobs includes juveniles whereas the Mahitahi and Troyte (1.13 – 1.68) was only nannies.



However, the animal numbers and subsequent effects in the Jacobs has been a growing concern over multiple seasons, hence the change in harvest criteria this year to any non-males encountered. Whereas, the Mahitahi and Troyte harvest is more aligned to a maintenance regime of keeping breeding population numbers down to improve animal and vegetation health.

Of note 2 hunter days in the Mahitahi were substantially lost due to very strong easterly wind and while that day was still hunted, very few animals were observed or shot.

While kills per hour cannot be directly compared between catchments and visits, the quantum in the Jacobs does validate the need to include juveniles in this year's harvest and may indicate more work is yet required.

Whereas the tahr per hour in the Mahitahi and Troyte indicate our current annual to bi-annual maintenance regime is keeping tahr at acceptable levels and the observations of vegetation health in the corresponding places also matches these assumptions.

Hunters still reported group sizes above expectations in the Jacobs and head of the Mahitahi. This makes harvest difficult in scrub and bush areas and require repeat visits to get on top of the nannies in this type of habitat. It also makes it hard to judge success in terms of group size reduction.

In all areas nannies of significant age are still being harvested, showing the necessity of consistent operations every year in high population areas.

Makawhio/Jacob Headwater Basin – 154 Nanny and Juvenile tahr: Two volunteer hunters, Greg Duley and Scott Waterman – 15th to 18th March 2026

Two hunters competent in long range shooting were placed at this new campsite to take advantage of early morning and evening tahr movement in the high bluffs and basins frequented by nanny groups.

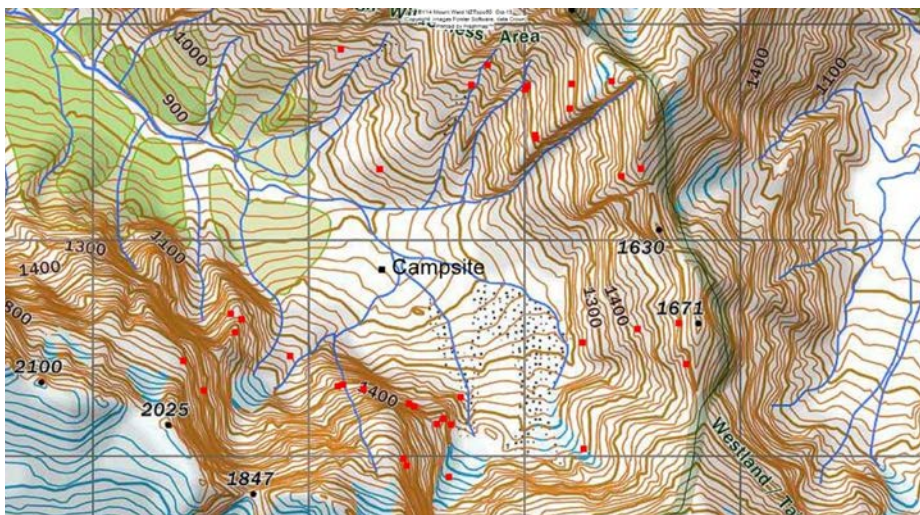
Weather conditions were variable over the 4 days/3nights spent hunting at this site with several extended periods of low cloud and strong winds preventing effective long-range shooting on some days.

During reasonable conditions effective long-range shooting was undertaken achieving excellent results for effective hunting time. 154 nannies and juveniles shot at ranges from 200 to 1000yds. This focus on long range hunting builds on lessons learnt about its effectiveness in the Troyte last year.

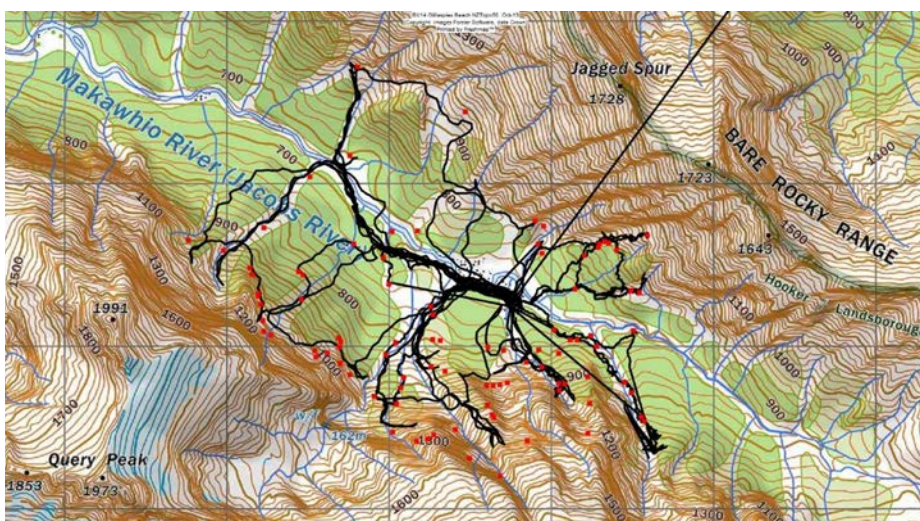
Kea were observed on several occasions.

Upper Makawhio/Jacobs – 349 Nannies and juveniles: Three volunteer hunters, Nigel Jordan, Ronan Scott and Andrew Jackson – 15th to 19th March 2026

Weather conditions were generally more favourable at this site being lower in altitude and not so impacted by wind. One hunter



Makawhio/Jacobs HW Basin 2026 kill locations of singles or groups (red dots).



Upper Makawhio/Jacobs 2026 tracking coverage and kill locations.

with a lot of experience at this site was joined by two experienced hunters new to the NZTF volunteer program.

While juveniles were included for the first time meaning good numbers were harvested though it was noted that the DOC contract hunters had penetrated into the lower portion of the area – fresh carcasses were found in country that is usually hunted from the upper site. This unexpected

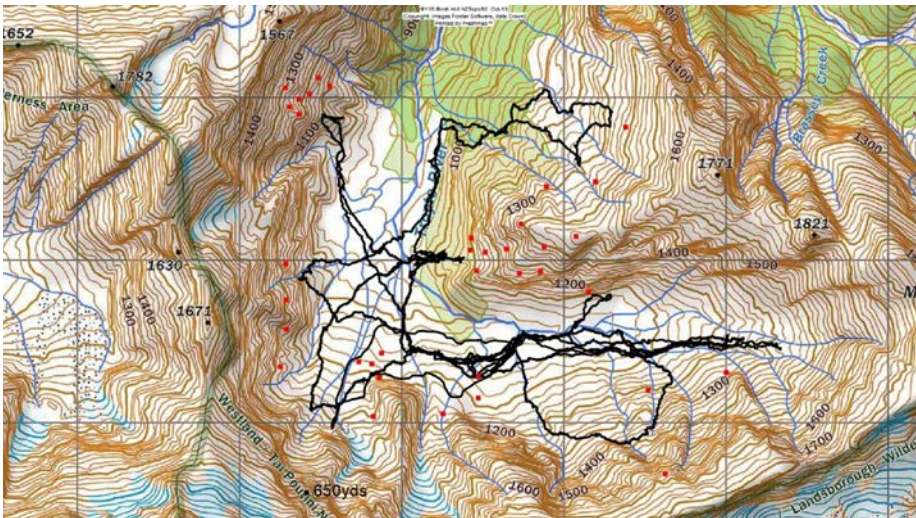
overlap reduced the effectiveness of hunting the lower part.

With the temporary change in strategy hunters discovered it was worth revisiting sites hunted in previous days to pick up juveniles missed or hidden by scrub on first traverses.

Some small groups of nannies were out of range in high inaccessible bluffs for the rifles employed and would indicate



Mahitahi tracking and kill locations March 2026 red dots indicate one or several shot at a site.



Troyte tracking and kill locations (Red kill spots range from 1 to 9 nannies).

a hunter with long range rifle and capability would be worth inclusion on future hunts to increase effectiveness. Alternatively a follow up with a helicopter targeting the known high zones where animals had been out of range.

Hunters still reported regular encounters in the scrub margins and bush of more nannies than was possible to shoot, with less observations and encounters in the open alpine areas. The three hunters

managed to shoot 345 nannies and juveniles over 5 days hunting,

Rock wren, kea, whio and falcon observed.

Mahitahi Upper Valley – lower campsite – 97 nannies: Two volunteer hunters, Derek Johnson and Blair Hampton – 28th Feb – 4th March

Weather conditions were generally good during this visit except for the

third day (2nd March) when strong easterly winds hammered the valley all day. Although that day was still hunted very few observations and just a handful of kills were achieved for the day, this had a significant impact on the kills/hr hunted. 1 experienced hunter at this site was joined by a new NZTF volunteer hunter with experience to cover the upper Mahitahi from the lower ballot landing site over 5 days/4 nights. An extra day was spent on site to compensate for the largely lost day on the 3rd.

The lead hunter reported a significant group of tahr observed in scrub in the TL headwater was unable to be targeted due to the distance from camp at prime hunting time and recommended that an overnight camp at a new landing site in the headwater should be attempted in future to target these animals.

It was also noted that the lower TL bush area was not hunted as this was to be targeted by a 3rd hunter who was not available and could not be replaced with a suitable hunter at short notice when the weather window arrived. 97 nanny shot over five days though one day was largely ineffective due to high winds.

Wildlife observed: kea, rock wren

Troyte – Upper Landing – Westland National Park – 101 nannies: Two volunteer hunters: Shane Hall and Gareth Hall.

Work in the Troyte commenced in spring of 2024 to reduce nanny tahr numbers to preserve the quality vegetation in the park for migratory bulls, highly valued by recreational hunters visiting the Karangarua and neighbouring winter wilderness ballot sites.

If work is undertaken by DOC they are required to target bulls as per National Parks Act Section 4 2 (b).

By contrast with the 2024 Spring NZTF nanny harvest in the Troyte the vast majority of animals observed were not in the open alpine areas, rather the lower valley and alpine/scrub margins. Only a few small groups were observed in the upper valley.

Two experienced NZTF hunters, one with long range rifle, undertook the hunts over 4 days/3 nights. Good numbers of nannies taken to reduce group sizes with only one large mixed sex and age group very high on the TR not reduced significantly due to wind issues.

101 nannies shot for the 4 days present.

Wildlife observed: Kea every day; notably no Whio were seen or heard, they inhabit the upper Karangarua and while the Troyte River and invertebrates habitat looked ideal none seemed present in the upper part of the catchment. Also no chamois or deer observations or sign were made.



A selection of some of the kill photos is included in the photo montage.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONFIRMATION

Kills were confirmed by visual observation of death or confident shot placement. As was reported in previous years, photographing tahr shot is challenging and as in previous years only animals easy to get to were photographed.

Hunters take photographs only when safe to do so and when the effort taking a photograph doesn't result in disturbance or time wastage that would reduce efficiencies.

COSTS

Total cost of the Feb/March operations was \$1870 (food and fuel vouchers) + \$3700 (flying costs) = \$5570 (excluding GST on heli-hire). This does not include cost of ammunition provided by DOC at no charge, or some components of the long-range reloaded ammunition. This is equivalent to \$7.95 per tahr over the three sites.

Cost per kill decreased significantly compared to last year's hunts at almost half the cost of the last seasons work (excluding the Otoko

which was largely exploratory). Things that contributed to greater efficiency this year were: inclusion of juveniles in the Jacobs, addition of some long-range capability, additional campsites, plus extra days hunted by some hunting parties.

Volunteer Time

Approx. 45 hours of volunteer time were used outside of, and in support of, the Feb/March hunting operations by the hunt organizer; reviewing updating – procedures, health and safety and other volunteer documentation; liaising with NZTF and DOC on planning and access; new hunter inductions; communication with Pilot and DOC before and after hunts, communicating with volunteer hunters before, during and following hunts.

A further 20 hours were spent by the hunt organizer on hunter data and photo collection, review and filing and compilation of this report. Equates to 65 hrs or approx. 8 m/ days hunt organisational time.

Volunteer hunter commitment during the late summer/early autumn operations totalled 281.5 hrs = 31.25 hunter days (based on 9hr day) across the four sites (3 catchments) excluding onsite downtime and travel to and from site. Travel time for hunters to and from the sites estimated at approx. 13 man days. Total is conservatively, a further 52 days of voluntary work on the targeted harvest program.



Kea and other wildlife observations

As reported above a range of Kea, Whio, native falcon and Rock Wren observed. The kea observations have been submitted directly to the Kea Conservation Trust by the writer.

Vegetation Notes and Photographs

Tahr impacts on vegetation in the Mahitahi and Troyte were reported to have not changed significantly since 2024 targeted harvest operations. Mahitahi looked to have a slight improvement in the alpine zone but similar impacts yet to recover inside the bush cover.

Browsing impacts in the Makawhio – Jacobs however are still of concern and sustained harvest will be necessary here to achieve improvement in vegetation and animal quality. Significant damage to entire plant communities will require low numbers until recovery is observed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Makawhio/Jacobs needs continuing attention until reduced group sizes (and targeted harvest numbers) are achieved in order to facilitate vegetation and animal quality recovery. Investigate hunting both spring and autumn 2027 if weather permits and feedback from tahr ballots indicates necessity. The trial of placing two hunters in the upper basin with long range rifles proved successful in spite of trying conditions and is worth repeating.
- Long-range, high-powered rifles are a necessity in open headwaters and high faces, each party should, where possible, have a least one capable long-range rifle and a hunter capable at long range shooting.
- Revisit Troyte in 2027 but undertake next hunts from the lower camp site – worth applying



Troyte photos above showing healthy tussock and some browse to coprosma and native broom.

- A new plan is required to be prepared and submitted to DOC for the next three years.
- As we have a growing list of volunteer hunters NZTF should expand our work in the new plan to cover all the Makawhio/Jacobs catchment with volunteer hunters.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- 2025 5-year Community agreement
- Health and Safety agreement
- Standard operating procedures

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NZTF would like to acknowledge the Department of Conservation for its approval and support to undertake the nanny tahr harvest work and for the support in providing for ongoing work under a new 5-year Community Agreement. Specifically, thanks to Tom Brookman, Damien Bromwich, Gary Scott and Wayne Costello.

Again, thanks to the volunteer hunters who gave up their time to participate in the Feb-March work, providing their experience, skills and equipment. (Nigel Jordan, Andrew Jackson, Ronan Scott, Greg Duley, Scott Waterman, Derek Johnson, Blair Hampton, Shane Hall and Gareth Hall)

A special thanks to Makawhio Iwi for their ongoing support of the NZTF targeted harvest work in South Westland.



Photos above showing tahr browsing impacts in the Makawhio/Jacobs.

for two landing/campsites to be approved in the new plan (upper valley and lower valley).

- Revisit Mahitahi in 2027 – obtain new landing/campsite in head of valley
- Still worth trialling a successful NZTF bush hunter with a well-trained indicating dog to focus

on the bush area of the sites (Mahitahi and lower Jacobs) as DOC contractors do not appear to be focusing any time in bush covered areas.

- Paringa/McCullaugh likely worth a revisit in 2027 however high ferry cost would need to be considered.





NZTF Project Manager

Due to increasing workload on the volunteer committee members, the NZTF has identified the need for additional resources to assist them.

The NZTF has received funds by way of a grant from the tahr trust for the three projects and has carried out additional fundraising. Other fundraising is underway but the

amount of funds available is not finalised at this point in time.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation (NZTF) was incorporated in 2016

and represents all organisations with an interest in managing the tahr herds of New Zealand.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION IS:

- To actively manage Tahr as a “Herd of Special Interest” (HOSI) under the Game Animal Council Act (2013), in order to provide enhanced benefits to hunters and a higher level of protection for the forests and grasslands in which they live.
- To advance a management regime that involves a collaborative partnership between Recreational and Tahr Hunters, the Game Animal Council, the Department of Conservation, the local Iwi, interested landowners and businesses with an interest in Tahr.
- To achieve and maintain consistent, appropriate harvest levels of healthy Tahr by better coordination of recreational and commercial Tahr hunting.
- To increase the understanding of the Tahr herd through better information and education.

Pursuant to the above purpose the NZ Tahr Foundation is in the process of implementing three projects as follows:

1. Develop and operate the Tahr Management Unit 1 Hunter Led Management Framework (MU1 Framework) in conjunction with the Game Animal Council.

This involves finalising a community agreement with the Department of Conservation and compiling an operational plan for implementing the provisions of the MU1 Framework for the balance of the 1 July 2026- 30 June 2027 tahr operational year. This will be repeated in each of the next four operational years following review of the previous year's plan.

2. Undertaking at least one targeted tahr control operation using ground hunters to control populations of tahr that are having an adverse effect on the environment.
3. In conjunction with the Game Animal Council and the Department of Conservation, the NZTF will complete an application to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing for the tahr herd or parts thereof to be designated as a "Herd of Special Interest" under the Game Animal Council Act (2013). The NZTF has engaged a team of contractors to lead this process with the balance of this and work on the other projects falling to the current committee. The amount of work is and will increase, necessitating the engagement of extra resources to enable the work to be completed.

PROJECTED PM FUNCTIONS

1. Finalise and implement the MU1 annual work plan 2026-

2027 assuming the community agreement is in place (If it is not then implementing those parts that do not require the community agreement)

2. Complete what is required of the NZTF in progressing the application for a tahr HOSI.
3. Or any other services as determined by the NZTF from time to time.

This will include:

- Assisting and coordinating with the team of consultants on the HOSI application
- Working in conjunction with the committee, other contractors and stakeholders
- Assisting chair and designated project leads in discussions with external parties – i.e. DOC, mana whenua.
- Assisting project leads in coordinating and implementing Targeted Harvest operations in; Westland HLM and MU1 HLM
- Communicating effectively with stakeholders and media as to the objectives of the three projects, the goals of the NZTF, and progress against them. This can be in social and other media or at events such as the Sika Show

SKILLS

The ideal contractor will have knowledge of and experience in:

- Tahr hunting.
- Ecological processes as related to game animals especially tahr.
- Working in both the public and

private sectors.

- Managing projects in the outdoors.
- Have good written and oral communication skills.

LOCATION

The contractor would need to be located in Christchurch or its environs, would be required to work from home and provide their own vehicle and any insurance etc

REMUNERATION

- Fixed term: 12 months
- Hourly rate of \$90 per hour plus GST if any, paid monthly on invoice.
- Hours not to exceed an average of 55 per month and a total of 660 for the 12-month period.
- Travel (preapproved above a certain amount of incidental travel) at NZ Government vehicle rates.

REPORTING

Provide a monthly summary report to the NZTF representative(s) of progress on the three project operational work plans and assist with the preparation of the NZTF Annual Report. Day to day liaison and reporting would be to an NZTF subcommittee.

Keep an eye on NZTF digital communications for advertising of this role. We encourage any prospective applicants to attend our AGM and meet the team.

Ballot Data Summary

By professor emeritus Geoff Kerr

To ensure like-for-like comparisons blocks that have been added recently are excluded from “animals shot” data, but not from animals seen data.

Excluded blocks for “animals shot” data are:

- Elizabeth Stream – Added to Adams 2024-2026
- North Barlow – Added to Adams 2024-2026
- Rubicon – Added to Landsborough 2024-2026

For three sites (Callery Tops, Callery Lake, and Ruera Strachon) data is available only for 2025. These sites have been excluded from the analysis.

Ballot block hunters do not kill many bull tahr, the recent mean has been significantly less than one bull per hunter (Figure 1). The kill rates for the last three years are somewhat lower than for the previous four years.

Hunters are not “bombing up” – they kill less than one bull each. This appears to be responsible, although we don’t know how big or old the bulls killed are.

Figure 1: Bull tahr shot per hunter by year, 2022-2026

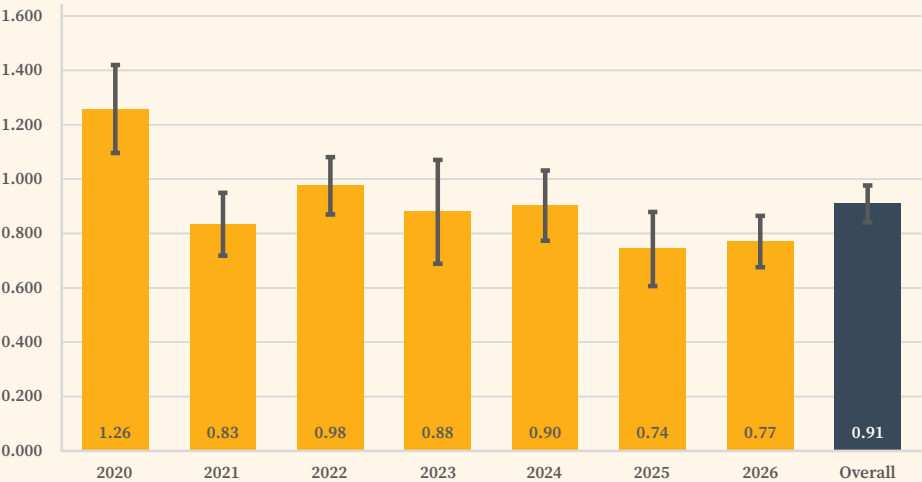
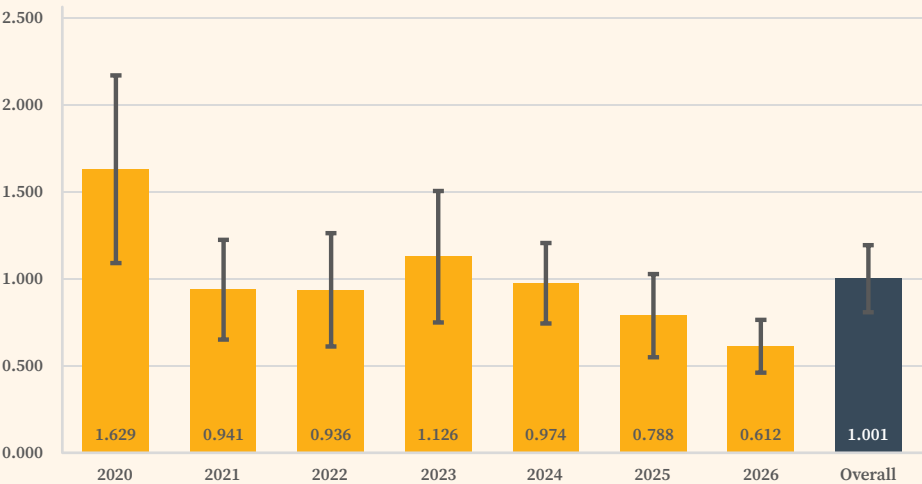


Figure 2: Non-bull tahr shot per hunter by year, 2022-2026



Overall, hunters have been killing only about one non-bull tahr each. The first year for which data are available (2020) was different to other years – it has a disproportionate effect on the overall result.

The high kill rate in 2020 could have been a response to the initiation of the tahr culls, with hunters wanting to get in before DOC killed the tahr – but, without evidence, that is just conjecture. Mean 2026 bull tahr kills were significantly less than average, and less than previous years, with a

significant downwards trend since 2023. The reason is unknown.

It could be because of lack of tahr availability, but that does not appear to be the case – see later data on tahr observation rates through time.

It may may a social response – if hunters are worried about a potentially diminishing tahr stock, whether that is the case or not, they may choose to shoot fewer non-bull tahr to help preserve the stock.

Figure 3 illustrates the number of bull tahr shot per hunter-day. For

each wilderness area, this rate was the lowest in 2026. Again, there is significant intertemporal variability, requiring care in interpretation. While the 2026 low rate might be interpreted as an early warning of declining bull tahr availability, other things could also be playing a role. These might, for example, include weather – weather impacts will be highly correlated in this small geographical area.

Social aspects could also play a part, for example resulting from increased publicity on selective harvest, a shift of focus to bull maturity (Duke of Bedford), and increased ability to identify older bulls as a result of educational campaigns and improved optics.

About half the tahr shot are bulls (Figure 4). Responses are reasonably stable through time, with a slightly increasing trend over the last three years. This is a result of decreasing numbers of non-bull tahr being shot while the total number of bull tahr shot remains stable.

TAHR SEEN PER HUNTER DAY

The permit returns data can provide an indicator of relative abundance of tahr on the assumptions that hunters' motivations, skills, behaviours and equipment do not change over time, and that weather, river flows, etc. do not have significant impacts. Some of these effects (hunter skills and

Figure 3: Bull tahr killed per hunter-day

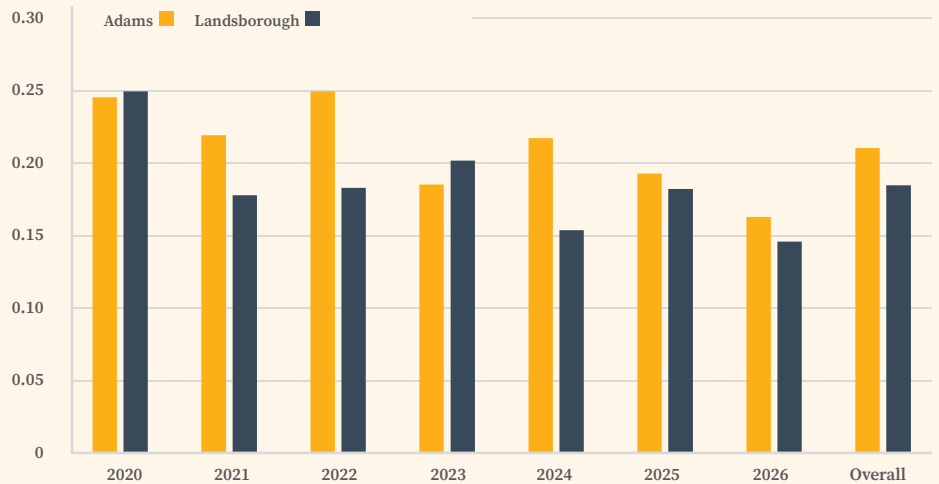
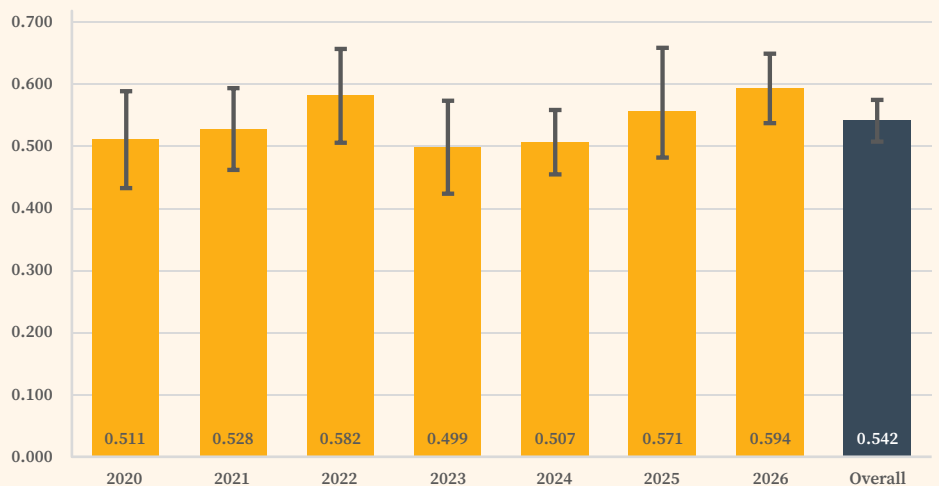


Figure 4: Proportion of tahr shot that are bulls



motivations) may “average out” across time and space, whereas others may be correlated significantly across space (weather), or time (increasing use of thermal optics). Consequently, the first approach to understanding potential changes is exploration at the aggregate level (Figure 5).

There is some variability, but no obvious temporal trend in these data. The overall mean is 3.59 tahr seen per person-day of hunting from 2020 to 2026. The mean was a little lower in 2022, but 2026 is not significantly different to the overall

mean. Now let's look at the totals for each wilderness area.

The Adams Wilderness Area (Figure 6) shows more variability than the two wilderness areas combined (Figure 5). Mean Adams daily tahr sightings for 2026 were at the lower end for these six years, but they are still higher than two earlier years (2020, 2022). Unsurprisingly, temporal variability increases as the scale decreases.

This can be seen even more clearly with individual site data (Figure 7), which illustrates high variability

from year to year. Higher variability is unsurprising, because differences in hunters’ abilities, equipment, weather, and (of course) tahr density are more pronounced for individual sites – there is no “averaging out”.

It is notable that 2024 had anomalous, extremely high numbers of tahr sighted per hunter-day at five sites. These anomalies caution against over-reliance on year-to-year data from individual sites.

A similar pattern emerges for the Landsborough Wilderness (Figures 8 and 9). There was a high tahr sighting rate in 2023, but for the three-year period 2024 to 2026 sighting rates have been extremely consistent, near the overall mean.

Again, there is high variability for individual sites (Figure 9). The most notable deviation is the extremely high sighting rate for the Mahitahi in 2022.

Overall, hunters are seeing about 3-4 tahr each day that they actively hunt. There is no trend in the

data, which indicates that the tahr population is probably relatively stable. There is high variability at the individual site level. That variability can be affected by changed tahr abundance, but also by

other factors like weather, gear, and hunter attributes.

This means that one should not over-react to a low tahr observation rate at a single site for a single year.

Figure 5: Tahr seen per hunter-day: Both wilderness areas

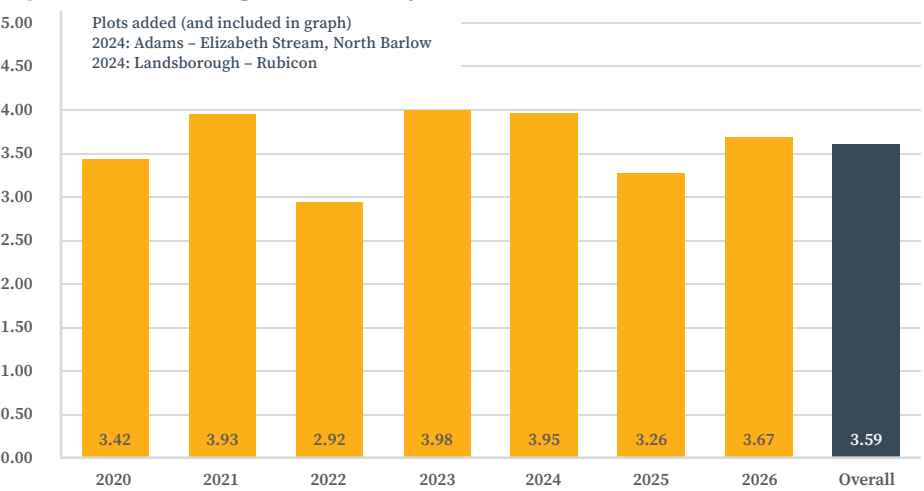


Figure 6: Tahr seen per hunter-day: Adams

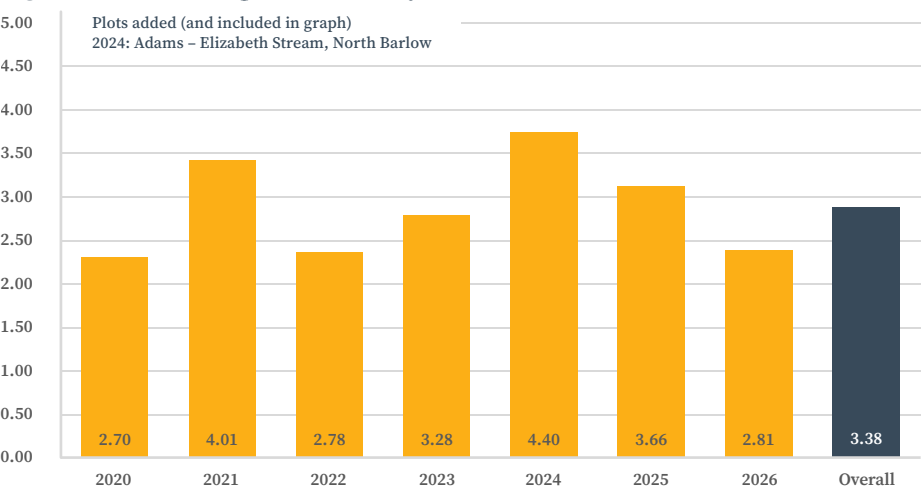
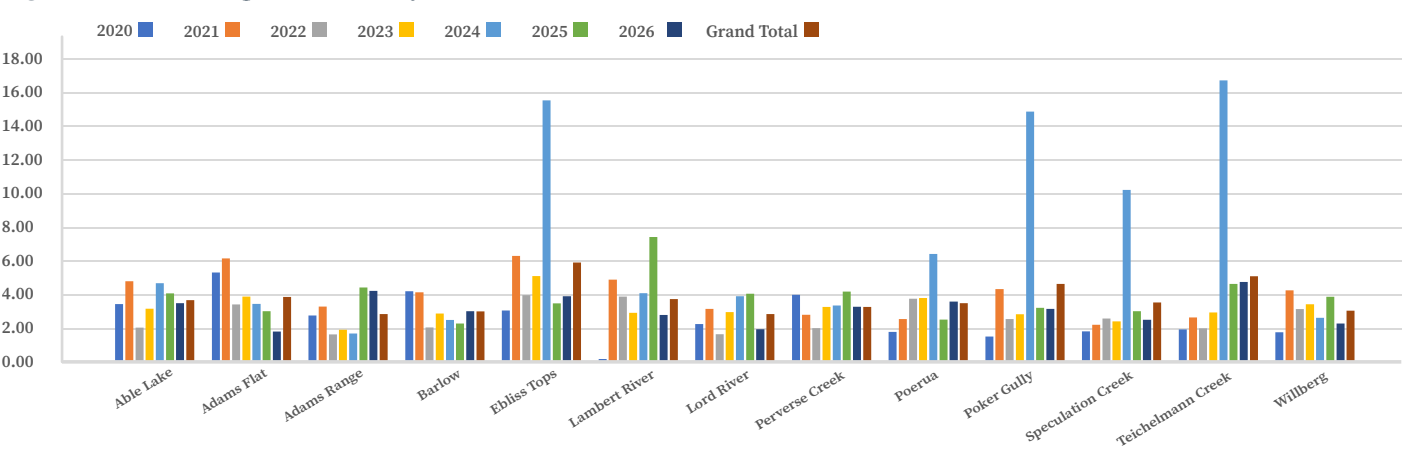


Figure 7: Tahr seen per hunter-day, Adams Wilderness Area individual sites



For example, there were marked decreases in tahr sighting rates for the Opposite Percy site (Landsborough) and Lambert River and Lord River sites (Adams). However, all three of these decreases are from relatively high sighting rates in 2025 and are consistent with year-to-year variability across the data.

INDIVIDUAL LANDING SITES: TAHR SEEN PER HUNTER-DAY

The following figures (See Appendix on page 48) provide visual site-by-site descriptions of how tahr observation rates have changed through time for each landing site.

Again, there is high variability in responses, which may be attributable partly to changes in tahr abundance, but are also subject to other factors, such as weather, hunter skills and motivations, equipment, and so on. These limitations should be born in mind while interpreting the data – and caution against reading too much into changes at any one site.

COMMENTARY

Site by site analysis appears to be quite risky because there is extreme variation between years at each landing site. Some of the most startling examples include Adams Wilderness landing sites in 2024. I have highlighted the outliers in red in Table 1 on page 31. The Arbor Rift and Shelter Hollow landing sites in the Landsborough Wilderness show similar effects in 2024.

There are several potential explanations for the extremely high occurrences of tahr seen per hunter-day at these landing sites in 2024. Some explanations may include:

1. A sudden peak in tahr abundance (followed by a similar sudden decline)
2. Differences in hunter capabilities (some hunters are more capable, and see more tahr than other hunters do)
3. Differences in equipment (some hunters have better traditional optics, increasing prevalence of thermal optics)
4. Party size (more hunters does not necessarily mean more tahr seen)
5. Hunter-days data are incorrect (data error)
6. Weather or high river effects on hunter-days (All these high daily observation rates are associated

Figure 8: Tahr seen per hunter-day: Landsborough

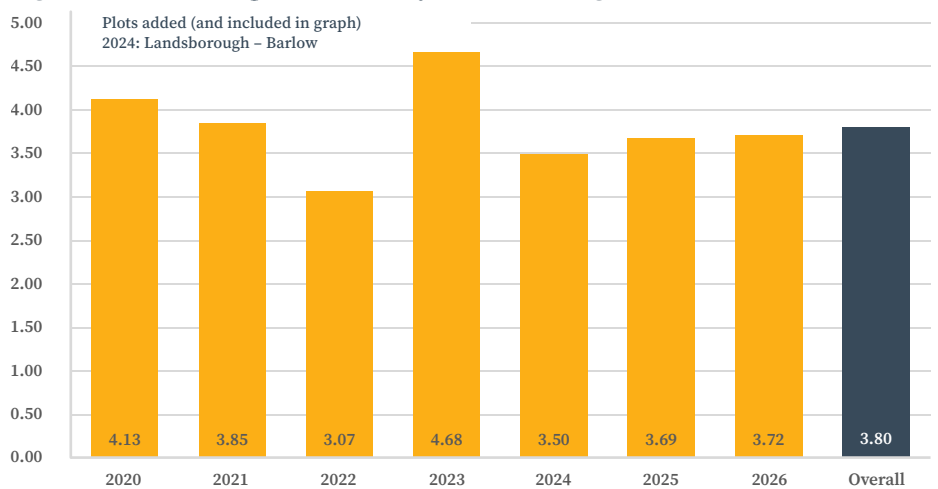
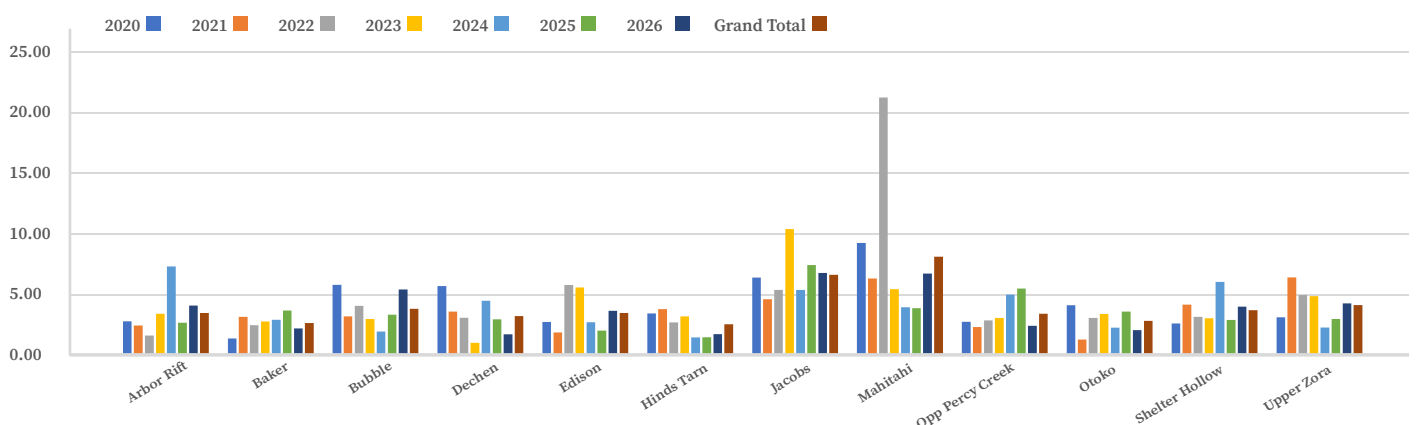


Figure 9: Tahr seen per hunter-day, Landsborough Wilderness Area individual sites



with a low amount of hunting. For example, high rivers or snow conditions may mean that hunters may be able to see tahr, but be unable to hunt them).

Tahr abundance clearly cannot increase five-fold over a single year unless there is significant migration, which would presumably create a counter-effect at neighbouring places.

We don't observe that. Just as sudden apparent relative tahr abundance increases raise significant questions, so too does the sudden decline in perceived tahr abundance at these sites.

Were there tahr control operations in these places in late 2023? If not, then the 2024 indicators of relative abundance appear to be too high.

The extremely high occurrences of tahr seen per hunter-day in 2024 appear to be explained by low numbers of hunter days. Hunter-days show a very similar inter-temporal pattern for these blocks. That's consistent with weather effects.

If hunters and/or tahr are adversely affected by poor weather, then it might be expected that both are more active than usual on fine days.

Tahr may be more active and prominent after a spell of poor weather, and hunters may put in more effort each day, as well as

Table 1: Tahr seen per hunter-day for selected landing sites

Landing Site	Year	Person-days hunted	Tahr seen	Tahr seen/hunter-day
Ebliss Tops	2023	97	493	5.08
	2024	28	494	15.50
	2025	58	201	3.47
	2026	88	342	3.89
Poker Gully	2023	33	93	2.82
	2024	6	89	14.83
	2025	60	192	3.20
	2026	75	235	3.13
Speculation Creek	2023	76	182	2.39
	2024	16	163	10.19
	2025	73	129	3.00
	2026	95	237	2.49
Teichelmann Creek	2023	68	199	2.93
	2024	19	317	16.68
	2025	39	180	4.62
	2026	48	227	4.73

having a higher probability of seeing available tahr at the same time. This is speculation on my behalf. Is there weather data for these places that could corroborate the theory?

High within-site variability suggests that using monitoring data from individual sites without accounting for site-specific factors such as weather, party size, hunter motivations, equipment, and hunter skills that can vary from year to year is potentially misleading.

Data collection over sufficient sites, where weather, hunter motivations, hunter skills, etc. "average out" over time is likely to provide a much more meaningful indicator of relative tahr-abundance.

The number of tahr seen per hunter-day is stable in the Landsborough Wilderness. The 2026 Adams Wilderness tahr observation rate appears somewhat lower than recent years, but that is highly influenced by anomalous 2024 results.

The 2026 Adams Wilderness tahr observation rate is consistent with 2020, 2022 and 2023 rates. These data do not support a significant reduction in tahr abundance in these wilderness areas unless confounded with some other factor that varies across all sites over time.

One possible such confounding factor is increased use of thermal optics, which may increase the tahr detection rate independent of other factors.





Drone WARO Trial

Historically, recovery of nanny tahr has proven limited in scope. Small carcass weights, unreliable supply, and a requirement for a specific WARO permit on PCL¹ have proven to be barriers to developing and supplying a market.

Effectively all nanny tahr management at present is shoot to waste. NZTF Targeted Harvest operations remove some meat for donation to local iwi, but in a limited capacity given the remoteness of current operations. There is sporadic recovery currently occurring, primarily on private land.

NZTF is interested in any attempts to grow the market for wild female tahr meat. On one hand it improves the visibility of tahr with non-hunters as consumers, growing

the social licence for tahr to exist on PCL. On the other, if it grew to the point it could offset some tahr management cost (currently shoot to waste) it would be a highly beneficial component of future management programs.

In late 2025 NZTF was approached by Khan Adam of Provision Ltd to participate in a trial for the ground harvest of nanny tahr, with hunting and recovery aided by drone technology. In a trial capacity the operation was planned for private land to maximise opportunity,

minimise ferry times and negate need for a WARO permit.

The project aimed to use up to six ground hunters using non-toxic shot, supplied by the Department of Conservation. Several volunteer hunters contributed their time, with three Sustainable Harvest staff assisting with shooting, carcass handling and providing chiller truck for transport.

These were supported by two drone operators with thermal drones for identification. Recovery was undertaken by two heavy-lift drones. The Origins Foundation worked with Khan Adam and Cam Henderson to document the trial.

Hunting began on the 17th of February and hunting was planned for three days / two nights, but due to weather only one full day of hunting was achieved. It was a good time of year as it was easy to distinguish sexes, with nannies in pale bleached coats and bulls dark pre-rut. Kids were safely



weaned by then, and animals in good condition.

At peak on day two we had eight hunters on the hill, split into three groups. The teams usually began by shooting as a group, then split up to manage recovery and further shooting.

Minimising meat wastage is especially important given the small carcase weights. Any body shots would likely render that animal unprofitable. Though it would be worth investigating if faster shooting from behind-shoulder shots, meaning more tahr in the chiller total, would offset the wastage penalty. Most groups noted the initial headshot was easy, but once groups were disturbed it was more difficult.

Headshots were easier to achieve than expected on the morning hunt of the second day, with quiet tahr and good country to travel and hunt in. Using 223s you had to get under 200m for most scenarios. There was also the complication of



working past bulls so nanny groups were almost always disturbed to some degree.

Hunters were encouraged to drag tahr together where possible, for multiple tahr per drone flight as well as ease of finding the hunter with the drone. This wasn't as difficult as anticipated, with the small liveweight working to the hunter's advantage.

There were two drones capable of lifting but only one operator. One 40kg max and one 100kg. The 40 was a dedicated lift drone with winch which flew faster and handled better, so was the preferred option. Hunters could only ever load one animal at a time with that drone. Some nannies were surprisingly heavy, I overloaded the drone with one nanny at 62kg live-weight.



Hunters had dog tracking collars in their packs, then waved white sacks for visual ID. Lasers or torches may be better.

Sustainable Harvest provided instruction on gutting on the hill, but it was reasonably risky when



trying to preserve maximum yield. Any contamination would mean trimming, and with the carcasses likely to finish at 15-18kg all meat is very valuable.

Hunters only had to only remove the stomach, intestines and oesophagus but leave liver, spleen and kidneys as well as heart and lungs. It was slow and technical for even skilled volunteers. On balance my opinion was that having more drone flying time (i.e less tahr per load) would outweigh needing professionals on foot to be on the hill and gutting.

The morning hunt went well, but the evening hunt was more difficult. The nanny groups were much larger which meant you would get one undisturbed shot and the rest would start moving. It was also more difficult country to get in range for head shots.

Wind made recovery very difficult for drone and eventually impossible with gusts of approximately 70kmh. The thermal drone appeared good

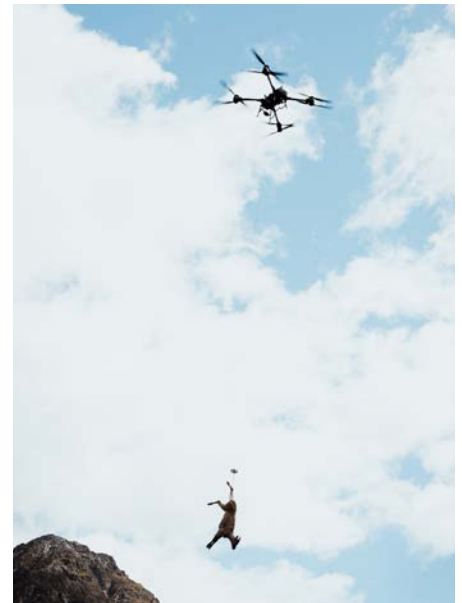
for finding scattered animals in the tussock after a bomb up.

In the end we recovered 47 tahr in the chiller from three hunts, with weather and volunteer availability meaning further hunting wasn't possible.

There is significant room to improve on the operation. Post-operation we have discussed ways to improve methodology, range, scale and technology and I'm comfortable that in similar country with similar densities 100 nannies is entirely achievable.

This operation ended up cost neutral with primarily volunteer hunters. In the long term you'd look for ways to keep a fit and skilled volunteer pool on hand, and with a growing market there would be room for financial or in-kind benefits for those hunters – but crucially, some cost neutral female tahr management.

It is a long way from being a panacea for all tahr management costs, and



is very unlikely to do that, but it was a very useful trial with a lot of promise – my thanks to all involved for dedicating their time and expertise to exploring new ways to manage tahr.

For those interested in a visual tale of the project find it on YouTube, with support from The Origins Foundation.

¹ It is worth noting that the specific WARO permit requirement on PCL has its benefits. Currently, while bull tahr are highly valuable to the commercial market through guiding for international hunters, it is unlikely that anyone would think it sensible to begin WARO on high-value male tahr. However, the specific permit (rather than being a part of a general WARO permit) provides a layer of protection should someone think that was ever a good idea.

Better Hunting Tahr Ballot briefing – complete before you fly

Hunting tahr in a wilderness area is a unique experience and a rare opportunity for many hunters. This opportunity is only made available because of the contribution that you make to conservation through your hunting activity. The decisions you make while in the mountains are important.

The Tahr Ballot Briefing on Better Hunting has information to help you make decisions that contribute to positive outcomes for hunting and conservation, ultimately helping to preserve this unique hunting opportunity. The briefing has been developed by the NZ Game Animal Council and NZ Tahr Foundation with support from the Department of Conservation.

The briefing is short and interactive, covering key information on tahr selection, conservation, safety and more. You will receive an online certificate once you have completed the briefing.

Even if you've been to a tahr ballot block before, we encourage you to complete the briefing and have confidence that your decisions while hunting tahr support positive hunting and conservation outcomes.

2025's winner Molly says she found the interactive format of the Tahr Ballot Briefing invaluable for learning more about tahr hunting and the ballot.

"I'm relatively inexperienced when it comes to tahr hunting, so I enjoyed the chance to do some of my own learning. The interactive format definitely added value and made it a lot more interesting," says Molly.

She also credits the briefing for helping deepen her understanding of tahr herd management.

"Going over the principles of herd management, aging animals, and the other modules on Better Hunting has been a good reminder that as hunters, we're also conservationists."

BE IN TO WIN! Complete the Tahr Ballot Briefing and go into the draw



to win your first choice on your 2027 winter tahr ballot application.

COMPLETE THE BRIEFING AND ENTER THE COMPETITION

1. If you don't already have an account on Better Hunting, create one [here](#).
2. Once you have an account, complete the briefing [here](#).

The competition will be drawn Monday 2 November 2026.

If you have any feedback on the briefing content, or need help accessing it, please contact the GAC at support@nzgac.org.nz

View the competition T's&C's [here](#).

APPLY FOR A BALLOT

Applications for the 2027 Hooker-Landsborough and Adams winter tahr ballot are open 9am Thursday 8 October 2026 to 4pm Friday 30 October 2026.

Entries to the ballot can be made online through the [DOC website](#) from 8 October.

Minutes from the New Zealand Tahr Foundation Annual General Meeting 2025

Date: 06/09/2025
Location: New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Clubrooms – 599, McLeans Island Road, Christchurch.
Time: 12pm

1. ATTENDANCE:

Luke Care
Sheene Ottmann
Gerald Telford
Greg Duley
Snow Hewetson
Shane Hall
Bruce Hansen

Members and Guests
Garry Ottmann
Andrew Walton
Andy Irvine
Dan Abel
Scott Clark
Brent Morgan
Luke Romano
Chris Wakeman

2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

John Royle – Representative for NZPHGA
Kim Prenter
Dan Friedman
Gwyn Thurlow

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 07/12/2024 AGM

Moved – Snow Hewetson
Seconded – Bruce Hansen

4. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Moved – Sheene Ottmann
Seconded – Snow Hewetson

5. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

Moved – Gerald Telford
Seconded – Andrew Walton

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

None put forward

7. COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

NZTF Officers:
Luke Care – Chairperson
Gerald Telford – Vice Chairperson
Sheene Ottmann – Treasurer
Bruce Hansen – Secretary

Committee positions:

Greg Duley
Shane Hall
Snow Hewetson
John Royle

Nominations received for all required positions. No election necessary.

Incoming Committee recommendation for Co-opted member.

Membership Officer and Social Media:
Kim Prenter

Moved – Snow Hewetson
Seconded – Andrew Walton

Committee approved (by show of hands).

Meeting closed 12:15pm



*The New Zealand Tahr
Foundation Incorporated
Performance Report
For the Year Ended
31st July 2026*

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated

ENTITY INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

ENTITY INFORMATION

Legal Name	The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
NZBN	9429043411740
Incorporation Number	2655152
Date of Incorporation	3 November 2016
	Re-registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 1 February 2024
Bankers	Westpac
IRD Number	123 960 801

PURPOSE

The primary purposes of the Foundation are to:

- Education – to increase the understanding of Tahr and the Tahr herd through provision of information and education.
- Co-ordination among stakeholders – to achieve and maintain consistent, appropriate harvest levels of healthy Tahr by better co-ordination of recreational and commercial Tahr hunting.
- Herd Management – to advance a management regime that involves a collaborative partnership between Recreational and Commercial Tahr hunters, the Game Animal Council, affected Local and Central Government, local Iwi, interested landowners and businesses with an interest in Tahr.

ENTITY STRUCTURE

The Foundation has a single entity structure. The Foundation is governed by a committee. Officers of the Committee and elected annually from the membership.

RELIANCE ON VOLUNTEERS AND DONATED GOODS OR SERVICES

The Foundation is entirely reliant on the support of volunteers, with the combined volunteer hours provided for the key activities in excess of 1200 hours during the past financial year. Key activities and service deliveries are financed with funding from donations, grants, subscriptions and other fundraising revenues.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

Description of medium to long term objectives

Please refer to the Annual Report accompanying this Performance Report.

Description of Key Activities undertaken this financial year and the reliance on Volunteer hours

Please refer to the Annual Report accompanying this Performance Report.

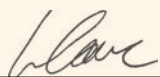
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
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The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

	Note	2026	2025
		\$	\$
REVENUE			
Donations		-	2,251
Fundraising		59,074	
Project Grants		-	190,000
Membership subscriptions		5,165	6,600
Interest Received		15	745
Revenue from merchandise sales		959	1,591
Total Revenue		65,213	201,187
Less Expenses			
Expenses related to activities	7	12,526	4,750
Expenses related to service delivery	7	10,544	5,973
Expenses related to fundraising		11,376	-
Other expenses		652	321
Total Expenses		35,098	11,044
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX		30,115	190,143
Transfer Unused Conditional Grant Income to future periods		-	190,000
Transfer Conditional Grant Income to current year costs		(6,526)	190,000
Transfer Prepaid Fundraising Income to future periods		13,435	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		\$23,206	\$143

This performance report has been approved by those charged with Governance.

Name: Luke Care



Name: Bruce Hansen



Position: Chairperson

Position: Secretary

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The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN ACCUMULATED FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

	Note	2026	2025
		\$	\$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT START OF YEAR		48,665	48,522
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		23,206	143
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses		23,206	143
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		\$71,871	\$48,665
RESTRICTED RESERVES AT START OF YEAR		36,308	39,182
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		(7,846)	(2,874)
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses		(7,846)	(2,874)
RESTRICTED RESERVES AT END OF YEAR		\$28,462	\$36,308
GENERAL RESERVES AT START OF YEAR		12,357	9,340
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		31,052	(30,17)
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses		31,052	(3,017)
GENERAL RESERVES AT END OF YEAR		\$43,409	\$12,357

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31ST JULY 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank – Cheque Account		269,197	234,196
Accounts receivable		-	1,061
Prepayments		-	-
Merchandise stocks		932	1,897
GST refund due		-	149
Taxation refund due		198	405
Total Current Assets		270,327	237,708
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other Assets	5	10,400	10,400
TOTAL ASSETS		280,727	248,108
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable		1,093	264
GST payable		1,675	-
NZ Residents Tag 2026 Ballot entries in advance		13,435	-
Project revenue in advance	6	192,653	199,179
TOTAL LIABILITIES		208,856	199,443
NET ASSETS		\$71,871	\$48,665
Represented by;			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		\$71,871	\$48,665

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review.

New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
STATEMENT OF CASH MOVEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

	Note	2026	2025
		\$	\$
Cash From Operating Activities			
Donations and other fundraising		59,073	2,251
Activities		6,124	18,570
Interest		15	745
		65,212	21,566
Cash Applied to Operating Activities			
Payments relating to activities		32,244	14,713
Net GST paid		(2,033)	(205)
		30,211	14,508
Net Cash Movement from Operating Activities		35,001	7,058
Cash From Financing Activities			
Unused Grants		-	190,000
		-	190,000
Net Cash Movement from Financing Activities		-	190,000
Net Cash Movement		35,001	197,058
Opening Balances			
Bank Accounts		234,196	37,138
CLOSING CASH BALANCES		\$269,197	\$234,196

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The performance report is prepared in accordance with the XRB's Tier 3 (NFP) Standard. The entity is eligible to apply these requirements as it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of less than \$5,000,000. All transactions in the performance report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. This performance report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Specific Accounting Policies

In the preparation of this performance report, the specific accounting policies are as follows:

(a) Goods & Services Tax

The statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis with the exception of accounts receivable and accounts payable which are shown inclusive of GST.

(b) Donations and Grants

Donations and Grants received are included in operating revenue. If particular conditions are attached to a donation or a grant that would require it to be repaid if these conditions are not met, then the donation is recorded as a liability until the conditions are satisfied.

Donated goods or services (other than donated assets) are not recognised.

(c) Income Tax

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

(d) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year. (2025: Nil)

2. AUDIT

The Performance Report has not been audited.

3. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At balance date there are no known contingent liabilities (2025:\$0). The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated has not granted any securities in respect of liabilities payable by any other party whatsoever.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

4. RELATED PARTIES

There were no transactions with related parties during the financial year. (2025: Nil)

5. OTHER ASSETS

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Bronze Trophy Tahr Sculpture 350mm High with Rimu Base		
At cost	10,400	10,400
Total Other Assets	\$10,400	\$10,400

6. CONDITIONAL GRANTS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	Tahr App	HOSI + MU1 + Targeted Harvest projects
Projects:		
Grants carried forward	9,179	190,000
Grant received this year	-	-
Less Costs Incurred this year		(6,526)
Less Surplus Grant carried forward	9,179	183,474
Net Surplus	\$ -	\$ -

	Date Expected To Complete	Original Grant	2026	2025
Deferred Grant Revenue			\$	\$
Tahr App Development	July 2026	12,174	9,179	9,179
HOSI and MU1 Projects	July 2026/2029	190,000	183,474	190,000
Total Deferred Grant revenue			\$192,653	\$199,179

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
ANALYSIS OF REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2026

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

7. ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Expenses related to Key Activities		
Ground Harvest Trials	5,226	4,750
Drone Trial	774	
Project Expenses (HOSI+MU1)	6,526	-
	12,526	4,750
Other expenses related to Service Delivery		
Annual report design and printing	1,575	1,458
Merchandise Purchases and postage	1,730	892
Legal fees	4,900	-
Sika Show (booth, travel and accommodation)	-	571
NZDA Expo (travel and accommodation)	780	-
Other Travel	294	1,802
Annual General Meeting expenses	-	105
Strategy workshops	316	180
General expenses	144	230
Website and Domain Hosting	805	735
	10,544	5,973

8. ANALYSIS OF REVENUE: DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Donations	-	2,251
Fundraising – Wild Sheep Show Hunt donation		
For Centennial Tag (completed July 2026)	45,639	-
	45,639	2,251

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
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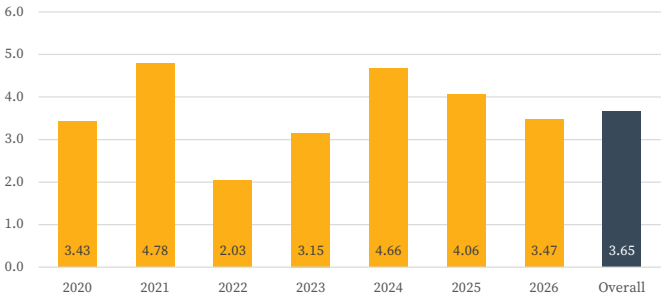
Appendix to the Ballot Data Summary

INDIVIDUAL LANDING SITES: TAHR SEEN PER HUNTER-DAY

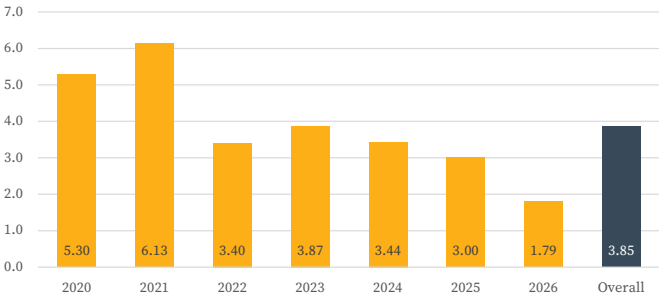
The following figures provide visual site-by-site descriptions of how tahr observation rates have changed through time for each landing site. Again, there is high variability in responses, which may be attributable partly to changes in tahr abundance, but are also subject to other factors, such as weather, hunter skills and motivations, equipment, and so on. These limitations should be born in mind while interpreting the data – and caution against reading too much into changes at any one site.

Adams Wilderness Area

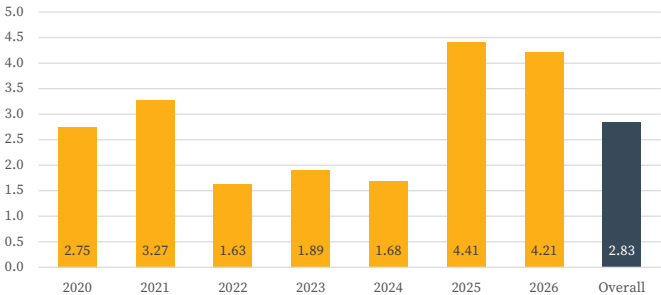
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Abel Lake



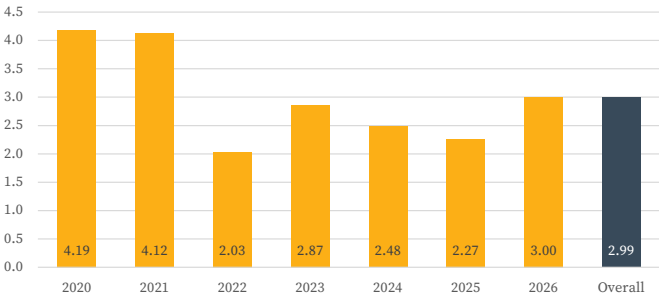
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Adams Flat



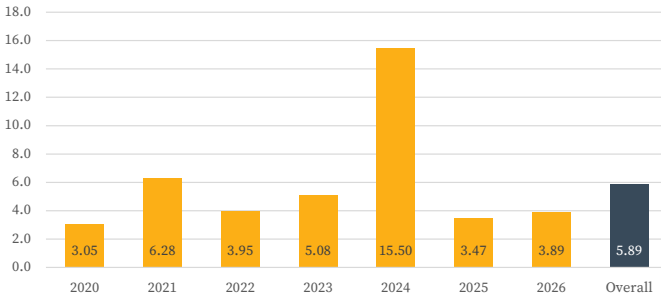
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Adams Range



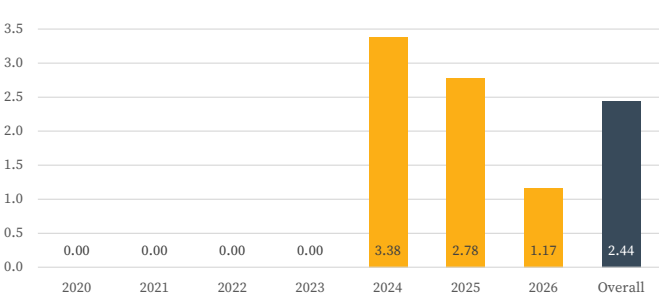
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Barlow



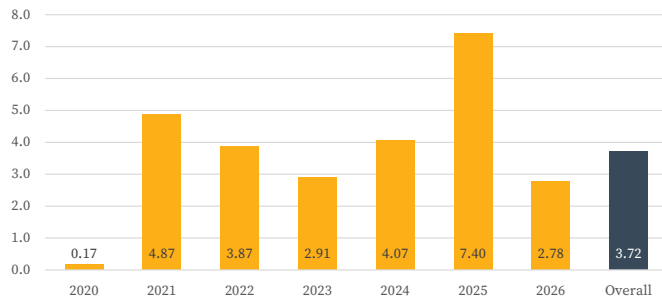
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Ebliss Tops



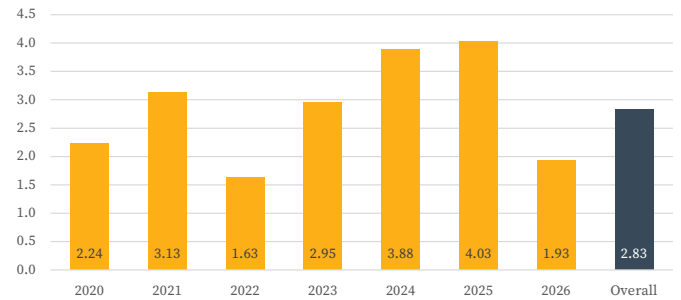
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Elizabeth Stream (From 2024)



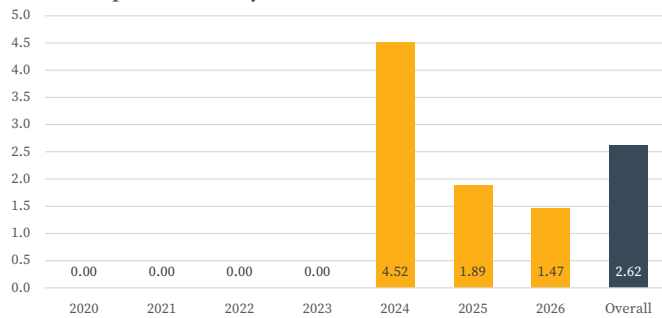
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Lambert River



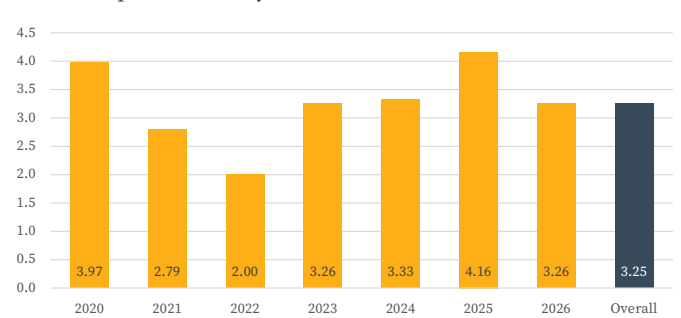
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Lord River



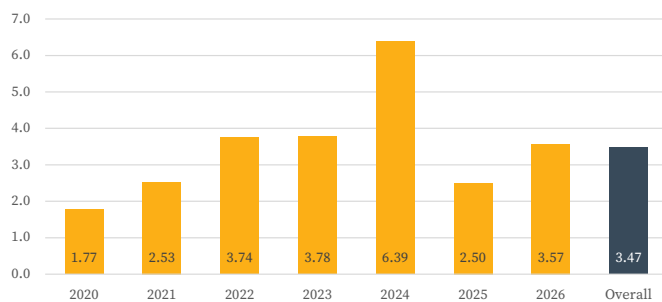
Tahr seen per hunter-day – North Barlow (From 2024)



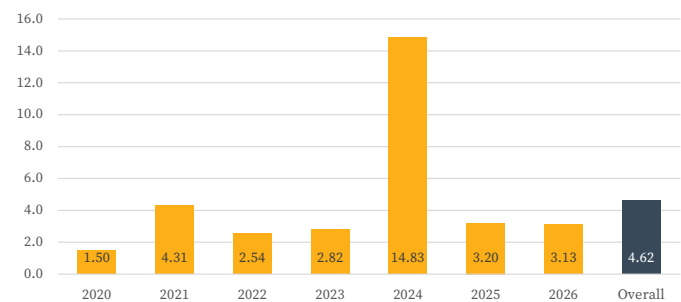
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Perverse Creek



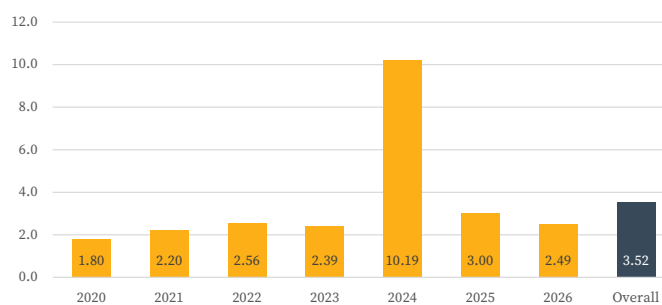
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Poerua



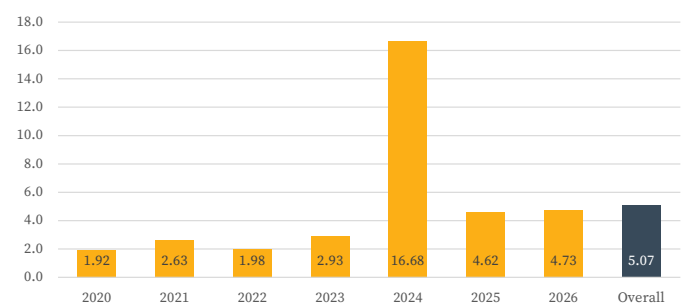
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Poker Gully



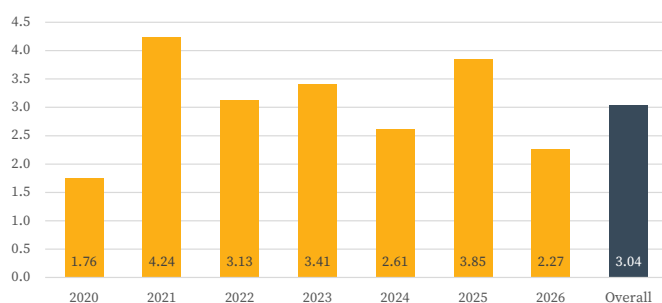
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Speculation Creek



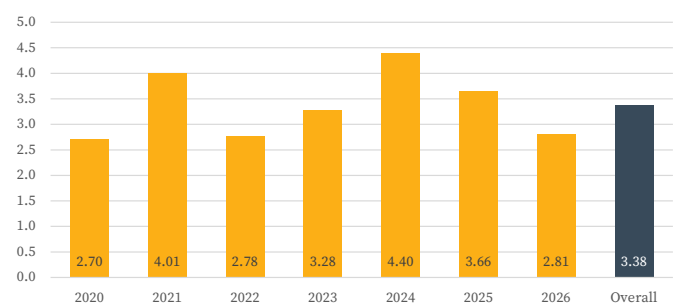
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Teichelmann Creek



Tahr seen per hunter-day – Willberg

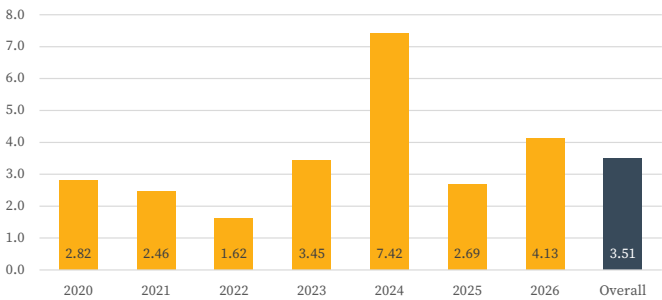


Tahr seen per hunter-day – Total Adams Wilderness

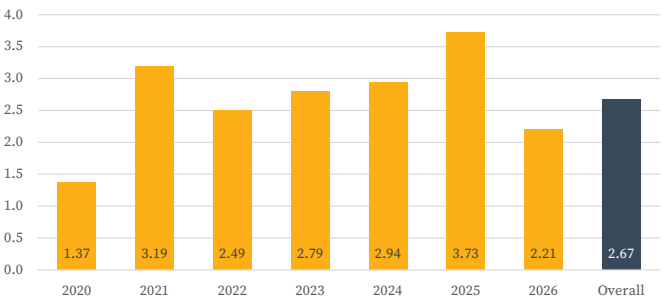


Landsborough Wilderness Area

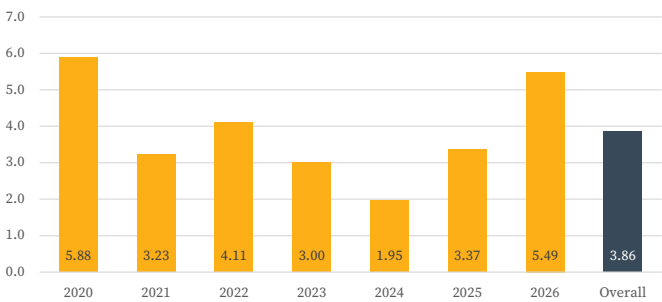
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Arbor Rift



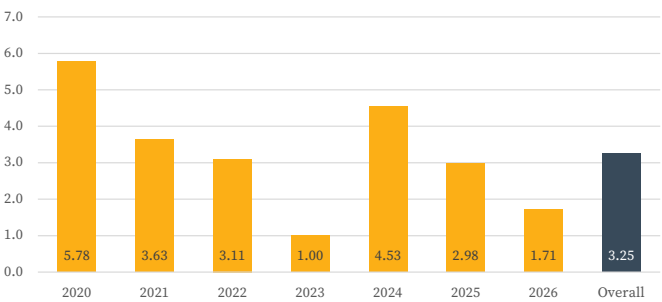
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Baker



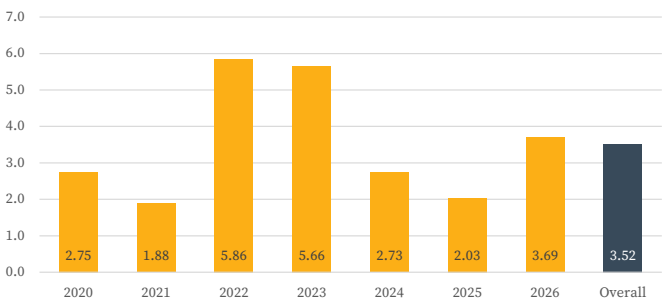
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Bubble



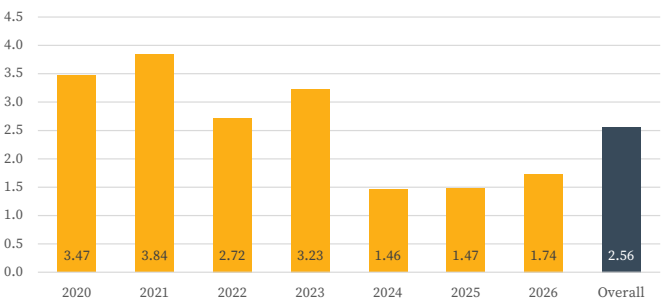
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Dechen



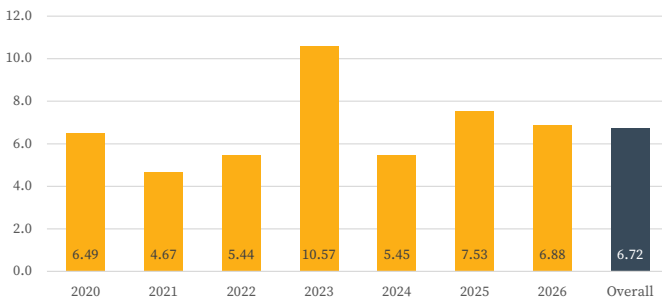
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Edison



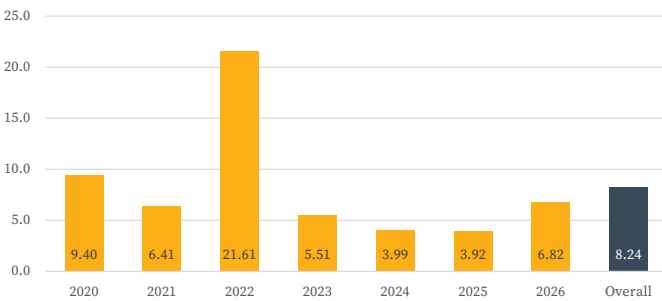
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Hinds Tarn



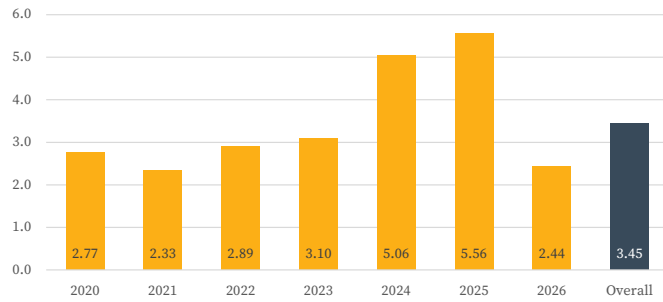
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Jacobs



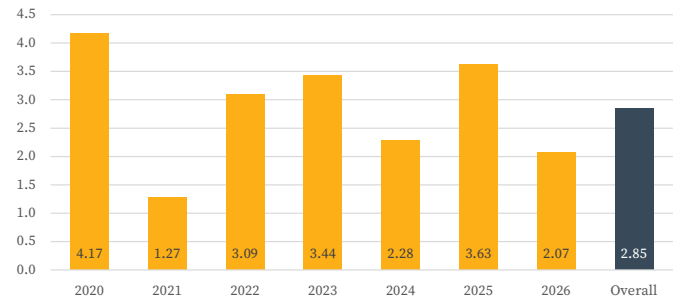
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Mahitahi



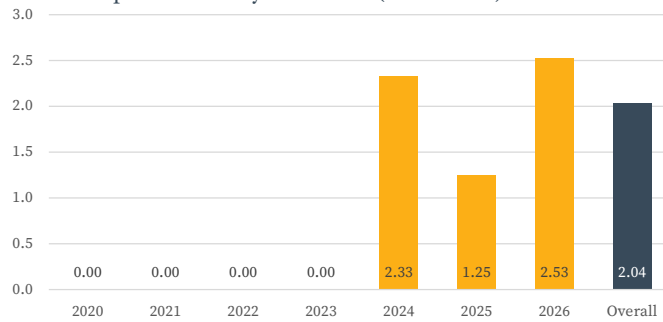
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Opposite Percy Creek



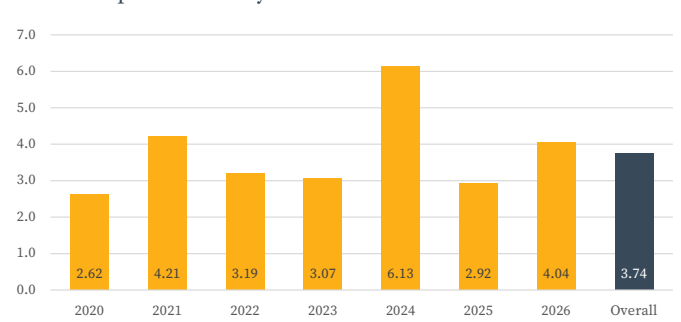
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Otoko



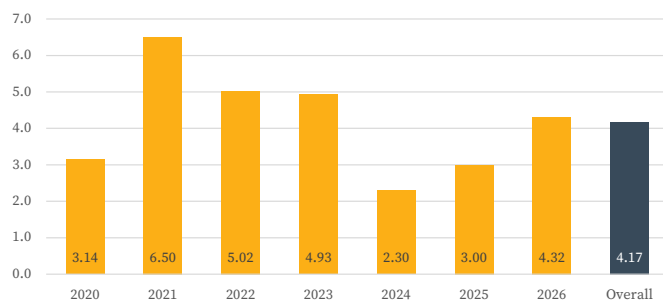
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Rubicon (From 2024)



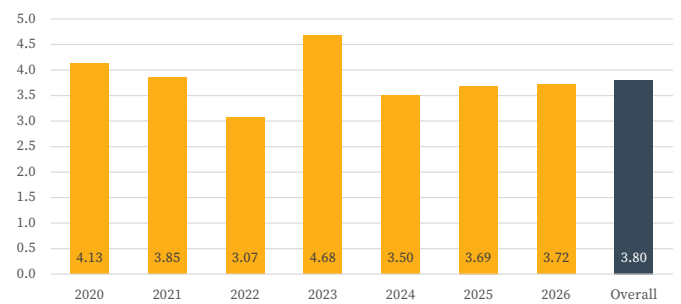
Tahr seen per hunter-day – Shelter Hollow



Tahr seen per hunter-day – Upper Zora



Tahr seen per hunter-day – Total Landsborough





**MANAGING TAHR TO PROVIDE
SUSTAINABLE HUNTING WHILST
CONSERVING ALPINE VEGETATION.**

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Phone: +6427 710 2181/Email: info@nztf.org.nz

For inquiries or to make a contribution:

Email: admin@nztf.org.nz