New Zealand
TAHR
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Contents

2024 Chairperson's Report

The workload for our team has been immense this year, and the price of success is that it's only making more work! We've held committee meetings more than once a month, a strategy session, and I've personally attended at least a dozen stakeholder meetings.

That's just the meetings, each of those has hours and hours of work and reporting behind them. I understand the pace of progress can seem slow and frustrating to those outside of the tent, but there really is a lot going on and it's all trending in the right direction. It's easy to get frustrated with the pace of movement in the game animal management space. It's something I've felt keenly, and hear often. "We've got a Minister for Hunting and Fishing now, why aren't there 10 fully funded HOSI's already?" Simply put, this stuff takes time. The more time I've spent working in this space the more I've realised this.

For decades hunters have been excluded from the table, so it's doesn't hurt to remind ourselves that it's great to be having any progress at all. What I am focussed on is implementing enduring change for tahr – not something a change in government can undo in a pen-stroke. Big wins not quick wins.

"For decades hunters have been excluded from the table, so it's doesn't hurt to remind ourselves that it's great to be having any progress at all."

HOSI

Speaking of progress, Herds of Special Interest are firmly on the horizon thanks to the commitment of our Hunting and Fishing Minister Todd McClay of the National Party.

This has been feasible since the 2013 Game Animal Council act passed but it has required political will like Minister McClay's to make it happen, alongside a strong GAC that can now help and deliver.

The Tahr Foundation is a firm third in the order of applications, and that is a good thing. We have the most complex space: National Parks, commercial interests, a wide variety of other user groups, history of legal challenges and disparate environments.

All good things, but things that require a lot of planning around. I'm pleased to be able to support

the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and Sika Foundation as they work through the daunting process and learn from the work they do ahead of us.

Things like the National Parks Act section 4 2 b which have caused such a headache for the FWF when it comes to sensible management that is consistent with the law (however outdated) also has repercussions for us. That's the same section of the act that forces DOC to shoot bull tahr aerially in the National Parks.

If you'd like to learn more about the HOSI process scan the QR Code at the end of this article.

In August SCI New Zealand invited me along for a meeting with the Minister to represent the NZTF and it was clear that despite it being SCI's meeting, tahr were on the Ministers mind! We had a free and frank discussion, which included representatives from DOC, and reaffirmed our commitment to a HOSI for tahr. It is the best pathway forward for sensible management, and the only way to move tahr out from under our ever-present handbrake, the 1993 Himalayan Thar Control Plan.

Our relationship with DOC has never been better since tahrmageddon. Staff are acknowledging the role and good work of the NZTF, and we continue to build credibility with pragmatic and sensible advice.

Some major advancements within the space include greater use of ground teams by DOC, reduced focus on bulls in some areas of the National Park to better focus on the breeding unit, and of particular importance – early trials of aerial control focussed on mature nannies.

At present both official control and offsets shoot juveniles indiscriminately, half of which are our valuable bulls of the future. My heartfelt thanks go to the DOC teams prepared to listen to sensible advice.

As the Tahr Foundation is growing, along with our workload, we have identified the need to put a better framework on our activities. As a result the GAC helped to facilitate an all-day strategy workshop in Christchurch in July which has helped us confirm our focus and plan ahead.

Committee Member Andrew Macleod has put significant effort into drafting our Strategy Document for 2025-29 and the accompanying annual implementation plans. I am excited to be able to share this, and what we've achieved, in next year's Annual Report.

TARGETED HARVEST

Our teams have made real progress in Targeted Harvest, with very economic kills of just the right animals. It is the gold standard of tahr management – a focus on mature nannies at a cost far below that of aerial control.

Anecdotally we seem to be winning the battle in the Mahitahi, and make no mistake, this is needed. We can't grow good bulls without good feed and numbers went unchecked in there for too long.

It will take time and a sustained reduction in numbers for it to

recover. We extended operations to include the Troyte this year and appear to have intervened in time, before nanny populations have had a chance to damage what is crucial summering country for bulls.

Over 200kg of meat was donated to local iwi as a part of this project. While meat recovery was not the focus of this work, I look forward to growing this component of the operations as it cements the value of tahr to communities. For more find the Targeted Harvest segment on page 10.

We have recently met with DOC to renew the Community Agreement these operations work under, and a highly positive and constructive meeting resulted in a commitment to renew this agreement for a further five years.

HLM MU1

Hunter-led management in Management Unit 1 is progressing, with finalised versions of the Community Agreement due for circulation with the committee before Christmas.

The FWF/F&B situation has meant increased scrutiny of Community Agreements and while the process can be frustrating, I thank our DOC counterparts to ensuring that we're set up to succeed.

This is yet another exciting project we are looking forward to announcing. It will allow us to trial our new levels of collaboration with DOC and hunter participation in a very practical way ahead of a HOSI in the coming years.

THE PINKEYE PROJECT

The Pinkeye Project, examining the incidence of Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis (IKC), a highly contagious eye disease of wild and domestic ruminants, in our tahr and chamois herds has concluded.

We would like to extend our thanks to Franceso Formisano and Kaylyn Pinney, along with international researchers Luca Rossi, Paulo Tizzani and Barbara Moroni for their work on the report, and to the hunters who contributed to this citizen science project.

This is an important step in being good stewards for our alpine game resource. If you would like to read the report, refer to the appendices.

All of this work is guided by our central tenet – "managing tahr to provide sustainable hunting whilst conserving alpine vegetation". This means working with everyone who has a stake in the tahr space: DOC, commercial operators, recreational hunters and conservation groups just to name a few.

We can't dwell on past grievances with any one group – opportunities lie in the future and we have to bring these groups along with us. Convince them of the value of tahr, demonstrate that they can live in harmony with a high-functioning and diverse environment, and stay committed to the fact that tahr have a right to be in those mountains too.

It might be a lot of work, it might require a lot of sacrifice from the selfless individuals we have on our committee, but we don't have this opportunity often – who knows, maybe never again. So we have to 'make hay while the sun shines' and hope that future generations of tahr hunters don't have to go through this all over again.

I am hugely thankful to our committee of tireless tahr hunters who continue to donate days and weeks of their time to ensuring a quality tahr herd, and so should you be. Buy them a beer for me if you come across one in your travels.

I'd like to finish by reminding everyone to be selective in your hunting. Recreational and commercial hunters alike. Mature bulls make up a fraction of the herd, and you'll never find one if you keep shooting the younger ones.

Take your time to evaluate them and don't be afraid to go home without one. If you need meat shoot a nanny – they taste so much better!

Recreational Hunter Update

The tahr herd on public land is really in a transient phase at the moment, transitioning from one that had out grown its habitat with way too many female breeding units (the nannies) in most areas inside the feral range, to one that is getting back to where it needs to be nanny numbers wise but still with a few hotspots that need increased management.

This work is ongoing with DOC's annual tahr control complemented by AATH offsets, recreational hunting and the Tahr Foundation's targeted harvest work.

Outside the National Parks there is little to complain about official culling wise as DOC is not shooting bulls. Bulls being unnecessarily culled by the Department in NPs is a work in progress that we will deal with as part of the Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) process.

At present DOC have no choice due to Section 4 2 b of the National Parks Act and Forest and Bird's threat of court action. We are working with DOC to stop shooting juveniles of unknown sex where there are minimal biodiversity issues as 50% of these are the trophy bulls of the future. These are the very animals that we need to survive and get the benefit of better habitat due to the reduction in tahr numbers throughout the range.

AATH has significantly increased since covid but they are having to fly longer and harder to get their trophies as bull numbers are reducing and we are going to have to manage the potentially increased conflict with us recreational hunters as best we can.

We all acknowledge there needs to be change in that system but we also need all tahr hunters working together on the same page while we work towards getting a HOSI in place, as the money they and the commercial sector bring into the country will definitely be a deciding factor for the support of the current Government.

As we work through this process we need to be better able to manage all tahr hunting interests to minimise conflict and maximise the potential of the reduced capacity trophy bull tahr herd. Allowing safari parks outside the feral range to hold bulls is something we are working on that will seriously reduce the need for AATH.

There are still reasonable numbers of bulls in most areas outside the NPs, but a significant number are not the ones we all want! Some of these bulls are stunted in both statue and horn growth due to lack of feed in previous years, and are of no use to anyone. They are just

eating vegetation that would be much better utilised by the juvenile and young bulls that are going to produce our future trophies, and the remaining nanny population.

Recreational and commercial hunters are currently the only managers of the trophy quality of our bull herd. We know from results that the vast majority of ballot hunters are only targeting trophy bulls. This means they will/should be evaluating the animals properly, and only shooting mature bulls with trophy horns.

The very fact they are studying the bulls in depth means they should be in the perfect position to take out those with broken or stunted horns and bodies once they have decided they are not the trophy animal they are seeking, nor are they an up and coming trophy of the future.

A bull's potential is largely set in that first year, and if he was short of food and has grown little in the way of lamb tips, there is no coming back. Unlike a stag whose antlers for that season are mostly dependent on the feed availability during the previous winter and spring. They can recover from a poor start when young if they get the feed later, tahr cannot.

In some West Coast valley systems the majority of the bulls are in this stunted category. We often hear disgruntled trophy hunters coming out of a ballot block saying they couldn't find anything to shoot. Well here is your opportunity!

It is like reverse trophy hunting and can be just as satisfying! And you will often get a good cape that you can make a wonderful rug out of, or even sell to taxidermists – despite the poor horn quality.

They are always on the lookout for capes for clients and usually pay $200 to $250. And you can always shoot some nannies for their excellent meat if you are seeing any groups of 5 or more animals. This way you are doing your bit to help make the most out of the tahr herd for the future.

At this time of year (spring and summer), the bulls are often in mobs. Please evaluate every bull properly and only shoot the mature trophy you are after, or the cull bulls we've discussed.

There is no excuse for bombing up mobs of bulls, taking out the very animals we are going to need for the future. DOC is not culling these animals, so please do not use that as justification – despite what you might read on social media!

The Tahr Foundation is building a very good working relationship with DOC's tahr team, which is paying off with more collaborative outcomes that work for both tahr and conservation because the two are intrinsically linked.

A HOSI implemented by the Tahr Foundation is the way of the future for tahr management, and we are progressing this with support by the Department. This Government has committed to three HOSI – Wapiti first, then Sika, then tahr – which works well for us as the first two will sort out a lot of the sticking points and make our job easier.

"A bull's potential is largely set in that first year, and if he was short of food and has grown little in the way of lamb tips, there is no coming back. Unlike a stag whose antlers for that season are mostly dependent on the feed availability during the previous winter and spring."

The most crucial factor in the HOSI progress is going to be a sector united behind the Tahr Foundation, so please keep up the support and together we'll make this thing happen!

Greg Duley

Commercial Sector Update

Commercial sector report focuses on known tahr numbers taken by the Hunting Guiding industry. The Hunting Guiding industry covers ground hunting, hunters using helicopters for access, AATH and AATH offsets.

Where possible data has been collected and applied. All data used in this report comes from Department of Conservation AATH reports and DOC control operations.

The guiding industry has largely recovered from the struggles of the covid years (2019-2022). Demand from the major North American market is steady, certainly not spectacular but approaching pre-covid numbers.

Tahr continue to be highly sought after trophy animals. After stag they are the main species taken by overseas hunters, both guided and self-guided. Exact numbers of bulls exported out of NZ in 2024 remain elusive, best estimates suggest 1000-1200 bulls.

Best estimates have a sniff of data behind them coming out of MPI and shipping documentation obtained by way of an OIA request. While initially exciting to receive this data it quickly became apparent that as many as 50-65% of the trophy bulls leaving NZ for the USA do not require any official documentation. Only those guides contracting the use of expeditors and direct shipping agents show up in the data capture.

As many guides export their clients trophies as a stand-alone business to their guiding operation there is no documentation around any animals heading to USA, documentation is required for EU counties.

An increasing number of guides, and particularly the busier operators, have options for harvest from both Public Conservation Land (PCL) and leasehold and private properties.

For guides that operate AATH operations, having private land access becomes increasingly important as flying times increase to

find acceptable trophies on PCL. It is simple maths and good business to invest in easier to find trophy animals than excessive flying time.

Using DOC data from the number of recorded offsets (five nannies per bull or chamois) for 2023 (2757 nannies recorded) this equates to 550 bulls. 2024 data is still incomplete but suggests a very similar number of offset requirements. Anecdotal reports suggest at least 50% of bulls harvested by guiding industry come from PCL.

As bull numbers reduce, and there is little doubt that they are reducing, more and more guides will seek the certainty of securing their clients trophies from private land as it brings more guarantee of success and also has flexibility around short time allotments for any given hunter.

With the Tahr Foundation focused on a sustainable tahr resource in balance with environmental factors, fewer tahr, especially in areas of valued biodiversity, is a good thing. Quality over quantity is an agreed factor in the management of our valued introduced species.

Balancing the tahr resource within the constraints of regulatory, legislative and users (hunter groups) is challenging. The NZ Professional Guides Association is aware of TFs concerns and has been asked by the TF to work with its members to find an equitable answer to these concerns. Meanwhile, total tahr cull numbers top 40,000, 8666 of which are AATH offsets (2017-2024).

The numbers of tahr on PCL remain unknown, DOC continue to shoot bulls in the National Parks (they have no choice), recreational harvest is unknown, numbers on leasehold land and private land are unknown.

The commercial sector has much to lose if it cannot bring itself to understand the long term future of its members and the guiding sector in general. The Commercial sector also have options, especially on private land, perhaps tahr farming?

Guides with foresight have plans in place and understand that sharing knowledge and working with stakeholder organisations will enable them to secure their future and the tahr resource which they need to sustain their businesses.

Tahr Foundation will continue to progress its aims and strategies. A Herd Of Special Interest is on the table, our community agreements with DOC continue to deliver very good results.

We are learning from our progress and also from other likeminded organisations. Expert advice is now available and as a whole the hunting sector is undergoing a huge transition. The commercial sector is an important part of that future.

Targeted Harvest Report 2024

PURPOSE

This report was commissioned by the NZTF management committee 2024 to outline the operational results of the ground-based targeted harvest of female tahr populations in the Makawhio and Mahitahi Valleys.

BACKGROUND

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation (NZTF) is a not-for profit organization established in 2016 with the purposes: education, co-ordination among stakeholders, to manage Himalayan Tahr and acquire "Herd of special interest" (HOSI) status for the Tahr herd via the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

A "HOSI" designation enables the management of game animal populations, subject to adequate environmental protection, for the purposes of hunting. However, the NZTF's key undertaking since 2018 has been to minimize the adverse impacts on the hunting sector of DOC's Tahr population reduction efforts, by advocating for effort to be directed and coordinated so that cultural and recreational values are maintained as far as possible.

To achieve this goal and to reduce pressures on biodiversity, as outlined by the Te Mana o te Taiao Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy 2020, effective tahr population management tools must be applied based on landscape attributes, animal behaviors and resource values at place.

A significant number of tahr have been removed from the feral range and exclusion zones over the past 4-5 years following the directive of the Minister of Conservation to reduce tahr numbers closer to the intervention densities outlined in the "Himalayan Thar Control Plan 1993" (HTCP).

However, this has largely been undertaken by aerial search & destroy control operations which are not effective in scrub and bush areas, a significant component of tahr habitat in South Westland. Furthermore, sustained long term helicopter pressure from aerial control may increase tahr occupation of bush & scrub habitat, increasing the tahr impacts on biodiversity in these areas.

It is apparent that management of tahr populations to reduce impacts on bush, scrub & fringe alpine

"... the NZTF's key undertaking since 2018 has been to minimize the adverse impacts on the hunting sector of DOC's Tahr population reduction efforts, by advocating for effort to be directed and coordinated so that cultural and recreational values are maintained as far as possible."

vegetation requires ground-based hunting effort. It is acknowledged since commencing NZTF trial ground control that ground-based work by DOC has been undertaken in the Adams valley and some of the Landsborough valley.

In January 2021, the NZTF identified pockets within the HTCP Management Unit 6 – Landsborough, specifically the Makawhio / Jacobs Valley, West Coast, where tahr browse impacts to thick vegetation and high female tahr densities were observable.

The NZTF undertook a successful female tahr population management operation, "targeted harvest trial," during March 2022. Following meetings with DOC staff it was agreed to continue with the trial and add the Mahitahi valley head water site as well due to concerns about herd numbers and impacts there. The 2023 management hunts were undertaken in late February (Mahitahi) and early March (Makawhio / Jacobs).

NZTF ANNUAL TAHR MANAGEMENT PLANS

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation (NZTF) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) entered into a 3-year Community Agreement in February 2022 (DOCCM-6920217). As a requirement of the Community Agreement the NZTF will consult with DOC South Westland District staff and provide the Director General an annual Tahr Management Plan (TMP).

NZTF and DOC representatives met in Haast on September 7, 2022, to discuss the results of a successful NZTF-led tahr population management trial in the Makawhio /Jacobs valley in March 2022 and to discuss a plan for the year ahead. A plan was subsequently provided and approved for 2023 the Makawhio / Jacobs Valley, and to extend NZTF-led tahr population management to a single site at the lower Mahitahi ballot camp site to cover the Mahitahi headwaters and if time permitted, the Troyte catchment of the Karangarua, in Westland National Park.

NZTF and DOC met again on 7th November 2023 in Franz Josef to discuss the previous season work and a plan for 2024, acknowledging that it was unlikely that any work would be done in November and that realistically the 2024 plan would be focused on March 2024.

The 2024 management plan builds on the previous successful "targeted harvest trials" establishing sustained hunter-led tahr population management in the Makawhio / Jacobs and Mahitahi Valleys to pursue both biodiversity and hunter interest objectives.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING 2024

Ground-based hunts of 3-5 days were to be undertaken at each of the sites listed below. Nanny group sizes and distribution recorded, and vegetation status subjectively assessed at each site. Tahr populations observed were to determine if further population management is required in the year following at sites.

Makawhio / Jacobs

One operation at each site (upper and lower landing sites). The lower site is a challenging place to hunt, minimizing scent dispersal is important for success. The upper site is less challenging to hunt but covers a much larger area, suitable for more hunters.

Timing: March or November – subject to volunteer availability and weather.

Mahitahi

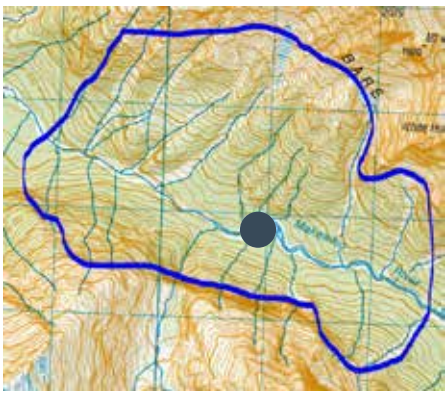
A follow-up operation as per 2023 to gauge success and determine future effort.

Timing: March subject to volunteer availability and weather.

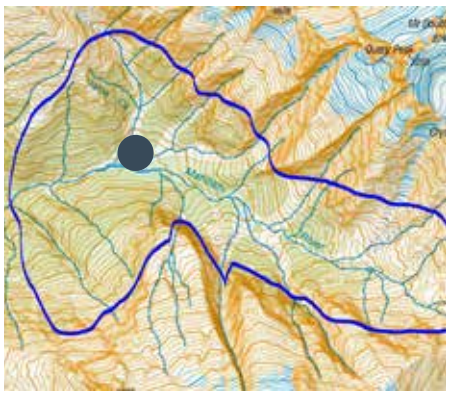
Troyte

One operation initially as an exploration. The valley was previously identified as a bull stronghold and an important recreational hunting area, but nanny populations have increased, displacing bulls.

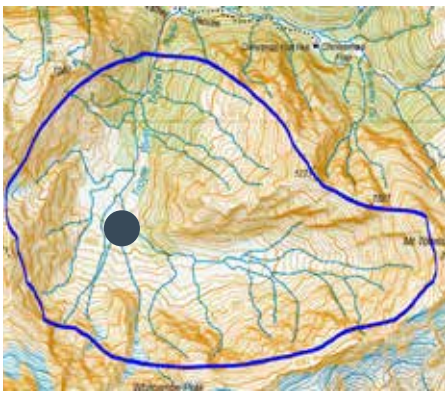
Makawhio / Jacobs: *Upper site – 3 hunters (1 helicopter load).*



Makawhio / Jacobs: *Lower site – 2 hunters (1 helicopter load).*



Mahitahi: *Lower camp site – 3 hunters (1 helicopter load).*



Troyte: *Single site – 2 or 3 hunters (1 helicopter load).*

Timing: March or November subject to volunteer availability and weather.

MANAGEMENT TARGETS

As per the NZTF Standard Operating Procedures only identifiable nannies were to be shot. To achieve the management targets hunting parties were to include at minimum 2/3 experienced hunters preferably 1 of each party having been engaged on management hunts at site previously. Two person parties will be experienced hunters only.

SEASONAL MILESTONES:

- Reduce adult female tahr populations in the Makawhio valley (upper and lower sites) and Mahitahi valley site as far as possible (recognizing the difficulty in hunting bush clad environments).
- Reduce adult female tahr populations in the Troyte valley as far as possible due to the National Park land status.

Note: Seasonal milestones are to be met by the end of March leaving April free for hunters and tahr time to settle before the rut ballots begin and commercial activities are permitted.

GROUND-BASED MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

- Mature nannies only to be shot

- Good shot placement.
- 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 locations and numbers of tahr harvested onto the NZTF App or GPS.
- Photograph 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 conducted using the NZTF App or Camera.
- Volunteers are encouraged to salvage meat 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. Further collaboration between NZTF and DOC for improved environmental monitoring is anticipated.

HEALTH & SAFETY

All volunteers were given a health and safety briefing before departure as per the Community Agreement DOC approved Health & Safety plan.

RESULTS

Operation	#Hunters	#Hours	#Hunter Days	Harvest	
				Harvest total	Av. Per Hour
Makawhio Lower	2	55	6.1	78	1.42
Makawhio Upper	3	64	7.1	147	1.99
Mahitahi	3	85	9.4	105	1.24
Total	8	204	22.6	330	1.55

OBSERVATIONS VS KILLS

Operation	#Hunters	Observed	Kills	% Kill
Makawhio Lower	2	170	78	46%
Makawhio Upper	3	397	147	37%
Mahitahi	3	193	106	55%
Totals	8	760	331	44%

Once on site the team had discussion to identify and discuss any on site issues identified. In addition, hunters were to abide by the following:

- Each hunter was 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 were to confirm where they are going to hunt and expected routes of travel and return.
- Each hunter was required to carry either a Personal Locator Beacon or an In-Reach device.
- Each party was to have at least 1 in-Reach device so they can communicate with the NZTF Operational Lead as required, or pilot directly if necessary.
- Each hunter was required to wear at least one hi-vis piece of clothing when hunting and away from camp.
- Immediately after returning from each trip volunteers were required to report to the NZTF Operational Lead, confirm their safe return and report any incidents.
- The Operational Lead was then to advise DOC that everyone has safely returned or of any incidents.

OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES

Poor weather plagued operational efforts throughout late February and most of March with mostly single fine mountain weather day opportunities. The only possible opportunities with at least 2 days or more were utilized for the priority sites as follows:

The Makawhio upper and lower operation was undertaken 17th – 20th March by three and two

experienced hunters respectively. The Mahitahi operation was conducted 29th – 31st March by three experienced hunters.

There was insufficient weather or volunteer availability to visit the proposed Troyte site during March.

DATA ANALYSIS

Track logs and waypoints where tahr were shot were loaded onto ArcGIS Pro. Hunter-day was calculated from the total hours hunting for the operation divided by nine (the average hours spent hunting on full days). Average tahr per hour and day were calculated for comparative reporting.

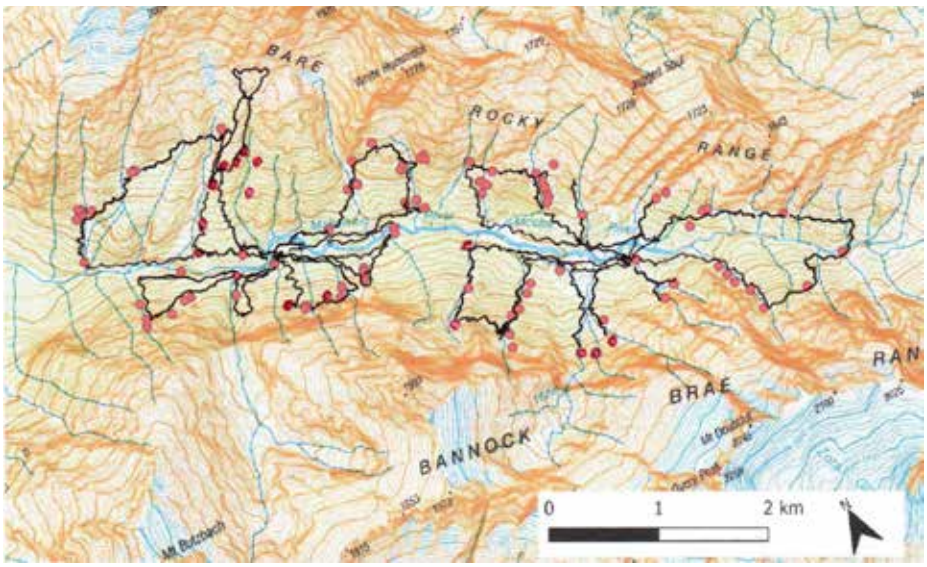
HUNTER REPORTING

The average tahr per hour shot at 1.55 was lower on average than that of 2023 at 2.1 (and slightly lower than 2022 at 1.6). This may indicate some improvement in the reduction of total animal numbers but also may reflect other environmental factors such as timing, climate conditions, timing of any AATH offsets and the fact that it more difficult to shoot groups of animals predominantly living in the scrub and bush.

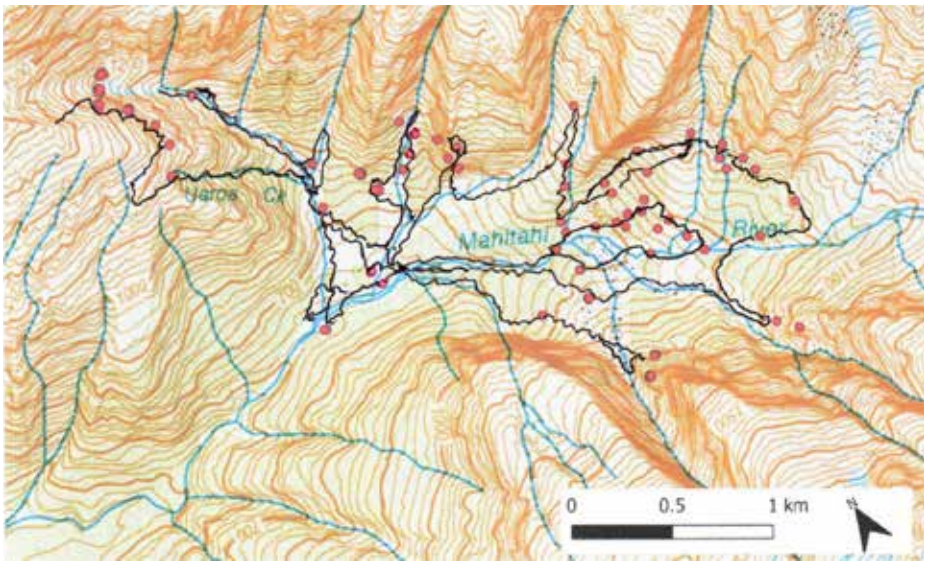
There was a similar number of hunter days undertaken at 22.6 versus 21.2 in 2023. The overall result is a lower number of tahr removed at 330 versus 412 in 2023, but higher than the 182 in 2022.

Weather conditions were reported to be foggy and drizzly at times during the Makawhio hunts but overall OK. In the Mahitahi the weather was mostly clear but clouded in on the last full day at altitude. These were the only two weather windows with sufficient time to undertake the hunts in March 2024.

A reduction in numbers for effort in the Mahitahi this year would seem to indicate the decision to start managements hunts in 2023 was well timed



Makawhio / Jacobs kill locations and track logs.



Mahitahi kill locations and track logs.

Hunters are still shooting a reasonable number of adult nannies in and around bush and scrub areas in the 7 – 13 year age bracket, but less older animals than the previous year, however it's a little early to tell if there is a changing population dynamic as a result of the management hunts at this stage.

Of note most hunters reported increased encounters in the scrub margins and bush with less

observations and encounters in the open alpine areas. This appears to correlate with increased impacts on vegetation within the alpine shrublands and forests.

Approximately 37-55% of tahr observed were shot depending on location see table below. The remaining tahr not shot included identifiable bulls, nannys that escaped into cover and juveniles.

VALLEY COVERAGE & KILL LOCATIONS

The Makawhio Lower covered a larger area than during the 2023 operation. There was also a little more country covered in the lower Mahitahi compared to 2023

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 just 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, e.g., shooting opportunities. A few very small juveniles were shot to prevent them being left to starve; larger juveniles were left.

There is difficultly discerning females from young bulls when

Photographic confirmation examples.

groups are on the run, so there are a few juvenile bulls accidently shot. Some of the kills photographed are shown in the collage below.-

COSTS

The total cost of the operation was NZ$4429 (up approx. $1000 on last year). This does not include the cost of ammunition, provided by DOC at no charge. This is equivalent to $13.40 per tahr an increase on last year due to a) less animals shot and b) modest heli hire increases and fairer compensation to hunters for fuel and food expenses. (*Note this cost includes the $2000 DOC contributed to the helicopter hire.)*

This cost increase is very competitive and expected as animals become harder to shoot in the vegetated areas and as inflationary costs inevitably add to expenses.

"The NZTF would like to acknowledge the Department of Conservation for its approval to undertake these trials, specifically Tom Brookman and Wayne Costello for their support of the community agreement and management plans."

Volunteer hours setting up the operation and documentation were approx. 30 hours, including communication, procedure development, health and safety development, and hunter inductions. With a further 40 hours on reporting (DOC & HfCT). Volunteer hunter commitment during the operations totaled 22.5 days across the three sites excluding onsite down time and travel to and from site. Travel time for hunters to & from the sites estimated at approx. 14 man days.

All in all in excess of 44 man days voluntary contribution to this work.

KEA & OTHER WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

Makawhio Upper: Kea and Falcon were observed. Makawhio Lower Kea heard, 4 Rock Wren were seen and 2 Whio below the camp flat.

Mahitahi: 2 adult and 3 juvenile Kea were observed as well as 2 Rock Wren.

Examples of Tahr browse on vegetation.

VEGETATION

Tahr impacts are still obvious as was observed by hunters in the Mahitahi where ground-based tahr population management only commenced at site in 2023.

Tahr impacts on vegetation in the Makawhio was reported to have not changed significantly since the 2022 & 2023 targeted harvest operation. However, there was no observed improvement either and it appeared that more animals were being encountered in the bush and less animals observed above scrubline during the day.

A significant group of tahr was seen on arrival by helicopter on the lower flat and there appeared to be no significant recovery of tussock stumps from 2023. No tahr were seen on the flats during the 4-day visit though a number were shot in surrounding forests.

"Just prior to Annual Report deadlines a successful spring operation was undertaken in the Makawhio and Troyte Valleys, resulting in over 250 adult nannies controlled."

Upper Makawhio (Jacobs) left; Mahitahi lower site right.

ADDITIONAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

The Department of Conservation (Haast) funded the materials for two portable toilets to be trialed in the ballot blocks for sanitary purposes. These were a design made by Dave Keen and previously installed in the Canterbury backcountry.

NZTF was able to get these flown in to the Upper Makawhio and lower Mahitahi camp sites in kit set form for no additional cost in conjunction with the management hunts. These have been installed and some positive feedback received. Lime will be placed in these on the next visits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Trial a spring operation in the Makawhio and Troyte Valleys where numbers appear to be still too high
- Repeat the operations again in March 2025.
- Spend one day longer if weather permits: 4-5 days per operation may be more effective.
- Consider taking a hunter with a well-trained indicating dog to focus on the bush area of the sites, if such a hunter/dog combo is available.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Community agreement (Doc – 6920217).
- Health and Safety agreement (Doc – HS0001).
- Standard operating procedure (Doc – SOP00001).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NZTF would like to acknowledge the Department of Conservation for its approval to undertake these trials, specifically Tom Brookman and Wayne Costello for their support of the community agreement and management plans. Also for providing the non-toxic ammunition and assistance this year with some of the helicopter costs.

Thank you to the hunters who gave up their time to participate in this trial and provided their experience and skills to target identifiable females. (Nigel Jordan; Dave Keen; Hamish Norton; Shane Hall; Jason van Beers; Derek Johnson; Bruce Hanson; Luke Care)

Also a thank you to the "Hunters for Conservation Trust" who provided $2500 towards the cost of the management harvests.

A special thanks to Makawhio Iwi for their support of the NZTF work being undertaken in the Makawhio & Mahitahi catchments.

NOVEMBER UPDATE

Just prior to Annual Report deadlines a successful spring operation was undertaken in the Makawhio and Troyte Valleys, resulting in over 250 adult nannies controlled. More than 200kg of tahr was removed by the hunters for donation to local iwi. Mapping and detailed summaries will be available in the 2025 Annual Report.

Aerially Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH)

With the reopening of the borders post-covid the tahr resource is again under ever increasing pressure from AATH operations and concessionaires.

Alongside ongoing DOC control operations this accounts for a substantial number of tahr killed annually on public conservation land (PCL). Official DOC data shows that almost 40,000 tahr have been taken through these combined operations since 2020. Concerns have been growing that this level of culling is no longer required and there has been a rise in anecdotal reports of substantially reduced tahr numbers in some locations.

The NZTF is actively involved in providing input on DOC's control operations through its involvement in the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group (TPILG) but has little scope for influence over AATH activities which currently account for about 40% of all tahr culled through offsets.

Our objective has and always will be "managing tahr to provide sustainable hunting whilst conserving alpine vegetation".

In contrast to DOC operations the distribution and total volume of AATH activity is difficult to anticipate because it is driven by market forces, carried out by a number of private operators and occurs over a vast area of the South Island PCL.

For every trophy (i.e. bull tahr or buck chamois) shot the operator is required to subsequently shoot five nanny or juvenile tahr as an "offset", which may be taken in entirely different locations to the trophy.

Onsite observations presented to the NZTF have related to conflict with ground hunters, a perception that bull numbers are diminishing, and concern that AATH activity is increasingly concentrated on the surviving young bulls.

In response to the above issues the NZTF undertook an exercise

in June 2024 to try and better understand the impacts of AATH activity. This included reviewing the data available and speaking to representatives of the New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association (NZPGHA).

The NZPGHA advised at that time that they expected 2024 AATH returns to be down on 2023, with 2023 representing a "catch up" year post-covid. We have not yet sighted final AATH data for 2024 to confirm whether this the case.

Some data from the tahr ballots was available at the time indicating that overall tahr numbers were constant on previous years, with numbers in some areas holding up and others significantly reduced. Taken alongside anecdotal feedback from other areas there is a sense that substantial decreases have occurred in some local areas whilst numbers remain high in others.

While AATH remains a legally permitted activity the NZTF is investigating a more nuanced approach. The 2025 permit renewal allows for the investigation of a number of alternatives, such as changing the offsets to focus on 2 – 3 mature nannies per bull instead of 5 nannies or juveniles and introducing a financial contribution or hours equivalent if a cost analysis supports it – and altering the period of time the AATH concessions are issued for to allow more regular reviews of the impact of AATH activities and different approaches to be followed.

If offsets can be kept to adult females going forward, we can hopefully make better use of our juveniles, half of which will be males – the future bulls we all want to see coming through. We are also committed to stopping the culling of bulls in National Parks, which presents an even higher take from the bull resource.

The NZTF has also been advised that some AATH operators have shifted their operations to private/leasehold land to maintain trophy quality, which will reduce pressure on the public land bull population.

Currently this model offers those business's short-term security, however as all land tenures come under the 1993 HTCP, this practice does not guarantee long-term security should the 1993 plan be followed more closely in the coming years.

The current AATH permit will renew in 2025, and our proactive investigation has been undertaken to best inform our position and how to most realistically improve the system. The minister committed to a review of WARO and AATH in his pre-election manifesto, so there will be scrutiny in this space. We welcome the chance to modernise the systems and improve the transparency from DOC about regulation.

"For every trophy (i.e. bull tahr or buck chamois) shot the operator is required to subsequently shoot five nanny or juvenile tahr as an "offset", which may be taken in entirely different locations to the trophy."

The current systems analysis is very carefully not a review, but will develop recommendations for DOC on what can be done to resolve issues within current policy settings. If a formal review is later commissioned the findings of the systems analysis will feed into this.

The NZTF would like to have a greater level of input from the AATH sector to better understand their views and expectations on herd management and sustainability.

The NZTF will continue to closely monitor AATH activities within the broader context of tahr numbers and total tahr control, and to advocate for approaches that will better balance hunting viability, impacts or perceived impacts and environmental considerations, to hopefully find the best solutions for all parties going forward.

We also look forward to the results of the 2024 Systems Analysis of AATH performed by DOC in this year, with results unavailable at the time of writing.

Duke of Bedford Award winner Ben Searle with another amazing Tahr head scoring 97 5/8 on the Duke of Bedford scoring system.

Duke of Bedford Award 2024

The Duke of Bedford (DOB) award is about rewarding old bulls who are the product of a healthy and thriving environment. I can't stress this too much, if we want big healthy bull tahr, we need an environment plentiful in their preferred browse.

SCORING

Before 2024 DOB has been measured using an interpretation of SCI Method 11. We had been measuring horn length, circumference at base, first quarter (C1), middle (C2) and third quarter (C3). What hadn't been noted in the SCI Measurer's Manual is "First, divide the length of the longer horn (Measurement I) by four ... the shorter horn must be marked at the same distances from its base as the longer horn... Note: If the shorter horn is broken off very short, the third quarter mark may fall beyond its broken end, making Measurement C-3 impossible to obtain".

Independently, an anomaly that was identified was bulls with broken horns. Under DOB as it has been previously measured there is no penalty for uneven horns, but a bull entered with a horn broken half way down brought to light a unique issue.

Highest Douglas Score Bull Tahr winner Brian Witten with a beautiful Bull that scored 48 6/8 DS.

"There was much philosophical debate about 'what is a trophy' but it was agreed that all things being equal, a bull with two horns should score better than a bull with one horn."

When the quarter measurements were applied to that horn remnant, it created a perverse score. There was much philosophical debate about 'what is a trophy' but it was agreed that all things being equal, a bull with two horns should score better than a bull with one horn.

Options were floated, and it was adopted that measurements for setting the 'quarter' circumference measures would be derived from the longest horn, not each horn. This meant that a bull missing a quarter of a horn would lose one girth measurement, a bull with less than half a horn would lose two.

This also increased the speed scorers would work at, removing the need for calculating the quarters from one horn's length. Also, upon reading the SCI manual, it appeared this is how we should have been measuring them from the beginning!

This will mean there are slight anomalies in bulls score before 2024, and if anyone would like their bull re-measured, feel free to contact us for re-measuring and an update to the record.

There had been some discussion about the complexity of the scoring this year. NZDA scorers have kindly lent their time to score tahr heads with the DOB system at their annual conference and the Sika Show, but the additional measurements required for DOB on the shorter tahr horns (compared to a ram's horns) meant it was time consuming.

They proposed amending the system to Douglas Score plus age. This would make for very quick

Highest Douglas Score taken with a Bow – Interspecies Comparison Award went to Marc Clinch with a Bull Tahr that scored 264 14 DS on the interspecies chart.

scoring, but didn't reward the bulls we wanted to see winning awards. By only 'scoring' the shorter measurement it would penalise bulls with broken tips, as is common in old bulls regardless of their quality, and would place age as an outsize component.

For a small bull scoring 38, it could have 50% added to the score simply by virtue of being 19 years old. They don't need good feed to get old, and we are trying to reward bulls that are a product of a thriving environment, not simply old.

We agreed that the scoring was intensive, and that we would provide a scorer to assist. NZDA kindly suggested that they would focus on scoring tahr first, so that our scorer could use their length and base measurements, reducing their workload. During discussion at the Sika Show, and bringing in to consideration the trophies measured thus far, we agreed with NZDA that age should be a component of the score, but the DS plus age suggestion weighted it too far.

We compared the numbers and the DOB score (SCI Method 11) plus age was a much better solution. This was adopted on the spot with the majority NZTF committee present at the Sika Show, and can be retrospectively applied to the record books as this data was all recorded on the score sheet. See table opposite page.

Duke of Bedford Swarovski Spotting Scope random draw winner Hunter Thompson.

SUMMARY OF SCORES FOR 2023 AND 2024, ORDERED BY SCORE

Name	Measurements	Age	Score
Robert Prince	86 1/8	13	99 1/8
Bruce Murphy	84 1/4	14	98 1/4
Ben Searle	81 5/8	16	97 5/8
Luke Care	84 1/8	13	97 1/8
Tim Norris	80 7/8	13	93 7/8
Hunter Thompson	82 5/8	11	93 5/8
Andre Alipate	82 3/4	10	92 3/4
Sam Oliver	78 5/8	14	92 5/8
Natalie Candy	84 1/2	8	92 1/2
Shane Hall	84 1/8	8	92 1/8
Rory Ward	80	12	92
Clinton Keely	80 5/8	9	89 5/8
Darryl Busbridge	78 1/4	11	89 1/4
Sam Ashby	76 7/8	11	87 7/8
Beaudine Hay	74 7/8	12	86 7/8
Matt Watson	77 7/8	9	86 7/8
Darryl Mehrtens	71 7/8	14	85 7/8
Marc Clinch	68 7/8	9	77 7/8
Kyle Wilson	77 5/8	?	77 5/8

"During discussion at the Sika Show, and bringing in to consideration the trophies measured thus far, we agreed with NZDA that age should be a component of the score, but the DS plus age suggestion weighted it too far."

2024 AWARDS

This year we were again supported with superb prizes. Swarovski Optik donated an ATC 17-40x56 spotting scope valued at $3700 for our spot prize to be drawn from all entries. This was won by Hunter Thompson with a beautiful bull scoring 93 5/8.

The main prize was a full shoulder mount donated by award-winning taxidermist Big Game Artistry, this was won by a spectacular bull taken by Ben Searle scoring 97 5/8.

A huge thank you to our incredible supporters, their contribution directly benefits game animal management in New Zealand so please support them in turn where you can.

I would also like to express my thanks and admiration to all of the hunters who entered, there were six fantastic trophies on display at the Sika Show and there were a credit to the herd and the hunters.

Luke Care

New Zealand Tahr Foundation Online

The Tahr Foundation is endeavouring to enhance its presence in the digital arena on a number of fronts.

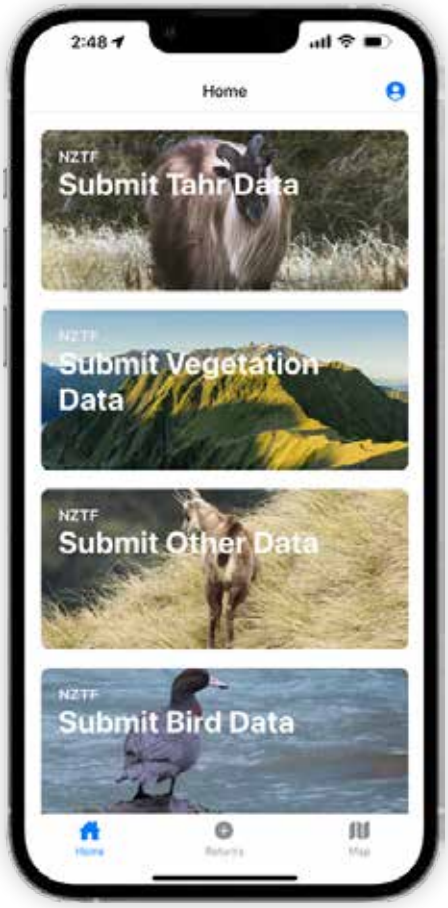
The first project is our new Ballot Module in partnership with the GAC's Better Hunting online platform. Our quick, informative and interactive module will run prospective ballot hunters through a 5-10 minute learning experience about what they can expect, some tips for success, and some discussion around our obligations for this treasured access to Wilderness Areas.

This has been drafted and is in the approvals system with our partners in the project – DOC and Kea Conservation Trust – as of November 2024. We hope to have it live in the new year.

Secondly, we've finally set up an Instagram page to help build our communication to tahr hunters. Please follow us and share the page around! This combined with a membership system in 2025 should mean we have better pathways for getting information in and out.

The tahr app remains a growth opportunity for us. It provides our only insight into tahr hunters activity outside of the tahr ballot, and is hugely valuable for keeping a finger on the pulse of recreational harvest, not to mention the varied and interesting comments users leave about certain parts of the tahr range.

We had some bugs with Android users this year, which fortunately have been rectified. Interestingly



"The tahr app remains a growth opportunity for us. It provides our only insight into tahr hunters activity outside of the tahr ballot, and is hugely valuable for keeping a finger on the pulse of recreational harvest, not to mention the varied and interesting comments users leave about certain parts of the tahr range."

there have been over 800 male tahr recorded already, along with 358 individual native bird interactions, from kea to kararikі. Some of these have entertaining notes such as 'Upto 20 Kea, flying in mobs of upto 10. Very inquisitive coming within 1m' and 'Annoying creatures'.

The app does need modernising though, and with some funding we can make it an even more functional platform for the smoothest experience for the hunter. Our developer is working on a proposal for the costs for upgrades, while at the same time investigating our prospective membership system. Implementing both are strong goals for 2025. Please continue to support the app, it provides invaluable information as to recreational hunter activities and use trends.

We've also finally created a database for tracking the Duke of Bedford award entries. With all 2024 and 23 entries in place we can start to have a look at some fun trends like average age and scores, not to mention a safe repository for the information. Check out the DOB segment in this report for more.

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2024

Zoom Meeting, 23 January 2024

1. ATTENDANCE:

Luke Care,
Sheene Ottmann,
Gerald Telford,
Snow Hewetson,
Garry Ottmann,
Dave Keen,
John Royle,
Andrew McLeod,
Bruce Hansen,
Marcus Pinney,
Kaylyn Pinney,
Geoff Kerr,
Shane Hall,
Kelvin Williams.

2. GUESTS:

Tom Brookman DoC,
Ben Reddiex DoC.

3. APOLOGIES:

Greg Duley.

Moved: Snow Hewetson;
Seconded: Dave Keen "that the apologies be received".

Carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF AGM 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AS PER PAGE 26 OF ANNUAL REPORT.

Moved: Snow Hewetson;
Seconded: John Royle "that the minutes be approved as a true and correct record".

Carried.

5. APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Moved: Sheene Ottmann;
Seconded: Snow Hewetson "that the financial report for the year ended 31 July 2023 as per page 30 of the Annual Report be approved".

Carried.

6. APPROVE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT:

Moved: Dave Keen;
Seconded: Gerald Telford "that the Annual report be adopted".

Carried.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION:

To Adopt the amended Constitution.

Moved: Gerald Telford;
Seconded: Dave Keen "that the amended constitution be adopted and submitted to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies".

Carried.

8. MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

That in accordance with the amended Constitution the members register record the following members who have consented to be a member.

Luke Care,
Greg Duley,
Sheene Ottmann,
Garry Ottmann,
Gerald Telford,
Shane Hall,
Marcus Pinney,
Snow Hewitson,
Andrew McLeod,
Dave Keen,
Geoff Kerr,
Kaylyn Pinney,
Bruce Hansen,
John Royle.

Moved: Luke Care;
Seconded: John Royle "that the Members Register be approved".

Carried.

9. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Applications for officers have been received from the following. No election was necessary and the Committee for 2025 will be:

Chairperson
Luke Care

Secretary
Gerald Telford

Treasurer
Sheene Ottmann

Committee
Bruce Hansen (Representative of Stakeholder Member NZDA),
John Royle (Representative of Stakeholder Member NZPHGA),
Shane Hall,
Snow Hewetson,
Marcus Pinney.

Moved: Luke Care;
Seconded: John Royle "That the nominations be received and the 2025 Committee confirmed".

Carried.

The Committee records the following additional appointments as Officers.
Greg Duley,
Kaylyn Pinney,
Andrew MacLeod,
David Keen.

10. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Moved: Snow Hewetson;
Seconded: John Royle "that the annual subscription for the year ended 31 July 2024 be $70 (incl GST).

Carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed 7.22pm.

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated Performance Report For the Year Ended 31st July 2024

The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
ENTITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2024

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 on 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.

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
ENTITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2024

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 volunteers with funding from donations, grants, subscriptions and other fundraising revenues.

Elected Committee at Annual General Meeting held 23 January 2024

Luke Care	Chair
Gerald Telford	Secretary
Sheene Ottmann	Treasurer

Committee Members

Greg Duley
Shane Hall
Bruce Hansen
Snow Hewetson
David Keen
Andrew Macleod
Kaylyn Pinney
Marcus Pinney
John Royle

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 2024

Description of Medium to Long Term Objectives

Please refer to the Annual Report accompanying this Performance Report.

Description of Key Activities

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 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		$	$
REVENUE			
Donations		270	2,544
General Grants		2,174	5,774
Government service delivery grants		2,000	-
Membership subscriptions		61	-
Interest Received		696	513
Revenue from commercial activities		5,374	464
Total Revenue		10,575	9,295
Less Expenses (note 8)			
Expenses related to Fundraising		3,851	2,990
Expenses related to commercial activities		3,746	-
Other expenses related to service delivery		7,844	7,838
Other expenses		183	74
Total Expenses		15,624	10,902
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX		(5,049)	(1,607)
Transfer Grant Income Surplus to future period		323	2,784
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		$(5,372)	$(4,391)

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

AGM Date: 7th December 2024 AGM Date: 7th December 2024

Signature: Signature:

Name: Luke Care Name: Gerald Telford

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 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		$	$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT START OF YEAR		**53,894**	58,285
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		**(5,372)**	(4,391)
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses		**(5,372)**	(4,391)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**$48,522**	$53,894
RESTRICTED RESERVES AT START OF YEAR		**42,671**	44,681
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		**(3,489)**	(2,010)
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses		**(3,489)**	(2,010)
RESTRICTED RESERVES AT END OF YEAR		**$39,182**	$42,671
GENERAL RESERVES AT START OF YEAR		**11,223**	13,604
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		**(1,883)**	(2,381)
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses		**(1,883)**	(2,381)
GENERAL RESERVES AT END OF YEAR		**$9,340**	$11,223

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
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The New Zealand Tahr Foundation Incorporated
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31ST JULY 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		$	$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank – Cheque Account		**9,398**	25,501
Bank – Savings account		**27,740**	27,541
Accounts receivable		**11,440**	6,640
Prepayments		**1,279**	435
GST refund due		**354**	-
Taxation refund due	6	**197**	144
Total Current Assets		**50,408**	60,261
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other Assets	5	**10,400**	10,400
TOTAL ASSETS		**60,808**	70,661
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable		**–**	4,528
GST payable		**–**	276
Deferred revenue	7	**12,286**	11,963
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**12,286**	16,767
NET ASSETS		**$48,522**	$53,894
Represented by;			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		**$48,522**	$53,894

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 CASH MOVEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		$	$
Cash From Operating Activities			
Donations and other		331	2,544
Sales from commercial activities		5,374	464
Interest		643	382
		6,348	3,390
Cash Applied to Operating Activities			
Payments relating to activities		20,997	5,889
Net GST paid		1,255	(644)
		22,252	5,245
Net Cash Movement		(15,904)	(1,855)
Opening Balances			
Bank Accounts		53,042	54,897
CLOSING CASH BALANCES		$37,138	$53,042

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 2024

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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. (2023: Nil)

2. AUDIT

The Performance Report has not been audited.

3. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At balance date there are no known contingent liabilities (2023:$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 2024

4. RELATED PARTIES

There were no transactions with related parties during the financial year. (2023: Nil)

5. OTHER ASSETS

	2024	2023
	$	$
Bronze Trophy Tahr Sculpture 350mm High with Rimu Base		
At cost	**10,400**	10,400
Total Other Assets	**$10,400**	$10,400

6. TAXATION

	2024	2023
	$	$
Tax Payable		
Interest Income	**696**	513
Less tax exemption	**1,000**	1,000
Taxable Income	**-**	-
The Taxation Charge is Represented by		
Current year tax	**-**	-
	-	-
Tax **Payable**		
RWT credits	**197**	144
Total Tax to be Refunded	**$197**	$144

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 2024

7. GRANTS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	$	$
Project:	**Tahr App**	**Ground Harvest**
Grant received	12,174	15,339
Less Costs incurred	2,995	12,232
Less Surplus Grant carried forward	9,179	3,107
Net Surplus (Deficit) on Research &Monitoring Projects	$ -	$ -

Deferred Grant Revenue	**Date Expected To Complete**	**Original Grant**	**2024**	2023
			$	$
Tahr App Development	July 2025	12,174	9,179	9,179
Ground Harvest Trials	July 2025	15,339	3,107	2,784
Total Deferred Grant revenue			$12,286	$11,963

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 2024

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

	2024	2023
	$	$
Expenses related to Fundraising		
Ground Harvest Trials	**3,851**	2,990
	3,851	2,990
Other expenses related to Service Delivery		
Duke of Beford Award expenses	**110**	1,245
Annual Report design and printing	**1,500**	2,594
Sika Show (booth, travel and accommodation)	**2,185**	2,321
Other Travel	**3,314**	636
Annual General Meeting expenses	**-**	307
Website and Domain Hosting	**735**	735
	7,838	7,844

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

INTRODUCING THE NEW TAHR APP

Important - Your personal information will be held in confidence and information you provide will only be used to support improved management of tahr by the Foundation

Harvest and observation information will only be shared in generalised formats, e.g. in reports to:

- keep hunters up to date on management and overall hunter contributions to management
- advocate for improved access or more appropriate management objectives
- support the revision of the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan (HTCP)
- achieve Herd Of Special Interest (HOSI) status for tahr
- assist hunter education
- assist stakeholder coordination

Links to reports which your submissions contribute to will be shared with you by email.
Photos may be used by the Foundation to describe problems or successes in reports or in the media.
Photos with identifiable people will not be shared without permission from the submitter.

Logged bulls harvested 8 years and older are eligible for entry into the **Duke of Bedford Award**, details coming soon.
Logged nannies harvested for meat (pic must display taking of meat from nanny) go into draw to win a **meat processing prize**.
All photos submitted are automatically included in an **annual prize draw**, details coming soon.

IPHONE

ANDROID

BACKGROUND

For too long recreational hunters' contribution to tahr management has been a glossed-over add on to the Departments Tahr Control Operational Plan (TCOP).

Providing observations of tahr, tahr harvest and the state of the vegetation gives the Foundation the information it needs to manage the tahr population to support hunting. We can work towards improving access, trophy potential and apply management to minimise official control and wastage. Observations of vegetation through time can show where we need to focus hunter management efforts and where hunter efforts are making a difference. We can tell a story of hunter management and success in the years to come.

The Himalayan Tahr Control Plan 1993 specifies populations far below what the Foundation considers a huntable population of tahr, but we need your help to prove it. If we know what hunters take now, we can run models to show what we need to support a huntable population, even down to a regional scale. We can't change the HTCP until we have a process that is better than what is currently in place.

If all hunters use this tool to report in the tahr range, we will collectively eclipse all other forms of monitoring. It's hard to argue against hunting if it is the biggest contributor to conservation in the area.It's hard to argue about having a huntable resource if you need hunters to support conservation initiatives and sustainable tahr management.

But we need a facility to make hunter harvest and hunter observations valuable and count, enter the Tahr App.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE TAHR FOUNDATION ON FACEBOOK

PINK EYE PROJECT

BROCHURE

WHAT IS THE PINK EYE DISEASE?

"Pink eye" is the popular name of Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis (hereafter IKC), a highly contagious eye disease of wild and domestic ruminants caused by Mycoplasma conjunctivae, an eye-targeted bacterium with a global distribution. "Pink eye" hits at the pink or reddish appearance of the inflamed eye due to the congested blood vessels.

While clinical signs are generally mild in livestock, severe outbreaks have been reported among wild Caprines in several European mountain spaces and more recently in Rocky Mountains and the Himalayas. "Pink eye" in wildlife is usually characterized by excessive tearing, ocular discharge and eye opacity leading to blindness, with relatively high mortality rates (up to 30%) due to blindness related consequences such as falls or drowning. Lacking a protective cell wall, Mycoplasma conjunctivae has short survival in the environment and its transmission needs direct contacts among infected animals and short-distance eye-to-eye transport by vectors, such as flies and midges. In sheep flock, the persistence of the pathogen is guaranteed by the numerous healthy carriers, whereas infection in wild Caprines is believed to follow cross-transmission from infected sheep. However, recent studies indicate that IKC may exist persist endemically also in wild hosts.

STAGGERING:
Presence of abnormal, uncoordinated movements. Walking is hesitant and appears to be 'not ordered'.

CIRCLING:
The animal travels in circular motions to navigate a space.

NOT ESCAPING:
Drastically reduced escaping distance, no significant reactions when the animal is approached.

In the European mountain-dwelling wildlife, IKC follows distinct seasonal patterns, with typical summer outbreaks characterized by high incidence (a great number of sick individuals in short time frames) and relatively low mortality rates, and winter outbreaks with lower incidence though higher mortality rates due to concurrent climate harshness.

Wildlife affected by IKC exert a strong emotional impact on hunters and mountain hikers, as sick animals show altered movement patterns and short to null flight distance. Ethical hunters prioritize quick and humane kills on the welfare ground. However, studies on numbers of tagged chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) and Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*) in the European Alps have shown that spontaneous recovery is far from infrequent outcome provided that one eye has not been permanently damaged, as in the case of deep corneal ulcerations.

PINK EYE BACKGROUND

The first record of IKC in wild Caprines dates back to more than one century ago, when a large epidemic hit chamois across the European Alps, in Austria. Ever since, outbreaks of variable severity and extension were reported in all alpine countries (Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France and Slovenia in time order), affecting chamois and the cohabiting though less abundant Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), usually involved secondarily to the former. From 2003 to 2011, the border between France and Italy was home of the largest epidemic ever (approximately 120 km as the crow flies between the two extremes, more than 30,000 km² of affected area and approximately three thousands of dead individuals).


photo: DE LUCO

Since the late Seventies of the past century, IKC outbreaks have been reported for the first time off the European Alps, in the Southern chamois (*Rupicapra pyrenaica*) and the Iberian ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*), two iconic species for trophy hunters in Spain and France. Compared with these game, a negligible number of IKC outbreaks is known in the exotic Mediterranean mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon*), limited to southern Europe. In North America, IKC has been infrequently reported in the Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). In Asia, the sole IKC epidemic ever signaled affected the Blue Sheep or Bharal (*Pseudois nayaur*) in India in 2017. In addition, anedoctal reports of IKC exist for the Asian ibex (*Capra sibirica*) in Pakistan and the Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) in Tajikistan.

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PINK EYE IN HIMALAYAN TAHR AND CHAMOIS

As known, chamois and Himalayan tahr are not native to New Zealand, where few individuals of both species were introduced in the early Nineties of the 20th century. They have since spread throughout the Southern Alps and garnered remarkable interest amongst recreational and professional hunters. To mitigate the impacts these herbivores cause to high-altitude vegetation, hunting regulations permit their year-round hunting.

IKC is not new to New Zealand wildlife but, as a matter of fact, the reporting the disease has been quite neglected in recent decades. IKC was first documented in chamois the 1930s in the Hooker Valley, not far from Mount Cook. Severe epidemics were reported in this game (and in feral goats) in the 1940s though not later on. The first ICK report in Himalayan tahr dates back to 1961 in Dunstan Mountains, Central Otago. No extensive IKC outbreak has been registered in introduced (nor in native) tahr to the best of our knowledge.

THE NZ PINK EYE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

MAIN OBJECTIVES

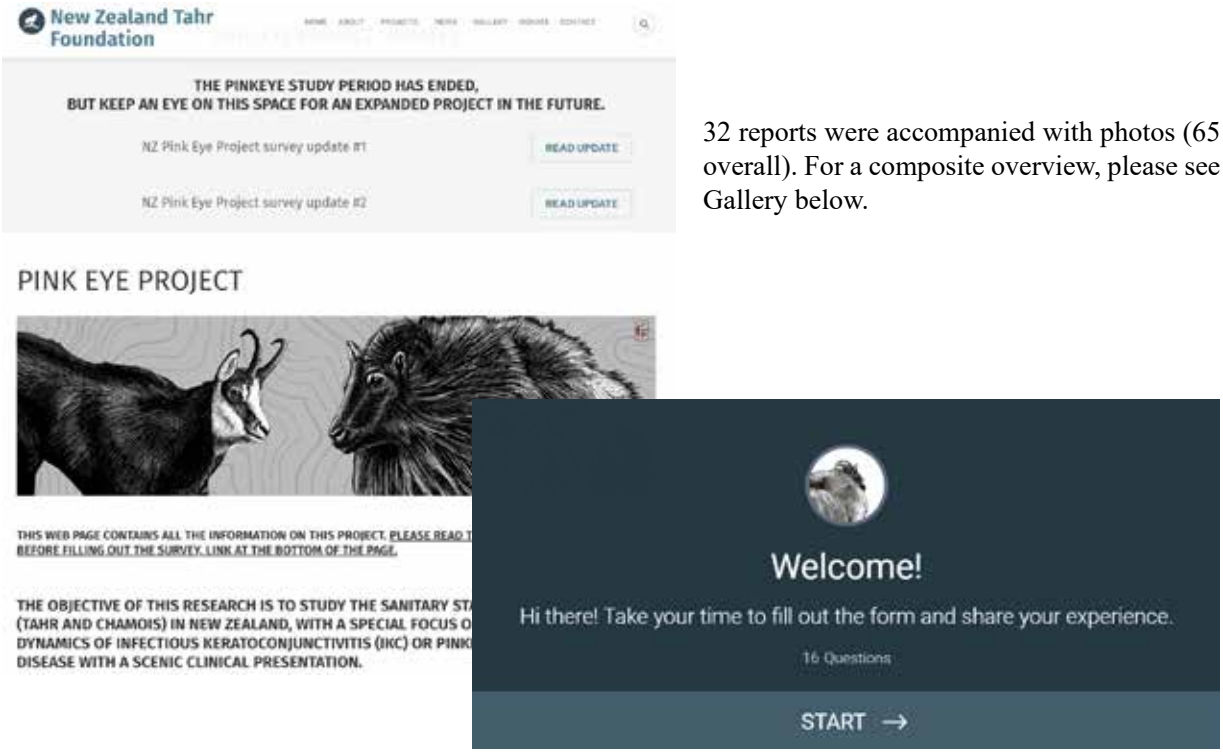
Although Himalayan tahr and chamois are abundant in the Southern Island (recent estimates putting tahr at approximately 30,000 to 40,000 heads) and have been game and culled for roughly 90 years now, they have rarely been surveyed for occurrence of diseases and parasites. As a matter of fact, the available information in dedicated papers and official reports has remained scarce and often dated to half a century ago and even more.

In recent times, several surveys worldwide showed how precious information by different groups of citizens may contribute filling knowledge gaps of conservation interest, including the occurrence of diseases that may have an impact on the abundance and dynamics of free-ranging wildlife.

The NZPE Project was launched as an on-line citizen science-based effort to update knowledge and raise awareness on the health of NZ tahr and chamois, with particular emphasis on the occurrence and documentation through images of Infectious kerato-conjunctivitis (IKC) or Pink Eye, a disease which challenges the sight and welfare of mountain-dwelling game across the globe. We are thankful to the New Zealand Tahr Foundation for endorsing the initiative, publicize the on-line questionnaire amongst hunters and facilitating contacts with the contributing ones.

THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

Collaborating hunters filled the questionnaire over 17 months, from January 2022 to May 2023. Fifty reports were submitted through the online reporting system, 37 dealing with tahr and 13 with chamois.



32 reports were accompanied with photos (65 overall). For a composite overview, please see Gallery below.

MAIN RESULTS

Since multiple cases of Pink Eye were mentioned in part of the reports, the number of Pink Eye cases total 79 tahr and 26 chamois (Figure 3).

Their distribution, illustrated in Figure 1 and 2, is evidence that Pink Eye is a relatively common condition occurring over a large part of tahr and chamois respective distribution areas.

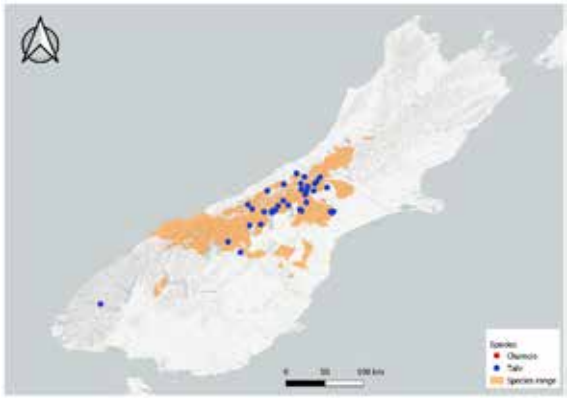


Figure 1. Distribution of Pink eye observations in tahr

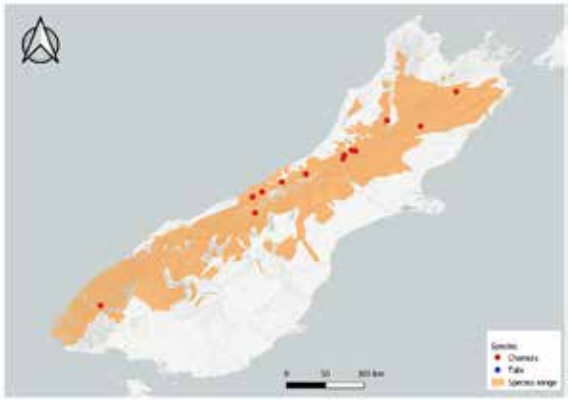


Figure 2. Distribution of Pink eye observations in chamois

Reported cases are more numerous in tahr, but this may simply mirror the different interest and hunting pressure on this game compared with chamois, thus representing a (somehow expected) bias. Similarly, a majority of records (38 of 50) dealt with hunted individuals rather that sightings from distance, thus likely favoring records referred to the most sought after targets (Figure 4). In line with this, Pink Eye was reported more frequently in males (70 and 54 % of the caseload in tahr and chamois, respectively) and in adult individuals compared with younger ones (67 % in tahr and 69 % in chamois). It is well known that on occasion of outbreaks in Europe, Pink Eye is more prevalent in female chamois and in male Alpine ibex, due to different sex-related attitudes to live in large groups.

Figure 3. Total tahr/chamois reported cases.

Moreover, kids and subadults of both species look more resilient than adults and tend to develop milder symptoms with favorable outcomes. However, nothing is known for comparison about Pink Eye in tahr in the native Himalayas.

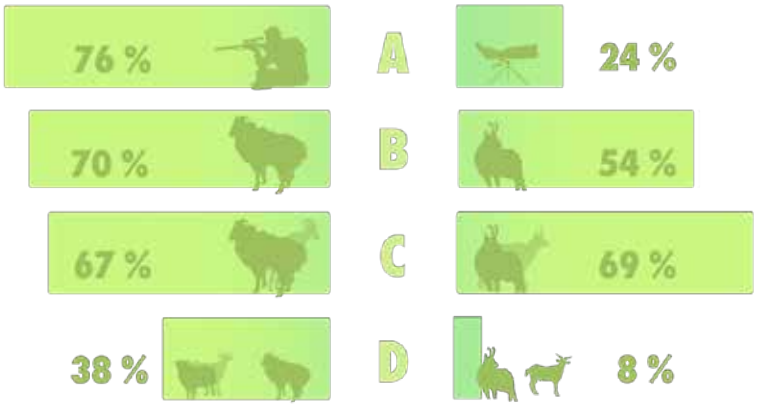


Figure 4. Distribution of reported cases by: A - hunting vs. observation; B - tahr vs. chamois; C - male vs. female in tahr and chamois; D - presence of domestic animals where tahr (sheep,feral goat) and chamois (feral goat) have been reported.

Cases of Pink Eye were reported more frequently in fall and winter (70 % of the caseload), unlike Europe. This is another interesting point to explore in future, whether a bias or the consequence of different social and spatial patterns. Further interestingly, while the majority of records dealt with a single harvested individual, a fifth of them mentioned that other sick individuals were spotted from distance during the same hunting trip, up to 21 tahr and 12 chamois. This suggests that small and focal Pink Eye epidemics occur in addition to sporadic cases, possibly favoring the maintenance of a welcome herd immunity. Unlike Europe, vast and deadly epidemic waves have not been recorded since decades in the New Zealand Alps. As for the putative origin of outbreaks, no contact with livestock was deemed likely in 64 % of the 50 questionnaires whereas possible contacts with sheep or cattle were mentioned in 30 %. The same may apply to tahr although 28 % of reports mentioned habitat sharing with sheep flocks (more rarely with cattle and feral goats). The origin of Pink Eye and other transmissible diseases at the so-called wildlife/livestock interface is an intriguing issue worldwide. In Europe, recent research has shown that native Caprinae herds, besides being infected by cohabiting sheep, may become independent reservoirs of Mycoplasma conjunctivae, the recognized responsible of Pink Eye in this continent.

As for clinical signs and lesions (Figure 5), all items listed in the survey form were recorded by contributing hunters, similar to observations in wild Caprinae in Europe. Short to null flight distance was dominant sign in both species, followed by a staggering gait and circling (the last one in more the one fifth of sick individuals).

Similar to Europe, lesions on both eyes largely prevailed and signs compatible with a spontaneous recovery of affected individuals (eye discharge, blue eye and white eye) were the most represented. However, tahr seemed to be more resilient in front of Pink Eye, as severe eye lesions (namely ulcerated eyes) were relatively rare compared with chamois. This last observation raises the question of the "health competition" between tahr and chamois, eventually to the detriment of the latter. Another intriguing issue worth investigating in future.

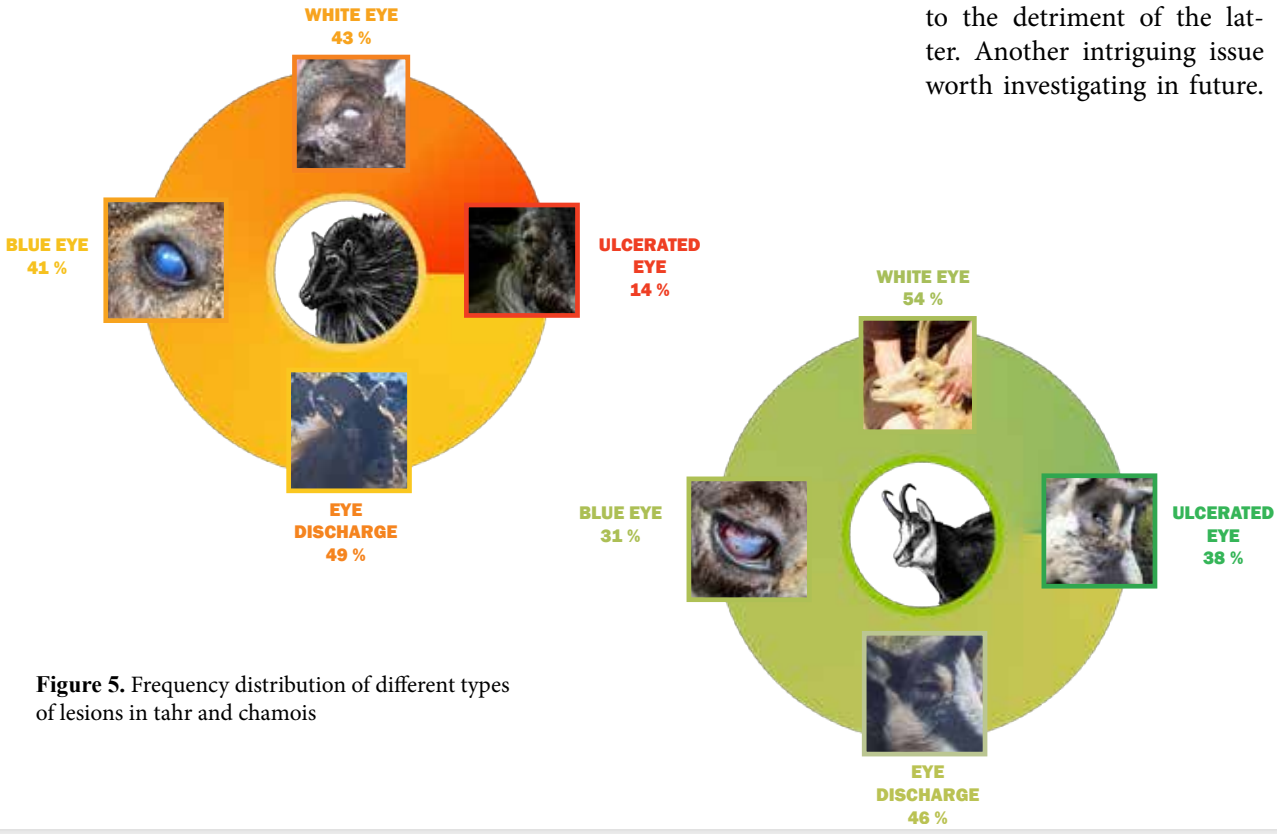


Figure 5. Frequency distribution of different types of lesions in tahr and chamois

Finally, other pathologies and anomalies were spontaneously signaled by collaborating hunters, demonstrating awareness, curiosity and observation skills. They include:

° two cases of contagious ecthyma (also known as “orf” or “scabby mouth”) in 2 kids tahr from Mackenzie Country. Extensive bloody crusts are visible on the lips and the extremities of limbs. This disease, which is typically more severe in young individuals of all domestic and wild Caprines, may result in poor mobility and starvation due to acute pain in grazing. The “orf” virus is able to survive for months in the dry crusts shed on pastures and, through them, be cross-transmitted between co-habiting livestock and wildlife. Vaccines are available to control infection in livestock. “Orf” cases have been reported previously in tahr and chamois in NZ between the 1940s and the early 1960s thugh never documented with images;

° five cases of “foot rot” in adults tahr from Whataroa/Perth/Ahuriri catchments. This is a contagious bacterial disease typically affecting the domestic ruminants (mainly sheep and goats) worldwide. It causes pain, lameness, hoof rotting and overgrowth, finally resulting in hoof detachment and poor condition. Although not frequently, wild Caprines may be cross-infected by cohabiting livestock. Self-limiting outbreaks involving ibex and the alien Mediterranean mouflon with possible fatal consequences have been recorded in the European Alps, often associated to unusual warm and humid weather conditions. Like “orf”, vaccines are available to control “foot rot” in livestock. These are the first “foot rot” cases documented in free-ranging wildlife in NZ;

° 30 cases of a horn anomaly popularly called “horn rot” in chamois from Whataroa and Karangaroa catchments; the etiology of this disease remains elusive, highlightining the complexities of its pathogenesis and the imperative for continued investigations.

° a suspect case of dermatophilosis, a bacterial skin infection, in an adult female tahr from Canterbury Region. This is a relatively benign disease of a broad range of mammals worldwide, often limited to focal hair loss, crusts and mild pruritus. Chronic exposure to moisture and underlying infestations by external parasites (eg, ticks and lice) are recognized risk factors. Of note, signs of dermatophilosis may resemble from distance those of scabies or mange, the most deadly of diseases affecting wild Caprines in Europe and Asia. It is recommended that a special attention is dedicated, in future, to collect records of skin diseases in tahr and chamois in New Zealand to confirm the scabies-free status in these game or allow an early detection and control of possible outbreaks, usually deriving from contacts with infected goats.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The responses to questionnaires and the high quality images collected in the frame of this project are evidence of the genuine interest of kiwi hunters for health issues in big game and their availability to support researchers in filling the (still many) knowledge gaps on transmissible diseases affecting tahr and chamois in New Zealand. A high priority focus for future development will be investigating in depth the microorganism responsible of IKC in tahr, chamois and the cohabiting sheep when applicable. Robust diagnostic tools and protocols are available to characterize the range of candidates (though most probably *Mycoplasma conjunctivae* as shown in Europe) at the species and strain level, thus permitting to track transmission pathways. This would allow to clarify pending issues of conservation interest, such as the origin of IKC outbreaks in tahr and chamois, whether from sheep, from wild sources or a combination of both, and the mechanisms that lead to the establishment and maintenance of herd immunity, a precious natural barrier to limit the spreading of virulent strains of the pathogen and their negative effects on exposed tahr and chamois. An intriguing key question to answer will be whether favoring or not the cohabitation between sheep and game, and whether game showing signs of IKC should be fired on a welfare ground or given the possibility to recover and eventually promote herd immunity. Live captures and individual tagging of blind game and their monitoring would be a first step that we warmly recommend to take.

Not surprisingly, other diseases and anomalies of tahr and chamois have emerged in this project in addition to IKC, and little doubt exists that new ones would emerge should the interest and passion of kiwi hunters be kept alive through future citizen-science projects. An immediate good reason to put in value the mess of records and images taken on occasion of hunting trips is that several diseases and parasites of tahr and chamois are common to sheep and goats and, like IKC, may be cross-transmitted in case of cohabitation. Therefore, enhanced control of these diseases in livestock (eg. by vaccination or targeted treatments) would positively mirror on game health and availability.

Finally, the trophy anomaly which has been popularly named “horn rot” deserves a special attention since nothing is known about its true nature (eg. whether genetic in origin or feed related or the consequence of diseases suffered in the early age) and the risk factors that may increase its frequency. Tight collaboration with veterinary researchers and other wildlife specialists is needed to fill existing knowledge gaps on this and the other mentioned issues.


THE SURVEY GALLERY

THE RESEARCH TEAM

FRANCESCO FORMISANO

Francesco is a veterinarian surgeon specializing in large animals. He co-owns a clinic in rural France focusing on agricultural livestock. Originally from Italy, Francesco completed his Masters degree in Veterinary Sciences at the University of Torino. His thesis entitled, "Contribution on the causes of mortality in wild ungulates in North-Western Italy" involved conducting 600 autopsies on wild ungulates from the Italian alps to determine their most frequent and fatal pathologies. Today, Francesco's professional interests and personal passion in sustainable hunting and conservation collide, culminating in a move to New Zealand to hunt and study the Himalayan Tahr under the "Altitude and Trails" banner - a collaborative and educational hunting lifestyle project he started in 2017. Recognizing the potential contribution of fellow hunters as citizen science, Francesco co-founded the Pink Eye Project with Luca Rossi and Paolo Tizzani to explore and discover improved management of mountain ungulates.

LUCA ROSSI

Luca is Full Professor at the Department of Veterinary Sciences, University of Torino since more than 20 years. He is Lecturer in veterinary parasitology, ecopathology and wildlife management with special expertise on mountain Ungulates. His research is focused on transmissible diseases and parasites of wild Caprinae, from the field to molecular epidemiology. Sarcoptic mange in free ranging Rupicapra spp. and Capra spp. is his favourite model. During his long academic life, he's been consultant of OIE, Anses and other conservation agencies on matters related to transmissible diseases of mountain wildlife. He's been co-chairman and currently the Secretary of the GEESFM (Groupe d'Etudes sur l'Ecopathologie de la Faune Sauvage de Montagne), a dynamic association engaged in promoting interdisciplinary research and visions on mountain wildlife health and conservation. He is also member of the IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group.

PAOLO TIZZANI

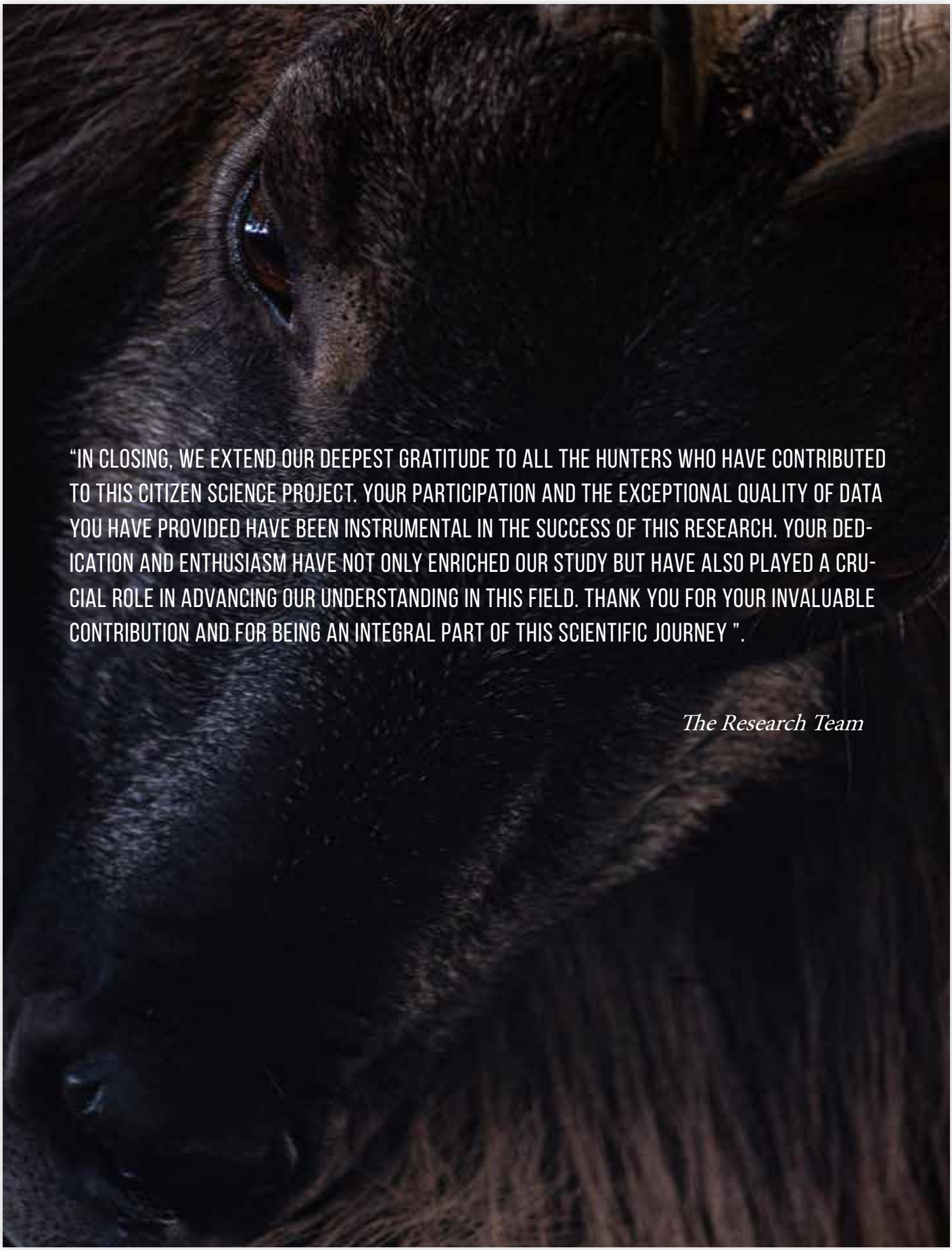
Paolo is adjunct professor at the University of Turin, Department of Veterinary Sciences. Paolo research activity particularly focuses on the dynamics of diseases in wild ungulate. Paolo has carried out studies at both national (Italy) and international (Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas) level, on the interaction among pathogens, wildlife and the environment. Among its more recent research work it is worthy to highlight the "Epidemiological approach to nematode polyparasitism occurring in a sympatric wild ruminant multi-host scenario" recently published on the Journal of helminthology.

KAYLYN PINNEY

Kaylyn is the Past Chair of the New Zealand Tahr Foundation. She is currently Policy Advisor for the New Zealand Game Council and have been awarded a PhD in wildlife Management from Lincoln University. Her research interests include wild ungulate biology and management, and the role of citizens in sustainable management of ecosystems. She originally completed her undergraduate degree in microbiology and genetics and her Master's degree in veterinary virology and epidemiology at Massey University, Palmerston North, before moving to the South Island to focus on her true passion, New Zealand's game animals. Her goal is to see New Zealand's game animals managed sustainably as a valued resource and become universally appreciated as an important part of New Zealand's biodiversity, culture, and heritage.

BARBARA MORONI

Barbara is a Postdoc researcher at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale in Turin, Italy. Barbara's research interests include wildlife management and diseases, with a focus on epidemiology and control of parasitic diseases. She's currently pursuing the residency of the European College of Veterinary Parasitology.



"IN CLOSING, WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL THE HUNTERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT. YOUR PARTICIPATION AND THE EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF DATA YOU HAVE PROVIDED HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SUCCESS OF THIS RESEARCH. YOUR DEDICATION AND ENTHUSIASM HAVE NOT ONLY ENRICHED OUR STUDY BUT HAVE ALSO PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN ADVANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING IN THIS FIELD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND FOR BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS SCIENTIFIC JOURNEY ".

The Research Team

New Zealand
TAHR
FOUNDATION

MANAGING TAHR TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE HUNTING WHILST CONSERVING ALPINE VEGETATION.

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