



Healthy Parks
Healthy People®

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4 May 2020

Alpine National Park Deer Control

Parks Victoria is implementing deer control in the Alpine National Park to reduce deer impacts on significant environmental values. This letter provides information on the remaining operations for 2019/2020.

The program has been altered to ensure it meets requirements under the changed conditions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and ensure physical distancing and hygiene standards are maintained at all times.

Lightning strikes on 28 February 2019 started bushfires in the Alpine National Park burning around 114,000ha, which included areas of endangered alpine peatlands. Many of these peatlands have now burnt three times in the past 21 years. Peatlands can recover from fire but during the recovery period physical disturbance to soils/peat and regenerating vegetation as well as disturbance to hydrology need to be limited as they can seriously impede recovery. Deer pose a threat to the recovery of the alpine peatlands in the recently burnt areas by means of trampling, wallowing and grazing.

To reduce deer impact to these sensitive environments Parks Victoria has engaged two contractors to conduct ground based deer control. The contractors have expertise in deer control and will observe State and National Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that best practices in animal welfare are observed.

Recreational deer hunting is a legitimate activity permitted in the park where the deer control operations are being conducted. This work conducted by the contractors is aimed at protecting alpine peatlands in areas recently burnt as well as immediately adjacent the them. In these areas Parks Victoria's contractors will complement the recreational harvest.

The park will not be closed when this work is being undertaken. Signs will be placed at major access points advising the broader public and park visitors when deer control is being undertaken. All personnel involved will be working under the supervision of Parks Victoria staff. They will be readily identifiable and will act in accordance with all legal requirements to ensure the safe use of firearms.

Control Operation Logistics

Where Please refer to the attached maps.

Timing Contractor operations are scheduled from (i) Thursday 14 May to Wednesday 20 May and (ii) Monday 25 May to Saturday 30 May (dates may be subject to change due to weather).

Work is carried out from late afternoon/early evening until after midnight, using thermal imaging equipment, and most of the work will be undertaken on foot.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, on 0428 9977 01 or Michael.dower@parks.vic.gov.au, if you have any questions or would like more information on this project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Dower', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dower
Area Chief Ranger
Foothills and Southern Alps