



# Safari Club International

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## An Open Letter to the Minister of Conservation- Eugenie Sage

Safari Club New Zealand urges you to stop the Tahr Cull and liaise with New Zealand's hunters in good faith. The Tahr Management Plan was negotiated as a joint initiative between hunting organisations and the Department of Conservation 18 years ago and needs to be updated to reflect the current day environment; your high handed actions in bypassing that established procedure can only drive a wedge between hunters and the Department of Conservation.

New Zealand's game animals are a valuable resource that have been here for over 100 years. Tahr are amongst the most desired of them by both New Zealand hunters as well as many from overseas bringing in millions of tourist dollars annually. They are a resource that's needs managing, not exterminating. We will work towards a balanced management regime that will see tahr numbers that are compatible with their environment.

The Department of Conservation itself has always maintained open communication with hunting groups and for the most part has treated them even-handedly.

Your sudden and non-collaborative decision to cull such large numbers, combined with the impossible terms and conditions set for hunters to help with the cull, will set back hunter-DOC relations to a level never seen before.

Stop the cull Minister and open discussions based on a more balanced approach towards tahr management. Hunters are New Zealanders with rights to hunt and fish in our own country, and are conservationists at heart as well.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Knowles  
SCI New Zealand President

Cc:

Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Ron Mark  
Hon Simon Bridges  
Hon Sarah Dowie  
Hon Nikki Kaye  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Paula Bennett  
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