



Kaingaroo Recreational Permit Update & Introduction of Registration Fee

May 2011

Timberlands Limited (Timberlands) acts on behalf of the owners of Kaingaroo Timberlands forest estate. The primary concerns of the owners are protecting the value of their investment and the safety of all people working within, and visiting, Kaingaroo. In 2009 Timberlands revised the recreational access procedure for Kaingaroo, which strives to balance these concerns (and associated issues relating to fire, illegal activity and other legal obligations) with facilitating an appropriate level of recreation.

The revised procedure allows the public to use vehicles to access the forest for hunting and fishing, during daylight hours on weekends, when the fire danger is low. The work necessary to ensure that access occurs safely, and for legal reasons, requires time and effort. To recover some of these associated costs, a registration fee of \$50 per person will now apply. The fee is applicable to the driver of any vehicle, and to anyone hunting, but not to passengers in a vehicle accessing fishing rivers. Registration lasts from 1 April to 31 March each year with no limit (nor any additional cost) on the number of permits that can be issued to a "registered" person.

The process, for which Timberlands has decided to impose the registration fee, contributes towards the following, for each applicant:

- Checking drivers license, firearms license, previous history - trespass, etc
- Passing on behavioral information such as road rules, closed areas (i.e.: no hunting adjacent to Kaingaroo Village) and hazards.
- Field checks of permits, vehicles and behavior.
- Forest signage, gate management, non-compliance follow up.

The Landowners have agreed to the access policy, but do not receive any of the registration fee. The fee is used entirely to offset the costs of managing access as described above. Beneficial landowners are not required to pay a registration fee.

The access policy is consistent with safety and road use obligations within the following:

- The Crown Forest Licenses, which contain post Treaty settlement provisions.
- The CNI Forests Iwi Collective Deed of Settlement, which contains further provisions linked to the Crown Forest Licenses.
- The Kaingaroo Road Network Deed, which provides for forest produce to be transported between and over Crown Forest Licenses, but limits other traffic.
- The Occupational Health and Safety in Employment Act, as the forest is a work site.