

# Alerts Update 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Arthur's Pass National Park

### Craigieburn Forest Park & Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park

**For your safety:** Every effort has been made to ensure that this information is correct. However, you should contact the local DOC visitor centre for the latest updates.

Changes to weather will affect conditions in the backcountry. Always check the latest weather report ([metservice.co.nz](http://metservice.co.nz)) and be prepared to change your plans if conditions are unfavourable. Rivers and streams in this region rise rapidly during periods of heavy rain - crossing unbridged rivers and streams in these conditions is extremely hazardous. Be prepared to wait.

**Your safety is your responsibility, follow the Outdoor Safety Code:**

1. Plan your trip
2. Tell someone
3. Be aware of the weather
4. Know your limits
5. Take sufficient supplies

Before you go into the outdoors, tell someone your plans and leave a date to raise the alarm if you haven't returned. To do this, use the New Zealand Outdoors Intentions process on the AdventureSmart website: [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz). It is endorsed by New Zealand's search and rescue agencies.

**ARTHUR'S PASS VISITOR CENTRE:** The Visitor Centre is open 8.30am - 4.30pm daily. There will be a limit of 10 persons in the centre at a time. Contact tracing principles apply.

#### COVID-19 LEVEL 2 CONDITIONS

10 persons MAX at larger huts! (carry a tent)

2m Social distancing required.

Carry your own cleaning supplies to huts/campsites.

You CANNOT self-isolate at huts or campgrounds.

Visit.. [www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/covid-19/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/covid-19/) for more information.

#### DAY WALKS & CAMPSITES:

##### TRAMPING PEAK ROUTES (Avalanche Peak, Mt Aicken, Mt Cassidy, Mt Bealey)

- Snow-free. Most snow has now gone, though fresh snowfalls are likely outside tree-line as we enter Autumn / Winter.

##### NO OPEN FIRES AT CAMP-SITES

- Do not light or create open fires at campsites. Only gas and liquid fuel stoves are permitted.

##### CRAIGIEBURN MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

- Visit [www.craigieburntrails.org.nz](http://www.craigieburntrails.org.nz) for status updates.

#### MAJOR TRACKS AND ROUTES

##### AVOCA HOMESTEAD ROAD ACCESS

- There is an active landslide blocking the road 1.75km after Avoca Station on the Craigieburn Road. **KIWIRAIL HAS CLOSED THE ROAD!** Park at the designated area before the gate and walk! **Note: Vandals have recently destroyed this gate, please don't go past!**

##### WAIMAKARIRI VALLEY

- Access to the flood route above the Anti-Crow Stream has been destroyed; care is required if the braids of the Waimakariri River need to be crossed.
- A 70m section of track to the Clough Cableway has been destroyed on the true-right of the White River; care is required negotiating the route beside the river and the large boulder field.

#### MAJOR TRACKS AND ROUTES (Continued)

##### HUT RADIO FAILURE (Edwards/Goat Pass Huts)

- Edwards & Goat Pass Hut radios are intermittent, they should not be relied upon in an emergency!

##### CASEY - BINSER SADDLE / MINCHIN PASS ROUTES

- Casey Hut has burnt down. Track users should carry a tent. The 6-bunk Trust/Poulter Hut is a further 1hr 30 mins up the Poulter valley. New 10 bunk hut coming 2020.

##### EDWARDS - OTEHAKE ROUTE

- Route has recently been remarked & cut. Still quite slow-going in places.

##### HARMAN PASS ROUTE

- Slow going Mid Taipo Hut to Dillon Hut; 3-4hrs. Extreme floods have destroyed large sections of track between Mid Taipo hut & Dillons hut, you must now travel beside the river. Hura Creek is deeply scoured out, and there are several active landslides near the new 3 wire bridge in the lower Taipo River.
- The Taipoiti River canyon has considerable loose rock.

##### THREE PASSES ROUTE

- The Styx Valley Track: Due to an impassable and very unstable landslide there is no access to the Styx Valley. Use Arahura Valley with care!
- Snow/ice!. Ice axe and crampons should be carried to cross possibly icy sections on the eastern side of Whitehorn Pass.

##### TE ARAROA ROUTE

- The Taramakau River below Kiwi Hut has washed away most of the track - expect river crossings.
- The "Otira River Flood Route" to/from the Morrison foot-bridge may be difficult to follow when the river is high. Expect slow-going.
- An active rock-slide 1.5km south of Lagoon Shelter (Harper River) requires care to traverse.



Department of  
Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Arthur's Pass National Park Visitor Centre • Hours: 8.30am - 4.30pm daily

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New Zealand Government