

Crown Pastoral Land Review of Other Crown Land

Lease name :

MT IDA SYNDICATE

Conservation Resources Report Part 2

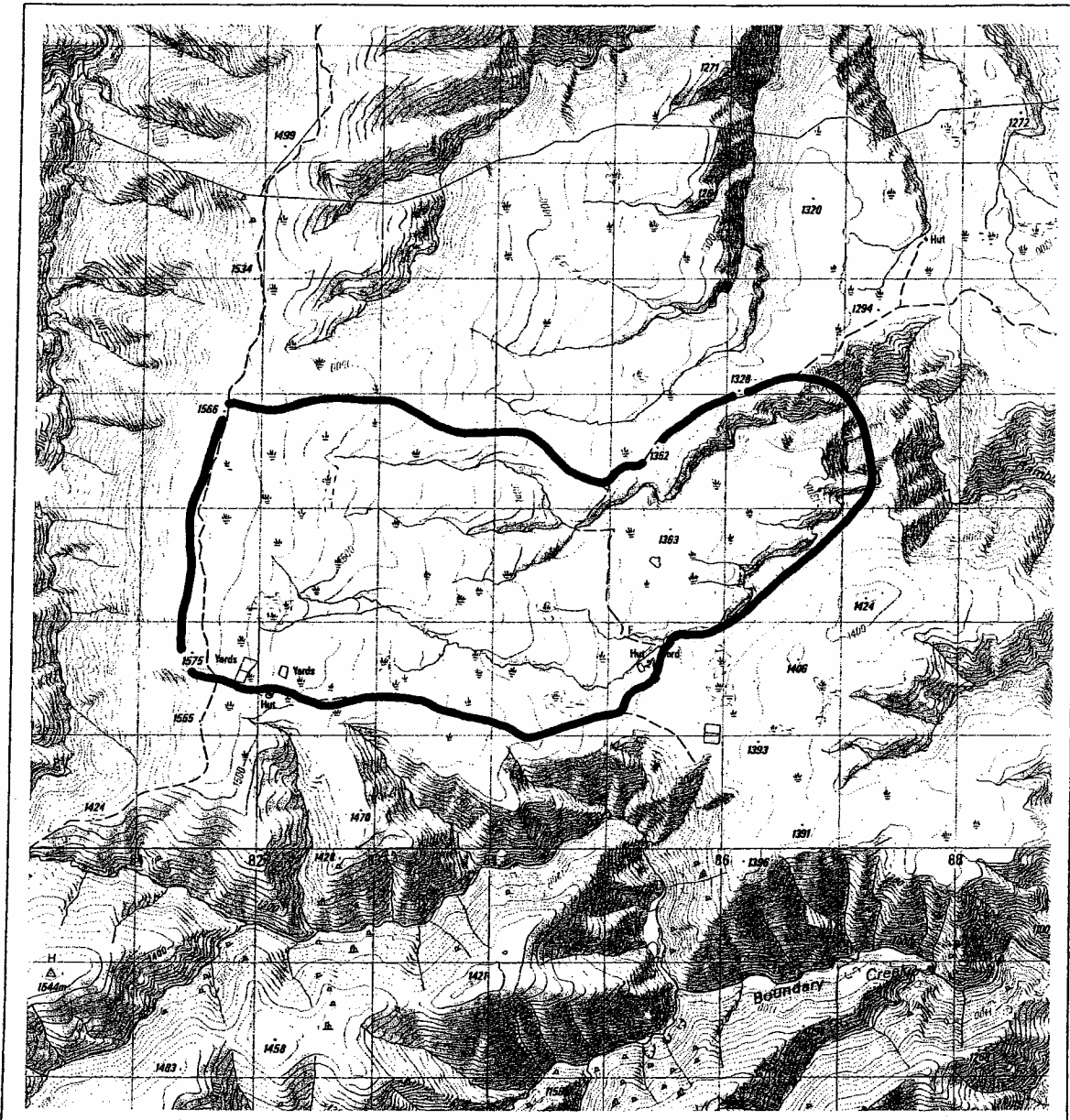
As part of the process of tenure review, advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease is provided by Department of Conservation officials in the form of a conservation resources report. This report is the result of outdoor survey and inspection. It is a key piece of information for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

They are released under the Official information Act 1982.

June 04

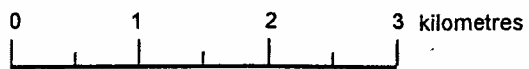
RAP 10 : PLATEAU

MAP No 3/10.



GRID REFERENCE CENTRE : H40 / 840 926
AREA : 1250 hectares
ALTITUDE RANGE : 1100 - 1575 metres
TENURE : Pastoral Occupation Licence
SAMPLE SITES : 1-6, 8-10, 13

Map Licence No 1991/42



HAWK 10

PLATEAU RAP

H40 840 926

Area : 1250 ha.
 Altitude Range : 1100m - 1575m.
 General Aspect : East.
 Land Systems : Greywacke Plateau (Patterned ground, Podzols, Brown Soils);
 Steeplands (Brown Soils).
 Plot Cards : sites 1-6, 8-10, 13.
 Quadrat Groups : Group 8 (s4,6,9,10);
 Group 10 (s3);
 Group 11 (s1,2,8,5);
 Group 14 (s13).
 Tenure : Pastoral occupation license.

Vegetation Type

High-alpine cushion-fellfield
 Low-alpine *Chionochloa macra* tussockland.
 Low-alpine *Oreobolus pectinatus* tussock-bog.
 Low-alpine bog-tussockland.
 Subalpine *C. rigida* tussockland.

Landform

Rounded spur crest.
 Flat or gently sloping planar spur top.
 Flat or gently sloping planar spur top.
 Flat or gently sloping planar spur top.
 Moderate to steep spur side slopes.

VEGETATION AND FLORA

The Plateau RAP has a vegetation sequence from high-alpine cushion-fellfield to subalpine tussockland. The rounded spur crest and its windward side are largely bare of vegetation. It holds a fellfield community with only 5% vascular plant cover; scattered *Chionochloa macra* tussocks and cushion plants such as *Kelleria villosa*, *Dracophyllum muscoides* and *Colobanthus buechananii* growing in isolated patches. Most of the rocks and scree of the fellfield are covered with the lichen *Umbilicaria cylindrica*.

On the leeward side of the crest, from 1550m down to 1300m, low-alpine *C. macra* tussockland extends in a veritable ocean to the horizons across the broad expanse of the plateau. Most of the area is covered by moist tussockland and bog-tussockland; with small patches of drier tussockland on low stony ridges; and wetter bogs and flushes dominated by *Oreobolus pectinatus*. These plant communities share many of the same species, it is the relative abundance of the species which change with the moisture gradient. The community boundaries are therefore usually gradual rather than distinct.

In addition to *Chionochloa macra*, the low-alpine tussocklands hold *Schoenus pauciflorus* (at the moister sites), abundant *Festuca matthewsii* and *Poa colensoi*; the low shrubs *Dracophyllum pronum*, *D. muscoides* and *Gaultheria depressa*; grasses such as *Rytidosperma pumilum*, *Agrostis subulata*, *A. muscosa*, *Deyeuxia aucklandica*; the herbs *Raoulia grandiflora*, *R. subsericea*, *Brachyscome sinclairii*, *Ranunculus gracilipes*, *R. foliosus*, *Epilobium alsinoides*, *E. atriplicifolium*, *E. porphyrium*, *Helichrysum bellidioides*, *Pratia angulata*, *Oreobolus impar*, *O. pectinatus*, *Celmisia gracilentia* and *Aciphylla gracilis*.

Bog-tussockland communities also have *C. macra* as the physiognomic dominant, but with an increasing abundance of moisture-loving species in the understory. *C. macra x rubra* hybrid tussocks are occasionally found at these sites, but no pure red tussock is present in the RAP. *Schoenus pauciflorus* is plentiful; abundant in the ground layer is *Oreobolus pectinatus* and the moss *Polytrichum juniperinum*. Also numerous are populations of *Kelleria paludosa*, *Ranunculus gracilipes*, *Plantago novae-zelandiae*, *Ourisia caespitosa*, *O. glandulosa*, *Gnaphalium mackayi*, *Celmisia alpina*, *Isolepis aucklandica*, *Epilobium tasmanicum*, *Euphrasia zelandica*, *Uncinia fuscovaginata*; prostrate shrubs of *Coprosma perpusilla* and

Pernettya nana; and the moss *Sphagnum cristatum*.

The tussock-bogs are dominated by *Oreobolus pectinatus* with *Caltha obtusa*, *Coprosma petriei*, *Rytidosperma australis*, *Rostkovia magellanica*, *Carex lachenalii*, *Hydrocotyle heteromeria*, *Epilobium brunescens* and *Isolepis aucklandica*. Puddles of water in a bog just below the crest hold colonies of the nitrogen-fixing *Nostoc* algae. Tussock and *Schoenus pauciflorus* cover is usually less than 10%. A shallow tarn at 1360m on the plateau contains the aquatic plant *Alopecurus geniculatus*. At the tarn edge is a bog of *O. pectinatus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum* and *Sphagnum cristatum*, grading into bog-tussockland 10-20m back from the edge. The *Oreobolus* bogs also occur in snowbank hollows dotted about the plateau, and follow the course of the flushes and streamlets which drain them.

Below the 1300m contour, the angle of spur slope and side slopes increases. At this point a subalpine *C. rigida* tussockland occupies the eastern and lower altitudinal margins of the RAP.

LANDFORMS

The western and upper altitudinal boundary of the RAP is a rounded spur crest ranging from 1575m at the southwest corner to 1566m at the northeast corner. The spur line dips eastward as either a gentle (5-10 degree) sloping planar top or a stepped planar top. The gradient affects vegetation patterns with bog-tussockland found in the flat areas and tussockland on the drier slopes. The spur top from 1560m to 1300m is a part of the Greywacke Plateau Land System.

Small snowbank hollows on the plateau are drained by east-flowing streamlets which join to form two larger streams in the eastern third of the RAP. These larger streams, separated by the plateau crest, both bend to the northeast and begin to carve progressively deeper into the RAP forming the Steeplands Land System. They eventually join in the northeast corner of the RAP at 1100m to form Rambling Gorge. This junction is the eastern boundary of the RAP.

FAUNA

No fauna records for this area.

DISCUSSION

The upper and lower altitudinal margins of the RAP support high-alpine fellfield and subalpine *Chionochoa rigida* tussockland respectively, but it is the expanse of low-alpine *C. macra* tussockland and bogs which are the outstanding feature. Modification of the area is slight: some track-side tussocks show evidence of stock damage; and there are signs of hare browsing and pig rooting. Adventive plant species are few and of low abundance.

SECTION FIVE : RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR PROTECTION

CRITERIA SUMMARY : HAWK 10 - PLATEAU RAP		
Representativeness	H	Outstanding example of low-alpine bog and tussockland communities. Representative of vegetation and landform of wider area of District.
Diversity	M	Small range of communities but bog-tussocklands have high species diversity.
Naturalness	H	
Special features		Shallow tarn on spur top.
Viability	H	
Buffering	H	RAP is surrounded by area of similarly high natural values.
Threat	L	Burning, excessive grazing.
Landform		Planar gently dipping spur crest; steep side slopes at eastern margin of RAP.



4.10 Waitaki

Introduction

The Waitaki basin is a vast, open area surrounded by mountain ranges, including Aoraki /Mount Cook and the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana. Landforms are often large and the vistas wide and uncluttered. The low-growing nature of the vegetation allows the landforms to dominate the landscape and define the horizons. The Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park and Ōhau Conservation Area form part of the South West New Zealand (Te Wahipounamu) World Heritage Area (see Map 13).

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park has a legislative requirement for a management plan (see 6.1 Plans and Functional Strategies), and the review of the existing 1989 plan is due to begin in 1998.

The overall cover of tussock and grasslands gives a unity to much of the high country. Subtle changes in colour and composition emphasise changes in slope, aspect, soil and climate. Cultural elements such as roads and farm tracks, power pylons and canals, forest blocks, shelter belts and wilding trees tend to provide strong visual contrasts to the 'natural' landscape.

Features and Issues

People Partnership

Māori interest in the area is strong, not least because of the presence of Aoraki/Mount Cook. Waitaki is part of the takiwā (area) of three Papatipu Rūnanga (Arowhenua, Waihao and Moeraki).

The area is lightly populated with several small towns focused on farming and tourism. Pastoral runholders from primarily pastoral leasehold land are an important interest group, in that they manage large areas of land of natural, historic and recreational value. A major issue is the continued promotion of improved relations with the farming community.

Communication links with the local community will be maintained by regular contact by local staff in order to develop an open and friendly relationship. Such groups include Federated Farmers, local promotion organisations, landcare groups, local recreation clubs, Lupin Society of Omarama, ECNZ, Mount Cook Group Ltd, South Pacific Hotels Ltd, Mackenzie, Waitaki, and Waimate district councils, and local schools.

Aoraki/Mount Cook is subject to a Tōpuni under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (detailed in schedule 80 to that Act) in recognition of Ngāi Tahu's statement of cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association with this mountain. A purpose of the objectives in this conservation management strategy is to ensure that Aoraki/Mount Cook is managed consistent with and in a way which recognises those special values.

Under section 240 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Minister of Conservation have agreed specific principles and subsequent actions by the Director-General through the Department (having regard to those specific principles) which seek to avoid harm to or the diminishing of Ngāi Tahu's values relating to Aoraki/Mount Cook. Those specific principles are set out as follows:

- Encouragement of respect for Ngāi Tahu whanui association with Aoraki;
- Accurate portrayal of Ngāi Tahu whanui association with Aoraki; and
- Recognition of Ngāi Tahu whanui relationship with wāhi tapu including archaeological sites.

(See also Land Unit H36001, Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, in Volume 2 for a description of this land unit, a statement of Ngāi Tahu values relating to the Tōpuni, and actions by the Director-General pursuant to the *Deed Of Settlement* (1997). These actions will be undertaken in relation to the specific principles published by the Minister of Conservation in the *New Zealand Gazette* 1999 pages 845-846 (18 March 1999).)

Heritage Conservation

The Waitaki is an extensive intermontane basin surrounded by mountain ranges rising to over 3000 metres in the west. Aoraki/Mount Cook is the best known of New Zealand's high mountains. All these mountains are composed primarily of sedimentary rocks (greywacke and argillite). There are extensive areas of permanent snow and ice along the main divide, with major glaciers at the headwaters of down country braided rivers and lakes. Further east, the ranges are characterised by extensive scree, but little contemporary glaciation.

The Waitaki Basin is a landscape of outstanding significance in both regional and national terms (Boffa Miskell Limited and Lucas Associates, 1993). Its character, size and scale are first experienced when entering the area by the Lindis, Hakataramea, Mackenzie, and Burke passes.



The southern ranges are transitional between sedimentary rocks (e.g. greywacke) and the schist of Central Otago, which is reflected by their more gentle topography and rounded summit ridges.

The intermontane basin is characterised by glacial terracing, moraines, lakes and kettleholes in the northwest, and extensive fluvio-glacial outwash surfaces to the south and east. Braided rivers and associated river terraces traverse this basin. Wetlands are no longer extensive and are mainly found along the western side of the basin.

Hydroelectric power developments have had a major modifying influence on the landscape. Lake levels and areas have been increased, canals created and river flows reduced or controlled. Losses of braided riverbed and wetland habitat have been severe. As a result of this habitat loss, an agreement arose out of the Waitaki River catchment ECNZ resource consents working party to a commitment from ECNZ to fund Project River Recovery (PRR). Under PRR, braided rivers and wetlands will be restored, and flood channels cleared on significant riverbeds.

Along the main divide substantial areas have little vegetation but there is a wide range of indigenous plant and animal communities. This reflects differences in substrate climate and altitude. Plant communities/habitats include alpine fellfields, herbfields, tussocklands, and subalpine tussocklands and shrublands. In valley headwaters there are some forests at lower altitudes; mostly beech with smaller areas of podocarp such as tōtara, celery pine/ mountain toatoa and cedar/ pāhautea.

Throughout the basin, indigenous plant communities have been modified by pastoralism. Short tussock grasslands characterise the Waitaki basin, though shrubs such as matagouri, *Coprosma* and *Olearia* occur over substantial areas, particularly around river terraces, fans and moraines. Celery pine/mountain toatoa, bog pine and tall tussock are much more restricted in distribution. Substantial wetland communities occur, including large areas of red tussock, associated with river systems or lakes. There are substantial areas of developed pasture and elsewhere, grasses and *Hieracium* are major components of the flora. Wilding trees are continuing to spread in the basin, and lupins, willow and other weeds are major problems in the braided river systems. Some of these river systems, such as Tekapo and Pūkaki, have been greatly modified by plant pest invasion and flow modification, seriously jeopardising habitats of braided river birds such as black stilt/kaki and wrybill plover/ngutupare.

The eastern and southern ranges support mainly indigenous plant communities modified by human influences, particularly burning and pastoral grazing. Tussocklands are consequently the dominant vegetation type. Tall tussocklands predominate, with fellfields and cushion communities in alpine areas of the southern ranges. Short tussock communities dominate the lower altitudes. Mixed shrubland covers some valley floors, lower slopes and bluffs. Exotic plants tend to be most dominant on lower slopes and valley floors, with some developed pasture, particularly on fans and terraces. Major plant pests are *Hieracium* species, wilding pines and broom, with nodding thistle of concern locally.

The Hakataramea Valley is located in the southeast corner of the unit. It is predominantly tussock grassland, but the degree of agricultural modification is greater at lower altitudes.

A wide range of indigenous animal communities occur throughout the Waitaki, including invertebrates in all habitats, and birds within open country, bush and braided riverbeds. Skinks and geckos are found throughout except at higher altitudes and in main divide areas. Indigenous fish, e.g. galaxids, are found in many lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands.

Introduced animals are common, including thar, deer, chamois, rabbit, hare, possum, mustelid and feral cats. Wallaby and pigs are found locally in eastern areas. High rabbit numbers contribute to serious vegetation depletion and localised soil erosion.

Threatened biota include a whipcord hebe, *Hebe cupressoides*, climbing broom; *Carmichaelia curta*, *C. hollowayi* and *C. Kirkii*; indigenous mistletoe, *Alepis flavida* (yellow), *Peraxilla tetrapetala* (red); *Pittosporum patulum*; the robust grasshopper, *Brachaspis robustus*; and the birds black-fronted tern/tarapirohe, wrybill plover/ngutupare and black stilt/kaki.

Human History

Aoraki/Mount Cook is of special significance to Ngāi Tahu, which is reflected in their statement of cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association provided in the Tōpuni associated with the mountain. Refer to Volume 2, Land Unit H36001, Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, for the full statement of Ngāi Tahu values.

Ruataniwha (Ben Ōhau) also has cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu. There are a number of significant sites of Māori history but few are formally recognised or protected.

European history is closely associated with pastoralism, e.g. spade-line boundaries, boundary huts and homesteads. Climbing has its greatest focus in the Aoraki/Mount Cook area, though there was also extensive exploration and climbing in other catchment headwaters in the late 1800s to the mid-1900s.



Recreation and Use

Recreational use is extensive and varied. In the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana and ranges it includes mountaineering, skiing, tramping, hunting and tourist activity. Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is regarded as the premier alpine climbing area in Australasia. Aoraki/Mount Cook Village is the focus of much of the tourism activity in the area and 70 per cent of the 200,000 visitors per year to the village are international visitors.

Recreation in the Waitaki basin includes fishing, boating, canoeing, waterfowl shooting, four-wheel driving, camping and walking; as well as less common pursuits such as bird-watching, photography, gliding, wind-surfing, and mountain-biking.

Camping, boating and water-skiing are common on the unit's lakes and rivers and Lake Ruataniwha has been developed as a national rowing venue.

Commercial recreation and tourism in the Waitaki unit centres around aerial sightseeing and skiing, mountain guiding, fishing, hunting, ballooning, short tour/walk operations and, increasingly, nature-based tourism.

The basin has been a focus for local visitors but a growing number of international visitors are becoming aware of the opportunities for activities such as the 'wilderness angler experience'.



Areas Managed by the Department

The following areas are described in more detail in Volume 2, Schedule 2:

Name	Unit
Ahuriri (Forest) Conservation Area	G38001
Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park	H36001
Ben Omar Swamp	H39095
Bendhu Scientific Reserve	H39017
Birch Hill Flat	H37018
Burke Pass Scenic Reserve	I38011
Cass River Delta Conservation Area	I37005
Dobson (Forest) Conservation Area	H37007
Dobson Conservation Area (upper)	H36031
Dusky Run Conservation Area	H38031
Perintosh Retirement Area	H37017
Godley Riverbed Conservation Area, true right of lower river	I36005
Hopkins, Huxley Conservation Area	H37008, H37009, H37014
Hunter Hills Conservation Area, Waihao River north branch	J39134
Jollie and Cass Conservation Area	I36002
Kirkliston Range Conservation Area	I39004
Lake Alexandria Scenic Reserve	I37008
Lake Pukaki Terminal Moraine Conservation Area	H38009
Lake Tekapo Scientific Reserve	I37050
Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve	G40001
Lower Ahuriri Riverbed Conservation Area	H39021, includes H39023, H39025, H39026
Lower Waitaki Riverbed Conservation Area	I40001 (also includes I40006, I40007, I4009, I40010, I40032)
Micks Lagoon Wildlife Reserve (proposed)	I37057
Mount Gerald Two Thumb Conservation Area	I36007
Mount Ida Conservation Area	H41001
North Waihao River Marginal Slips	J40092 (also includes J40091, J40093, J40094)
Ohau Conservation Area (Freehold Creek)	H38033
Ohau Conservation Area (Hopkins/Huxley)	H37010
Ohau Conservation Area (Ohau Range)	H38016, includes H38017
Ohau Conservation Area (upper Maitland)	H38032
Ohau Conservation Area (Temple)	H38035
Ohau Terminal Moraine Scenic Reserve	H38021
Round Hill Forest	H37005
Ruataniwha Conservation Area, Ben Ohau	H38058
St Mary's Range Retirement Area	I40072
Stadholme Management Area	J40001
Two Thumb Conservation Area (Richmond Range)	I37004



Key Priorities

4.10.1 Landscape Protection

Issues

The Waitaki landscape is vast, open, and exhibits a distinctive tussock grassland character; it exhibits an outstanding character as a whole. It attracts a high number of visitors to the area and is sensitive to inappropriate development. Exotic tree planting, wilding tree spread and tracking will require careful management. Development needs to ensure that the wider landscape values are protected, and that the character of major travel routes is maintained.

Objective

- To identify, maintain and seek to enhance the natural landscapes and natural landscape values of the Waitaki unit.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Seek, through appropriate methods such as tenure review and district plans, to protect, maintain and enhance the heritage landscape and heritage landscape values of the unit.
2. Advocate, assist and encourage the Mackenzie, Waitaki and Waimate district councils to include in their district plans methods that avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes, particularly the Lindis, Hakataramea and Mackenzie passes and the Ahuriri Valley.
3. Encourage the Mackenzie, Waitaki and Waimate district councils to include methods in their district plans that will avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of developments on natural and historic landscape values and, by adopting appropriate methods, to manage land use change.
4. Provide advice on land management methods that will prevent land use changes from having adverse effects on landscapes.

4.10.2 Ecosystems and Species

Issues

The unit consists of eighteen ecological districts, nine of which have been formally surveyed under the PNA programme (see 5.5.4 Survey and Monitoring). The three unsurveyed ecological districts contain significant areas managed by the Department.

The protected natural area system of the Waitaki is unrepresentative, lacking in coverage of significant indigenous ecosystems and with some areas yet to be surveyed.

Tenure review of pastoral leases (see 5.2.3 Land Ecosystems) is an active process in this unit, providing opportunities for natural values protection.

Lake Alexandrina (Takamoana) is a very popular fishing and holiday area with high wildlife and nature conservation values (Ward and Stewart 1989). The eutrophication of the lake by fertiliser use and development in the catchment is the greatest lake management issue and it requires integrated management.

The braided riverbeds of the Waitaki basin and their wading bird species, particularly the black stilt/kaki, are a focus for Conservancy species management in the unit.

Future species work will expand to include threatened lizard, grasshopper, fish and plant species.

The introduction of rabbit calicivirus disease (RCD) has required the Department to implement a response plan (Aikman, 1997) to mitigate the potential threats to indigenous species.

Objectives

- To identify the significant indigenous vegetation and threatened species of the Waitaki unit.
- To use a range of effective methods to protect the indigenous biodiversity of the Waitaki unit.
- To protect and enhance the viability of priority threatened species' populations and their habitat(s) in the Waitaki unit.



Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Survey the ecological values of the following ecological districts, in accordance with priorities set in 5.5.4 (Survey and Monitoring):
 - Godley
 - St Bathans
 - St Mary
 - Kirkliston
 - Hakataramea
2. Negotiate with landholders to protect significant areas of indigenous vegetation/wildlife habitat (see 5.2.3 Land Ecosystems).
3. Continue research on methods to restore braided riverbeds, especially on the Ahuriri, Lower Ōhau, Tasman and Tekapo rivers.
4. Maintaining research, monitoring and indigenous vegetation enhancement programmes on Tekapo Scientific Reserve.
5. Co-ordinate a working party to recommend methods to protect and enhance Lake Alexandrina's natural values.
6. Negotiate any future tenure review exercise with Glenmore and Mt John stations to protect the catchment of the Lake Alexandrina from the adverse effects of agricultural development.
7. Advocate for effective methods in regional and district plans that enhance the life-supporting capacity of the Lake Alexandrina ecosystem.
8. Encourage the Mackenzie District Council to stop the lake-edge legal road in favour of reserve status to provide legal protection of Lake Alexandrina's lake-edge.
9. Advocate for the protection of indigenous biodiversity, including the habitat of threatened species and the healthy functioning of ecosystems.
10. Undertake research/survey to clarify the distribution, status, habitat preferences and threats of the following species in the unit:
 - Reptiles
 - scree skink
 - striped skink
 - Invertebrates
 - robust grasshopper
 - Birds
 - black stilt/kaki
 - wrybill/ngutupare
 - kererū/pigeon/kūkupa
 - southern crested grebe/kāmana
 - kea
 - black-fronted tern/tarapirohe
 - banded dotterel/pohowera
 - rock wren
 - Fish
 - short-jawed kōkopu
 - Plants
 - *Hebe cupressoides*
 - *Carmichaelia kirkii*
 - *Tupeia antarctica*
11. Advocate effective means to avoid adverse effects to the habitat of the following threatened species in Canterbury Regional Council and district council plans:
 - black stilt/kaki
 - wrybill/ngutupare
 - black-fronted tern/tarapirohe
 - banded dotterel/powhera
12. Manipulate black stilt habitat to enhance their population.
13. Undertake captive rearing of black stilt/kaki.



14. Undertake plant and animal pest control to reduce their threat to:
 - black stilt/kaki
 - wrybill/ngutupare
 - black-fronted tern/tarapirohe
 - banded dotterel/pohowera
15. Seek formal habitat protection for wading birds generally.
16. Use publications, interpretive material, the media and personal contact to outline management issues associated with the kea.
17. Encourage the Central South Island Fish and Game Council to maintain Canada goose numbers in accord with the South Island Canada Goose Management Plan, 1995.
18. Seek the protection of indigenous biodiversity through the tenure review process.
19. Continue to implement the RCD response plan (Aikman, 1997) through developing best practice procedures.

4.10.3 Project River Recovery

Issues

Currently braided rivers and their beds in the Waitaki have little formal protection, by either land status or Resource Management Act methods, with the exception of the Ahuriri. These areas represent important wildlife and plant habitats and are a unique feature of the South Island.

They are threatened by plant pests, inappropriate recreational use, unsuitable farming practices, river control works and predators. Project River Recovery began in 1992, utilising ECNZ funding to restore and improve river and wetland habitats in the Upper Waitaki catchment.

Objectives

- To improve the range of viable riparian habitats for indigenous species in the Mackenzie Basin.
- To encourage landholders to co-operate in protecting braided river systems.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Manage and advocate management of all braided river systems for the protection of their natural values.
2. Implement the goals and objectives of Project River Recovery as identified by agreement between ECNZ and the Department.
3. Control and, where possible, eradicate plant pest species on braided rivers and wetlands where natural values are threatened.
4. Develop effective relationships with landholders, the community and councils, to develop a mutual understanding of the issues of concern for the Waitaki unit.
5. Advocate under the Resource Management Act the need to identify and avoid adverse effects on areas of significant wildlife habitat value; including through an Ahuriri River section of the Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan, and implementing the Ahuriri Water Conservation Order.
6. Seek gazettal as conservation areas or as reserves of Crown riverbed with high wildlife value.