EGMONT NATIONAL PARK

Management Plan

2002 - 2012

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Management Plan

Mt Egmont/Taranaki

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Foreword

This review of the Egmont National Park Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. The previous plan, prepared by the Department of Lands and Survey, became operative in May 1986 . The plan is a statutory document which implements the Wanganui Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and establishes objectives for the integrated management of the natural, historic, cultural and recreational values of Egmont National Park.

A conservation management plan is a statement of intent and does not override the provisions of legislation, general policy and agreements. The goals of this plan express the Department's overall management intentions for the park for the next 10 years and beyond. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources and level of community support. The plan does not establish a promised level of funding. Nonetheless, the stated objectives and policies are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding and support. The plan is intended to stand-alone, although the resolution of some specific issues may be found in the Conservation Management Strategy or National Parks Act 1980.

Any new legislation must be taken into account in the ongoing use of this plan. The Department recognises that management plans are always being developed and implemented in an environment of evolving legislation and policy.

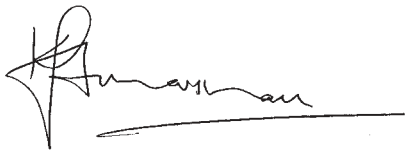
This plan has been prepared by the Department in consultation with Tangata Whenua, the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and other interested groups and individuals. The review involved an initial public notice in September 1995 advising of the plan review and inviting comment. Letters inviting comment were also sent to interest and user groups, concessionaires and Tangata Whenua. Several meetings were held with these and other groups to discuss the review. A flyer explaining the review and identifying a range of key issues to be dealt with was circulated widely within the Taranaki Region in December 1996 to coincide with summer time use of the park. The reviewed draft plan was released for public submissions in January 2000 and hearings were held in April 2000. Further meetings and hui were held to discuss the review. These submissions were taken into account in the development of this revised draft plan. The plan was then referred to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and then to the NZCA for approval.

While the name of the maunga is officially "Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont" the national park is officially known as Egmont National Park. The Department acknowledges the debate over the park naming. Under section 7 of the National Parks Act 1980, the Governor General, by order-in-council may change the name of an existing national park on the recommendation of the Minister of Conservation. The Minister's recommendation is based on the recommendation of the New Zealand Conservation Authority after consultation with the relevant Conservation Board. This overall process sits outside the management plan and will be dealt with separately.

It is now 100 years since Egmont National Park was created. A great deal of effort has gone into protecting the Park since it's inception. In the next 100 years the battle to protect the Park from animal pests and predators will be won or lost. We need to continue the effort to ensure the battle is won.

The number of visitors will dramatically grow, and their appreciation will increase. We can also expect the Park to take its place as a regional, national and international site of importance for conservation. This plan will guide management in the first decade of the new century.

This Plan will be effective for 10 years from its date of approval.



Kerry Marshall
Chairman
New Zealand Conservation Authority

February 2002

Vision

THE PLAN

The Egmont National Park Management Plan, as a statutory document, has been prepared to provide direction for the preservation of the park through a framework of policy, objectives and a series of actions. The overall outcome desired is embodied in the vision for the park.

VISION

Taranaki Te Maunga He tapu! He tapu! He tapu!

Taranaki Te Maunga He tapu! He tapu! He tapu!

The scenery, ecosystems and natural features of Egmont National Park are preserved. The full range of indigenous plants and animals remain and all major animal and weed threats to the park have been eradicated or controlled. The intrinsic worth of the park is recognised. The park is renowned for the preservation of its natural, historic, cultural and landscape values.

Recreation is fostered and tourism allowed where it is not inconsistent with conservation and national park values. The public has freedom of entry and access to the park for inspiration, enjoyment and recreation.

The increasing numbers of visitors are aware of how their activities impact on the environment and natural features of the park, and know more about the park's natural, cultural and historic values. The impacts of people on the park are managed effectively and reduced where possible. Land adjacent to the park is managed to protect and enhance the natural, historic and landscape values of the park.

To achieve this vision a number of issues need to be addressed over the life time of the plan.

Treaty

Recognising the special role of Tangata Whenua as kaitiaki, working co-operatively with Iwi and acknowledging their cultural values in the management of the park will aid its preservation.

Ecological biodiversity and ecological significance

Egmont National Park is a significant area of indigenous vegetation and wildlife. The streams and rivers are healthy and support a diverse range of life. Preservation of the ecosystem which links all living things in the park is a fundamental purpose of the plan.

Threatened species

The numbers of and range of threatened indigenous species are maintained and enhanced within the national park.

Weed and animal pest species

Threats to the natural values of the national park will be controlled or eradicated in order to enhance the indigenous species in the park. This effort is paramount if the park is to be sustained in its natural state.

Fencing

Fencing of the entire boundary of the national park is a priority for the preservation of plant species and the control of stock.

Historic

Historic features of the park will be preserved and protected.

Landscape

The park is an icon for the region which it sustains. Its natural landscape features are valued and protected.

Visitor facilities and information

The park will provide opportunities and information for people to explore, appreciate and respect the natural and historic heritage of the park.

Concessions

Concessions will be processed with the preservation of conservation and national park values as the primary consideration.

Community Relations

The community values the park and its protection.

The management plan has been prepared in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980, the Conservation Management Strategy for the Department of Conservation Wanganui Conservancy 1997, and the General Policy for National Parks. The plan will guide the work of the Department in the park from 2002 until 2012.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

2. MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

3. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Tables

1 Introduction

1.1 CONTEXT

1.1.1 The National Park Management Plan Process

Under section 45 of the National Parks Act 1980, the Department of Conservation (the Department) is required to prepare and where necessary review Management Plans for National Parks. Management Plans provide for the day-to-day management of National Parks, and provide strategic direction for park management over a 10 year period. For Egmont National Park (the park), the plan review provides a vision, and then identifies the Department's policies on a number of issues, such as relationships with Tangata Whenua, management of natural and historic resources, animal and plant pest control, visitor facilities, concessions, public awareness, adjacent land uses and liaison with the community. The Treaty of Waitangi settlement process is dealt with through the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS), and is separate to the management plan process.

The Egmont National Park Management Plan Review has been prepared in accordance with section 47 of the National Parks Act, which included the following stages:

1. An initial notice inviting suggestions and comments - this phase included the requirement to place public notices in appropriate daily newspapers, indicating the Department's intention to review the plan. A pre-draft public consultation process with visitor groups, user groups and Iwi also took place.
2. Preparation of a draft management plan in consultation with the Taranaki/ Whanganui Conservation Board (the Board).
3. Release of the draft management plan for formal public comment/submission.
4. Hearings on submissions.
5. The draft plan was revised in light of submissions supported by the Department and points raised at the hearings.
6. The Board considered the revised draft and the summary of submissions and made recommendations for amendments to the plan.
7. When satisfied with the plan, the Board recommended it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval.
8. The NZCA considered the draft and amendments and then referred the draft to the Minister of Conservation, before finally approving the revised management plan.

The Wanganui Conservancy of the Department of Conservation administers Egmont National Park. The Stratford Area Office is responsible for the day-to-day management of the park. The park is managed in accordance with the Egmont National Park Management Plan, the Wanganui Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy and legislation (as listed in the Legislation Section).

The mountain is officially called 'Mount Taranaki' or 'Mount Egmont'. For ease of reading and consistency throughout this plan, the mountain will be referred to as Mount Taranaki.

1.1.2 What is a National Park?

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has adopted the following definition of a national park.

"A national park is a relatively large area:

- Where one or several ecosystems are not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation, where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of specific scientific interest, educational and recreational interest or which contains a natural landscape of great beauty;
- Where the highest competent authority of the country has taken steps to prevent or to eliminate as soon as possible exploitation or occupation in the whole area and to enforce effectively the respect of ecological, geomorphological, or aesthetic features which have led to its establishment;
- Where visitors are allowed to enter, under special conditions, for inspirational, educative, cultural and recreational purposes."

In the National Parks Act 1980, national parks are defined as "areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest." (Section 4(1)).

1.1.3 The National Park Management Plan

The Egmont National Park Management Plan has four main parts:

- Part 1 includes the context of the management plan, the planning process, and the influences on the administration and management of the park by the Department and other bodies. It also provides resource information as a background to the management issues that arise in the park.
- Part 2 establishes a management philosophy for the park; this combines the vision for the park with a set of goals. The management philosophy establishes the basis for the formation of more detailed objectives and policies.
- Part 3 sets out the main management objectives and policies. It is divided into six major sections: Treaty of Waitangi, Heritage Protection, Use Management, Community Relations, Statutory Planning and Advocacy and Implementation, Monitoring and Review.
- Finally, there is a glossary, reference lists and appendices which provide information on park infrastructure and bylaws.

The hierarchy of the plan provides a vision, goals, objectives, policies and actions.

1.2 LEGISLATION

1.2.1 The National Parks Act 1980

Section 4 of the Act outlines the main principles to be applied to national parks as outlined below.

Parks to be maintained in a natural state and the public to have right of entry -

(1)"It is hereby declared that the provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

(2) It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the general purposes specified in subsection (1) of this section, national parks shall be so administered and maintained under the provisions of this Act that-

(a)They shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state:

(b) Except where the Authority otherwise determines, the native plants and animals of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved and introduced plants and animals shall as far as possible be exterminated:

(c) Sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest shall as far as possible be preserved:

(d) Their value as soil, water and forest conservation areas shall be maintained:

(e) Subject to the provision of this Act and to the imposition of such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the native plants and animals or for the welfare in general of the parks, the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the parks, so that they may receive in full measure the inspiration, enjoyment, recreation and other benefits that may be derived from mountains, forests, sounds, seacoasts, lakes, rivers and other natural features."

1.2.1.1 National Park Bylaws

Section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980 enables the Minister of Conservation to make bylaws for controlling access and various activities in national parks. Bylaws cannot be inconsistent with this management plan. The bylaws for Egmont National Park came into force on the 1st day of April 1981. Current bylaws for the Egmont National Park are listed in Appendix 3.

1.2.2 The General Policy for National Parks 1983

The General Policy for National Parks provides direction for achieving the broad objectives of the National Parks Act 1980. It includes a number of policies and accompanying explanations on a range of management issues that commonly occur in national parks. This management plan must be in accordance with the General Policy for National Parks.

1.2.3 Mount Egmont Vesting Act 1978

This Act provided for the symbolic return of Mount Egmont to the Taranaki Maori Trust Board acting on behalf of the Maori tribes concerned, and the gifting of the mountain back to the Crown by the Board for the purposes of a national park for the

use and enjoyment of all the people of New Zealand. This Act is in Appendix 8.

1.2.4 The Conservation Act 1987

The Conservation Act 1987 established the Department of Conservation and directs the administration and management of all land and resources under the Department's control (other Acts also direct the administration and management of public conservation land). The functions of the Department as set out in section 6 of the Act are:

(a) To manage for conservation purposes, all land, and all other natural and historic resources, for the time being held under this Act, and all other natural and historic resources whose owner agrees should be managed by the Department;

(ab) To preserve as far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats;

(b) To advocate the conservation of natural and historic resources generally;

(c) To promote the benefits to present and future generations of the conservation of natural and historic resources generally and the natural and historic resources of New Zealand in particular;

(d) To prepare, provide, disseminate, promote and publicise educational and promotional material relating to conservation; and

(e) To the extent that the use of any natural and historic resource for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with its conservation, to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation and to allow their use for tourism.

(f) To advise the Minister on matters relating to any of those functions or to conservation generally:

(g) Every other function conferred on it by any other enactment.

Conservation Boards are established under section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. The functions and powers of the Conservation Boards are set out in sections 6M and 6N of the Act.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states:
"This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi."

1.2.4.1 The Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Part IIIA of the Conservation Act 1987 requires each conservancy to prepare a 10 year strategy for management for the conservancy. The Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) is a statutory document which implements general policies and establishes objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources. The conduct of some activities on land administered by the Department can take place only in accordance with the CMS. District and regional authorities preparing and administering district and regional plans must have regard to the CMS. It must be noted however that the CMS is a statement of intent and does not override provisions of legislation, general policy and agreements. The CMS deals with:

- Management of land administered by the Department.
- The management of protected species on all land, regardless of ownership.

- Marine mammal protection, wild animal control, protection of freshwater fisheries, and other issues which affect natural resources in the Conservancy, both on and off land administered by the Department.
- The management of historic resources on land administered by the Department.
- Areas which have high natural or historic values, but are unprotected (currently) and discusses how, in some cases, protection could be achieved.
- The Department's priorities for increasing public awareness of conservation issues.
- Interpretation of natural and historic values on land administered by the Department.
- Priorities and direction for conservation management.

The CMS provides the basis for management planning for all areas administered by the Department. Conservation Management Plans are required for all national parks. This management plan must not be inconsistent with any of the provisions of the CMS, and while this document is intended to stand alone, the CMS may also need to be used for guidance on a number of issues where specific direction is unable to be provided in this management plan.

1.2.5 The Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of this Act is

"to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources by managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well being and for their health and safety while -

(a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonable foreseeable needs of future generations; and

(b) safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and

(c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment." (Section 5 Resource Management Act 1991)

The Resource Management Act is administered by local government and is implemented through District and Regional Plans and Statements prepared by Councils. The activities of the Department are bound by the provisions of the Regional Policy Statements, District Plans and Regional Plans and the Department must apply for resource consents for activities as required under those plans. However, section 4 of the Act allows for a limited exemption for the Department where a landuse activity is in accordance with a management plan or a CMS and where it does not have significant adverse effects outside the boundary of the Park.

Section 72(2)(b) of the Act states that "A territorial authority shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under any other Act". Councils will therefore have to have regard to the Conservation Management Strategy for Wanganui Conservancy when preparing their plans and policies.

1.2.6 Non-statutory Planning

A number of other planning activities have a significant influence on this plan, and include the following:

- International agreements often have a substantial influence on conservation policy or legislation at a national level. These may include: the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places and Cultural Heritage Value, prepared by the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the New Zealand National Committee, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar).
- National strategies are prepared by the Department to guide the activities of all conservancies in a number of different functional areas. These include national control plans for goats, possums and wasps, species recovery plans, a Visitor Services Strategy and an Historic Resources Strategy, to name a few.
- Functional plans for public conservation land are specific to a particular type of activity such as recreation, wild animal control or the recovery of a threatened species. These are generally non-statutory documents, and are prepared to enable the Department to carry out its functions in a strategic and co-ordinated manner.
- Wanganui Conservancy Strategies relevant to the Egmont National Park Management Plan include: The Historic Resources Strategy, Recreation Strategy, Wild Animal Management Plan, Species Conservation Strategies and Public Awareness Strategy.
- Operational plans are working plans to guide the operational activities of the Department in a particular programme or area. They are normally informal and "in-house" plans, but can be subject to inspection through the business planning procedure.
- Business plans are required by the Public Finance Act 1989 and are prepared annually by all Department conservancies. The business plan outlines the conservation programmes proposed by the conservancy for the financial year. It is guided by the objectives and priorities of the Conservation Management Strategy and management plans, but is also subject to Government and national priorities.

This plan is a further means of guidence for the implementation of these documents and strategies.

1.2.7 Other Bodies with Administration Responsibilities in the Park

Local authorities

The South Taranaki, Stratford and the New Plymouth District Councils together with the Taranaki Regional Council, cover the area of the park and are responsible for implementing the Resource Management Act, 1991 (RMA). The district councils prepare district plans to control the effects of land use and subdivision, while the Taranaki Regional Council prepares the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans and is responsible for water and air pollution control, soil conservation and river and flood control. The purpose of the RMA is to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The provisions of the above mentioned plans bind the

activities of the Department and other operators in the park, who must apply for resource consent for activities as required. However, section 4 of the RMA provides for the Department to undertake any activity where it is in accordance with a management plan or a Conservation Management Strategy and where it does not have significant adverse effects outside the boundary of the park. The Taranaki Regional Council has responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 1993 for animal and plant pest management. This includes ensuring that the requirements set out in their regional animal and plant management strategies are implemented. The Department of Conservation may have responsibilities and obligations under these strategies as set out by Order-in-Council. Local authorities also have civil defence responsibilities within the park.

New Zealand Police
Responsible for law and order and search and rescue.

Health Department
Responsible for public health.

New Zealand Fire Service
Responsible for determining standards of fire prevention, fire safety and fire control. The Minister of Conservation is the fire authority within the park but the Fire Service may also proceed to a fire.

Ministry of Transport (Civil Aviation Authority)
Responsible for aviation safety and regulation.

Fish and Game Council - Taranaki Branch
Responsible for the issue of sports fish and game bird licences and for the setting of related restrictions for the sustainable management of sports fisheries.

1.3 BACKGROUND AND RESOURCE INFORMATION

This section provides resource information which is intended to complement the management objectives and policies contained within the plan.

1.3.1 History of the Mountain

1.3.1.1 Maori Mythology and History

Minarapa and te Toka-a-rauhoto. Photo courtesy Taranaki Museum

It is said that Taranaki once lived harmoniously with Ruapehu and Tongariro in the Central Plateau. Then Tongariro and Taranaki both fell in love with the beautiful bush-cloaked Pihanga.

Tongariro was betrothed to Pihanga, but she loved Taranaki. Tongariro and Taranaki quarrelled and after a mighty fight, Taranaki fled towards the coast. Guiding Taranaki was a huge carved stone, named Toka-a-rauhoto. As they went, Taranaki gouged a great furrow in the land which was later to become the Whanganui River.

Whilst sleeping in his present position, Taranaki was prevented from falling into the sea by a spur from the range of mountains called Pouakai. Only his companion Rauhoto, the stone, can free him...but for now she is content for him to stay. Today the carved stone of Rauhoto can be seen at the Puniho Pa, keeping an eye on the still captive Taranaki, who weeps mist and rain for his lost love, Pihanga.

Little is known about the first people who occupied the region. Probably some time in the 14th century, a number of other people migrated to Taranaki. All people trace their origins to one of the different canoes that came with the "Great Fleet". Slowly the people were assimilated into the Tangata Whenua of today.

Oral history cites Rua Taranaki of Te Kahui Maunga people as the first person to claim the lands for his people from the highest peak in the land. This successful challenge was rewarded with the status of rangatira (chieftainship) and he established for himself a permanent place in tribal history.

Another member of Te Kahui Maunga named Tahurangi later ascended the maunga for the purpose of establishing a claim of ahi kaa, the lighting of a fire on the summit, a ritual symbolising occupancy.

Much later in history tribal people speak of a descendant, Tamatea-kura-mai-i-te uru-o-Tawhitinui, who offered some of those lands to the new migrants who landed on their shores. This new found relationship was at best generally harmonious and at worst openly hostile.

Through intermarriage, tribal exchanges and intermittent warfare since that generation, we have the current descendants that make up the Tangata Whenua today.

Over five hundred fortified pa sites were developed along the cleared and fertile coastal strip. Most Maori occupation sites in and close to the park are on the lower slopes facing north, usually immediately above a stream confluence. The early presence of Maori occupation in the park can be seen in heat-shattered oven stones and hearthstones, food pits and excavated sites in well defined kainga groups, amongst others. There are still the remains of ancient tracks - narrow and deeply worn.

The mountain has been a powerful influence on the people of Taranaki from the earliest days of occupation and remains so today.

1.3.1.2 European History

Captain James Cook sighted the mountain while he was sailing off the coast of the North Island on 10 January 1770. He named the imposing feature Mount Egmont in honour of the Earl of Egmont, First Lord of the Admiralty from 1763 to 1766. European occupation commenced with whalers in the 1830s, followed by the settling of New Plymouth in 1841.

Ernst Dieffenbach, employed by the New Zealand Company as a naturalist was the first European to reach the summit of Taranaki. Tohunga and other Maori showed him the way up to the snow level at 7,000 feet.

European settlement initially spread along the coast, but then progressed inland, and vast areas of forest were felled and burnt. This extensive forest loss was the catalyst for the protection of the mountain in its natural state. In 1875 Taranaki Provincial Government created Egmont Forest Reserve. Then in May 1881 temporary reservation was granted because of the recognition of the importance of the mountain for sustaining the fertile plains, timber and as a haven for wildlife and beauty:

"... all that area in the provisional district of Taranaki, comprised within a circle formed with a radius of six miles around the summit of Mt. Egmont containing 72,382 acres for the growth and preservation of timber".

Permanent reservation for the park was achieved two months later on 28 July 1881. The area was subsequently divided into four forest reserves with boards of Conservators known as the North, East, South and West Committees entrusted with the responsibility for control of the respective segments. While the main rationale for reservation was watershed and timber protection, the efforts of the Boards promoted the overall welfare of the park and ensured access and facilities throughout the area to enable access to the reserve.

The Taranaki Scenery Reservation Society drafted a Bill to create Egmont National Park. The Egmont National Park Act 1900 permanently set apart as the second New Zealand national park, all of the originally reserved area together with an area including the Kaitake Range. The Act constituted the Egmont National Park Board (the first park board in New Zealand), in addition to the four sectoral committees.

In 1924, additions were made to the original Act which retained the four committees, and provided for the park board to be composed of representatives of the committees. The main result of this administrative structure was that each committee promoted the development of its particular sector for tourism and economic gain, and there was a strong element of competition between sectors for the allocation of scarce resources.

With the passing of the National Parks Act 1952, a National Parks Authority was established to oversee management of all four national parks in New Zealand at the time. However the administrative structure of a board and sectoral committees was retained for Egmont. Committees established to manage the park were abolished by a 1977 Amendment to the National Parks Act. It is thus only in comparatively recent times that a regional and national viewpoint on the park has emerged.

The 1978 Mount Egmont Vesting Act provided for the symbolic return of land previously purchased or confiscated from the Maori people (involving some 95% of the park) to the Taranaki Maori Trust Board on behalf of the Maori tribes of Taranaki. It also provided for the gift of the mountain by the Trust Board back to the Crown for the purposes of a national park for the use and enjoyment of all the people of New Zealand. Today there remains a significant dispute with regard to this enactment.

In 1980 the National Parks Act was enacted, which significantly increased the protection for national parks, and allowed for greater public involvement in their administration and management. The basic philosophy for national parks also changed with the new Act, which changed the definition of parks, and the provisions to achieve a balance between preservation, access and use.

The mid-1980s saw a community debate surrounding the name of the mountain. To Maori and a number of non-Maori, the mountain had always been known as Taranaki. The debate was resolved through a notice in the New Zealand Gazette in 1986, when the Minister of Lands declared that the official name of Mt. Egmont be changed to "Mount Taranaki" or "Mount Egmont". For simplicity and the purposes of this management plan, the mountain will be referred to as "Mount Taranaki".

In 1987, the Department of Conservation was established to administer and manage public conservation land in New Zealand, including national parks.

1.3.2 Location

Egmont National Park is situated in the west of the North Island of New Zealand about 340 kilometres from both Wellington and Auckland. It is within a day's drive of both centres. Unlike other national parks in New Zealand, it is surrounded by a well-developed and densely settled agricultural landscape, the main centres of population being New Plymouth, Hawera and Stratford. All three towns are within 30 kilometres of the park boundary (see figure 1).

1.3.3 Nature and Size

The park is a mountainous area of unspoilt natural beauty encompassing three volcanic cones, two extinct and one dormant. The main peak of Mount Taranaki has an altitude of 2518 metres and forms the nucleus of the park. It is considered to be one of the world's most symmetrical mountains and so makes a very distinctive landmark. The park itself comprises the land within approximately a nine-kilometre radius of the mountain summit, as well as the Pouakai and the coastal Kaitake Ranges, and covers an area of approximately 33,000 hectares.

1.3.4 Physical Resources

1.3.4.1 Egmont Ecological District

New Zealand has been divided into 268 ecological units known as ecological districts and regions. Egmont National Park lies within and is the central feature of the Egmont Ecological District. Ecological districts are founded on features of the landscape to which people easily relate - landform, climate, soils, native vegetation and the human impacts on those features.

The features of the Egmont Ecological District are so distinctive that the district is considered to be a single ecological region, Egmont Ecological Region. The term 'ecological district' will however be used throughout this management plan for the purpose of simplicity and to be consistent with the CMS.

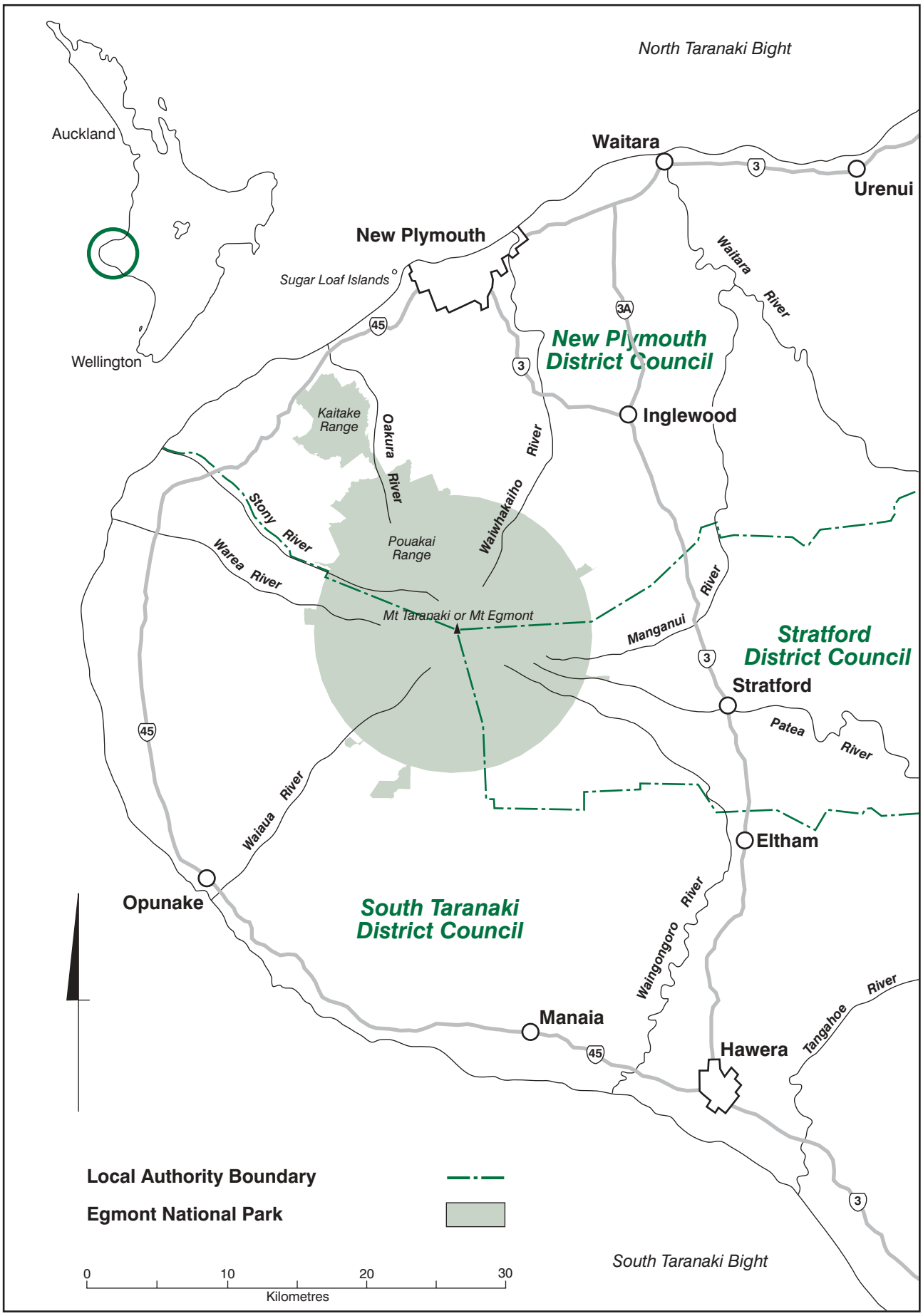
Egmont Ecological District comprises 270,300 ha, all of which lies within Wanganui Conservancy. Although 13% of the district lies in Egmont National Park and reserves, much of this is made up of alpine, sub-alpine and montane zones (Clarkson and Boase, 1982). Very little of the coastal and semi-coastal ecosystems and vegetation types are left within the district. Less than 1% of coastal and semi-coastal zones and 2% of the lowlands have a protected status.

Much of the district has been modified substantially over the years through development for pastoral farming, especially dairying.

1.3.4.2 Geology and Soils

Egmont Ecological District encompasses the andesite volcanoes of Mount Taranaki, the Pouakai and Kaitake Ranges and the Sugar Loaf Islands, and the ring plains of volcanic ash (tephra) and boulders and other debris from volcanic mud flows (lahars). In the south east, the volcanic material of the ring plain overlie mudstone of marine origin. In places, sand dunes cover the coastal fringes of the ring plains.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARIES



Fanthams Peak from the crater rim. Photo: T Weston

The geology and soils of the area are linked directly to its volcanic history. The three volcanoes within the park are part of a linear sequence of volcanic activity known as the "Taranaki Volcanic Succession". It begins at Paritutu and Nga Motu, also known as the Sugar Loaf Islands, near New Plymouth, 1.75 million years ago, followed by the Kaitake range 575,000 years ago, the Pouakai Range 250,000 years ago, and Mount Taranaki, since 150,000 years ago. The current shape of the three volcanoes in the park, two of which are now extinct, reflects the time that each has been exposed to the processes of erosion over thousands of years. The most recent volcanic cone, Mount Taranaki, dominates the park, with the lower profile of the older volcanoes of Pouakai and Kaitake to the northwest (See figure 2).

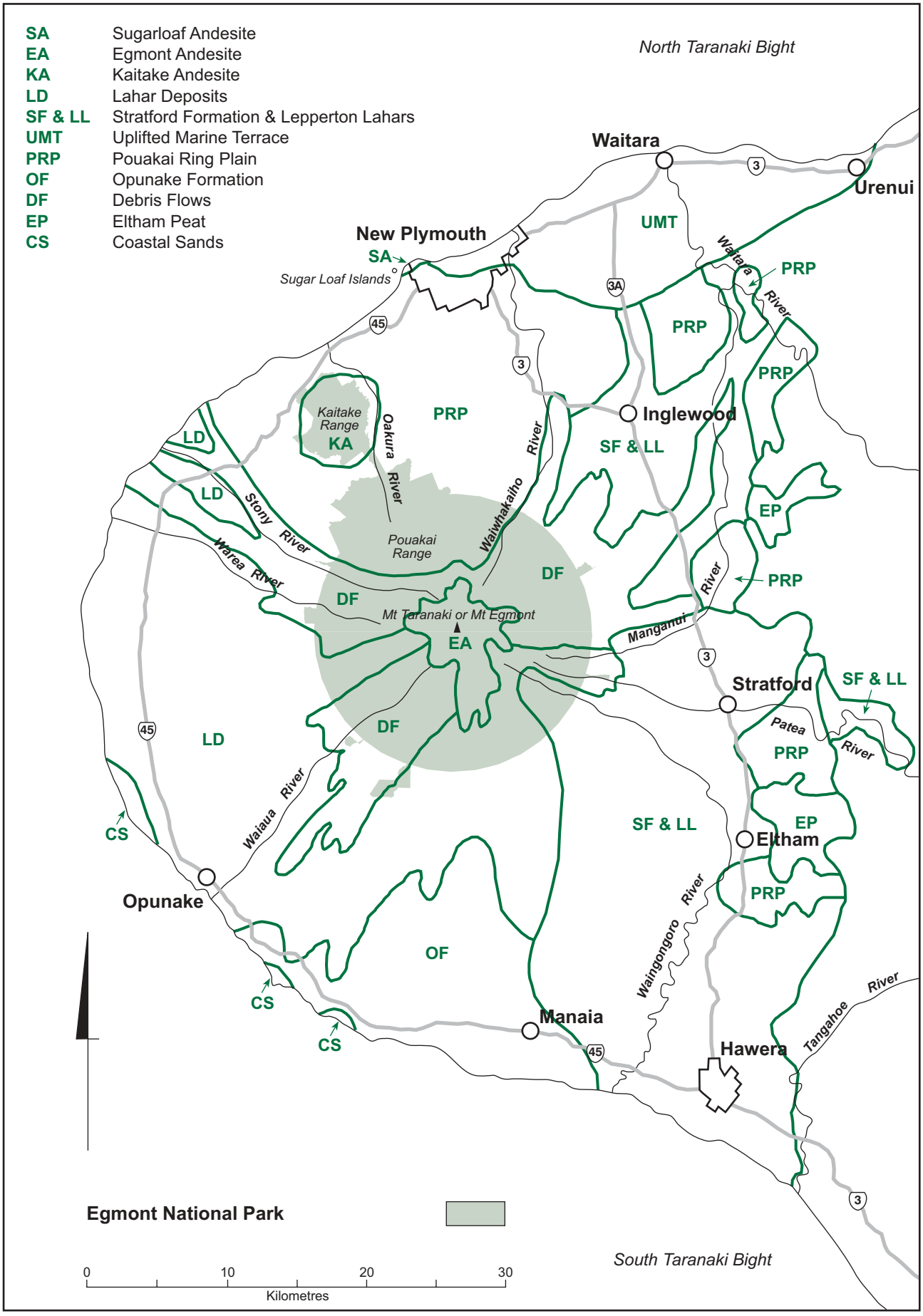
Lava flows, ash showers and lahars (debris flows) have also transported the volcanic material away from the peaks. The oldest lava flows on Mount Taranaki are preserved in the west, but erosion has removed a number of older flows, resulting in the picturesque forms of Humphries Castle, Lion Rock, and Warwick Castle (Tahuna a Tutawa). Fanthams Peak was formed when magma found a weak point in the volcano and created a secondary vent on the side of the mountain. Eruptions from this vent formed the peak.

Mount Taranaki is relatively unstable geologically, being an active volcano in a state of dormancy. There have been major debris flows in recent times (e.g. Pyramid Stream in 1890), but more frequent still are rock falls from unstable cliffs and scoria slopes. Ongoing research (e.g. hazard mapping) is useful to indicate the likelihood of changes on the mountain. This allows the location and type of any development to be planned and reduces the possibility of damage to facilities or risks to park users in this changing environment.

There are several deposits of minerals in the park, especially in the Kaitake Range. Not all of these deposits have been tested - however those that have been tested show no economic significance." Minerals of traditional interest (ochres) occur in various locations. There are also purely scientific interests in the geology and volcanology of the park.

The soils within Egmont National Park vary radially around Mt Taranaki. In the southwest, northwest and north are Maero and Newall soils derived from sands and gravels deposited by pyroclastic flows from Egmont Volcano over the last 500 years. In the southeast are Rowan soils derived principally from tephras (airfall pumices and scoria) erupted from the summit of Egmont Volcano and from Fanthams Peak between 500 and 3,500 years ago. To the east are Burrell soils derived from the Burrell pumice shower of 1655 A.D. All these soils are loose, weakly structured or structureless, weakly weathered, sands to gravels (lapilli) and are therefore highly erodible. The high rainfall means the soils are often strongly leached and, along with the low soil temperatures, contribute to relatively slow revegetation of eroded upper slopes. The effects of wild animals compound this problem. There are some soils in the park which are well drained and strongly leached deep ash soils, named Patua soils, which occur to the west of Mt Taranaki and across much of the western and northern slopes of the Pouakai Range. In contrast, where drainage is impeded, swamps and wet areas have formed, which provide a habitat for some of the park's rare or localised

FIGURE 2: GEOLOGY (SOURCE: BAYFIELD AND BENSON, 1986)



plants. At the highest altitudes are unnamed subalpine and alpine soils which are very weakly developed and erode easily.

1.3.4.3 Climate

The geographic position of Egmont National Park near the west coast of the North Island and its rapid elevation change from about 100 metres to 2500 metres influence its climate. The climate of the lower Kaitake Range sector of the park is mild and humid with mean annual rainfall of up to 1500 mm. The climate of the rest of the park is characterised by low temperatures, increased exposure to wind and very high rainfall. Annual rainfall varies from 7.5 metres in the Pouakai-North Egmont area to 6.3 metres in the Dawson Falls area, with falls of almost half a metre in a day having been recorded.

Ice covered vegetation.
Photo: T Weston

The high intensity and long duration of some storms mean the rain severely erodes soils not protected by vegetation. Thus, management of the park aims to retain a vegetative cover, or to control runoff where water accumulates, e.g. tracks and car parks.

The average wind speed is about 40 kilometres per hour at the summit of Taranaki and is about 16 kilometres per hour in the coastal Kaitake Range sector. Prevailing winds are from the west to northwest with southerly winds also being frequent. Gale force winds and blizzard conditions often occur above 1000 metres. There are frequent alterations between settled and stormy weather, with continually changing winds.

Wind and the temperature change with altitude. Both contribute to the severe windchill factor often experienced on the mountain. Low temperatures and moisture (cloud and fog) may lead to icy conditions. These features of mountain weather have considerable implications for user safety in the location of tracks and provision of low level alternative routes, huts and shelters and in educating responsible behaviours by park users.

At the altitude of the Stratford Mountain House (850 metres), snow does not fall often or settle long on the ground however there is an average of 14 days of snowfall per year. The irregular nature of good snowfalls combined with suitable weather has implications for skiing and the provision of associated facilities (e.g. roads and parking).

1.3.5 Ecosystem Diversity

1.3.5.1 Vegetation

Egmont National Park is important nationally as it contains a diverse range of vegetation developed in an environment of frequent volcanic activity. The vegetation

ranges from semi-coastal forest, through montane forest, tussock lands, into alpine and scree communities over a short distance, on a nearly conical volcanic peak. This compact altitudinal sequence is not often seen. The forests are conifer-broadleaved types and, unlike most other mid altitude forests, beech (*Nothofagus*) species are absent. Other notable features are the large number of terrestrial northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) and one of the most extensive kahikatea-rimu/kamahi semi-swamp forests in the North Island, with probably the largest population of swamp maire (*Syzygium maire*) remaining in New Zealand (Clarkson, 2001).

The vegetation patterns in Egmont National Park are complex. The vegetation at any given place is not only the product of climate but also of parent rock material, slope, aspect, drainage and soils. Also significant is the impact of past and ongoing disturbances (e.g. eruptions, landslides, cyclones, and human factors such as logging and introduced animals). As a result, the classic zonation is often interrupted. For example, the lowland rimu-kamahi-rata forest is replaced by relatively low-stature forest of kamahi and tree rata on the western slopes of the main cone. This forest occupies land devastated by debris flows less than 400 years ago. The northern part of the park has the mildest climate, and has tawa forest with some kohekohe, puriri, nikau and titoki. Where slopes are gentle or flat with poor drainage, there is swamp forest of kahikatea and swamp maire, or bogs with low scrub and reeds (see figure 3).

The largest swamp, Ahukawakawa, lies between the main cone and the Pouakai Range. It covers about 101 hectares at an altitude of 920 metres. Within the altitudinal range of montane forest, the dominant swamp plants are red tussock, sedges and sphagnum moss. It is an area of very high biodiversity; a third of all the park's plant species are found in this small area. Ahukawakawa forms the headwaters of the Stony River (Hangatahua) . The Stony River is protected under the Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki in recognition of its high scenic, recreation, historic values and its importance to Tangata Whenua. Other areas are also protected.

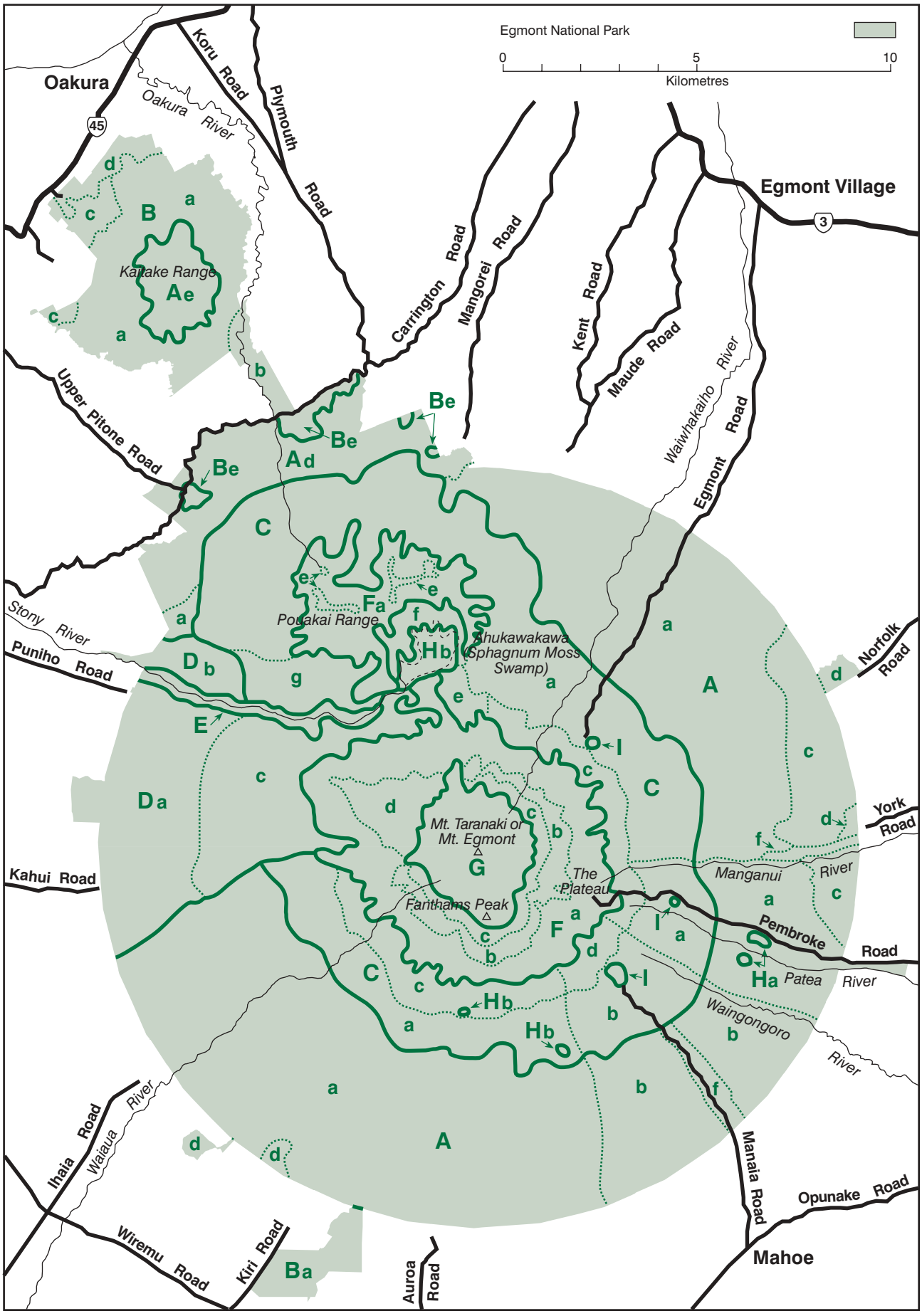
Ahukawakawa Swamp. Photo J Barkla

In all the non-forested zones, the broad patterns can be altered by local conditions such as degree of shelter, soil wetness, shade, or by recent disturbance, including human activity around tracks, buildings and ski areas.

The variety of native plants in the park is not as diverse as other New Zealand mountains, especially in montane and alpine zones (Clarkson, 1986; Druce, 1973). The park has just one endemic plant species (*Melicytus drucei*). Several endemic subspecies of widespread species have also been named, including the whipcord hebe, red tussock and mountain foxglove. This has been attributed to the recent vulcanism and isolation of the mountain. Beeches, mountain toatoa, and pigmy pine are examples of nationally widespread mountain plants which are absent from the park. On the other hand, for several native species, Egmont National Park is the only North Island location. These include mountain ribbonwood and the alpine fern *Polystichum cystostegia*. The total number of indigenous flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern relatives recorded in the park is about 500 species. Moss records from the park total 161 species. This is about 30% of the mosses in New Zealand (P.J.Brownsey, pers. comm. 2000).

a	rimu-rata / kamahi forest
b	rimu-rata / mahoe forest
c	kahikatea-rimu / kamahi forest
d	logged forest, kamahi predominant, tawa seldom present
e	kamahi forest (miro, hinau, toro common, and mountain totara present)
f	kamahi forest (occasional terrestrial rata present)
a	tawa forest (rewarewa, pukatea, hinau common; occasional rimu and kamahi)
b	logged forest, kamahi predominant, some tawa
c	kohekohe forest (rewarewa, tawa, pukatea common)
d	scrub and tree fernland to kohekohe forest
e	scrub and tree fernland trend to kamahi forest
a	kamahi-mountain totara forest
b	kamahi-mountain totara forest with kanuka
c	mountain totara-kaikawaka / broadleaved shrubs forest (kamahi seldom present)
d	mountain totara / broadleaved shrubs forest (kaikawaka and kamahi seldom present)
e	kaikawaka-mountain totara / kamahi forest
f	kaikawaka / kamahi forest + kaikawaka / leatherwood scrub
g	kamahi forest + leatherwood scrub
a	rata-kamahi forest
b	rata forest
c	kamahi-toro forest (including toro and kanuka forest)
	Stony River (kanuka forest, scrub and shrubland, herbfield, and river bed)
a	leatherwood scrub and shrubland
b	red-tussockland
c	herbfield
d	moss-herbfield and mossfield (with red tussock and shrub rings)
e	red-tussockland and tussock-herbfield
	gravelfield, stonefield, boulderfield, rockland, ice and snowfield
a	lowland mire
b	montane mire
	exotic plantation

FIGURE 3: VEGETATION TYPES (SOURCE: CLARKSON, 1986)



Nine plant species recorded in Egmont National Park are rated as nationally threatened or uncommon (de Lange *et al*., 1999). They are: *Dactylanthus taylorii* (pua o te reinga, a parasitic flowering plant which causes wood roses to form on its host plant's roots), *Prasophyllum* species (an unnamed orchid, related to *P. patens*), *Olearia capillaris* (a shrub daisy), *Melicytus drucei* (a divaricating shrub), *Gratiola nana* (a small creeping herb), *Brachyglottis kirkii* (or kohurangi, a shrub daisy), *Marattia salicino* (king fern), and *Myriophyllum robustum* (giant milfoil). The mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus* was last seen in the park in the 1960s but was found outside of the park boundary in 1995. Another important feature of the vascular flora is the restricted occurence (one or a few small colonies) of many species that are common elsewhere in New Zealand. This makes them especially vulnerable to local extinction including through inadvertent damage by human activity. Examples include the small shrub *Cyathodes empetrifolia*, *Podocarpus nivalis* (a prostrate coniferous shrub) and the small tree *Entelea arborescens*.

Clarkson (1986) described the various vegetation and substrate classes of the park.

Lowland forest

This forest type covers more than half the total park area (>16, 765 hectares). Clarkson identified nine main forest types: rimu-rata/kamahi, rimu-rata/mahoe, kahikatea-rimu/kamahi, rata-kamahi, kamahi-toro, rata, kamahi, tawa and kohekohe.

Exotic forest

Lucy's Gully contains a stand of less than 30 ha of coastal redwood. This stand was subject to a national park determination and it was decided that it had historic significance and should not be removed.

Lowland tree fernland and scrub, induced grassland and cliff vegetation

Occurs in an area on the lower north-western slopes of the Kaitake Range. Steep cliffs in this area are not forested but are dominated by mountain flax (a species not found elsewhere in the park, and possibly introduced by Maori).

Montane forest

This type of forest occurs between 760 m and 1100 m on Mount Taranaki and the Pouakai Range and covers nearly one third (11,165 ha) of the total park area. One major type dominates, kamahi-mountain totara, but Clarkson (1986) has identified six other types.

Mire vegetation

This is a very small but significant ecosystem type within the park. Ahukawakawa Swamp supports 260 different species. (Druce, 1973). The park contains over 80% of all wetlands remaining in the Egmont Ecological District.

Subalpine scrub and shrubland

This covers most of the upper Pouakai Range and forms a belt 800 metres to one kilometre wide around Mount Taranaki between 1100 metres and 1400 metres. Scrub and shrubland is also found associated with park mires.

Subalpine and alpine tussockland

Tussockland occurs as a narrow strip between 1400 metres and 1600 metres on Mount Taranaki. It also covers the high peaks and poorly drained tops of the Pouakai Range and is predominant in the Ahukawakawa Swamp.

Alpine herbfields

These occur up to 1675 metres and above the upper limit of tussocklands

(approximately 1600 metres). Herbs are the most predominant growth form as well as mossfield and moss-herbfield and cushion-plant fields.

Alpine gravelfield, stonefield, boulderfield, rockland, snowfield, and icefield.
At about 1650 metres plant cover becomes patchy with bare substrate predominating.

Introduced Plants
Weeds are mostly restricted to road ends within the park, the park edge and lower stream and river valleys. Wild ginger can become the dominant understory species and prevent natural forest regeneraton. It is being controlled on the western edge of the Kaitake Range. Gorse occurs in dense stands along some major streams but is likely to be replaced by native species in time. There are other plant pests found in the park that are a threat and need to be controlled and monitored. These include Chilean rhubarb, wandering willie and climbing asparagus. Old man's beard is not currently known in the park but has the potential to cause serious damage to conservation values if it becomes established. Old man's beard smothers and kills trees and prevents the establishment of native seedlings.

1.3.5.2 Wildlife

Terrestrial (land) fauna
Forty-three bird species (28 native and 15 introduced) regularly occur in the park. As the only large forest tract within the Egmont Ecological District, the park provides the district's only habitat for many of these birds (Cotton and Molloy, 1986). The park has a good range of common forest birds including tomtit, rifleman and bellbird. Species of note include North Island brown kiwi, fernbird and blue duck. The forest gecko is found in the park, and in 1994, brown skinks were found at the unusually high altitude of about 900m.


Threatened species Blue Duck. Photo: D Caskey

Surveys of invertebrates have been made in the park. Several species are unique to the park, and it is the only North Island locality for several others. New Zealand's largest terrestrial amphipod "hopper", *Tara taranaki* is known only in the park, as is a distinctive form of *Powelliphanta* (giant land snail).

Aquatic life
The park contains the head waters of over 300 rivers and streams that provide a relatively unmodified habitat for instream life.

Of New Zealand's 31 indigenous fish species, 13 have been recorded in, or near the park. They include well-known species such as long-finned (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) and short-finned eels (*Anguilla australis*) and common bullies (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*). Nationally threatened species are also present. These include giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*), short-jawed kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis*), banded kokopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*), and koaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*). The native freshwater crayfish, koura (*Paranephrops planifrons*) is also present.

Introduced fauna

Most rivers within the park carry stocks of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) which generally spawn in the more stable upper reaches of the rivers. The Stony River also carries rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Although some trout fishing occurs within the park, most is carried out in the lower reaches of the rivers outside the park.

There are a number of introduced animals impacting on the native flora and fauna of the park. Possums have had a particularly severe impact on emergent and canopy species. The impacts range from removal of fruit and flowers to the death of large areas of trees through defoliation. Possums may also eat the eggs and chicks of birds and eat large invertebrates such as *Powelliphanta* snails.

Possum - A major threat to park values.

In the past goats have hugely modified the understorey of the forest by browsing all accessible palatable vegetation. In some areas the entire forest was killed through browsing, bark biting and trampling. Today, as a consequence of intensive control, goat impacts are negligible but the species remains a significant threat.

1.3.6 Visitor Use

Egmont National Park is visited by people of the Taranaki region as well as domestic tourists from other parts of New Zealand. The proximity to population centres and the attraction of the mountain draw a lot of local visitors to the park, but also from other parts of New Zealand and overseas. Once at the road end, weather, inclination, or opportunity largely dictate whether they use the visitor centres, picnic areas, go for a walk, enjoy or record the views, or a combination of these.

A visitor survey (Laurence, 1994) of the park has identified a number of significant characteristics of visitors to the park. Taranaki residents were the largest user group in the park, making up 47% of all visitors to the park. New Zealand visitors originating from outside the Taranaki region were the next largest user group at 37%. Domestic tourists (New Zealanders from outside Taranaki) therefore are an important component of the park visitation. Overseas visitors accounted for 16% of visitors to the park. Another interesting characteristic was the specific age groups of visitors to the park. All age groups were well represented, however, the largest age group was visitors in the 20-29 group, making up 30% of visitors to the park. The next largest age groups were 30-39 year-olds with 24.2% of visitors and 40-49 year-olds at 19%.

Significant public recreation and tourism in the Taranaki region focuses on Mount Taranaki. The range of opportunities found in the park (which usually receives more than 330,000 visitors per annum), usually begin at the three major roadends. The park is the most visited tourist site in Taranaki, therefore plays a major and valuable role in the Taranaki regions economy. Visitor numbers to the park remained stable over the period 1992-97, although a drop in visitor numbers was recorded in 1998, reflecting the poor ski season. Picnicking, viewing scenery, short walks and visits to the park's

two visitor centres are popular. Schools and other groups use the park for outdoor education. The Department provides accommodation for these groups at Dawson Falls and North Egmont.

During winter, the Manganui Skifield and roadends are busy on fine days following a heavy snowfall. The skifield and its access becomes the highest used facility in the park during the ski season. Manganui Skifield is the only area available for skifield development in the park. Other areas are considered unsuitable because of poor access, variable snow cover, difficult topography and impact on the park's natural character and values. The Department caters for the majority of park visitors by providing high quality facilities at most roadends.

Good snowfalls attract visitors of all ages.
Photo T Weston

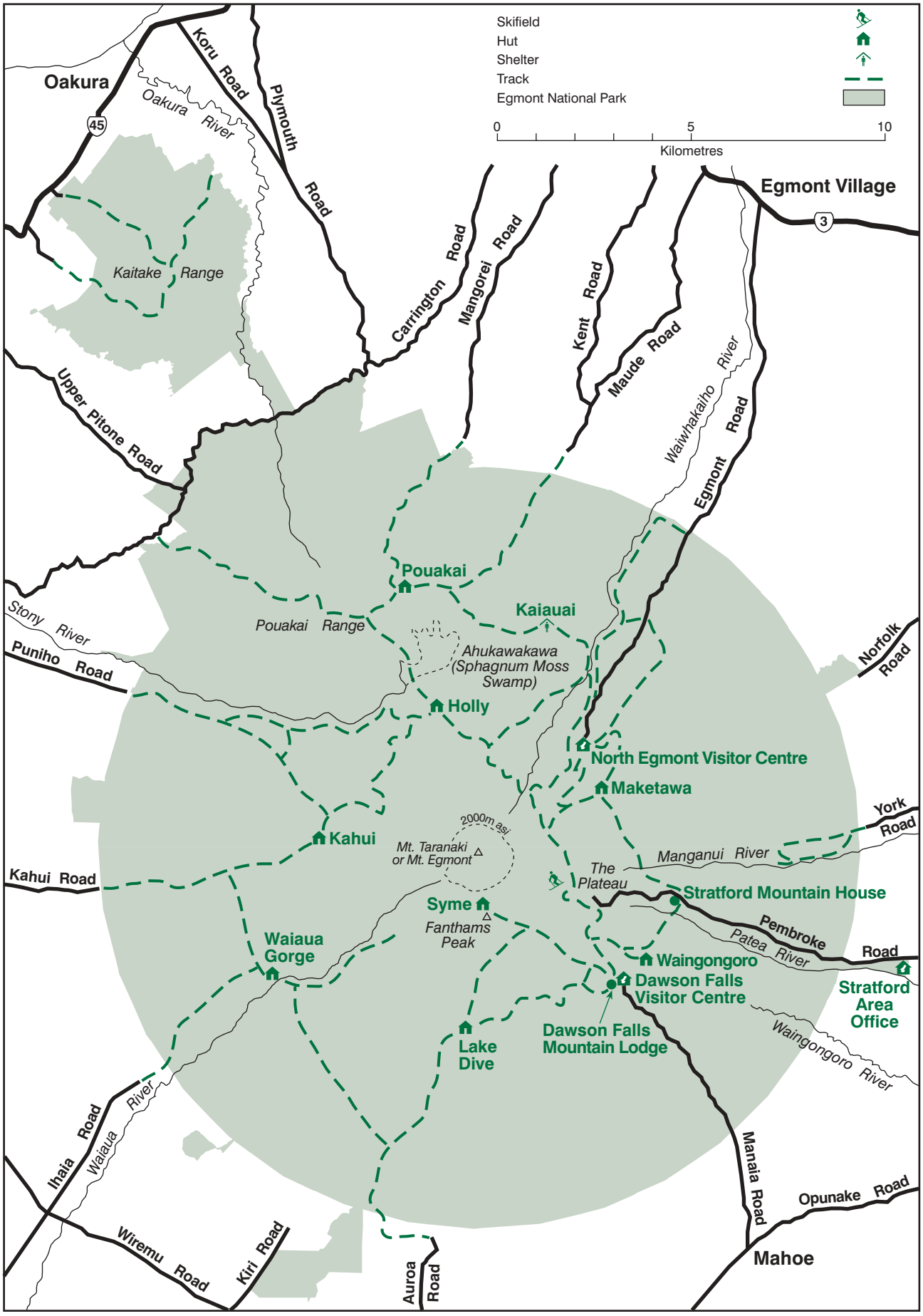
The main backcountry activities in the park are tramping and climbing. The Department maintains nine public huts and over 140 km of formed tracks that require high maintenance and servicing due to the extreme environmental conditions (see figure 4).

The Around the Mountain Circuit provides a multi-day tramping opportunity, especially popular with overseas visitors. Climbing to the summit of Mount Taranaki is also popular with visitors. Mount Taranaki is a challenging and often difficult climbing area. This is especially so in winter, when ice and unpredictable weather make the mountain hazardous, and ice axes, crampons and windproof clothing become essential. During summer in suitable weather, the mountain is a more straightforward climb. Many hundreds of people make the ascent to the summit each year, mostly in summer. High use has led to a need for monitoring and controlling visitor impacts on the popular North Summit Route, as well as ensuring that inexperienced people are made aware of alpine hazards.

Mount Taranaki has been used for hang-gliding and paragliding in the past. However, Tangata Whenua are concerned about use of the summit, an area of special cultural significance, as a take-off point.

The two tourist lodges, the Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge and the Stratford Mountain House, operate under leases administered by the Department, and both offer accommodation and meals. Their leases are perpetually renewable. Three locked alpine club lodges, which operate under a licence or permit administered by the Department, are generally not available for use by the public. Guiding concessions have been issued for guided walks, climbing and mountain-craft instruction.

FIGURE 4: RECREATION



2 Management Philosophy

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The management philosophy includes a vision (see beginning of document) and the following set of goals. The vision is a prediction of what the park could be like in the future as a result of effective management and community support. The accompanying set of goals, expand upon and give detail to the vision.

The philosophy guides the public and the Department in determining conservation priorities within the park, and guides the relationships the Department has with Tangata Whenua, park user groups and associates. The philosophy also identifies what is 'unique' about Egmont National Park and what broad natural and historic values it encompasses and seeks to protect. The range of spiritual and cultural values people place on the mountain is acknowledged in the management of the park and its recreation activities and visitor opportunities.

The management philosophy is a broad statement of intent and direction for Egmont National Park which provides guidance, along with the Wanganui Conservancy CMS, where there is a lack of clear direction on a specific issue. This philosophy articulates the reasoning behind the management objectives and policies in the plan – and will guide decision making on a day-to-day basis.

2.2 GOALS

2.2.1 Ecological Management

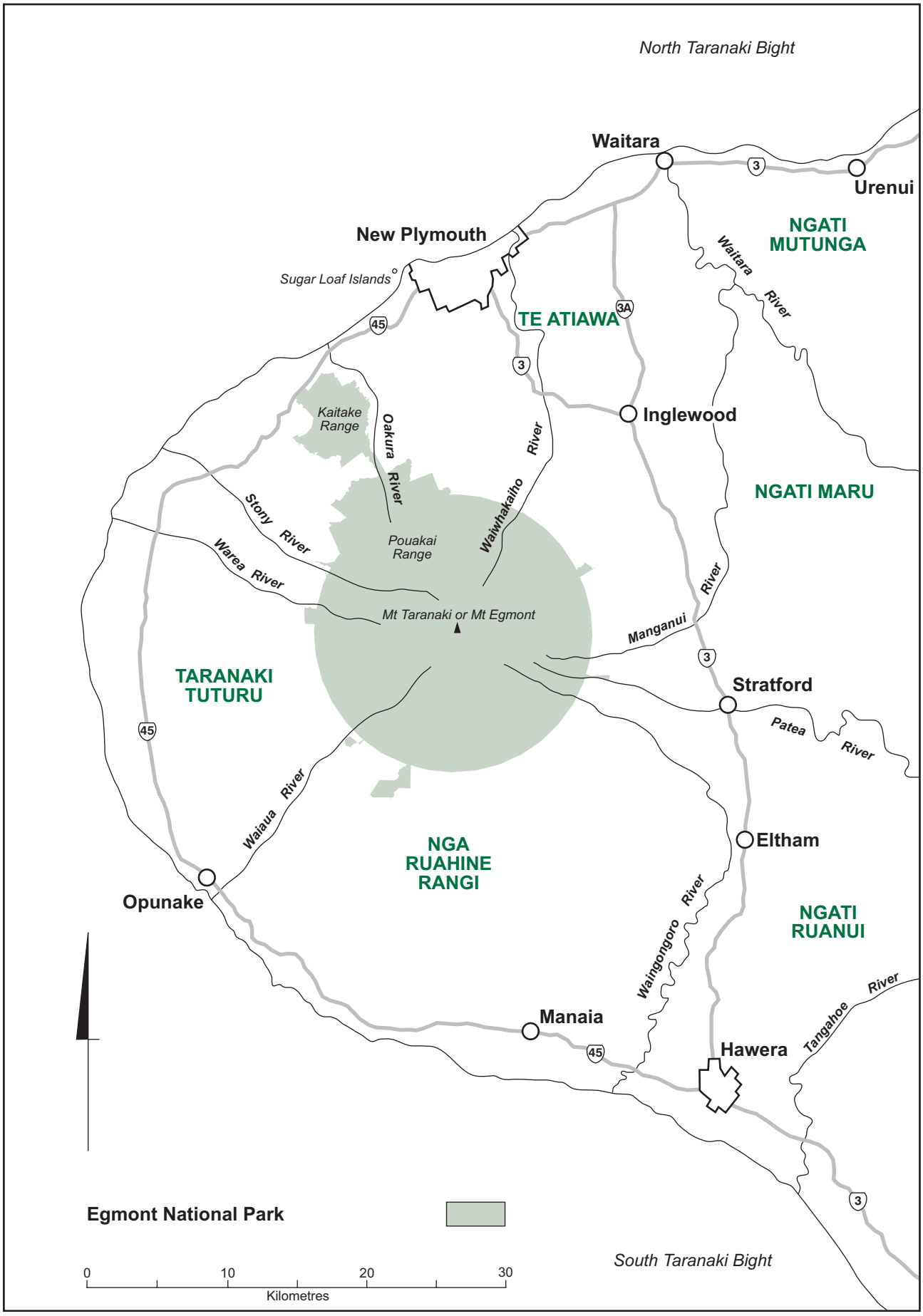
Goal:
To manage the park from an ecological perspective to ensure that its indigenous biological diversity and health are sustained and improved.

The isolation of Egmont National Park from other natural areas has advantages and disadvantages. It will be easier for example to control many common animal and weed pests, but on the other hand wildlife corridors connecting to the lowlands outside the park are few and far between.

Many of the ecological resources within the park represent what Taranaki was like before people arrived. Removing exotic animal and plant threats is crucial for preserving the ecological integrity of native ecosystems within the park. A full understanding of how the different components within the park interact is vital for effective management of the park. Therefore, an increasing component of the Department's work will be concentrated on research and monitoring. The impact of human activity must also be managed carefully to ensure it does not compromise the park's natural values.

Sustaining the indigenous biological diversity for its own worth and for the enjoyment and appreciation by future generations will be the basis for management of the park.

FIGURE 5: GENERAL LOCATION OF IWI



2.2.2 Spiritual and Cultural Values

Goal:
To recognise the range of spiritual and cultural values that people place on the park.

The mountain and the park hold special significance for the people of Taranaki. It is a familiar landmark and a source of inspiration. Egmont National Park and Mount Taranaki hold many values for all New Zealanders.

To Tangata Whenua, the maunga (mountain) is a source of spiritual nourishment and a physical and cultural haven. Tangata Whenua have a particularly strong spiritual relationship with the mountain because of their long association and identification with it. The mana of the maunga and the benefits that it endowed to the Tangata Whenua gave Taranaki Maunga rangatira status. It is quite common in Taranaki to hear within whaikorero (speeches) on the marae, at hui, in the kura (school), and in the homes of Tangata Whenua, personal homage being expressed to Maunga Taranaki as rangatira. This acknowledgment reflects people's depth of respect. This relationship must be acknowledged and respected by the Department and must be an essential element of the philosophy behind park management. Rohe are shown in figure 5.

This management plan does not provide detail on the full range of spiritual or cultural values that different cultures place on the park. Recognition that these values exist, often with common elements across cultures, indicates that park management will take these values into account.

Recognition and acceptance of different cultural and spiritual values must be an integral part of strategic as well as day-to-day management.

2.2.3 Community Involvement in Management

Goal:
To work co-operatively with Tangata Whenua, the public of New Zealand and in particular the Taranaki community in the management of the park.

The Department, on behalf of the New Zealand public has the legal responsibility for managing the park. Effective management can however only occur with the support and involvement of Tangata Whenua, the national and Taranaki community.

Involvement of Tangata Whenua is crucial. They have a vast store of knowledge and experience to contribute and they are the appropriate people to advise and be involved in the protection and conservation of Wāhi Tapu and other taonga. Co-operative relationships will be developed which will assist in the ongoing preservation of the mountain, the park, and the values associated with both. The special kaitiaki role of Tangata Whenua and their ability to enhance management will be recognised and provided for.

People of Taranaki have been involved in the management of the park, always with the best interests of the park at heart. As the need for projects, like ecological restoration, becomes apparent, community support may increase. Community relationships will be developed with the specific aim of protecting or enhancing the ecosystems of the park.

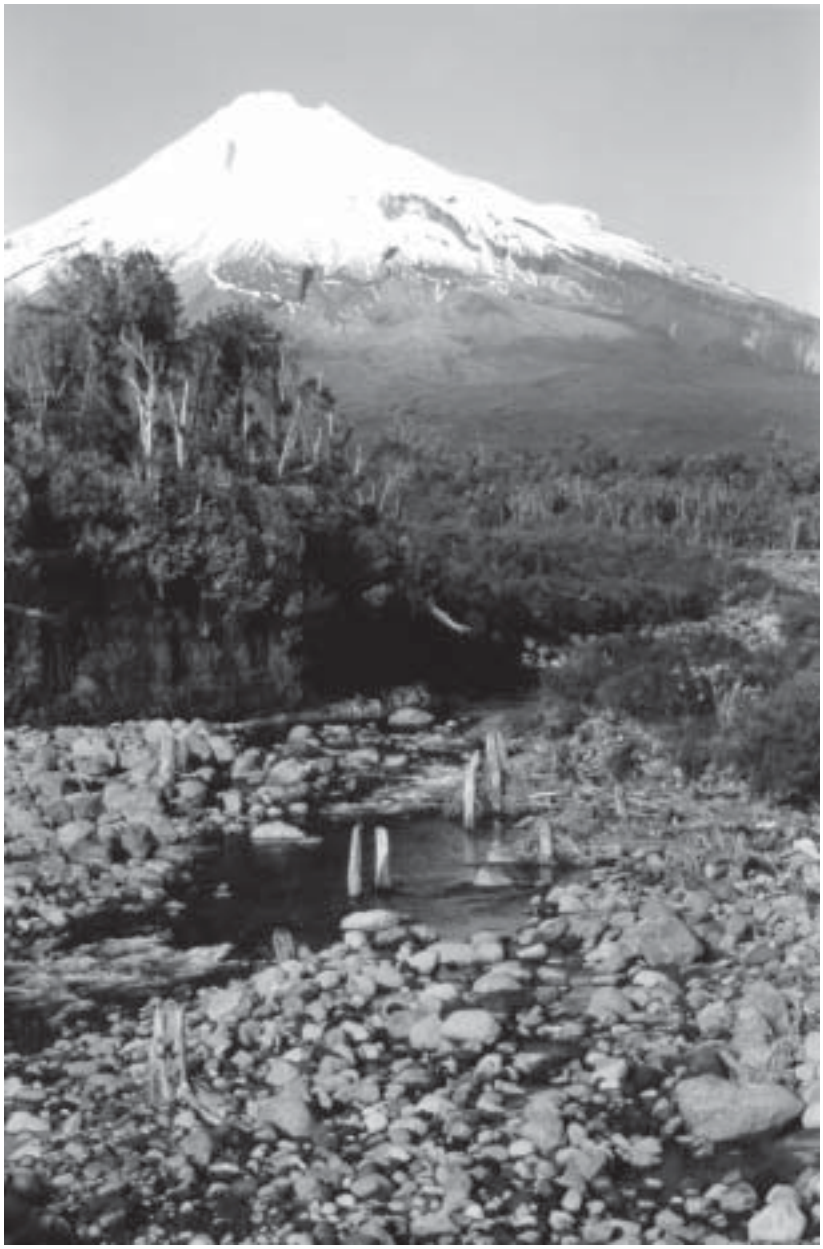
Developing these relationships is important as there are advantages in greater active involvement of Tangata Whenua and community groups in the protection of natural and historic resources. Conservation will benefit from an increased depth of local and traditional knowledge. The development of these relationships will also enhance the awareness of recreational and tourism users of the park and its values.

As Egmont National Park is an important national feature, the involvement of the wider New Zealand community in its management will also be welcomed.

2.2.4 Surrounding Environment

Goal:
To recognise the park's importance for sustaining natural systems for the people of Taranaki.

The park and its mountain are an icon to the people of Taranaki. It also sustains and supports the natural systems of the region and influences the climate. The high rainfall on the mountain ensures a constant supply of water crucial for agriculture or horticulture, many industries and human consumption in the region.



View of Mt Taranaki from Stony River.

The beauty and diversity of the rainforests has been largely lost outside the park. Forested margins, which run along watercourses, provide some representative forest types in the lowlands. These forest corridors have positive ecological and economic outcomes, as crucial habitat and water quality is more likely to be guaranteed. Restoring and extending these corridors down the ringplain from the park boundary could create a landscape which would not only enhance the park but also help ensure that management of the surrounding farmed land is undertaken sustainably.

While the surrounding landscape is not part of the Egmont National Park, sympathetic management of this can help protect and enhance many of the park's values.

2.2.5 Public Use

Goal:
To foster a variety of appropriate park uses to provide inspiration, enjoyment and other benefits. Provision of educative, interpretation information will be used to promote the conservation, cultural and historic park values.

Use of the natural and historic resources of the park for recreation will be fostered, and tourism allowed to the extent where this is not inconsistent with conservation and protection of national park values. Public use must remain conditional on preservation.

Freedom of entry to national parks is a fundamental principle embodied in Section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980. Egmont National Park is well used by nearby population centres at New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera, as well as attracting many domestic and overseas visitors.

Recreation is a major activity in the park. The recreation activities need to respect and acknowledge the various aspirations of park visitors, for adventure, quiet enjoyment and spiritual solace.

It is important that interpretive displays, information and education material are provided to enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness of the environment and recognition of the natural, cultural and historic values. Educating visitors can provide long-term benefits to conservation in the park and in New Zealand generally and may encourage people to become more actively involved in conservation issues. The Department will use this opportunity to provide conservation messages about the importance of ecosystems and biological diversity and information about the relationship Tangata Whenua have with the mountain.

The Department will facilitate relationships with users of the park to maximise the opportunity for the conservation message to be spread.

Facilities and services provided will meet with national, legal and service standards to ensure all users enjoy the park in safety.

3 Management Objectives and Policies

3.1 TREATY OF WAITANGI

Objective:

- ***To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.***

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Appendix 1) to the extent that those principles are not inconsistent with the National Parks Act. This has been interpreted to mean that the Department must recognise the mana and Tangata Whenua status of iwi whose rohe includes the park and seek to actively involve Tangata Whenua in the protection of their taonga (treasures) within the park.

3.1.1 Kaitiakitanga

Policy:

- ***To recognise the role of the Tangata Whenua as Kaitiaki of Nga Taonga o te Kahuï Maunga.***

Kaitiakitanga is a key role of Tangata Whenua, a role which seeks to ensure the preservation of Nga Taonga o te Kahuï Maunga (the treasures of these ancestral tribes before the coming of the great migration). Kaitiakitanga is the means by which the mauri (life force) of resources is restored, maintained and enhanced for present and future generations and for life itself.

The significance of the maunga to Tangata Whenua through intertribal linkages in the passage of history cannot be fully described here, but a brief overview can be given. Recognition of the traditional kaitiaki role of the Tangata Whenua is an important focus for the Department in managing the park.

Two historical leaders, Rua Taranaki and Tahurangi enhanced the mana of the maunga by ascending to its highest peak, lighting the way for kaitiakitanga. This achievement led to the claim by Rua Taranaki over the maunga, surrounding lands, rivers and forests, through to the moana. Generations later, a descendant of this leader shared those claims and benefits with the people of the great waka migration.

Guiding principles were laid down by those tohunga most skilled in knowledge. Such principles formed a common ancestral ethic in respect of te ao kohatu (the ancient world). From this common ethic the pre-European Tangata Whenua culture evolved. It created traditions and rituals of human expression encompassing whanaungatanga (family links) in an environment which Tangata Whenua shaped to suit their cultural aspirations. The Maunga has provided many natural resources important to Tangata Whenua for cultural expression, food, medicine and building. The oral recording of specific events helped shape the way Tangata Whenua applied the resources of their surrounding environment, and prepared them for the changes in te ao hurihuri (the modern world).

Actions

1. *Recognise the traditional role of Tangata Whenua as kaitiaki by giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to the extent that those principles are not inconsistent with the National Parks Act.*
2. *Place emphasis on establishing common goals in conservation management in the park with Tangata Whenua so that the goal of traditional kaitiakitanga and the Department's guardianship role can be achieved.*

3.1.2 Kaupapa Atawhai

Policies:

- ***To strengthen the achievement of conservation goals by drawing on the cultural values of Maori in the management of the park.***
- ***To ensure there is early, open, ongoing and effective communication with Tangata Whenua about conservation issues and development within the park.***
- ***To ensure that the spiritual and cultural significance of Taranaki Maunga to hapu and iwi of the region is respected by the Department.***

In response to the requirements of the Conservation Act (section 4), the Department of Conservation established the kaupapa atawhai network within its structure for the purpose of:

- Identifying the extent of Maori interest in natural and historic resources, and
- Identifying Maori conservation principles and practices through processes of consultation with Tangata Whenua and seeking agreement to incorporate these successfully into conservation management.

An understanding of Maori conservation values, a conservation ethic and the active involvement of Maori will enhance conservation management in the park.

Actions

1. *Ensure that consultation with Tangata Whenua on conservation issues is early, ongoing, informed and effective.*
2. *Establish and maintain clear lines of communication with all Iwi that view Taranaki Maunga as a taonga.*
3. *Seek opportunities for dialogue when matters of cultural importance arise, particularly in matters concerning 'use' in the park e.g. where recreational or commercial activities may conflict with Tangata Whenua views.*
4. *Explore with Tangata Whenua the means whereby customary Maori conservation practices (e.g. rahui) may be used and supported to achieve shared conservation goals.*

3.1.3 Co-operation with Tangata Whenua

Policy:

- ***To develop effective co-operation between the Department and Tangata Whenua in the protection and management of natural and historic resources administered by the Department.***

In the past there have been few opportunities for Tangata Whenua to participate in the conservation of their natural and cultural heritage. It is important for the Department to work with Tangata Whenua to establish relationships that allow both parties to feel comfortable and respect each other's views on the management of park values.

In some instances, Tangata Whenua may express an interest in or concern about a particular management practice in the park, and indicate that they would like to be involved in making management decisions and/or helping out in a practical way. In such instances the Department will involve Tangata Whenua in assessing the implications of different management options to help determine an appropriate response.

The Department may enter into co-operative formal arrangements that result in enhancing and protecting park values through an effective and efficient management process. It must be noted however that the powers of the Minister of Conservation can only be delegated to staff, thus any statutory decisions must still be made by the Minister or his/her delegate.

In the case of historic resources, effective protection requires the fullest possible knowledge of their extent, nature and history. In some instances this knowledge may not be able to be disclosed to the Department. Therefore the Department may need to investigate other methods of management.

General co-operative formal arrangements are one way of facilitating a relationship between the Department and Tangata Whenua with relevant knowledge of a historic resource, which may result in the integrity of the historic values of a site being preserved to a greater degree than that possible by one partner. Formal arrangements may relate to the procedures and protocol to be observed in the management of historic resources by the Department, or they may allow for Tangata Whenua to provide specific advice on how historic resources should be managed. Where formal arrangements are desirable for particular sites, these will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with the relevant Tangata Whenua.

Actions

1. *Develop principles, processes, or protocols that will enable iwi to participate in co-operative conservation management in the park with a view to improved management of natural, historic and cultural resources within the park.*

2. *Invite Tangata Whenua representatives to participate and be involved in consideration of the effects of different management options and practices in the park, especially where they have indicated an interest in a park management issue.*

3. *Consider entering into general co-operative formal arrangements with Tangata Whenua where the conservation outcome will be improved management of natural, historic and cultural resources within the park.*

4. *Investigate and implement agreed general co-operative formal arrangements with Tangata Whenua to provide for the better management of historic resources, or places of historic interest within the park.*

5. *Seek direction from a recognised iwi authority (Taranaki Maori Trust Board) and Tangata Whenua on the establishment of a collective forum to work with the Department on the on-going implementation of the Egmont National Park Management Plan, as it affects tangata whenua interests.*

3.1.4 Wähi Tapu

Policy:

- ***To investigate mutually acceptable formal arrangements for levels of active involvement in the protection and management of Wähi Tapu, as defined by Tangata Whenua.***

A Wähi Tapu is an "historic resource" for the purpose of the Conservation Act 1987, and a "place of historic interest" for the purpose of the National Parks Act 1980. Wähi Tapu will be conserved and managed, accommodating Maori values, within the context of the National Parks Act.

The definition of Wähi Tapu varies among iwi. Many definitions relate to places. In addition, Wähi Tapu can apply to physical features such as a prominent landmark, rock or tree. The 'Tapu' designation may apply to only a specific part of the feature.

Wähi Tapu are regarded for protection purposes as an 'historic resource', however it should also be recognised that Wähi Tapu are regarded as living resources, and traditional customs and practices may still be undertaken at these places. A Wahi Tapu, which is an archaeological site under the Historic Places Act, cannot be damaged, destroyed or modified without obtaining an authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The Department acknowledges that Tangata Whenua are the repository of knowledge about Wähi Tapu and that the Department does not have an automatic right to access that knowledge, and that any teaching or sharing of it is at the discretion of the Tangata Whenua. The mana of Wähi Tapu may be lost or diminished as a result of improper use of such information or an activity that violates the Tapu.

Knowledge of the precise location of Wähi Tapu is not necessary to ensure protection or for management purposes, providing Tangata Whenua are consulted over any proposed activities. Non-disclosure of locations of Wähi Tapu is a protection mechanism that Tangata Whenua often use to preserve the sanctity of a place. Where Tangata Whenua are prepared to disclose such information, the Department will ensure it does not carry out, foster or authorise activities which violate the Tapu. The Department will not pass this information onto a third party without the consent of Tangata Whenua.

Any individual may apply to the Maori Heritage Council under the Historic Places Act 1993 to have a site listed on the 'Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wähi Tapu, and Wähi Tapu Areas'. Under the Historic Places Act 1993, the Department may apply for such registration for sites within the park only where it has first consulted with Tangata Whenua. In recognition of the living status of Wähi Tapu, the Department, in co-operation with the Tangata Whenua, may utilise a number of other protection or enhancement mechanisms such as tree planting.

Actions

1. *Consult with Tangata Whenua in instances when any activity is likely to occur on a known Wähi Tapu e.g. ground disturbance.*
2. *Consult with Tangata Whenua to determine where the general or specific locations of Wähi Tapu are located in the park.*
3. *Respect the principle of confidentiality that applies to Wähi Tapu.*

4. *Seek Tangata Whenua participation when formulating policies for the protection and management of Wähi Tapu, e.g. avoid building tracks through or near important areas.*

5. *Work alongside Tangata Whenua if they wish to apply for the registration of Wähi Tapu or Wähi Tapu areas under the Historic Places Act 1993.*

6. *Recognise that active management of Wähi Tapu is required to ensure appropriate historic values relating to the site are maintained.*

3.2 HERITAGE PROTECTION

Objective:

- ***To preserve in perpetuity and restore where possible the ecological systems, landscape, wilderness, natural, cultural and historic features of Egmont National Park.***

The principal purpose of a national park is the protection of an area of land in its natural state in perpetuity. By keeping Egmont National Park in its most natural and pristine state, an important part of New Zealand's heritage is preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Egmont National Park is a potential mainland island.

3.2.1 Biodiversity Management

Policies:

- ***To protect the diversity and health of indigenous plants, animals and their habitats.***

- ***To enhance and restore those aspects of the park's indigenous biodiversity that have been degraded.***

The Convention of Biological Diversity describes biodiversity as:

> "the variety of all biological life - plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms - the genes they contain and the ecosystems on land or in water where they live. It is diversity of life on earth."

Maintaining the park's biodiversity - its indigenous plants and animals and the ecological processes which support them - is of paramount importance. Recreational use of the park is fostered in so much as activities are not inconsistent with the principal purpose of conservation.

3.2.1.1 Biodiversity Monitoring

Policy:

- *To gain a full understanding of how park ecosystems and their separate components function.*

In order to protect and enhance its biodiversity, the park needs to be managed actively to control, and where possible, eliminate new and existing threats. The major threats are predation and habitat destruction by introduced plant and animal species. A more efficient monitoring system for the park is necessary to determine and effectively prioritise management requirements.

An important first step is to determine the status quo and to identify species that are declining in abundance or distribution. Regular, broad-spectrum monitoring can provide baseline information and reveal future trends.In addition, monitoring of species known to be indicators of ecosystem health is important to anticipate potential problems.

General bird surveys within the park have in the past been conducted irregularly. Animal populations tend to fluctuate faster than plant populations, therefore the frequency of bird surveys will be increased.

Baselines for monitoring of vegetation, in the form of permanent plots and some exclosure plots began in 1977. The permanent plots look at vegetation species present, the level of animal pest browsing (e.g. leaf damage) and the level of plant recruitment. These plots will be resurveyed at regular intervals. Exclosure plots look at the vegetation present in the absence of animal pests such as goats. Most exclosure plots in the park are in poor condition (e.g. fences down) but there is no need to re-establish them due to low browse damage.

In addition foliar browse monitoring is undertaken regularly to determine the level of possum damage on key indicator plant species. This monitoring is primarily to determine when possum control operations are needed, and to gauge the success of these operations.

More frequent and regular monitoring will allow any negative trends to be detected earlier and remedial steps taken. It is intended that broad-spectrum surveys of all species, not just threatened species will occur regularly.

This ecosystem monitoring will be supplemented where necessary, by more intensive species-specific monitoring for threatened species management and pest control purposes. When it is ascertained that populations of threatened and common species are secure, attention can turn to the re-introduction of indigenous species that have been lost from the park. Restoration of the park's natural biodiversity to the fullest extent possible will be the long-term aim.

A report on the state of the park's biodiversity, which will incorporate a summary of all biodiversity monitoring in the park, will be produced at regular intervals (about three-yearly). The park biodiversity report will provide a comprehensive picture of current biodiversity trends and will be useful in identifying and prioritising future work.

It is anticipated that the results of this monitoring and ensuing management will help guide biodiversity management in other areas of the Wanganui Conservancy and beyond.

Active biodiversity management need not be confined to Departmental staff. Keen and skilled individuals or groups can play a major part in biodiversity protection work. Groups such as the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ), botanical groups, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Tangata Whenua and other groups can help in gathering information and contributing to management of the park's biodiversity.

Actions

1. *Implement more frequent and regular monitoring to detect trends in species abundance and distribution.*
    - *Re-measure vegetation plots at regular intervals.*

- *Regular measurements of foliar browse index lines or aerial monitoring.*
- *Maintain and monitor exclosure plots.*
- *Broad scale, regular fauna surveys at intervals directed by the Conservancy Fauna Strategy*
- *Select and undertake regular, more intensive monitoring on a representative suite of key indicator species.*

2. *Collate all monitoring results into a single biodiversity report to foster integrated management. This will include results from baseline monitoring, species-specific monitoring and pest and weed monitoring.*
3. *Where required adjust park management based on the results of biodiversity monitoring.*
4. *Encourage interested groups to participate in monitoring of biodiversity in the park where this can be done to acceptable standards.*

3.2.1.2 Threatened Species

Policies:

- *To maintain and enhance population numbers and the distribution ranges of threatened indigenous species.*
- *Prevent additional indigenous species and ecological communities from becoming threatened.*

The park contains a number of indigenous plants and animals with a threatened status. This means that without active management, their populations may continue to decline or become locally extinct. The mountains of the park make up an island of indigenous vegetation surrounded on all sides by pasture. This provides an opportunity to protect and enhance threatened species populations within its borders through intensive protection work and in the absence of some pests (for example deer).

Brown Kiwi - New Zealand's national icon.

The Department's management of threatened plants and animals is undertaken in accordance with a ranking system that sets out national priorities for conservation. Such management is designed to ensure the continued survival of individual species through management programmes that are designed specifically for them. For example, the North Island Brown kiwi, a "Category A threatened species" (Molloy and Davies, 1994), has a national recovery programme which has identified the need for the national kiwi call monitoring scheme to be undertaken in Taranaki to survey gaps in known distribution – this includes Egmont National Park. The threatened plant *Dactylanthus taylorii* and the blue duck also have recovery plans. Other threatened species, such as; *Melicytus drucei*, *Powelliphanta* "Egmont" and the N.Z falcon are being managed by locally initiated plans. These species may warrant recovery management too.

The intention over the next 10 years will be to determine the status of all threatened species known in the park and provide ongoing protection. This is likely to mean yearly or biennial monitoring where no specific threats have been identified and more regular monitoring where a change in status is likely. Current broad-spectrum control of goats and possums may be allowing most components of an ecosystem to function

Powelliphanta Egmont.

properly, but threatened species often need more intensive and frequent, localised pest control. Research into the impacts of different predators on threatened species is being undertaken at present and is likely to result in greater predator control. The effect predator control has on other pest populations will need to be carefully monitored to ensure a new predator niche is not being created. The park must be managed in a holistic manner so that the park ecosystem as a whole is protected and within this framework threatened species are also protected.

Dactylanthus taylorii.
Photo: A Holzapfel

Once it is known that existing species populations in the park are being managed adequately and key predators (mustelids, possums, rats and cats) are controlled, the reintroduction of species that have disappeared from the park can be initiated. Blue duck have already been reintroduced to the park as part of a National Recovery Plan and translocations are ongoing to ensure successful establishment of this population.

Some priorities for research in the park have been outlined in the CMS and are included in the table below.

TABLE 1 - RESEARCH AND MONITORING NEEDS FOR THREATENED AND UNCOMMON FLORA SPECIES IN EGMONT NATIONAL PARK (NOT IN PRIORITY ORDER)

SPECIES	RESEARCH/ MONITORING AND SURVEY PRIORITIES
Kirk's daisy, Kohurangi *Brachyglottis kirkii*	Record and map locations; monitor a sample for browsing impacts.
pua o te reinga *Dactylanthus taylorii*	Monitor flowering and seed set inside and outside cages. Survey for and document new populations.
Gratiola nana	Monitor known natural and transplanted populations; extend surveys for others.
Small-flowered mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus*	Instigate searches, including raising public awareness to help locate plants; monitor and protect plants from browsing, if found.
King fern, para *Marattia salicina*	Instigate searches, including raising public awareness to help locate plants; monitor and protect plants from browsing, if found.
Melicytus drucei	Monitor browsing, seed establishment and population dynamics, both inside and outside the exclosures.
Giant milfoil *Myriophyllum robustum*	Monitor known populations; extend surveys for others.
Shrub daisy *Olearia capillaris*	Map the range of the species; monitor a sample for browsing impacts and regeneration (include with monitoring of *Melicytus drucei*).
Leek orchid *Prasophyllum* sp. (aff.*P.patens*)	Instigate searches, monitor if found.

TABLE 2 - RESEARCH AND MONITORING NEEDS FOR THREATENED FAUNA SPECIES IN EGMONT NATIONAL PARK (NOT IN PRIORITY ORDER)

SPECIES	RESEARCH/ MONITORING AND SURVEY PRIORITIES
Blue duck *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*	Continue the establishment of viable populations of blue duck. Ongoing monitoring.
Brown kiwi *Apteryx australis mantelli*	Monitor density and distribution.
NZ falcon *Falco novaeseelandiae*	Survey and monitor if breeding sites are found within the park.
Giant NZ land snail *Powelliphanta* sp	Monitor distribution, density and predation rates (unnamed Egmont species).
Giant amphipod *Tara taranaki*	Implement findings of current study (Goodman, 1996-1999).
Volcanic plateau short tailed bat *Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia* Long tailed bat *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*	Continue to assess their status in the park.
Koaro *Galaxias brevipinnis* Kokopu - shortjawed *Galaxias postvectis* Kokopu - banded *Galaxias fasciatus* Kokopu - giant *Galaxias argenteus*	Further surveys to determine distribution and density in the park.

Note: Many of the species in these tables are nationally threatened. National threat categories are currently being reviewed. For existing classification see the Wanganui Conservancy CMS p229 - 235. In addition, the Wanganui Conservancy CMS identifies priority species at the Conservancy level.

Actions

1. *Monitor known threatened plant and animal populations on a regular basis, with the monitoring interval determined by the nature of the likely threats to each species. Incorporate monitoring results in the park biodiversity report.*
2. *Manage all threatened species in accordance with the priorities in the Wanganui Conservancy Fauna Strategy and the Flora Strategy, along with appropriate priorities listed in the CMS as shown in Tables 1 and 2 and recommendations in the park biodiversity report.*
3. *Consider any introduction or re-introduction proposals in accordance with the Wanganui Conservancy Flora and Fauna Strategies.*
4. *Direct management of threatened plants and animals in the first instance toward protection and enhancement in the wild. Usually this will mean removal or minimisation of threats but may also include re-introduction to increase populations. Cultivation of threatened plants away from their natural sites and management of ex-situ populations of animals may be carried out to provide backup to very vulnerable populations, or where wild populations cannot be maintained.*

5. *Maintain consultation with Tangata Whenua to ensure that they, and the Department are aware of plants and animals of cultural value that have a threatened status.*

6. *Investigate and implement proposals recommended in existing surveys for threatened species protection.*

7. *Investigate alternative funding and skillbase for monitoring and research of threatened species where appropriate.*

3.2.1.3 Aquatic life

Policies:

- *To maintain high water quality and instream habitat in order to protect the diversity and abundance of indigenous aquatic life in the park.*
- *To maintain the natural state and vegetation cover within the park for the purposes of water and soil conservation.*

Water quality within the park's bush-clad streams and rivers is high and provides important unmodified habitat for indigenous freshwater fish. Beyond the park, rivers are subject to a variety of influences affecting water quality and quantity. Developing relationships with those landowners who have streams and rivers running through their property is very important in order to protect aquatic habitats all the way to the sea. This is crucial for many species who migrate to the sea and return to the park as juveniles.

Few people who visit the park are aware that 13 of the 31 indigenous aquatic species found in New Zealand have been recorded in or near the park. The park provides a good opportunity to inform people about the species found there, the ways in which the Department is trying to increase their diversity and numbers, and the reasons why fish have disappeared from many other watercourses throughout New Zealand.

Introduced species such as brown trout *(Salmo trutta)* and rainbow trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)* are also present in the park however recreational fishing is a low level activity within the park. These species are believed to interact adversely with indigenous fish by competing for habitat and food. Further research is required to quantify the degree of this interaction and the impact of trout on the aquatic ecology. Sports fish are managed by the Taranaki Fish and Game Council. It may be possible to exclude trout from the park by creating fish passes in some park catchments which are suitable only for indigenous fish species.

Although the park is not known to contain any fish listed as noxious, provision exists under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations (1983) for the Department to control such fish if there are any found in the park. Provision also exists under Section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987 for the Minister of Conservation to control the transfer or release of aquatic life into new locations managed by the Department. Permits are required therefore to introduce indigenous and exotic species into water bodies where they do not exist currently.

Actions

1. *Enhance current databases on indigenous freshwater fish and invertebrates through inventory and qualitative population assessment.*

2. *Encourage and support relevant research by other agencies.*

3. *Identify factors adversely affecting indigenous fish habitat and migration into the park.*

4. *Liaise with landowners, Tangata Whenua, the Taranaki Fish and Game Council and the Taranaki Regional Council to advocate the protection of indigenous freshwater fish habitats in catchments that have their source located within the park boundaries where there are populations of threatened indigenous fish. This will include advocating the removal of physical barriers to migratory fish and enhancement of habitat by methods such as planting and fencing of protective riparian margins outside of the park.*

5. *Survey to identify any park catchments that are totally free of introduced species of fish and manage these areas to preserve this state.*

6. *Consult with the Taranaki Fish and Game Council over the management of recreational trout fishing within the park. Investigate, in consultation with the Fish and Game Council and other interest groups, the exclusion and, where possible, removal of trout from water bodies with high indigenous fish values in the park.*

7. *Create an educational programme, including interpretation at visitor centres, that offers visitors to the park the opportunity to learn about aquatic fauna.*

8. *Endevour to safeguard water bodies in the park from intentional or accidental pollution by refuse and sewage, fuel oils and chemicals, induced soil erosion, pesticides, herbicides and poisons, or any other unnatural substance.*

9. *Obtain all necessary resource consents for the discharge of contaminants to land, or water within the park and ensure that sewerage, wastewater and refuge collection and disposal systems are maintained and operated and comply with the conditions of resource consents and have no significant adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life.*

10. *Applications for the taking of indigenous freshwater fish (including eels) for other than approved research are unlikely to be granted. (See also Traditional Use and Collection of Specimens in the Concessions section).*

11. *Applications for the introduction of exotic fish to watercourses within the park are unlikely to be granted. Where illegal or accidental introductions of new exotic fish species occur or noxious species are found, all practical steps will be taken to remove such species from the park.*

3.2.1.4 Wild Animal Threats

Policies:

- *To reduce or eliminate the impact of introduced animals to a level that maintains and enhances the abundance and distribution of indigenous plants and animals within the park.*

- *To prevent the establishment of additional animal pests not known in the park and to prevent reinvasion of animal pests that have been successfully eliminated from the park.*

The effective control of introduced animals is one of the main goals of park management. Although the park is protected to a large degree from human disturbance, a gradual loss of habitat and species (through animal browsing) and decline in indigenous animal populations (from competition and predation) is still occurring. Actively controlling pests can significantly slow, and in some cases reverse, this decline.

Possums and goats have had the greatest impact on ecosystems in the park. In the past the combined effects of their browsing has denuded the canopy and understorey, and resulted in extensive "dead areas" devoid of many indigenous species that once occurred there.

Possums continue to impact on emergent canopy species - particularly rata, kamahi, totara, pahautea and other species such as mahoe, fuchsia and pseudopanax species. Forest recovery following severe weather events such as cyclones is believed to have been seriously impaired by possum browsing (Clarkson, 1986). Possums are preventing the *Dactylanthus* (wood rose) from flowering and producing seed and have seriously browsed *Melicytus drucei* shrubs in the Ahukawakawa Swamp. Possums can kill mature kiwi and chicks, destroy kiwi eggs and compete for burrows. They interfere with the breeding of other birds such as kereru by chasing them off the nest and eating chicks and eggs. Possums are also known to eat lizards, invertebrates and native snails (Pullman, 2000).

Broadscale possum control operations since 1993, undertaken in accordance with the Department's 10 year National Possum Control Plan, have resulted in a re-greening of the canopy as species such as kamahi, mahoe and totara respond to the reduction in browsing. Increased flowering and fruiting in the forests and shrublands has also occurred as a result of this possum control.

Goat - Introduced animal pest.

Goat control in Egmont National Park began in 1925 and is now the longest running sustained vertebrate pest control operation in the world. Many indigenous plants that were formerly heavily browsed are now present in greater numbers. The understorey, which only 20 years ago was open and easily traversed, is now dense and impenetrable.

In the past, recreational hunters have contributed to the control of goats in the park. At present, because goat populations are low and there are no other large "game" animals, very little recreational hunting occurs in the park. Recreational hunting is recognised as a valid pursuit within the park which, because it occurs so infrequently, causes little conflict with other recreational uses.

Recreational pig hunting using dogs is not considered necessary as pig numbers are very low, and the dogs would pose a threat to ground nesting birds in the park.

Egmont National Park is the only National Park currently free of populations of both pigs and deer. The result of not having deer and pigs (and having goat control) in the park is a dense understorey with an abundance of palatable plants. The absence of

deer originally resulted from the foresight of the former Egmont National Park Board, which decided at one of its first meetings (1901) not to allow deer into the park. The continuing absence of deer is a consequence of restrictions placed on deer farming within seven kilometres of the park boundary, and concerted hunting efforts to remove any animals illegally released in to the park. People have deliberately released wild animals (deer and pigs) into the park in the past but intensive hunting efforts have generally eliminated these animals.

In the most recent event pigs were illegally liberated in the Kaitake Range around 1990. A concerted hunting operation by the Department has seen this population nearly eradicated. The establishment of deer and pigs in the park would place additional, possibly irreversible, environmental and financial burdens on the park and its management. Every effort will continue to be made to keep these animal pests out of the park. Provision exists under section 60(1)(b) of the National Parks Act 1980 and section 11 of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 to prosecute people found responsible for releasing wild animals in or adjacent to the park.

Domestic stock are now largely prevented from entering the park, though some areas remain unfenced and fence repairs and construction are an ongoing task.

Small populations of rabbits exploit the grassy areas at North Egmont and Dawson Falls Visitor Centres. Control is ongoing to limit their impact and to prevent their spread.

Stoat - An enemy of the park's native birds.

Stoats, ferrets, weasels, rats, mice, hares, cats, wasps and hedgehogs are also present in the park. Currently, there is no regular control of these animals as there are no cost-effective methods for targeting extensive populations. In the swamp and in alpine areas, hares have a localised impact on many of the fleshy herbs.

Stoats, ferrets, weasels, rats and cats, in particular, have a major impact on the survival of some native birds and animals. When a cost-effective way of controlling these pests is available, major increases in the fauna of Egmont National Park will be possible after control has been undertaken. In the mean time, control of some of these pest species either in high priority areas or to protect particular species such as kiwi and blue duck will be required when resources are available.

While eradication of introduced animals is highly desirable, it is unlikely to occur in the park in the near future without;

a) substantially increased resources, and/or

b) better technology, and

c) certainty that no new introductions will occur.

For all pest species except pigs and deer, instead of eradication, the objective over the next 10 years (or until eradication becomes feasible) will be;

a) management at a level whereby the impact of the species on the general abundance and distribution of indigenous plants and animals is negligible, or

b) management at a level whereby the impact on a specific indigenous plant or animal species is negligible, or

c) limited to support for research into control techniques.

For pigs, the objective will be to eradicate them from the park, noting that continued vigilance will be required because of the risk that further illegal liberations will be made.

The objective for deer (and any other mammalian pest not present) will be to prevent their establishment in the park.

It has long been suggested that goats should be eradicated from the park. But, as noted above, a pest cannot be eradicated unless there can be certainty that no new introductions of the pest will occur. The major effort and resources required to completely remove a pest could not be justified if reinvasion was likely. The prevention of the infestation of goats from land surrounding the park must occur before the complete eradication of goats within the park could be contemplated.

At present there are farms and blocks with goats, at or near the park boundary. Prevention of migration of goats into the park from these properties is therefore a priority. If migration can be prevented, eradication of goats could become possible.

The Department will seek enforcement of the existing legislation, on all land containing goats within close proximity of the Egmont National Park to prevent reinvasion of the park. The legislation to be enforced includes the Fencing Act 1978, Animal Identification Act 1993, Wild Animal Control Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987, Biosecurity Act 1993, Impounding Act 1955 and Wildlife Act 1953. In addition, the Department will investigate other avenues for protection, including provisions in district plans.

In order to meet the objectives above, impacts of introduced animals should be monitored. At present, regular monitoring is limited to assessing the impacts of goats and possums. As monitoring every species within an ecosystem is very difficult, 'key' species are used as indicators of ecosystem health. For example, northern rata (a species of tree susceptible to possum browse) is used to indicate the effectiveness of control work by monitoring the extent to which it is being eaten.

The impact of goats is monitored using permanent vegetation plots and exclosures (small fenced areas) as samples of the general ecosystem.

Vegetation monitoring for goat and possum impact assessment is usually carried out at 5+ yearly intervals because the response of vegetation to pest control is relatively slow. Past data is used to provide baselines and help to expose long term trends in ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Monitoring regimes to assess the impacts of other animal pests in Egmont National Park have yet to be developed but will be a key requirement should general or localised control of a pest be proposed.

The following table outlines the Department's animal pest control priorities at the time of writing this plan. These may change in the future, in response to technological changes in control methods and/or enhanced understanding of the impact of individual pest species and/or changing national or conservancy priorities.

TABLE 3. ANIMAL PEST CONTROL TARGET SPECIES - EGMONT NATIONAL PARK (NOT IN PRIORITY ORDER)

ANIMAL	CONTROL STRATEGY	PRIORITY CONTROL AREAS
Cat	Support research into control technique.	Control in areas where special fauna values may justify localised control.
Deer	Eradicate any animals liberated into the park.	Maintain deer farming prohibition within 7 km of park boundary. - Entire park.
Goat	Control to be undertaken in accordance with the Egmont National Park Goat Control Plan 1998-2003.	Entire park.
Hare	Monitor impacts; encourage research into impacts and control techniques.	Localised control may be required in tussock grasslands or Ahukawakawa . Swamp.
Mustelid	Support research into control techniques.	Localised control in areas where special fauna values justify the effort (e.g. Blue duck, kiwi).
Pig	Eradicate illegal liberations.	Kaitake Ranges.
Possum	1)Periodic control (7-10 year interval) 2)Localised sustained control in priority areas including; 3)Encourage research into new control techniques. 4)Investigation into developing an Egmont National Park Possum Control Plan.	Entire park. a) *Dactylanthus* sites, b) Ahukawakawa swamp (*Melicytus drucei*), c) Kaitake ranges, kohekohe forest, d) *Powelliphanta* snail population sights, e) Park boundary, f) Monitoring benchmarks. Entire park
Rat/ Mouse	Support research into control techniques. No specific control planned.	Areas with special fauna values may justify localised control.
Rabbit	Prevent dispersal into Alpine grasslands, protect amenity areas.	Dawson Falls and North Egmont Visitor Centre road ends.
Wasp	Nest destruction; Support research into bio-control technique.	Entire park - no active control, nests may be poisoned as discovered during the course of other work.

Note: domestic animals (including dog control) see 3.2.1.5; for stock control see 3.2.1.9

Actions

1. *Assess the effect of wild animal control on the indigenous flora and fauna of the park through regular monitoring of ecosystem health/response over time (species abundance and distribution) and pest control success rate. Periodically incorporate results in the park biodiversity report.*
2. *Carry out animal pest eradication/control operations consistent with priorities identified in Table 3, the CMS, national pest control plans and new priorities identified as a consequence of biodiversity monitoring.*
3. *Develop management/operational plans for pest species to guide wild animal control operations within the park where necessary, e.g. Egmont National Park Goat Control Plan. All plans will be assessed regularly to determine the level of control being achieved.*
4. *Investigate the feasibilty of pest eradication and begin where possible.*
5. *Seek enforcement of the existing legislation on all land containing goats adjacent to the Egmont National Park to prevent further invasion of goats (for example Wild Animal Control Act, 1977, Animal Identification Act, 1993). Investigate other avenues where the need arises.*
6. *Consider proposals for liberation of wild animals and other potential pest species into the park, where this will contribute to the vision of the park (e.g. Judas goats, capture and recapture programmes to monitor operational effectiveness, biological control etc).*
7. *The Taranaki Regional Animal Pest Management Strategy for possums does not cover Egmont National Park. Never the less the Department will endeavour to manage possums in the National Park close to the boundary in a manner that is consistent with the strategy rules for neighbouring properties.*
8. *Encourage neighbours and park visitors to report illegal liberations of new animal pests.*
9. *Co-ordinate control with other pest control agencies to maximise the outcomes of animal control programmes, and to prevent the spread of new or existing animal threats.*
10. *Create an educational programme, including interpretation at visitor centres, that offer visitors to the park the opportunity to learn about the threats to Egmont National Park.*
11. *Consult, where appropriate, with local authorities, health agencies, iwi, landowners and community groups in order to inform them of the need for animal control programmes.*
12. *Require possum trappers and other pest control agencies wishing to undertake pest control activities in the park to meet Departmental requirements as outlined in the Department's "Quality Animal Pest Management" procedures.*
13. *Ensure recreational hunters obtain a hunting permit.*
14. *Encourage (through the use of permits) recreational and commercial hunting of wild animals provided the Department's own control*

operations are not jeopardised or the lives of park users are not endangered.

15. *Permanent marking of trapping or hunting lines/tracks will not be permitted.*
16. *Permits for the use of dogs for recreational hunting in the park will not be issued other than in exceptional circumstances, due to the actual or potential threat to protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs*

3.2.1.5 Domestic Animal Threats

Policy:

- *To ensure that domestic animals are kept out of the park. (see also 3.2.1.9 - Boundary Fencing)*

Introduced animals that are kept as domestic pets, such as dogs, cats, ferrets and horses are not compatible with the conservation of natural and historic values within the park. Escaped dogs and cats for instance pose a significant threat to indigenous birds, particularly ground dwelling birds such as the kiwi. Dogs can also be incompatible with public enjoyment of high use areas through fouling and noise.

Domestic animals are prohibited in national parks without a permit.

National Parks are in effect 'controlled dog areas' under Part V A of the National Parks Act 1980. Provision exists under this Act for the Department to remove unauthorised dogs in the park and prosecute their owners. The Stratford and New Plymouth District Councils have prohibited the presence of dogs on public roads within the park.

Exceptions for allowing dogs in the park exist where there are special circumstances and these are listed in section 56E of the National Parks Act. These situations are where specially trained and identified dogs are used for management (wild animal control, wildlife tracking), security, or search and rescue purposes and for people with special needs (seeing eye dogs or companion dogs in an appropriate harness).

There is no tradition of horse use within the park for management or for access to private land, consequently no circumstances are envisaged which would justify this use.

Actions

1. *Ensure that no domestic animals enter the park without a permit, except where otherwise allowed in this management plan or under the Act. Generally, permits will not be issued for dogs to be used for recreational hunting.*
2. *Publicise information on domestic animals and the adverse effects they cause in the park in pamphlets, signs, maps and other visitor information prepared by the Department. Inform the public that dogs are generally not allowed in the park or on public roads within the park.*

3.2.1.6 Weeds

Policies:

- *To identify, survey and manage as a priority, weeds that threaten indigenous biodiversity.*

- *To prevent the establishment of new weeds in the park and the spread of weeds into areas of the park currently free of them.*

Most of the park is free of introduced plants, with weed infestations being mainly around roads, buildings, and the park boundaries. While the best outcome would be to manage the park in a state free of introduced plants, this is an option that is neither practical nor financially feasible. Priorities must therefore be set for control that maximises the benefits from any expenditure.

Priority for weed control will be afforded to those species with the greatest potential to spread, dominate or destroy areas within the park and the values these areas contain. Priority will be given also to those areas containing threatened species, communities or ecosystems, archaeological sites, historic sites or important landscapes at risk.

A major potential weed problem in the park is wild ginger (*Hedychium gardneianum*). Concentrated effort in the early 1990s removed most of this weed but surveillance continues for any major re-establishment.

Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) exists in pockets of forest and hedgerows as close as three kilometres to the park. This weed is a major threat to forest ecosystems of the park as it can smother and kill whole tracts of forest. Eradication of old man's beard is very difficult and costly and therefore the early reporting of any establishment of this weed in or near the park is crucial.

Two species of *Hieracium* (hawkweeds) were found on roadbanks in the park in 1963 and 1967. Neither has been found since, despite periodic searches.

Places that are recognised potential weed sources such as the roads and riparian margins leading into the park need to be kept under surveillance and people working in these places need to be made aware of ways they can help lower the chances of weeds spreading into the park. Machinery used in the park that has been used outside of the park could bring weeds such as old man's beard into the park if not cleaned properly (see also Public Roads and Motors and Machinery in the Use Management section).

The National Parks Act 1980 requires that, except where the Authority otherwise determines, introduced plants shall be exterminated as far as possible (S 4(2)(b)). The Biosecurity Act 1993 contains provisions for the control of plant pests over land of all tenure. Pest management strategies prepared by the Taranaki Regional Council under the Biosecurity Act 1993, can require the Department to control pests for reasons other than conservation, provided the Crown agrees to be bound by the strategies. The Department will manage weeds in accordance with the Taranaki Regional Council Plant Pest Strategy.

The best practical methods of control will be applied. Attempts will be made to limit damage to indigenous ecosystems, although some short-term loss may need to be accepted if the threat is great.

Section 5A of the National Parks Act 1980 allows the Minister to authorise the introduction of biological organisms to control plant pests in any national park subject to a number of criteria. Introducing biological controls means another exotic introduction to the park and therefore will be authorised only in accordance with the criteria specified in section 5A (2).

The following table outlines the Department's plant pest management priorities in the park at the time of writing this plan.

TABLE 4 - WEED CONTROL PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONTROL IN EGMONT NATIONAL PARK (NOT IN PRIORITY ORDER)

PLANT PEST	PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONTROL
Banana passionfruit	Lucy's Gully. Control methods being investigated.
Broom	Pukeiti, Pembroke Road.
Carex demissa	Ahukawakawa Swamp. Experimental methods of control.
Chilean rhubarb/ giant gunnera	River systems in Kaitake Ranges. Surveillance around Pukeiti.
Chilean flame creeper	Surveillance around Pukeiti.
Climbing asparagus	Kaitake Ranges.
Climbing spindleberry	Surveillance of boundaries.
Hawkweeds	Surveillance of roadbanks below Dawson Falls and North Egmont road ends.
Heather	Surveillance in the Pouakai Ranges in tussock lands.
Montbretia	Roadsides and roadends.
Old man's beard	Surveillance of all park boundaries and surveillance of land within a set radius (3 km or more) of park. Work in conjunction with the Taranaki Regional Council.
Wandering willie	North face of Kaitake Ranges.
Wild ginger	North faces of Kaitake Ranges.
Wilding pines	North faces of Kaitake Ranges and Carrington Road. Advocate to district councils against the establishment of exotic forests adjacent to the park.
Pampas	Lucy's Gully.
Peruvian lily	North Egmont and Dawson Falls roadends.
	Weeds that the Department is required to control in the park. Refer to the Taranaki Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy.
PLANT PEST	PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONTROL
Gorse	Scattered infestations, Cold Creek and other areas where regeneration is still occurring around the perimeter of the park.
Ragwort	Scattered infestation along park boundary.

Actions

1. *Monitor weed infestation and include a summary of threats in the park biodiversity report. Maintain an awareness of potential threats.*
2. *Carry out weed management operations consistent with the Taranaki Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy, the Department of Conservation Strategic Plan for Management of Invasive Weeds, the CMS, priority areas identified in Table 4 and the park biodiversity report.*
3. *Promote community initiatives and community involvement in weed control events.*
4. *Promote preventative measures, including education, advocacy and public awareness programmes, to reduce the risk of plant pest invasion.*
5. *Liaise with landowners adjacent to the park, the Taranaki Regional Council and district councils, to implement a programme to identify the existence of populations of old man's beard within an agreed radius of the park and advocate for its eradication within that area.*
6. *Inform landowners adjacent to the park about exotic plants that have the potential to spread into the park and request that they are not planted or are controlled.*
7. *Require operators of machinery to clean their machinery prior to entry to the park. Establish a protocol with operators of machinery in the park (see also Motors and Machinery in the Concessions section).*

3.2.1.7 Fire

Policy:

- *To prevent or minimise fire damage in the park, to protect human life, natural and historic values and structural assets within the scope of the Department's fire control responsibilities and capabilities.*

The Minister of Conservation is the fire authority for all land administered by the Department and along a one kilometre contiguous fire safety margin. The Department through the Minister of Conservation is responsible for fire prevention and suppression within this area as defined under Section 2 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. The Department is required to process applications and may issue fire permits.

Fire control is undertaken in accordance with the Department's Standard Operating Procedure: Fire Control Operations Procedures and Guidelines and with the Conservancy's Fire Action Plan, both of which are updated annually. In addition, the Department is required to train staff in fire control, notify closed fire seasons, maintain fire weather records and equipment and also comply with the National Rural Fire Authority's Rural Fire Management Code of Practice.

Vegetation fires are generally not a serious hazard in the park due to the high rainfall. Principal risk areas are buildings and the exotic and scrub areas on the fringe of or near the park boundary such as on the Kaitake Range and in the Carrington Road area. This fire risk is accepted as a necessary stage to be gone through while natural regeneration in indigenous species is encouraged.

The lighting of fires in the open is discouraged in order to reduce the fire risk and to minimise potential adverse effects caused by firewood collection. Egmont National Park Bylaw 6 (see Appendix 3) requires that a permit be obtained prior to any open-air fires being lit in the park. This bylaw should be referred to for the specific circumstances where open fires will not be permitted. The department has the ability to impose a complete fire ban within the park under the Forest and Rural Fires Act, 1977.

Actions

1. *Give priority to the control and suppression of wildfires within the park except where the act of fighting fires would endanger human life.*
2. *Continue to have an ongoing commitment to public education of park users and adjacent landowners on the dangers of fire, through interpretative information, publicising bylaws and contact with Department staff.*
3. *Require visitors to the park to use gas, liquid or solid fuel cookers, or alternatively to use enclosed permanent fireplaces provided in huts.*
4. *Require all new buildings to be designed with adequate fire protection measures and equipment. Approved fireplaces will be those within or associated with buildings that meet the requirements of the Building Code.*
5. *Ensure permits are obtained where required prior to any open fires, including campfires being lit in the park.*
6. *Prepare a zone plan which identifies fire suppression response and evacuation procedures and includes private structures, both accommodation and operational.*

3.2.1.8 Boundaries, Adjustments, and Additions to the park

Policies:

- *To consider purchase for National Park purposes (or other legal protection under Acts administered by the Department), as the opportunity arises, of land adjacent or close to the park where its values merit preservation.*
- *To seek the addition of such land to the park.*
- *To seek the inclusion to the park of unformed legal roads within or on the boundary of the park where not required for legal access to other land.*

Sections 7 and 8 of the National Parks Act 1980 provide for the investigation of proposals for additions to national parks and section 9 provides for acquisition of land. The procedure involves public notification and reporting to the New Zealand Conservation Authority and is independent of the management plan process. There may be areas adjacent to the park, which are acquired in the future through purchase, gift or exchange and which warrant inclusion in the park. Generally areas outside the park are classified as lowland of which only approximately 2% have a protected status (Bayfield and Benson, 1986).

The acquisition of areas for addition to the park would be pursued as opportunities arise, and would be on a willing buyer / willing seller basis. Land may be added to the park to protect ecosystems not currently represented in the park and assure continued survival of species in these areas and to facilitate management such as pest control and

boundary fencing. Apart from purchase, land may be protected through mechanisms such as gifts or covenants.

Two unformed legal roads known as Forest Road and Surrey Hill Road adjoin or pass through Egmont National Park. Parts of these unformed legal roads have high natural values consistent with those of the park, however these values have no formal protection. They do not function as roads and their addition to the park has merit. The process would require the roads to be resumed under section 323 of the Local Government Act, 1974, and for the resumed roads to be then added to the park. This action is likely to be costly and time consuming.

The area the Department would want to purchase would vary depending on how much of that particular portion of the road was in pasture. The presence of unformed roads on the boundary of the park can complicate fencing negotiations with adjoining landowners. The stopping or resumption of these roads can help rationalise land status and land use.

Actions

1. *Investigate and where feasible seek the addition of land to the park where such land meets the criteria for national park additions identified in the General Policy for National Parks (see Appendix 5).*
2. *Investigate the resumption and addition to the park of unformed legal roads which pass through or adjoin the park, where this is considered necessary to protect natural values on the land or improve boundary management.*
3. *Investigate the feasibility, including cost effectiveness and landowner acceptance, of acquiring adjacent forested land where fencing inside the forest edge would be too difficult.*

3.2.1.9 Boundary Fencing

Policy:

- *To establish and maintain boundaries between the park and adjacent land in order to prevent stock encroachment.*

The total boundary length of the park is about 120km, 55km of this borders bush, 65km is adjacent to pasture. This boundary has been fenced in parts. Further boundary fencing remains a priority and will be undertaken according to apparent stock encroachment (and the value of the adjacent ecosystem). Nearly all the high priority fencing is complete. Low priority areas may become high priority if a neighbour develops more intensive farming use near the park boundary.

Livestock trespass leads to destruction of the forest floor vegetation, which inhibits replacement of canopy species. The primary concern is to erect and maintain a fence along the affected parts of the park boundary to halt this gradual degradation. In some areas where the adjacent land is forested and the terrain is rugged, fencing would not be feasible. Another option may be to buy the adjacent land and fence along the new pasture/forest boundary (see also Boundaries, Adjustments, and Additions to the park section 3.2.1.8).

National Parks are exempted from the operation of the Fencing Act 1978. In the past, the Department has agreed to a 50:50 cost sharing for new fences. The Department envisages this practice will continue (subject to finance availability) in order to retain co-operation with adjoining landowners. Similarly, maintenance of fences and floodgates will be by mutual co-operation.

Landowners have a responsibility to keep stock out of the park (Section 60(l)(a) National Parks Act 1980) and for removing stock under Section 62. The Department will encourage adjoining landowners to maintain existing fences to prevent stock trespass in the park. Cost sharing may be appropriate for major damage that is a result of park processes beyond the landowner's control e.g. flood damage or large wind falls.

Actions

1. *Protect/fence all boundaries vulnerable to stock or animal pest encroachment to Fencing Act 1978 standard where this is physically feasible.*
2. *Set priorities for fencing (and floodgating) around the park according to the damage occurring to the vegetation, especially to ecosystems of high value. Ensure that fencing priorities are consistent with the Egmont National Park Goat Control Plan.*
3. *Programme follow-up maintenance to ensure fences do not deteriorate to the extent that major repair/replacement is necessary.*
4. *Consider cost sharing of new fences and major repairs to existing fences and floodgates (for large windfalls and flood damage) where this is consistent with fencing priorities and resources.*
5. *Ensure that the fencing standard is adequate to contain the type of stock present or likely to be present on adjoining properties. Where existing goat farms adjoin the park boundary, fencing will be a priority.*
6. *Advocate in all situations that the unformed legal road will be fenced on the landowner's boundary.*
7. *Investigate the feasibility, including cost effectiveness and landowner acceptance, of acquiring adjacent forested land where fencing inside the forest edge would be too difficult.*

3.2.1.10 Restoration

Policies:

- *To pursue the restoration of selected areas of high natural or amenity value, where human induced landscape modification has occurred, and where unassisted restoration is unlikely to occur in a reasonable period.*
- *To consider the need for restoration following natural catastrophes where human safety may be endangered or where human disturbance may exacerbate damage.*

The soils and parent material of Mount Taranaki are highly erodible if vegetation cover is lost. This, along with the high intensity and volume of rainfall can result in severe erosion. Damage to vegetation, sufficient to induce erosion, can be caused by wild animals, human interference (such as track formation and trampling) or natural causes. Apart from the latter, these effects can be minimised or prevented by good management. Erosion can affect vegetation and water quality, visual appearance and track maintenance costs. Critical areas for erosion control include water catchments (on advice of Taranaki Regional Council) and areas where ecosystems are threatened (see also Natural Hazards in the Concessions section).

There are a number of sites in the park where restoration work is desirable. Restoration of the translator track is under way, in order to reduce erosion and visual impacts. Restoration will occur following removal of exotic trees from the park, e.g. Kaitake Pa.

Actions

1. *Allow wherever possible, taking into account the risks to human life, natural processes and events which have not been artificially induced, to follow their natural course. Where park use will exacerbate damage to natural values, restoration will be considered or the use relocated to another area where such damage will not occur.*
2. *Use education and information to encourage visitors to prevent or minimise human induced erosion, especially on fragile upper slopes of the mountain.*
3. *Include long-term erosion control as an integral part of design and costing wherever erosion prone soils will be disturbed (tracks, buildings, roads or other facilities). Priorities should continue to be aimed at minimising the long-term costs, as well as taking account of likely track use and aesthetic factors (see also Foot Access in the Use Management section).*
4. *Use only species indigenous to the park for restorative or landscape planting. Plantings will be restricted to genotypes from the immediate vicinity. In mixed plantings the proportions of species should be comparable to the natural ecosystem. Re-vegetation techniques may include natural re-vegetation and active re-vegetation with colonising species indigenous to the park. An exception to re-vegetation with indigenous species will be for grass seeding on formal picnic areas, or formalised recreation areas primarily at road ends. Grassed areas will however be kept to a minimum. (Section 27 of the CMS should be referred to for examples of other exceptions).*
5. *Continue to make monitoring and after-care of restored areas a high priority. Restoration will not begin where necessary after-care is not possible.*
6. *Monitor erosion and recovery on the Taburangi access track.*

3.2.2 Historic and Cultural Places, Sites and Objects

Policies:

- ***To identify, conserve, and where appropriate, provide for visitor access to historic and cultural places, sites and objects within the park.***
- ***To protect the archeological resources within the park.***

There is a very strong association between people and Mount Taranaki. There are also many sites and objects within the park which are of particular significance to Maori and also several historic sites of more recent European interest associated with activities such as tourism and mining.

The Department is required by section 4 (2) (c) of the National Parks Act 1980 to preserve as far as possible sites and objects of archeological and historic interest. The Historic Places Act 1993 and the Antiquities Act 1975 must also be taken into account.

All archeological sites are protected by the Historic Places Act, 1993. Any person wishing to destroy, damage or modify the whole or any part of an archeological site must apply to the Historic Places Trust for an authority to do so.

The following sites within the park are listed in the Wanganui Conservancy Register of Actively Managed Historic Places 1994, and currently receive active management. Most require Historic Places Trust Registration along with the preparation of conservation plans.

TABLE 5 - ACTIVELY MANAGED HISTORIC SITES IN EGMONT NATIONAL PARK

NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
Boars Head Mine:	Conservation Plan required.
North Egmont Camphouse:	HPT registration category 1 of national importance, conservation plan completed. Has been restored in accordance with its conservation plan.
Rahiri Cottage:	HPT registration required, conservation plan being prepared.
Dawson Falls Power Station:	HPT registration required, conservation plan required.
Waipuku Quarry complex:	HPT registration required, conservation plan required.

Actions

1. *Manage historic sites and objects within the park in accordance with this plan, the Wanganui Conservancy Historic Resources Strategy and the CMS.*
2. *Ensure that modification of any historic site or object is subject to a modification approval procedure contained within the Historic Resources Strategy and an authority from the Historic Places Trust where required.*
3. *Assess historic sites and objects within the park to determine whether they merit protection.*
4. *Modification of any historic place will have regard to the procedure provided in 5.3.6 of the Wanganui Historic Resources Strategy.*
5. *Provide interpretation and visitor services for a range of historic sites, where this does not conflict with the site's cultural significance or other management requirements.*
6. *Consult Tangata Whenua about involvement in the management of Maori historic sites or taonga. The Department will work, wherever possible, toward a co-operative approach to management of these sites if Tangata Whenua desire this (see also Wähi Tapu and Co-operative Management in the Treaty of Waitangi section).*
7. *Prepare an Historic Places Trust registration proposal for any historic site or object, including Wähi Tapu, which meets the criteria for active management. Consultation will occur with Tangata Whenua when considering Wähi Tapu sites. (see also Wähi Tapu in the Treaty of Waitangi section).*

The historic Camphouse following restoration.

8. *Prepare a conservation plan for each actively managed historic site or object. Plans will be prepared in priority order according to the significance of the place and the level of threat it faces. Remedial work will be scheduled in business plans at the earliest opportunity, and long term maintenance work will be scheduled as required, and will be resourced in priority order.*

9. *Carry out a survey of historic objects and sites within the park as soon as practicable, and identify the significance of the resource. This will include requirements for protection and possibilities for interpretation.*

10. *Increase public awareness of historic objects and sites through interpretation and other methods where appropriate.*

3.2.3 Landscape and Geological Sites and Features

Policy:

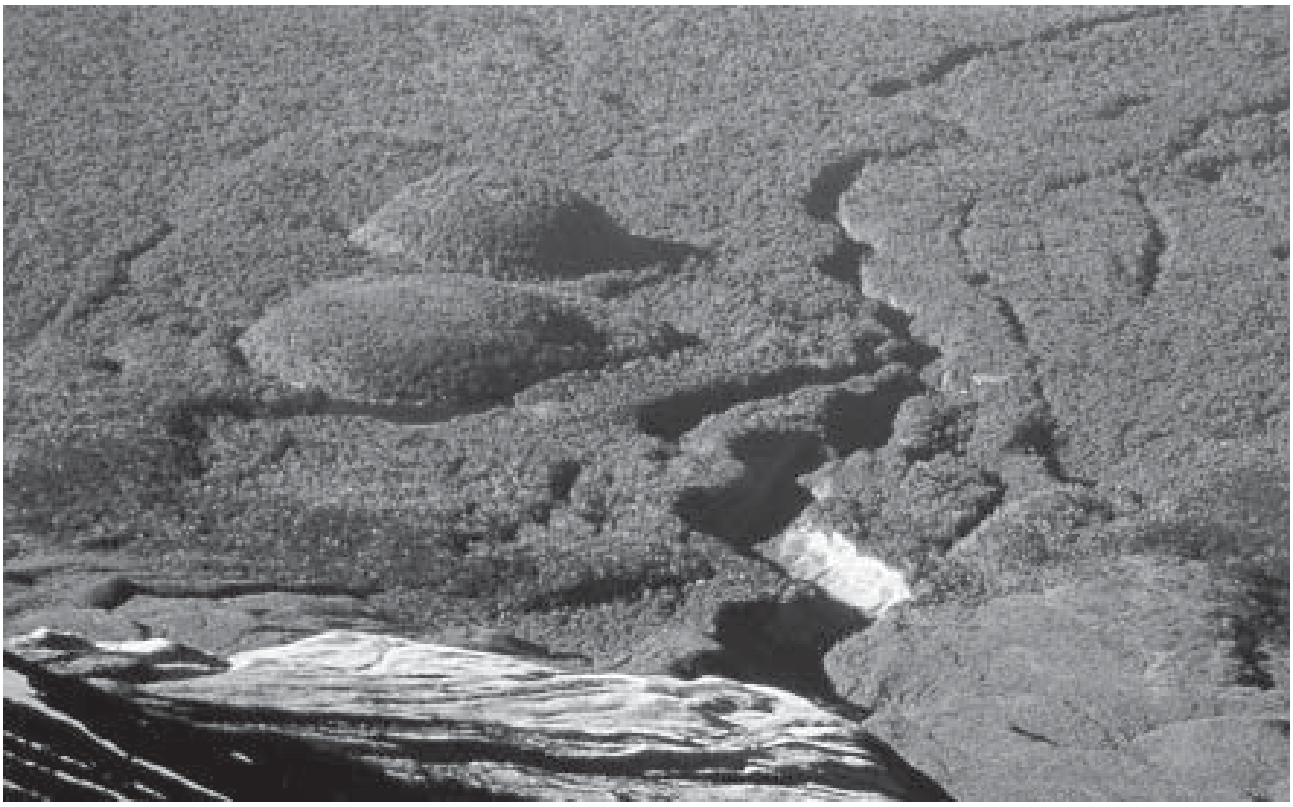
- ***To protect the natural, landscape and geological features within the park.***

Mount Taranaki, including its ring plain, is a landscape of international significance. The mountain dominates the landscape of the Taranaki region, and is the subject of many photographs and postcards. The mountain is the regional icon to Taranaki people. The protection and enhancement of this unique landscape and geological feature is extremely important.

When indigenous vegetation covered the ringplain, the mountain would have been seen rising from river valleys or from across broad wetlands and framed by indigenous trees. Today the mountain has lost much of its surrounding natural context. Hedgerows, gardens or exotic trees and pasture now frame people's views. The protection and restoration of forest remnants on the ring plain, riparian strips, and the re-establishment of a mountains-to-sea forest sequence would go some way to restoring the integrity of the former landscape (e.g. riparian planting).

Facilities within the park, which include buildings and other structures, are in general not in keeping with the landscape values of a National Park. The effect of structures can be minimised by carefully controlling the number, type and location. The

Department would seek to manage applications in consultation with Tangata Whenua for further private buildings and new structures on consideration of potential environmental, cultural, economic, landscape and social effects (see also the concessions section).



The Beehives. Photo: T Weston

Actions

1. *Ensure that activities and uses in the park do not detract from the landscape values of the park.*
2. *Identify and protect specific unique geological sites and features in the park where these may be under threat from human activity.*
3. *Establish visual design standards for structures in the park and require all new park buildings and structures to comply with visual design standards.*
4. *Advocate to local authorities that they discourage any proposal, outside the park, to establish infrastructure or significantly alter natural landscapes or vegetation, which would detract from the intrinsic character of Mount Taranaki and its landscapes, or popular views of the mountain, e.g. discourage exotic plantations against the park boundary, require utility lines to be placed underground inside the park (see also the Statutory Planning section).*
5. *Advocate, through district and regional plans, the protection of remnants of indigenous ring plain vegetation and riparian vegetation and re-establishment of a mountain-to-sea forest sequence.*
6. *Raise awareness about the significance of geological features in the park and provide interpretation of these features.*

3.2.4 Information Base

Policy:

- ***To ensure that all management decisions have a sound factual basis.***

There is an infinite array of interactions occurring in the park between ecosystem components, visitors and uses. It is important that as park managers these interactions along with their effects are understood so that informed management decisions can occur.

3.2.4.1 Research

Policies:

- *To identify and fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge and encourage research which is likely to produce a better understanding of the park.*
- *To support park managers with scientific research results that are relevant to management requirements and needs in the park.*
- *To consolidate and share existing and new information, methods, technologies and management experiences so that others can benefit from relevant knowledge.*

The creation of an inventory of natural resources in the park would help managers understand the interactions between park users and the park and between different ecosystem components. This information will be made as user-friendly and accessible as possible. Inclusion of resource information on a Geographic Information System (GIS) will be investigated. The inventory of resources could also be used to satisfy the curiosity of, and educate park users.

Basic scientific research, whilst it may not appear to be of immediate application in park management, is often beneficial in expanding the fund of knowledge (e.g. vulcanology, recolonisation after catastrophic disturbance, studies of invertebrates, "island" biogeography, etc). Research may also enable the park to be used as a benchmark for ecological studies and, because it is essentially protected from modification, as a control for studies of the effects of development on land outside the park.

The Conservancy's annual business plan contains a list of research topics which is updated each year, and from which priority topics are selected each year for submission to the Department's Science and Research Unit. Many of these topics relate to park management (see also Collection of Specimens in the Concessions section).

Actions

1. *Support research proposals that are likely to produce a better understanding of the park and human impacts.*
2. *Decline research that could have a detrimental effect on park values or impinge on public enjoyment of the park.*
3. *Consider providing, where the research project is deemed of direct value, financial assistance through the Department by way of grants, scholarships or contracts; or the provision of other resources (for example accommodation, transport).*

4. *Require a report on the research within an agreed time limit where a permit has been issued, or where funding is provided by the Department. Make these reports public documents.*

5. *Require any public surveys to have the approval of the Department of Statistics.*

6. *Keep a bibliography of all research.*

3.2.4.2 Survey and Monitoring

Policies:

- *To integrate park monitoring outputs from all functional areas.*
- *To identify key ecological processes in the park.*
- *To provide "early warning" information that can be used to prevent the degradation of park values.*

Survey and monitoring aims to meet a number of the Department's needs and also to ensure that management of the park is carried out in an effective manner. The Department's information needs can be split into three broad types:

- Inventory and baseline information for ecosystems, communities and species.
- Operational and performance monitoring to assess the effect of management operations to ensure that conservation objectives and policies are met.
- Trend monitoring to provide early recognition of decline or "non-natural" change.

The Biodiversity Monitoring Section contains greater detail on monitoring of ecological processes. All survey and monitoring work carried out in the park must meet appropriate approval and permit requirements.

Actions

1. *Survey and monitor as opportunities and resources allow in accordance with the priorities set by this plan and the CMS.*

2. *Ensure that projects to manage natural, historic and cultural resources within the park include monitoring to measure operational effectiveness and the degree to which conservation objectives are being met.*

3. *Encourage and facilitate specialist interest groups, e.g. botanical and ornithological groups, to conduct surveys and monitoring events in their field of expertise using Departmental standard techniques.*

4. *Generally require concessionaires to monitor their activities to ensure adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

5. *Ensure that as far as practical, all survey and monitoring work causes minimum damage and disturbance to land, water and protected species.*

6. *Ensure that scientific results are effectively communicated and incorporated into management decisions and actions.*

3.3 USE MANAGEMENT

Objectives:

- ***To retain the essential character of Egmont National Park as a predominantly unmodified natural area of great beauty with high spiritual values.***
- ***To give the public opportunities to gain benefit, enjoyment, and inspiration from the park, as well as opportunities for recreation, appreciation and study, to the extent compatible with preservation of the Egmont National Park's natural, historic and cultural values.***

The park offers the public recreation and educational experiences, opportunities for scientific research and sporting events, and the use of resources or features for limited commercial activity. Careful management of park uses is essential as all of these activities have the potential to adversely affect the values of the park and the experiences of park visitors. Primacy is to be given to the protection of the park's natural values and intrinsic worth so that all can enjoy it in its most pristine state. Public use is very important, but in order for all members of the public to enjoy the natural and scenic values that a national park offers, public use must be conditional on the preservation of native plants and animals and the general welfare of the park.

The Use Management Section that follows covers all uses in the park which includes visitor opportunities, concessions and mining. This section identifies the effects of activities that may not be consistent with the preservation of park values. Where a specific activity which has known effects can be identified, the Department is able to provide greater guidance and indicate whether or not it is considered appropriate for the park and any restrictions that may be applied. The CMS provides further guidance on this.

The natural, historic, cultural and landscape values of the park are dealt with in greater detail in the other management sections of the plan. They should be referred to when reading the Use Management Section especially where a particular park value will be affected by any use. Uses should not be contrary to the progression towards achieving the overall goals and objectives of this plan.

The Department will attempt to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of a particular activity through a number of different methods. These include non-regulatory methods such as education, information provision and consultation. Where an activity is known to have an adverse effect which needs stronger controls, bylaws have been prepared (Appendix 3). New bylaws may need to be created when an adverse effect becomes apparent, or reaches a social or environmental threshold.

Section 60 of the National Parks Act 1980 sets out activities which constitute offences unless authorised by the Minister of Conservation. These include: damage or removal of plants, animals, minerals or historical relics, damage to turf, erection of buildings or apparatus and occupation of land. Common concession activities that occur in the park are listed in the concession section.

The table below is intended to provide a general guide to the kind of adverse effects that the Department will endeavour to avoid in the park. Use of this table can be made to assess whether an activity is likely to be appropriate in the park. The specific activity section may also need to be referred to.

TABLE 6 - RANGE OF POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

PARK VALUES	THE FOLLOWING POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS TO PARK VALUES MUST BE AVOIDED, REMEDIED OR MITIGATED.
Terrestrial (land) values	•Reduction of or damage to indigenous biodiversity. •Clearance, disturbance, modification or destruction of any vegetation or natural area. •Damage to wildlife or habitat. •Introduction of new, or increase in existing threats to indigenous ecosystems e.g. pests and weeds. •Discharge of pollutants to the land.
Aquatic values	•Damage, disturbance or modification to aquatic life or instream habitat. •Restriction of native fish passage. •Discharge of pollutants, including sediment to waterways e.g. diesel spills. •Erosion, scouring or deposition of riverbed or banks. •Alteration of water levels in watercourses or wetlands. •Introduction of new, or increase in existing, threats to indigenous ecosystems e.g. pests and weeds.
Historic values	•Damage to historic sites or objects, including Wahi Tapu e.g., disturbance of the ground.
Cultural values	•Offensive to Tangata Whenua or members of the public generally.
Landscape values	•Damage to landforms. •Impingement on the landscape i.e.; stand out as being 'non-natural'. •Damage to geological features. •Reduction of the natural character of wetlands, rivers and streams.
Recreation/ enjoyment/ free access	•Restriction of free public access to the park. •Damage or impingement on other existing public use facilities. •Limitation of recreational opportunities. •Overcrowding e.g. at carparks, huts. •Loss of open space. •Invasion of people's quiet enjoyment of the park e.g. loud noises. •Adverse impacts on views of park e.g. activities that produce glare and light. •Production of offensive or damaging levels of dust. •Production of objectionable odours. •Adverse health effects. •Increased risk to human safety.
General	•Significant cumulative adverse effects. •Slope instability, erosion. •Discharge causing air pollution. •Incompatibility with park values e.g. provides an anti-conservation message. •Exacerbation of natural hazard events. •Adverse effects on park values and adjacent land. •Rubbish or debris left in the park.

General Issues

The New Zealand Environmental Care Code

The Department and the Ministry for the Environment developed the Environmental Care Code as a guideline for visitors to help protect the environment. The Care Code is a method of raising the awareness of visitors of their impacts on natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources and seeks ways to minimise adverse effects. The Department will advocate the Environmental Care Code to the public. The Department will also advocate the Care Code (or an agreed industry alternate) to concessionaires who in turn will be responsible for ensuring that their clients and contractors are also informed of the code.

Consultation

New uses in the park have the potential to affect the values of different cultures, particularly Tangata Whenua. Where cultural values could be affected, Tangata Whenua will be consulted. Where other important issues become apparent or where the public may have an interest in an issue, the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and affected user groups will be consulted.

All new concessions will be considered only after consultation by the Department or the applicant with Tangata Whenua. The Department will inform the Taranaki/ Whanganui Conservation Board about all concession applications for the park. Input from the Board and other relevant interest groups will be sought for concessions that might result in impacts on park values. Such proposals may also be publicly notified and submissions invited.

Access

A number of uses involve fixed structures that require maintenance and therefore access. Wherever possible, existing roads and walking tracks should be used and new facilities should be planned around use of these existing access ways. This should be an important consideration for some potential concessionaires. Foot access on existing tracks is the most preferred method.

Where heavy materials are being transported, helicopters may be more appropriate than forming permanent tracks. However, helicopters have a high visual and noise impact and will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

Alternative sites

A number of activities which have adverse effects on park values are already located within the park and could be located outside of the park. Where appropriate, use of alternative locations should be considered. In every new concession application, it must be proved conclusively that the activity needs to be situated within the park.

Actions

1. *Ensure that the appropriate affected and/or interested parties are consulted when new uses are considered. Ensure that an appropriate level of consultation has occurred with Tangata Whenua especially where new uses are likely to cause cultural concerns. For more minor matters and applications, the appropriate Hapu or Iwi runanga will be consulted. Consultation with the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and the public will occur for significant and high public interest issues.*
2. *All activities for which a concession should apply will be required to obtain a concession in accordance with the concession policy section 3.3.2.*

3. *Require an environmental impact assessment to accompany any concession application for any new uses, which should identify any adverse environmental impacts and how these will be avoided remedied or mitigated. (See table5).*

4. *Monitor use of different areas in the park and if deemed necessary, manage the use of such areas and facilities so that user satisfaction is achieved and the facilities themselves and the park environment are not compromised.*

5. *Ensure that structures in the park do not detract from park landscape values.*

6. *Encourage uses which could be located outside of the park to use such alternative sites.*

7. *Ensure that highly sensitive environments such as areas containing threatened species and fragile ecosystems are not used unless adverse effects can be avoided.*

8. *Promote the Environmental Care Code in the park.*

9. *Ensure that all sites and areas used by the public or concessionaires in the park are kept in a clean, tidy and well-maintained state.*

10. *Restrict access to construct and maintain any facilities in the park to foot access unless road access already exists. In exceptional circumstances, (e.g. where heavy loads prevent foot access from being an option), access and maintenance work by helicopter may be allowed.*

11. *Encourage sharing of facilities and discourage exclusive occupation of a site wherever possible.*

3.3.1 Visitor opportunities

Policies:

- ***To allow a wide range of visitor opportunities without compromising park values.***
- ***To manage and raise the awareness of visitors of their impacts on park values and seek ways to minimise adverse effects.***
- ***To encourage park users to be considerate of other users and not detract from the natural quiet of the park.***

The Department is committed to maintaining a range of visitor opportunities from short walks at roadends to multi-day tramping opportunities in the backcountry. An important part of recreation management is research and the monitoring of visitor use and impacts.

A variety of recreation opportunities are available within the park. Visitors to the park may come as individuals, part of a school or club or as part of a commercial tour. The park provides for outdoor recreation to be combined with learning and personal experience of natural and historic values. For many people, especially those in Taranaki, the park provides their main link with the natural environment. This link needs to be nurtured by providing appropriate recreation opportunities and maintaining a quality visitor experience.

Summer Nature Programme talk to visitors to the park. Photo: T Weston

3.3.1.1 Facilities and Services

Policy:

- *To provide appropriate facilities and services that allow all visitors to enjoy the park in a safe manner whilst not damaging or detracting from park values.*

Facilities and services within the park are intended to allow all members of the public free access to the park whilst minimising damage to the park environment. These facilities and services should not detract from the experience of going into a largely unmodified environment.

The Department will encourage facilities and services to provide quality inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational experiences for visitors.

Crowding:

Visitor numbers to Egmont National Park are expected to increase, as interest in natural areas and 'ecotourism' expand in New Zealand. Currently there is no great pressure on facilities within the park, but in the future both social and physical carrying capacities may be reached in certain areas and/or at certain times of the year. The Department is aware of these potential pressures, and the effects they may have on the park.

Although the public have the right of access to all areas of the Park, it may be necessary to control the method of access and use to a level which particular areas can withstand and to maintain a wide range of visitor experience opportunities. It may also be necessary to limit numbers to, or close, specific areas of the Park for certain periods as a method to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse visitor effects on park. Closing a part of the Park can only be legally enforced by by-laws and is more likely to occur, if needed, by seeking visitor co-operation through the use of signs and information.

The Department notes there is merit in the establishment of visitor facilities adjacent to the park thereby reducing pressure of such development within the park.

Visitor Strategy:

The Department's national Visitor Strategy (which was developed with public input from 1994 to 1996) categorises visitors to land administered by the Department into seven visitor groups according to their abilities, requirements and expectations. These are: short stop travellers , day visitors, overnighters, backcountry comfort seekers, backcountry adventurers, remoteness seekers and thrill seekers. Visitor groups represented in the Egmont National Park include short stop travellers, day visitors, overnighters, backcountry adventurers and thrill seekers (see Appendix 4 for full definitions). In recognition of the greater percentages of visitors coming for short periods to roadends within the park, the Department intends to investigate opportunities for increasing the standard or level of service for short stop travellers and day visitors. Facilities for backcountry users will continue to be maintained.

In the tables, contained in Appendix 4, tracks, huts and other amenities in the park have been ranked using site priority scores that were developed on a national basis for 3,700 identified visitor sites in New Zealand. The criteria used to assess sites were derived from the Department's Visitor Strategy. Four main criteria were used to determine a site's priority ranking or site score. Each criterion has a value, and these are added together to give a maximum of 28 points. The site criteria are:

- current visitor numbers - maximum score of 10;
- expected visitor numbers in the future - maximum score of 3 ;
- importance as a recreational and educational experience - maximum score of 9; and
- potential for increasing people's appreciation of New Zealand's natural and historic heritage - maximum score of 6.

Total possible site scores range from 0 to 28, indicating sites ranging from local, through regional, to those of national importance. Sites in Egmont National Park scored between 4 and 23 (see Appendix 4 for details).

Actions

1. *Monitor use and adequacy of facilities and services to ensure they are meeting visitors' needs.*
2. *Should visitor numbers increase and impact significantly on park values the department will consider, in consultation with user groups, limits on methods of access and use of the park; and/or limiting numbers to, or closing, specific areas of the park.*
3. *Use site priority scores (see Appendix 4) to guide, not determine, management actions and decisions (e.g. track maintenance, closure and upgrading). Other factors which will need to be considered are: visitor safety, links with other sites, prevention of visitor impacts, erosion control, historic significance of facilities and community opinion.*
4. *Investigate opportunities for increasing the standard or level of service for short stop travellers and day visitors.*
5. *Maintain facilities for backcountry users.*
6. *The provision of facilities within the park will be limited to be consistent with the preservation of park values (e.g. limiting the number and sizes of huts).*

7. *Ensure all new buildings erected within the park or alterations to existing buildings comply with relevant requirements under the Building Act 1991.*

8. *Welcome and consider offers of assistance or sponsorship for the development or maintenance of appropriate visitor facilities.*

9. *Encourage large groups to inform the Department of their intended route/ location within the park so that other visitors can be notified of their presence.*

Refuse and Waste Disposal:

Refuse disposal in the park relies on the 'pack-in, pack-out' principle. Problems of enforcing this policy may require that some alternatives will be necessary in the short term. Leaving rubbish in the park is an offence under the Litter Act 1979 and park Bylaw 4, except where bins are provided. Rubbish is not allowed to be buried in the park (Bylaw 4(b)). The Environmental Care Code will be promoted to ensure visitors are aware of the impacts of refuse in the park. Refuse and waste includes litter, sewage, lubricating oils, liquid fuels and waste chemicals.

Because of the complex geology in the park, and the danger of seepage into watercourses, great care is needed in the location of toilets, sewage treatment and discharge points. Maori advise that the disposal of sewage on the mountain is offensive to them. Many non-Maori hold the same view. In recognition of these factors the Department will investigate alternative options for sewage disposal and continue to promote the carrying-out of all rubbish from the park (see also Backcountry Huts section). In the future, the Department may require visitors to carry out human wastes from sensitive areas. The need for the provision of toilet facilities on the popular Northern Summit Route (in the vicinity of Tahurangi Lodge) has been identified.

Actions

1. *Continue to implement and promote a 'pack-in, pack-out' rubbish policy in all areas of the park.*

2. *Provide "carry-out" rubbish bags at area offices and visitor centres. Rubbish bins will not be provided at huts.*

3. *Enforce bylaws where necessary to ensure people take their refuse out of the park.*

4. *Continue to use education, through publicity and direct visitor contact, as the major tool for minimising waste disposal impacts.*

5. *The Department will encourage activities that do not create any refuse or waste within the park as long as other park values are not compromised.*

6. *Include conditions in concessions on refuse and waste disposal responsibilities relating to time, regularity, disposal methods, location, inspections and maintenance.*

7. *Provide toilet facilities at an appropriate location on the Northern Summit Route within the next 3 years.*

8. *Require all sewage waste disposal systems operated by concessionaires within the park to obtain any necessary discharge permit from the Taranaki Regional Council, and to meet departmental requirements.*

9. *Design and locate new toilet facilities to protect waterways from contamination. Investigate alternative disposal systems and replace existing pit toilets in high use areas with improved disposal systems where this is practical and sensitive to Tangata Whenua concerns.*

Picnic Areas and Lookouts:

A number of picnic areas are provided for public use, primarily at roadends, in recognition of the popularity of the park as a picnic destination. Provision of this type of facility is becoming increasingly important as the Department has identified that the greatest level of use in the park comes from day visitors and short stop travellers (travellers stopping for a day or less than one hour respectively). Picnic areas and facilities will be managed to reflect visitor use levels and service the needs of visitors.

A number of sites near roads in the park offer views of both the mountain and the surrounding ring plain. These lookouts are important as they offer short stop travellers, the elderly and disabled opportunities to access viewing points or viewing platforms.

Actions

1. *Maintain well-used, existing formal picnic areas to the relevant Department service standard.*
2. *Minimise the environmental impact of some formal picnic areas through the provision of facilities such as rubbish containers and toilets. Where such facilities are not provided, picnickers will be encouraged to take their rubbish out of the park.*
3. *Maintain sanitary services such as toilets and rubbish disposal at roadends at or above standards set by territorial local authorities.*
4. *Create new picnic areas in suitable locations if public demand justifies their establishment.*
5. *Close and revegetate existing picnic areas if they receive little or no use.*
6. *Build any new viewing platforms so they are visually unobtrusive and blend with the existing vegetation canopy.*
7. *Design viewing platforms and associated access to cater for use by disabled people where practical.*
8. *Inspect viewing platforms for structural integrity in accordance with departmental national standards.*

Recreation Facilities for Visitors with Special Needs:

Free and unrestricted public access is a central philosophy of national park management, and as such the Department will endeavour to provide opportunities for those people with special needs. Special attention needs to be given to high-use, road-accessible areas. Facilities such as ramps and specially designed toilets can also assist other visitors besides the disabled e.g. baby-changing tables and access for prams. Under section 25 of the Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act 1975, the Department is required to make provision for access for disabled persons in any new building, unless exemptions are obtained.

Actions

1. *Provide access and facilities for people with special needs (this includes the disabled, people with young children and the elderly) as required and where*

practicable, when re-developing existing facilities or developing new visitor facilities. This may include scenic viewpoints and picnic areas within the park.

2. *Develop suitable barrier-free and low gradient tracks and entrances to buildings adjacent to roadends within the park that cater for people with special needs. Suitable interpretation facilities may also be provided to enhance visitor experience.*

Visitor Centres:

Visitor centres provide an important place for information about the park to be displayed to the public. Although an upgrade of both the current visitor centres has been undertaken, no new visitor centres are considered necessary on the mountain. The upgrade of the North Egmont Visitor Centre included the building of a café. The running of this café is not considered to be a core Departmental function and is operated under a concession.

Actions

1. *Maintain visitor centres to a high standard.*
2. *Operate the café at North Egmont Visitor Centre under a concession arrangement.*

Safety:

There is an element of risk for all users of the park and it would be impractical to entirely remove all risk. Each individual must be responsible for his or her own safety. Adults are responsible for the safety of children and others in their care. Concessionaires are required to take responsibility for health and safety issues associated with their activity (see section 3.3.2, Concessions). Reasonable safety and health standards will be requested in concessions. Weather information and hut/track advice is available from the two visitor centres.

Departmental responsibilities are described in the Department's Visitor Strategy (1996). In 1996 the Department introduced "Quality Conservation Management" (QCM) systems to enable it to establish "best practices" for the way it manages issues such as safety. This philosophy has been applied to all Departmental systems including visitor services. In doing this, the Department will safeguard the health and safety of staff, contractors who work for the Department, volunteers and visitors to the park. Appropriate service standards have been developed for the various visitor groups (e.g. structure standards and trade service standards).

Actions

1. *Promote safe and responsible attitudes to the use of the park, particularly relating to the alpine environment, through education and provision of information.*
2. *Encourage visitors to learn about general safety, equipment requirements and current mountain condition information by encouraging them to pass through visitor centres in the park and in the district. Voluntary trip registers will be kept at visitor centres and huts to assist in monitoring visitor movements within the park and for search and rescue purposes.*
3. *Continue to assist and co-operate with the New Zealand Police and New Zealand Search and Rescue in carrying out their search and rescue functions. Permits will be granted for helicopter use for all official search*

and rescues. Permission for helicopter use may also be granted for official search and rescue training exercises (see Aircraft Use Section).

4. *Require that equipment provided by concessionaires be maintained in an efficient and safe condition.*
5. *Require concessionaires dealing with the public to keep and maintain first aid equipment at appropriate places within the sphere of their operations. Concessionaires will be required to be proficient in first aid. Concessionaires shall maintain safety management in accordance with their operations, including avalanche monitoring and approved control.*
6. *Encourage park users to carry their own first aid kits when visiting backcountry areas. First aid kits will not be provided for the public in backcountry huts or shelters.*
7. *Support the continuation of mountain safety, avalanche awareness and similar courses.*
8. *Assess through the application of Departmental, legal and service standards, the need for facilities and services to address visitor and safety issues (e.g. track service standard will determine which streams require safety margins)*

Helicopter Rescue.
Photo Dr K Blayney

Natural Hazard Mitigation:

Because of the unstable nature of much of the substrate in the park, natural hazards occur throughout the park. Interference to prevent or delay hazards will be minimal except where human life is threatened, such as the recently completed Manganui Gorge covered access through an area of unstable substrate.

The chances of a volcanic eruption on Mount Taranaki are low compared to many other much more frequent natural hazards, although the effects of an eruption could be much more catastrophic and therefore need to be planned for.

Over recent years the Taranaki Regional Council has undertaken work to identify volcanic hazards and hazard zones associated with the Egmont Volcano. A Regional Volcanic Strategy and Volcanic Contingency Plan have been developed as a result of this work.

The accumulation of snow and ice above Manganui Gorge has resulted in a number of significant avalanches in the past. This creates a risk to both public safety and facilities along the gorge track. Manganui Gorge track which provides access to the skifield is

the highest used track in the park, and as such, reduction of avalanche risks is a priority. Monitoring and education about avalanche risks will be carried out by the ski club in consultation with the Department.

Flooding can create a hazard in a number of streams and waterbeds on the mountain. Landslides also represent another significant hazard to public safety and facilities in the park (See the Heritage section for details on Fire and the Skiing section in Concessions for avalanche hazard mitigation).

Actions

1. *Work in co-operation with agencies such as Civil Defence and local authorities responsible for the management of natural hazards and public safety to ensure contingency plans and other procedures are in place to reduce the effects on public safety and facilities of a significant natural hazard affecting the park.*
2. *Ensure that the location of any new facilities within the park does not create an unacceptable hazard to public safety or facilities.*
3. *Refrain from interfering with natural hazard events where these are not likely to impact on public safety, facilities or areas of exceptionally high natural or historic values (naturally occurring fires are an exception to this).*

3.3.1.2 Visitor Access

Policy:

- ***To maintain and improve public access to and within the park whilst ensuring that access and associated use does not damage or detract from other park values.***

Mount Taranaki is easily accessible to visitors from a number of roadends and tracks. The Department will uphold the principle of free access to Egmont National Park. While access will be free, fees will be charged for the use of specific facilities such as huts. These fees contribute towards the ongoing maintenance costs of these facilities and the development of new facilities. Access to the park should be planned carefully so as to allow maximum access with minimum disturbance to park values.

The Egmont National Park Road End Plan contains details about the intentions for the visitor centres and surrounding amenities. It will be updated in a separate consultation process with the public to ensure that it is consistent with this management plan.

Actions

1. *Build roads and tracks to be as permanent as possible (requiring minimum maintenance) and using structures that will detract as little as possible from the natural environment.*
2. *Build or route new accessways to avoid damage to sensitive areas/ ecosystems e.g. herbfields, wetlands and populations of threatened species.*
3. *Respect the interests of Tangata Whenua when developing access to or near places sacred to Maori, to avoid the likelihood of disturbance (see also Wahi Tapu in the Treaty of Waitangi Section).*

4. *Negotiate access rights with the relevant landholders beyond park boundaries to ensure secure linkage to existing tracks and car parks on the Park boundary.*

5. *Temporarily close access to the park which is across private land, for farm management or other purposes in accordance with contractual provisions.*

6. *Signpost the rights and obligations of visitors using legal accessways to the park which cross private land.*

7. *Restrict or close access to any part of the park where hazards to public safety are identified or when it is necessary to protect park values. Bylaws will be sought to enable this to be done, if required.*

8. *Review the Egmont National Park Road End Plan, to ensure that it is compatible with and implements this management plan.*

Public Roads:

There are currently four designated special purpose roads which provide access to Egmont National Park. The maintenance of these roads is fully funded by Transfund with the physical work being undertaken by the relevant district council. They are: Egmont Road to North Egmont, Pembroke Road to the Stratford Plateau, Manaia Road to Dawson Falls and Carrington Road (which passes through the park). The three major road-ends in the park together receive in excess of 330,000 visitors per annum.

No new public roads are anticipated. New legal roads within the park would require an Act of Parliament, as declaring land to be road would change the ownership and status of the land. New and existing roads can have a considerable impact on the park, such as visual impact, damage to vegetation, erosion and runoff problems. They also may attract more users to areas adjacent to the road than the environment and/or facilities can sustain. Roads can also act as a conduit for pests and weeds.

Minimising the impacts of road maintenance includes minimising visual impacts, such as those caused by vegetation cutting and stockpiling of materials at the entrance to the park as well as controlling the potential weed problem arising from these piles.

Although public roads within the park are not technically part of the park or administered by the Department, activities occurring on these roads can affect the park and park users. An example of this is the annual car rally held on the section of Pembroke Road from East Egmont to the Stratford Plateau. The Department will continue advocating that the Stratford District Council stop this activity, as it is

incompatible with the quiet enjoyment of the park by the public.

District councils have prohibited dogs from public roads within the park.

Actions

1. *Liaise with the relevant district councils responsible for the maintenance of roads to ensure they are maintained adequately and safely. Create a road maintenance protocol between the Department, district councils, and contractors who bring machinery into the park. This protocol will aim to:*

   • Ensure vegetation trimming is kept to the minimum necessary for vehicle safety and road maintenance purposes.

   • Discourage stockpiling of road materials within the park.

   • Encourage those responsible to keep machinery clean and free from weeds.

2. *Discourage activities on public roads inside the park that are incompatible with park values. Advocate to the Stratford District Council and the Taranaki Car Club that the annual car rally on Pembroke Road (East Egmont to the Stratford Plateau) be held at a more appropriate location outside the park.*

3. *Inform the public that dogs are not allowed in the park or on public roads within the park (See also section 3.2.1.5 - Domestic Animal Threats).*

Foot Access:

A network of tracks allows entry to and access within the park. These tracks confine impacts while increasing safety.

The Department's Track Service Standard (1998) classifies tracks into four categories (short walks, walking tracks, tramping tracks and routes) which the Department correlates with visitor group requirements**.** Track priority scores are provided in Appendix 4) In recognition of the greater percentages of visitors coming for short periods to road-ends within the park, the Department will investigate opportunities to increase the standard or level of access for short stop travellers and day visitors.

Generally, tracks should have minimal impact on vegetation and fauna if well sited, constructed and maintained. However tracks can lead people into fragile areas, and these areas may need to be surveyed prior to construction, in order to assess likely damage and to prevent overuse.

Due to the nature of the park environment, a high standard of track construction and ongoing maintenance is required to prevent erosion and visitor impacts in areas adjoining tracks (e.g. people walking around muddy patches). Subject to resources and priorities, the Department will design, construct and maintain tracks to the appropriate service standard and to minimise track erosion and visitor impacts.

Recognition must also be given to the possibility that tracks may lead people into areas, or situations beyond their ability. Although public safety is an important consideration in track siting and maintenance, park users must ultimately be responsible for their own safety. The classification of the track should indicate to the visitor the standard of the track, and level of fitness, ability and equipment required. Track classification details will be conveyed to visitors through signs, information panels and publications.

As well as the public track system, a system of management routes is also necessary to provide access for activities such as wild animal control. Due to the large number of these routes and their use by experienced Departmental staff, maintenance is minimal or non-existent (management routes are covered in the Animal Threats section).

The Around the Mountain Circuit provides a multi-day tramping opportunity and will be maintained in accordance with the track priority scores (see Appendix 4). However, the "Northern Circuit" (i.e. the tracks linking North Egmont - Pouakai Hut - Holly Hut - North Egmont) is becoming a more popular trip and use of this area may be encouraged with upgraded facilities being provided (tracks to be developed and maintained to back country adventurer (BCA)/tramping track standard). It is proposed that the southwestern sector of the park (i.e. the area traversed by the Oaonui, Brames Falls and Taungatara Tracks) be managed as a 'remote experience area'. Tracks will be maintained to current standards, with minimal bridging i.e. the existing backcountry adventurer standard will be maintained (see Appendix 4 for a defintion). This is due to the very unstable topography in the area which makes it difficult to maintain infrastructure to a high standard. Users will be made aware that this section of the Around the Mountain Circuit is more difficult. The Department's

national Visitor Strategy (1996) states that the department is unlikely to designate any further Great Walks in New Zealand.

Many people also climb to the top of the mountain. On popular routes, such as the North Summit Route, visitor impacts can be high, especially in the fragile alpine herbfield zone. Concentrating impacts to a few routes is appropriate, but these routes will be monitored to ensure that impacts are not excessive. Climbing to the summit can also conflict with cultural values. To Tangata Whenua, the mountain is a rangitira and therefore to stand on his head is offensive. By informing those who choose to climb the mountain, it is hoped that Maori values can be respected.

Actions

1. *Take into account when creating tracks, the desirable level and type of use, the incorporation of features of interest, terrain and susceptibility to erosion. Aim for minimal impact on the park's natural, cultural, historic and landscape values.*
2. *Encourage the public to stay on the tracks, particularly above the treeline, and in fragile areas such as Ahukawakawa swamp, to minimise adverse effects.*
3. *Assess the need for, and standard of, all tracks and associated visitor structures to ensure they are built and maintained to the relevant Departmental standard and reviewed regularly in line with national priorities.*
4. *Consider as a last resort closing poorly used tracks following the collection of suitable information relating to their current level of use and after consultation with user groups. Downgrading of tracks to route standard, or involving volunteers e.g. in track maintenance, may be suitable alternatives. Track closure or diversion/re-routing may also occur where visitor use –impacts on park values or where a significant safety hazard occurs. Where a track is closed, maintenance work will cease, except for erosion control and re-vegetation work.*
5. *Inform the public of track closures and hazards (e.g. bridge closures) through signage, publicity and information at visitor centres.*
6. *Investigate the feasibility, including costs, and public support for development and promotion of a "Northern Circuit" tramping opportunity to be provided to BCA/tramping track standards. The Department welcomes any suggestions on this matter, including the development of a more inspiring name for the Northern Circuit.*
7. *Manage the southwestern sector of the park as a "remote experience area".*
8. *Continue maintaining the Around the Mountain Circuit to the existing BCA/ tramping track or route standard. Make users aware that the southwestern sector of the circuit is more difficult than the other areas.*
9. *Provide interpretation at park visitor centres about the significance of the summit of Mount Taranaki to Tangata Whenua. Ask climbers to respect their wishes.*

Rock Climbing.
Photo: T Weston

Rock climbing:

Climbing is generally a low impact recreation activity which occurs at a low intensity in the park. Certain practices, or an increase in climbing activity, could however lead to adverse effects. The use of permanent rock bolts to assist climbers can have an adverse effect upon the landscape values of the park. The removal of vegetation growing on rocks (e.g. scraping off vegetation to clear rock climbing routes) can occur during rock climbing. By alerting climbers to the impacts that this can have, as well as monitoring damage, it is hoped that rock climbing can continue in a more sensitive manner in the park. Deliberate removal or damage of vegetation and modification of natural rock surfaces (e.g. drilling and attaching permanent rock bolts), without consent are offences under the National Parks Act 1980.

1. *Promote awareness of the impacts climbers can have on rock plant communities and other natural values.*
2. *Monitor impacts to assess how best this activity should be managed.*

3. *Advise climbers that the deliberate removal or damage of vegetation and modification of natural rock surfaces (e.g. drilling and attaching permanent rock bolts), without consent, are offences under the National Parks Act 1980.*

4. *Provide interpretation at park visitor centres about the significance of the summit of Mt Taranaki to Tangata Whenua, and their views on standing on the summit.*

Vehicles and Parking:

Park Bylaw 7 limits the use of vehicles (including trail bikes, four wheel drive vehicles, and mountain bikes) in the park to formed roads and parking areas unless off-road access is required for search and rescue, park management or where authority is otherwise given and no reasonable alternative exists. The use of vehicles beyond these limits damages vegetation and tracks, can disturb the quiet of the park and is incompatible with other park uses such as walking.

Concessionaire access roads (i.e. the access track to BCL's Tahurangi communications tower, the ski-field road, Airways Corporation and the Telecom roads) are roads that have been specifically created to provide access for concessionaires. They are not considered formed roads open to public vehicles, including mountain bike use, although foot traffic is allowed.

The area of land available for parking at the major road-ends is restricted. Large parking areas can have a considerable visual impact, and cause water runoff problems. At present, parking space is adequate for all but infrequent peak periods, e.g. congestion at the Stratford Plateau carpark when winter weather conditions are suitable for skiing.

Motor camping:

There is increasing use of motor caravans in New Zealand, especially by freedom travellers. Motor caravans can sometimes put pressure on park toilet facilities. The Department does not intend to provide campervan waste disposal sites in the park but considers it appropriate to allow limited opportunities for this activity where there is no impact on park values and other park users are not unduly affected. Where this use is to occur, the Department will require the use of vehicles which meet the requirements of the New Zealand Standard NZS 5465:1980, "Self Containment of Caravans, Motor Caravans and Boats". This standard requires vehicles to have onboard water supply and toilet facilities etc. (see Refuse and Waste Disposal section).

Actions

1. *Confine the use of vehicles to public roads, parking areas and formed roads that are not concessionaire access roads. Allow vehicles on concessionaire access roads only for essential management and maintenance purposes and for search and rescue operations.*

2. *Place signs at the start of concessionaire access roads, where it is necessary to indicate that they are not intended for general vehicular use (including mountain bikes) by the public.*

3. *The Department will endeavour to provide parking areas within the confines of the area and terrain available to meet the needs of park users. This will not be in excess of the carrying capacity of the area or related facilities.*

4. *Provide some parking areas suitable for buses (taking into account turning circle and load bearing capacity).*

5. *Landscape parking areas to minimise their visual impact.*
6. *Discourage parking outside designated parking areas.*
7. *Discourage self contained caravans and motor caravans from staying for longer than one night in the park at the designated parking sites of North Egmont Road End, East Egmont and Dawson Falls Road End.*
8. *Discourage motor caravans and caravans which are not self-contained from staying overnight. Monitor the impacts of caravans and motor caravans staying overnight and where adverse impacts on natural and historic values are identified, limit their use by a bylaw.*
9. *Allow mobile camping facilities to be located within the park for park management or search and rescue purposes.*

Aircraft use:

Motorised Aircraft:

The control of motorised aircraft over the park is the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Authority by virtue of the Civil Aviation Act 1990. In general terms relevant to the park, aircraft shall not operate at less than 500 feet above any ground within a radius of 2000 feet around the aircraft unless they are landing or taking off. The jurisdiction of the Department in relation to aircraft use is limited to the landing, take-off and hovering of aircraft in or over the park, all of which require a concession .

Motorised aircraft can be visually intrusive and noisy. Because of the small size and nature of the park, a relatively small increase in flights may affect people's enjoyment of the park. Provided aircraft adhere to the flight rules, and in particular to the minimum safe height regulation, it is considered that the present low level of aircraft operations over the park is compatible with the preservation of the park and its quiet enjoyment by visitors.

Helicopter assisting management within the park. Photo: Beck Helicopters

The Department will liaise with the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority should aircraft use increase and the Standard Aircraft Operation Regulations be considered inappropriate over the park. In particular, the Department may encourage the Civil Aviation Authority to take public interest into account, and where necessary, limit or restrict the level of aircraft use over parts or all of the park.

The airspace between the Pouakai Range and Mount Taranaki is used by some pilots as a short cut. As well as disturbing park users, planes carrying sprays pose a potential threat to the delicate wetland ecosystem.

Motorised aircraft can facilitate access for management purposes in the park, with minimal physical impact compared with ground based access. However, because of their impact on park users, this activity will be limited to essential management purposes. Non-essential landing, take-off and hovering of motorised aircraft in the park, for example, for recreational use, will be discouraged. The legislation does not require search and rescue operations to have a prior concession.

Non-motorised Aircraft:
Non-motorised aircraft use in the park has little effect on the park's natural values; however Tangata Whenua advise that launching from Mount Taranaki is offensive to them. To show respect for the mountain and the cultural beliefs Tangata Whenua associate with the mountain, people will be discouraged from launching from Mount Taranaki.

Actions

1. *Monitor the effect of aircraft use over the park and if necessary consider advocating to the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority that an amendment be made to the Standard Aircraft Operating Regulations to address any adverse effects of aircraft.*
2. *Liaise with agricultural aviators over the concerns the Department has about carrying sprays over the park.*
3. *Non-essential landing, take-off and hovering of motorised aircraft in the park will be discouraged.*
4. *Discourage non-motorised aircraft from launching from and landing on Mount Taranaki.*
5 *Investigate acceptable areas where non-motorised aircraft can launch and land.*

3.3.1.3 Accommodation

Policy:

- *To provide or allow accommodation facilities in the park that enable a wide cross-section of visitors to stay overnight without adversely affecting park values.*

Existing accommodation on the mountain is considered to be adequate. It does not accommodate more people than the tracks and facilities can cater for. Provision of more accommodation is not considered necessary or appropriate as it may promote overcrowding and detract from or adversely affect the natural and landscape values of the park.

The Minister cannot approve the building of a structure or facility that could reasonably be undertaken outside the park, or in another part of the park where the effects would be significantly less.

Any new accommodation facilities or redevelopment of existing accommodation facilities should have due regard to such matters as: access and use patterns, energy efficiency, conservation, compatibility with historic values and architecture, recycling, accessibility, effluent disposal, and the use of alternative energy sources. Buildings should blend with the environment wherever possible. Where alterations are to be made to historic buildings, these will be undertaken in accordance with the Wanganui Conservancy Historic Resources Strategy. Where retention of an accommodation building can not be justified for public use or park management and where it is not identified as an historic place, it will be removed in order to keep the park as 'natural' as possible.

Actions

1. *Ensure any new accommodation buildings erected within the park or alterations to existing buildings comply with relevant requirements under the Building Act 1991, and departmental requirements.*
2. *Remove any existing accommodation building which is not an historic place and which is no longer essential, or can no longer be maintained to standard. The cost to remove buildings not owned by the Department will be recovered from the owner, unless the structure is removed by the owner to the satisfaction of the Department.*
3. *Ensure colour schemes used blend with the surrounding environment. Accommodation buildings and accompanying structures should harmonise with, and not dominate the natural landscape. Exceptions will be made for public safety reasons where contrasting colours may be required and for historic buildings where such colour schemes may detract from the historic integrity of such buildings. In considering any accommodation building or structure application, special attention will be given to external cladding materials, landscaping around the building, sewage and stormwater disposal.*
4. *Consider energy efficiency in any new or upgraded accommodation buildings in the park.*

Backcountry Huts:

Backcountry huts are designed to provide accommodation for trampers. The Department is required to provide hut facilities on a partial cost recovery or user-pays basis. The national hut ticket system allows a fee to be collected for the development and maintenance of huts. Although hut use is generally moderate, overcrowding of the nine huts can occur during the summer, particularly over long weekends. If overcrowding of huts causes user dissatisfaction or significant impacts on park values then the introduction of a booking system will be investigated. A full public consultation process will be initiated if a booking system were to be considered. (See figure 4 for the location of huts).

There are also bivvies in the park used for management purposes.

Park Bylaw 5(1) (in Appendix 3) does not allow a person to occupy a hut for more than two consecutive nights without the permission of the Department except in an emergency.

Actions

1. *Provide hut accommodation for visitors on a first-come, first-served basis.*
2. *Inspect and maintain all backcountry huts regularly.*
3. *Monitor the use of huts over peak periods and if necessary, investigate appropriate techniques such as a booking system, to ensure that visitor satisfaction is not compromised due to overcrowding. User groups will be consulted should such techniques be considered.*
4. *Maintain and upgrade huts in accordance with the Department's Hut Service Standards relevant hut category and priority management needs.*
5. *Allow concessionaires to use public huts on a first come, first-served basis, unless otherwise determined by the Department. Discourage large parties of*

people except where this occurs outside the peak hut-use periods. During such periods, concessionaires will be required to have a party size limit.

6. *Inform hut users that they need to carry their own portable stoves and fuel for cooking. The Department may provide fuel for heating.*
7. *Encourage hut users to observe the Environmental Care Code. All rubbish brought in must be removed from the park. Rubbish disposal facilities will not be provided at huts. (See Refuse and Waste Disposal section)*
8. *Maintain bivvies only while they are necessary for management. They are not intended for public use and will not be signposted or identified in park publications. Their location and condition will be disclosed only at the discretion of the Department of Conservation Stratford Area Manager.*
9. *Groups and clubs may finance and assist with the provision and maintenance of backcountry huts where this is consistent with the Department's priorities . Such huts will remain available for unrestricted use by the public.*

Holly Hut.
Photo: R Lythgoe

Camping:

Camping and the establishment of camping grounds can cause problems with sewage disposal, damage to vegetation and accumulation of rubbish in popular areas.

Camping is discouraged throughout the park except outside huts where camping is sometimes necessary due to hut over crowding during the popular holiday periods. Confinement of camping to these locations is preferred as toilet facilities are available and existing open flat areas mean that further indigenous vegetation is not destroyed. Egmont National Park Bylaw 5A(2) allows camping within 100m of a hut only with the authority of the Department, (see Action point 2) or in an emergency. A change to this bylaw will be sought to be consistent with this management plan. Part hut fee payment will still apply for the use of facilities.

The Department is also concerned at the increasing number of visitors camping in the alpine and subalpine area of Mount Taranaki during the summer. Cumulative impacts

of camping in this location are compromising natural and cultural values due to the inability of waste such as sewage to break down. In the subalpine area, trampling can damage sensitive herb fields. The provision of disposal facilities in this area would be impractical from a management point of view and disposal of toilet waste would also be culturally offensive to Tangata Whenua. For these reasons, the Department intends to discourage camping on Mount Taranaki above 2000 metres, and to encourage visitors above 2000 metres to remove all of their waste, including faeces.

Because of the nearby urban areas with existing camping grounds, the establishment of a camping ground within the park cannot be justified. Furthermore, the topography adjacent to access roads restricts the open space available for constructing suitable camping grounds.

Actions

1. *Encourage park users to use huts in preference to camping.*
2. *Allow camping on the grassed area around backcountry huts (this will require a change to the bylaw). Discourage camping for more than two successive nights in any one location. Discourage camping where natural or cultural values will be compromised.*
3. *Discourage camping in the vicinity of roads, picnic areas, or where it is visible from or intrudes in any way on areas of more intense public use.*
4. *Discourage overnight camping on Mount Taranaki above 2000 metres.*
5. *Discourage applications for camping grounds within the park.*
6. *Encourage the removal of all waste (including faeces) from above 2000 metres (below 2000 metres visitors are expected to follow the environmental care code or to use toilets provided).*

Shelters:

Roadend and backcountry shelters provide basic shelter from the elements and are valuable for day visitors and people coming off the mountain. Roadend shelters provide shelter for people changing wet clothes and waiting for transport. Backcountry shelters (e.g. Hooker and Manganui Shelters) provide a place to relax, eat lunch and shelter from adverse weather.

Actions

1. *Maintain existing roadend and backcountry shelters that meet recreational use and safety requirements, but not to a standard which encourages casual campers or more permanent overnight use.*

Booked Accommodation:

Egmont National Park contains two booked accommodation facilities located at roadends: Konini Lodge at Dawson Falls, and the historic Camphouse at North Egmont. Booked accommodation is used largely by school, conservation and youth groups and can play an important role in environmental education. The buildings are also used by family groups and individuals. The Department does not see the need for further booked accommodation facilities in the park.

Booked accommodation is often the most appropriate form of accommodation for large groups as it allows them to stay on the mountain without using the smaller huts and reduces the number of people staying over night in the alpine environment.

Actions

1. *Encourage large groups to use booked accommodation.*
2. *Retain and manage Konini Lodge and the Camphouse as booked accommodation facilities.*
3. *Discourage concession applications for the building of new booked accommodation facilities. Consideration, however, may be given to operating the existing facilities under a concession arrangement.*
4. *Charge fees to recover all costs of maintaining the accommodation.*

Club Lodges:

Existing club lodges are; Kapuni Lodge (Mount Egmont Alpine Club), Manganui Lodge (Stratford Mountain Club) and Tahurangi Lodge (Taranaki Alpine Club). Manganui Lodge is covered by the ski-field licence, while the other two lodges are covered by separate permits.

The special place of mountain clubs in the history and development of the park and the close relationship between the Taranaki community and the park have led to the establishment of club lodges. Although it is considered appropriate to retain this type of accommodation, new club lodges will be discouraged due to the impact of additional buildings and development on park landscape values and also because they do not provide the same freedom of use as backcountry huts.

Club lodges are locked buildings which operate primarily for the benefit of club members. Club membership must however remain open to the public. Where public shelters are provided with club lodges they must be maintained as such.

Actions

1. *Discourage the building of new club lodges and the extension of existing club lodges.*
2. *Maintenance of existing club lodges on a like-for-like basis will be permitted where it is consistent with park values.*
3. *Reviewed concessions for club lodges will ensure conditions and rent are in accordance with the Conservation Act 1987. Existing club lodges will not be regarded as part of the network of huts provided for park users.*
4. *Review the terms of concessions to allow the guests of any club to use the club's lodge for a fee fixed by the club consistent with the fees charged for public accommodation in the park of a similar standard.*
5. *In the event of a club lodge being destroyed (e.g. by fire) reassess the need for replacement of such a facility through a public consultation process.*

Motel/Hotel Accommodation:

This kind of accommodation is provided by both the Stratford Mountain House and the Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge. This accommodation requires a high amount of servicing (e.g. sewage disposal systems, car parking). Creating new accommodation would have significant adverse environmental effects, therefore further accommodation or expansion of existing accommodation is not considered appropriate.

Actions

1. *Discourage the provision of more motel/hotel accommodation in the park.*

2. *Allow for the maintenance or upgrade of existing motel/hotel accommodation providing that it does not result in an expansion of the facilities or adverse effects.*

3.3.1.4 Visitor Information/Interpretation

Policies:

- *To foster an understanding and appreciation of the park and its values through education and interpretation.*
- *To inform visitors about the origins, meanings and values of particular places within the park.*
- *To promote education of the public in conservation principles and the mountain environment.*
- *To promote safety for visitors to the park.*

Interpretation explains the natural, historic and cultural values of a site and gives visitors a deeper appreciation of what they experience. It needs to be user-friendly, telling visitors what they want to know, simply and clearly.

It is important that a strong conservation message is woven into all interpretation and that the Department is clearly identified as providing the facility and service.

The Department generally encourages teachers to make use of locations within the park which are of particular educational value. Conservation information about such locations will be provided for use by teachers.

Safety is also paramount for users of the park. Weather and up-to-date track information will be supplied at the information centres within the park.

Actions

1. *Develop interpretative programmes to promote park values to visitors. Joint displays will be used where there is a common interest and it is appropriate.*
2. *Promote an awareness of the ways the public and Tangata Whenua value the park.*
3. *Keep interpretative information up to date.*
4. *Design and site interpretation signs so as to be effective but not overly intrusive.*
5. *Provide conservation information for unaided use by teachers about locations within the park which provide particular educational value.*
6. *Consult with Tangata Whenua and involve them in the interpretation of sites or areas of cultural significance, where they consider such interpretation to be acceptable.*
7. *Continue to promote the Environmental Care Code.*
8. *Continue to provide weather, up-to-date track and other safety information.*

3.3.2 Concessions

Policy:

- ***To allow for appropriate concession activities in the park while protecting park values.***

Egmont National Park contains a variety of uses, and has the potential for more uses not directly associated with conservation. Examples include skiing, power lines, telecommunication facilities and accommodation. Any person or organisation may apply for a specific authorisation, called a concession, to use land administered by the Department. This can be for commercial or non-commercial purposes. A use may be authorised by way of a lease, licence, easement or permit (all termed concessions) or some other authority, depending on the nature of the activity.

The Department will consider every application. This plan will provide guidance to potential applicants to determine whether a concession or authority is likely to be granted and if so, what conditions may apply. The table of potential adverse effects (Table 6) together with the specific activities referred to in this section are intended to provide such guidance.

Legislative changes:

The provisions of Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 (as introduced by the Conservation Amendment Act 1996) apply to national parks. This places responsibilities on concession applicants to identify possible effects of their proposed activities and to identify ways in which any adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated. It also specifies the matters the Minister must consider when deciding whether to grant a concession.

An amendment to the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, came into force on 1 October 1999. It requires those that wish to undertake aerial hunting of wild animals to obtain a concession (see also Recreational Hunting in the Animal Threats Section).

Assessment:

The ability to assess a request for a concession is covered by legislation, this management plan and the CMS.

Section 34 of the Conservation Management Strategy (Use Management) sets out the main considerations for assessing concession applications. These are based on an assessment of potential effects and apply equally to commercial use and to commercial recreation and tourism concessions.

Applicants for concessions must:

- describe the proposed activity;
- identify the places where the activity will be carried out;
- describe the potential effects of the proposed activity and any actions that will be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects;
- indicate the type of concession sought;
- provide details of the proposed duration of the concession and the reasons for that duration;
- provide relevant information about the applicant, including information about the applicant's ability to carry out the activity; and
- provide evidence of any consultation undertaken with Tangata Whenua.

An applicant can also be asked to provide additional information such as an environmental impact assessment to assist in the decision making.

Some of the matters the Minister must consider when deciding whether or not to approve a concession application are:

- the nature of the activity and any associated structure or facility;
- the effects of the activity, structure or facility;
- any measures that can reasonably and practicably be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of the activity;
- any relevant environmental impact assessment;
- any relevant oral or written submissions received; and
- any relevant information which may be withheld from any person in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982, or the Privacy Act 1993.

In addition, section 49 (2) of the National Parks Act 1980 also requires that before granting any concession over a national park that the Minister must be satisfied that a concession:

- can be granted without permanently affecting the rights of the public in respect of the park; and
- is not inconsistent with section 4 of the National Parks Act.

An application may be declined if:

- there is insufficient or inadequate information to assess the effects of the intended activity, including any effects of the proposed methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects;
- there are no adequate methods for avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of the activity; or
- within 20 days of receiving the complete application it can be ascertained that the application does not comply or is inconsistent with the provisions of the Conservation Act 1987, CMS, or this plan according to section 17T(2) of the Conservation Act 1987.

Conditions will be attached to any concessions to protect natural, historic, cultural and recreational values within the park, and health and safety associated with the concession activity. These may include:

- identification of the location of the minimum area of land required for occupation or the activity and any associated services;
- specification of a defined term, with or without a right of renewal, and may identify conditions for compensation for improvements on expiry;
- provision of a means of ensuring adherence to conditions through such measures as supervision, inspection, bonds and performance clauses;
- a requirement of the applicant to be responsible for public liability insurance, any rates, other charges levied and for obtaining any necessary local authority consents;
- rentals or fees to be paid based on a market rate for occupation of land, or a percentage of turnover, or cost recovery for use of park facilities or a combination of these. Rentals will be reviewed at least every three years.

- a safety plan may be required for all new concessions.

Concessions may be transferable with the Minister's approval. Concessionaires will be required to obtain their own resource consents where these are required under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Actions

1. *Re-negotiate concessions where existing terms and conditions are inconsistent with this plan or the CMS.*
2. *Establish a protocol with Tangata Whenua for a consultation process for concession applications.*
3. *Ensure through regular monitoring that concession conditions are met and park values are protected. Termination of a concession may occur if conditions are not met.*
4. *Recover all reasonable direct and/or indirect costs that are incurred by the Department in considering, granting or issuing any consent, concession, approval or action in accordance with sections 60A,B and C of the Conservation Act 1987.*
5. *Seek expert advice where appropriate, at the applicant's expense after consultation with the applicant, on any matter relating to the application including the necessity of a proposal being located within the park and the opportunity for alternative locations, systems and co-siting.*
6. *Publicly notify leases and licences. Easements and permits with a high public interest and potential significant adverse environmental effects will also be publicly notified.*

Guided Adventure and Nature Tourism:

Guided adventure and nature tourism is growing in popularity. The Department recognises guiding as a means of providing an alternative experience to independent recreation, making greater areas of the park accessible to a wider range of people and as an avenue for environmental education.

Guiding operations within the park are normally small-scale and of low impact. Such operations can take a number of forms. In the lower altitude parts of the park they can include guided walks and interpretation, while in the alpine areas it can include climbing and climbing instruction courses. Private guiding, where no fee is involved or where there is no element of commercial activity, does not require a concession. Such free guiding is covered by the right of the public to have free entry and access to the park.

Opportunities exist for forming creative relationships between the Department and concessionaires, especially in interpreting natural, cultural and historic values and informing visitors of the benefits of conservation in a general sense.

Actions

1. *Where the activity is consistent with park values, guiding may be an appropriate commercial activity within the park and will be permitted.*
2. *Discourage advertising of goods and services (e.g. billboards) within the park except in visitor centres at the Department's discretion and within commercial facilities.*

3. *Require concessionaires involved in guiding or similar activities within the park to meet relevant national qualification standards and provide training for their staff on mountain safety, conservation issues, cultural perspectives, including interpretation skills, and the New Zealand Environmental Care Code.*

4. *Recommend that the Minister implement a limit to the size of party and number of participants over peak periods if impacts become more than minor and other park user satisfaction is affected.*

Organised Public Events:

Organised public events are those which are advertised as being open to the general public. This does not apply to closed club events or activities of individuals or small groups of park users. Events that will require a concession include competitive sport (see Bylaw 10, Appendix 3), sponsored activities and other fund-raising ventures or similar events. Other features of such events might include charging or asking for a donation.

Applications for permits to hold organised public events will be considered on their merit taking account of the following:

- public safety;
- whether an event is open to the public (e.g. public notice or invitation given);
- whether it is a traditional use and if so, the past performance of the organisers;
- the type of activity and its impact;
- the likely number of participants;
- the area and facilities to be used and their ability to accommodate the activity; and
- conditions to be imposed by the organisers.

Since 1948, the traditional open climbs to the summit have been organised each year by the local alpine and tramping clubs. On these climbs, many people who might not otherwise venture onto the upper slopes can climb the mountain in reasonable safety, accompanied by experienced club members. The Department recognises that this event does not require a concession under section 17 O(4) Conservation Act 1987, as no profit is made. However to ensure some consistency in terms of safety, the clubs have been advised of suggested safety requirements.

Actions

1. *Consider applications for organised public events. Conditions or advice will be provided relating to mitigating disturbance to natural and historic values as well as public safety in recognition of the dynamic and dangerous alpine environment.*

2. *Require notification of the event and other details for consideration well in advance of the event taking place.*

3. *Include conditions or suggestions which may include limits on numbers of participants and require a report on the success or otherwise of the event including numbers of participants, financial statement, etc. If impacts like overcrowding become such that adverse effects are apparent, then the use of a bylaw to enforce conditions will be considered.*

4. *Permit competitive events which have a commercial element provided they are of a scale and type that does not impact adversely on park values and other park users or promote a message that conflicts with the purpose of the park.*

5. *Competitive use of any form of motor vehicle or aircraft in the park is incompatible with park values and will not be permitted.*

Skiing Facilities:

The Manganui Ski field is the only area developed for snow user activities in the park. Other areas are considered impracticable because of lack of access, variable snow cover and difficult topography. Development of further ski facilities would also impact on the park's natural character.

The recognised operator of skiing facilities and services is the Stratford Mountain Club. A new licence is required in 2001. It is intended that the skifield will remain a club-operated field available for public use. The operation of the skifield as a non-commercial club field with public access will be reflected in its licence.

The development of facilities and services for skiing involves a high concentration of public use (which has its own consequences for park values), and also has off-site implications (access, parking, accommodation, staff involvement). It is therefore appropriate that control is exercised over the provision of skiing facilities within the park. Further intensification of the Manganui skifield is not considered appropriate.

In providing for skiing facilities, it is recognised that because of the low altitude and unpredictable weather of the Manganui Skifield, mowing of the tussock is required to facilitate the best use of the limited snow.

Actions

1. *Liaise with the Stratford Mountain Club to ensure appropriate management of the skifield area and supporting facilities including access, public safety and minimum impact on natural values.*

2. *Limit the development of skiing facilities in the park to the existing Manganui Ski Field Management Area. Further intensification of use in this area or expansion outside it is considered undesirable.*

3. *Advise that the responsibilities of any operator of skiing facilities and services include:*

    - *In consultation with the Department, the preparation of a development concept for the ski field and licensed area covering a 10 year period with the concept to be subject to regular review and updating.*
    - *Recognition that the public (including snow users other than skiers) have access to and may use the skifield area at any time, provided that they do not constitute a hazard, danger or major inconvenience to other users, and that they conform to the provisions of an approved safety plan.*
    - *Availability of facilities and services to the public at charges which have been approved by the Department in advance as being reasonable and necessary.*
    - *Safe operation of machinery.*

- *Safety of skiers on the skifield (involving the provision of permanent and temporary safety barriers, ski patrol, first aid equipment, avalanche monitoring and control, evacuation routes, and communications facilities), in accordance with an approved safety plan.*
- *Cessation of operation should weather or snow conditions affect skier safety, or should snow cover be so limited that damage to soil or vegetation would result.*
- *Rubbish clearance from the skifield during and at the end of the season.*
- *The maintenance of public toilet facilities at the base of the ski slope to a high sanitary standard during the ski season.*
- *Minimising the damage to or modification of vegetation, ground form and drainage, during the construction and operation of facilities and services.*
- *Provision of signs and notices for skiers in accordance with internationally recognised ski field sign specifications.*
- *Winter maintenance on the Manganui Skifield track.*
- *Avalanche monitoring and control.*

4. *Allow The Stratford Mountain Club to operate machinery on the skifield for skifield management subject to the conditions of the license (see also Motors and Machinery).*
5. *The use of machinery under a licence, should include a condition that requires monitoring be undertaken for effects of compaction.*

Aerial Cableways:

At present there is a cableway and power distribution line across the Manganui Gorge to the skifield. This allows equipment and supplies to be transported across the gorge in a flying fox to Manganui Lodge and the skifield.

Gondolas have been used elsewhere in New Zealand and overseas and have been suggested for use in Egmont National Park. Visual and other impacts, such as removal of vegetation and expansion of facilities, resulting from the construction and operation of a gondola are not considered to be compatible with the general purpose of preserving the park. Any applications for gondolas and aerial cableways will be considered under the concessions process, guided by all matters referred to in section 3.3.2.

Actions

1. *The building of further aerial cableways, including gondolas and flying foxes and associated activities, is considered inappropriate and will be discouraged.*
2. *Further development and intensification (not including maintenance) of existing cableways, except where development would increase safety to park users, is considered inappropriate and will be discouraged.*

Commercial Filming, Video Production and other promotional activities:
A concession is required for all on-site filming of a commercial nature in the park. Commercial filming and video production and other promotional activities in the park will only be permitted where:

- the proposed activity cannot be undertaken outside the park;
- the activity and its subject matter are consistent with the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980, and the natural, cultural and historic values of the Park;
- access for the proposed activity is consistent with the provisions of this plan;
- the activity does not interfere with the use and enjoyment of the park by other visitors or deny public access opportunities;
- the activity accords respect to cultural values associated with the park.

The name of Egmont National Park should not be used explicitly or by implication to promote goods or services other than those specifically related to the use and enjoyment of the park itself.

The concession fee may be waived or reduced where there is an element of public interest or where the production has an educational or promotional value which corresponds with the Department's conservation awareness policies. For this reason, filming for news, documentaries or scientific investigations generally will be allowed, while commercial filming for advertising purposes will not be encouraged.

Action

1. *Allow filming where the subject matter is unlikely to conflict with the purposes for which the park is held, or be offensive to Tangata Whenua or communities of interest.*

2 *Use of the name Egmont National Park for promotional purposes other than those specifically related to the use and enjoyment of the park itself will be discouraged.*

3 *Require monitoring of impacts on park values to be undertaken.*

Water Use:
Mount Taranaki is the source of town water supplies for many communities in Taranaki. It also provides stock water supplies for several landowners adjacent to the park. The value of national parks as soil and water conservation areas must be maintained (Section 4 (2)(d) National Parks Act 1980). As well as providing high water quality, the park catchment areas contribute to a high percentage of the low flows of most of the rivers of the ringplain.

Major water extraction or diversion within the park has impacts such as disturbance of vegetation and soil. Major extractions or diversions are considered an inappropriate activity within a national park and will be discouraged unless there are no alternatives outside the park, and the effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Conditions will be attached to any easement to safeguard the national park values.

The Taranaki Regional Council has a statutory role under the Resource Management Act 1991 to control the taking, use, damming and diversion of water, and the control of the quantity, level and flow of water in any water body. The Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki contains policies dealing with water management issues which are implemented using a number of methods, including rules. The Taranaki Regional Council is responsible for issuing water permits and discharge permits to take from or

discharge into natural waters within the park and to carry out works on or within river and stream beds.

Actions

1. *Major easements for the supply of water from within the park for use outside the park where the effects are unacceptable and/or alternatives outside the park are available are considered inappropriate and will be discouraged. Should location outside the park not be possible then easements may be granted where it is in the national or regional interest to do so, the effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated and where a water permit has been issued by the Taranaki Regional Council.*
2. *Assess minor easement applications such as stock water on a case-by-case basis.*
3. *Easements for the supply of water for use within the park where the effects will be minor and where a rain water supply would be insufficient may be permitted.*
4. *Ensure that in all cases the taking of water (including associated pipelines) involve the minimum of engineering works in the waterway, no significant diversion of a natural waterway, and have a minimal impact on park values and are either permitted by the Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Freshwater Plan or appropriate resource consents are obtained from the Taranaki Regional Council.*

Telecommunications:

It is recognised that the high ground of the park is of value to provide line-of-sight communication systems. The benefit such systems can offer to the national or regional interest has in the past resulted in their siting in the park. There may be situations in the future where a communications station in the park would be justified if alternative sites cannot be found outside of the park. However, it is not intended that this should be interpreted as a general approval for any communications stations. They are incompatible with park landscape values. Where an alternative site outside of the park exists it should be used before the park is considered (see also the Landscape section). As equipment and facilities become redundant, the department will encourage their removal from the park.

Broadcast Communications Limited's (BCL) Telecommunications Tower on Taburangi. Photo: G Rodley

Development and maintenance of essential Departmental communication facilities within the park will be allowed where this will enhance field operations and public or staff safety without creating significant adverse effects on park values. The use of technology which has less impact upon landscape values will be investigated and used when this becomes available and affordable.

Actions

1. *Mobile transmitters or repeaters for temporary direct broadcasts and feasibility surveys in the park may be permitted provided vehicles do not leave the formed roads, and Departmental staff can supervise their location and impact (generator noise, etc.) to minimise interference with public use and other park values.*

2. *Require new facilities to be co-sited on existing sites where practicable and where a justifiable need can be demonstrated to site in the park. Each application will be considered on its merits, taking its effects into account where alternative sites outside of the park are not available.*

3. *Encourage existing site lessees to facilitate the re-siting of new services on existing sites where practicable and appropriate in terms of action 2, maintain and upgrade sites in a manner which minimises effects on the environment, and use less visible and quieter technology when they become available.*

4. *Encourage the removal of redundant equipment and facilities from the park.*

5. *The installation, maintenance and upgrading of non-commercial telecommunications equipment such as flood warning and seismic monitoring systems and remote area weather stations within the park may be permitted. There must be a clear benefit to public safety and welfare and Departmental management activities, and they must not have significant impacts on natural, historic, cultural or recreational values.*

6. *Allow citizen band and other portable radios in the park provided their use or aerials do not disturb other park users.*

Farming/Grazing:

At present there is only one licence for grazing within the park. This licence of 3.9 hectares situated on Kaitake Road at the north end of the park has been allowed because it reduces a possible weed and stock encroachment problem. There are no other areas within the park where grazing would be consistent with protection of natural and historic values.

Unlicensed grazing occurs in the park, usually in the form of winter sheltering of stock. This is an offence under section 60 of the National Parks Act 1980, (see also the Boundary Fencing Section).

Actions

1. *Permits for grazing within the park will only be granted where grazing is consistent with natural and historic values.*

2. *Fence and progressively revegetate the existing licensed grazing area when the licence expires and as resources and priorities permit.*

3. *Investigate and where appropriate prosecute continuing offenders who have livestock in the park.*

Collection of Specimens:

Research of natural resources for conservation management and education can sometimes require the taking of specimens. Control must be exercised to facilitate research requirements and at the same time ensure park values are not affected.

Requests to take small amounts of common species may be accepted, although alternative sites will be assessed. In the past there have been applications by outside agencies, such as universities for long-term permits. Such long-term permits are no longer acceptable.

The taking of resources from National Parks is constrained by the National Parks Act 1980. A consent is required for any taking or other dealings with plants or animals in the park under section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980. Such a consent can only be granted if it is consistent with this plan. A concession is required for minerals not covered by the Crown Minerals Act 1991. It is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1953 to take any native non-game animals protected by that Act without a consent. In the case of such wildlife, a dual consent under both the Wildlife and National Parks Act is required.

The Department is not required to obtain a concession for collection of specimens for management purposes as indicated in section 17 O (3)(d) of the Conservation Act 1987. Collection would be for uses such as interpretative displays, propagation, landscaping, revegetation or erosion control in the park, and species would only be taken if they do not have a threatened status and impacts would be minor (see also the Information Base and Traditional Uses sections).

Actions

1. *The taking of specimens may be permitted for education and research purposes where there is a clear benefit to the protection of a species, the adverse impacts are minimal and specimens are not available outside the park. Approve collection where field identification is not possible or for principal collections or propagation for research or revegetation purposes where appropriate.*
2. *Consider applications to take specimens for scientific research, from any person who has the necessary credentials, or who has recognised referees. Permits for education purposes generally will be personal to the supervisor.*
3. *All applications for scientific purposes will be assessed by a Department scientist.*
4. *Require that any collection of archaeological specimens from within the park which provide a record of Maori activity be approved by both Tangata Whenua and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.*
5. *Stipulate on any permit the number or bulk of specimens to be taken, and the method of and location they will be taken from and their destination, along with a set date for collection to be completed. In particular cases, the taking of specimens may be subject to supervision by Department staff. Similar stipulations may be made for the use of research equipment.*
6. *Require as part of the permit conditions collectors provide the Department with a report of their findings and/or research, including lists of specimens taken where it would be of value to the Department.*
7. *Tangata Whenua will be advised of the receipt of any research reports relating to indigenous flora and fauna and will be given the opportunity to study those reports.*

Burials and Scattering of Ashes:

The burial of people in the park is, in general, considered inappropriate. Exceptions may be considered where burial in a particular place would be of very special spiritual significance to Tangata Whenua. Burials in recognised urupa in the park will be a matter for the Department to consult with Tangata Whenua. Permission (a concession) will be required for anybody wishing to bury a person within the park. Permission may also be required under the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.

Mount Taranaki holds spiritual significance for Tangata Whenua and the dispersal of ashes of the deceased could conflict with these values. Although a concession is not required for such an activity, Tangata Whenua should be consulted first.

Actions

1. *Requests for the burial of people in the park will only be granted where there are special spiritual reasons.*
2. *The Department will allow burials in recognised urupa in the park (to be determined by Tangata Whenua) where Tangata Whenua notify their intentions to the Department.*
3. *Encourage people wanting to scatter ashes in the park to consult with Tangata Whenua as a matter of courtesy.*

Monuments:

Monuments, memorials and plaques are often used to commemorate a person or event, site or structure special to a particular area. Their provision however has to be carefully managed in order to avoid a proliferation of such monuments throughout the park, especially at road-ends. They will therefore be considered only in circumstances where the historical association of the site, individual, or event is thought to be of exceptional regional, national or international significance.

Actions

1. *Permits for free-standing monuments to commemorate a person or event within the park will only be granted when they relate to a proposal to erect small plaques on park facilities to commemorate people or events of significance according to the following criteria.*
    - *People who have had a significant impact on New Zealand or international history and who were associated with the park.*
    - *Events which have played an important part in the history of the park.*
    - *Places which shed light on or illustrate earlier habitation or are associated with important archaeological discoveries.*
    - *Structures which are of particular historical importance.*
2. *Consider placing small plaques on park facilities where money for the development of such a facility has been bequeathed or donated to the Department for such a purpose, provided the facility has been planned for by the Department.*

Motors and Machinery:

Motors may include machinery such as generators, chainsaws, mowers, etc. which are required from time to time for management purposes or used by concessionaires within the park.

The use of motors is incompatible with the natural quiet that visitors expect to find in a national park. Visitors to the park generally do not want to see or hear machinery. The park should be a place where visitors can rely on finding peaceful solitude and tranquillity.

A further potential adverse effect associated with the use of motors within the park relates to accidental fuel spills. Such spills can pollute soils and waterways in the park. Failure to take adequate care when storing and handling fuels may result in prosecution and cancellation of concessions.

Machinery brought into the park can also bring in weeds (see also Weeds in the Heritage section).

Actions

1. *Particular regard will be given to measures that avoid, remedy or mitigate against adverse visual impacts, noise pollution, air pollution and fuel oil spills when considering proposals to generate power from motors.*
2. *Ensure that concessionaires and Local Authorities bringing machinery into the park have cleaned the machinery, and have either refuelled it outside of the park or have a system to contain spills of fuel. Hydraulic hoses must be in good condition. A written protocol will be established with all operators.*
3. *Fuel and oil spills onto land and into watercourses within the park and any other unauthorised discharges of contaminants to water or onto land where they may enter the water are to be reported to the Taranaki Regional Council and the Department immediately after detection. Details such as; size, hydrocarbon type, remedial activity taken, soil type, topography, location, date and time needs to be provided. Oil spills are to be cleared-up as soon as practically possible in consultation with the above agencies.*
4. *Motors to be installed for management purposes by the Department will be permitted where they are essential and care is taken to avoid or minimise noise. When resources allow, other more environmentally-friendly methods of power generation will be used (see Power Generation below).*

Power Generation and Distribution:

The use of alternative energy sources, such as solar power and small-scale wind turbines may reduce the need for power reticulation within the park. Such sources may also promote energy efficiency and conservation within the park and may reduce the need for visually obtrusive overhead power lines.

Existing activities will be encouraged to use low-impact energy sources. In some cases, changing the method of reticulation such as laying power lines underground or on the ground could restore landscape values.

Dawson Falls Power Station is a small hydroelectric power station at the Dawson Falls roadend. The station provides DC and AC power for the Dawson Falls Tourist Lodge. It was installed in 1934 and is identified in the Wanganui Conservancy Historic Places Register. This station has been retained because it has historical value. However hydro-generation is not considered consistent with national park values. (see also Motors and Machinery section). Bylaw 12 prohibits the use of portable electric generators in the park, except for emergency situations (Appendix 3).

Actions

1. *Discourage the establishment of new power generation projects, except where a demand is proven necessary and adverse effects can be mitigated.*
2. *Discourage noisy and visually obtrusive power sources, promote alternative/renewable energy sources within the park, and encourage the adoption of low-impact efficient sources of energy where this is viable.*
3. *Discourage any new applications for hydroelectric power generation schemes in the park.*
4. *Require any new power lines within the park, or any major renewal of lines to be placed on or beneath the ground to minimise the visual impact and maintenance requirements. The Department will encourage concessionaires with overhead power lines in the park to place their lines on or beneath the ground. Soil disturbance will be discouraged in fragile environments such as herbfields.*

Survey Installations:

Just as the high ground of the mountain is of value for line-of-sight communications, it is also an integral part of the land survey system in Taranaki. Fixed points on the mountain, known as trigonometric stations provide a basis for present and future surveys.

These fixed points are marked by permanent ground markers (such as pegs or tubes). Some are further identified by the erection of a survey beacon over the ground mark, so that they may be seen from a distance. Such beacons have to be highly visible and in forest-covered areas this could require trimming or felling of trees with consequent impact on the landscape.

At present, three permanent survey beacons located within the park are deemed to be essential. These are at Jackson's Lookout (East Egmont),Tahurangi (above North Egmont) and Patuha (Kaitake Range). There is no foreseen need for further permanent survey beacons.

The Survey Act 1986 (section 61) enables any surveyor authorised by the Surveyor General to enter and install survey marks which includes pegs and beacons. They must give the Department notice of their intentions prior to entry.

Action

1.Work co-operatively with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ);

- *To reduce any adverse visual effects of existing survey beacons within the park. This may involve replacement of permanent beacons with temporary ones.*
- *To ensure that maintenance of 'lines of sight' are undertaken with the minimum of vegetation clearance i.e. no large trees removed, only regrowth of previously cleared vegetation.*
- *To advocate for the installation of temporary rather than permanent survey beacons. GPS (global positioning systems) and electronic survey equipment is preferred rather than permanent beacons, as vegetation trimming or disturbance is not required.*

3.3.2.1 Traditional Uses

Policy:

- *To consider the taking of materials from the park for traditional purposes after appropriate consultation with Tangata Whenua in accordance with the relevant legislation, where this does not significantly impact on the population of a species or other natural values.*

Traditionally, Mount Taranaki and the Taranaki region provided a valuable resource for materials used in all facets of Maori life, from food gathering to collection of materials for medicinal use and creation of arts and crafts. Tangata Whenua have been accessing resources from Taranaki maunga for centuries, and the Department recognises that the continued collection of some materials is of great importance to the continuation of Maori culture and wellbeing.

At a time when many Maori pa surrounded the mountain and indigenous species were gathered or hunted for food and other uses, most of the species were abundant. Since then, abundance of nearly all species has declined, some to very low levels, with some now locally extinct. Because of this, conservation has become very important and a focus of management for the park. Traditional use of indigenous species must therefore take on a different emphasis as reliance upon indigenous species as a food source is not possible or compatible with the conservation of a species.

The preservation and protection of natural resources within the park is in the interests of both Tangata Whenua and the Department. Where plant species are common and small collections of them are unlikely to significantly affect the populations within the park, applications for their collection will be considered. However, wherever possible, areas outside of the park should be considered first. There may be some instances where the Department, after consultation with Tangata Whenua may place restrictions on the collection of natural materials to ensure their ongoing existence and conservation within the park. This would also apply to applications to collect specimens for scientific purposes. Collection of indigenous fauna, threatened plants and plant species that have a long life span are highly unlikely to be granted consent as their collection would not be in keeping with national park values.

The park contains a number of mineral deposits, principally iron oxide (kokowai) which is collected in small quantities for traditional purposes. The Department also recognises that water is taken from the park for healing purposes by people of the Ratana faith.

Actions

1. *Redirect, wherever possible, applicants for native plant materials and animals to sources on private land, or conservation land outside the National Park.*
2. *Establish guidelines for the taking of traditional plant resources from within the park in consultation with Tangata Whenua and in accordance with the relevant legislation, this management plan and the CMS.*
3. *Consider all applications for the traditional use of native plants and animals on a case-by-case basis taking into account ecological considerations, the relevant legislation, any departmental customary use policy and this management plan.*

4. *Ensure that Tangata Whenua are consulted over applications for the collection of water and indigenous plants for spiritual reasons by groups other than Tangata Whenua of Taranaki.*

5. *The Department will give consent for access to land in the National Park for the extraction of kokowai and other mineral deposits used for traditional purposes provided the extractions are of small scale, the impacts of the extraction are minimal and taking complies with all other applicable Acts, including the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Crown Minerals Act 1991.*

3.3.3 Mineral Exploration

Policy:

- ***To recognise that prospecting, exploration and mining of minerals is an activity that is generally inconsistent with the values of a national park and the principles under which the Egmont National Park is managed.***

Section 4 (2)(a) of the National Parks Act 1980 requires national parks to be 'preserved as far as possible in their natural state'. Mining is an activity that is generally considered to be incompatible with national park values and principles. Mining and quarrying (including prospecting, exploration and ancillary works) can result in erosion with consequent sedimentation and contamination of water bodies, loss and damage to ecosystems, loss of scenic qualities, noise and be of considerable concern to Tangata Whenua. All these adverse effects result in a general loss of natural values. The Crown Minerals Act 1991, Minerals Programmes, and the Resource Management Act 1991 control mining within the park.

Mineral programmes have been established under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. These programmes are the Minerals Programme for Petroleum 1995; the Minerals Programme for Coal 1996; and the Minerals Programme for Minerals other than coal and petroleum 1996. These programmes all include a provision that where land within the park (surface and subsurface) is above sea level, permits for prospecting, exploration and mining under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 will not be granted in respect of Mount Taranaki and the Pouakai, Pukeiti and Kaitake Ranges as defined by the area of the Egmont National Park (as set out in Appendix 7). These lands are unavailable for inclusion in any permit for prospecting, exploration and mining because they are a fundamental source of tribal identity and mana for the Iwi of Taranaki. The iwi of Taranaki consider Mount Taranaki and its associated ranges to be a tipuna (ancestor). The area is regarded as a wahi tapu (of special and/or sacred importance).

Thus under the current minerals programmes it is not possible for the Minister to issue prospecting, exploration or mining permits in respect of this area defined in the programmes (being the whole of the Park as at the date the programmes became operative).

In relation to those areas added to the Park since the date the programmes became operative, the Crown Minerals Act 1991 allows the Minister of Energy to issue permits. However, obtaining a permit to explore, prospect or mine does not automatically provide access permission to land, including national parks. In the case of land administered by the Department, including a national park, an access arrangement

must also be entered into with the Minister of Conservation. Resource consents may also be required from the appropriate district and regional councils.

The 1997 amendment to the Crown Minerals Act 1991 prevents the Minister of Conservation from entering into access arrangements over land in Egmont National Park unless these activities:

- do not result in any complete stripping of vegetation over an area exceeding 16 square metres;
- do not result in any permanent adverse impact on the profile or surface of the land; and
- are considered to be minimum impact activities (see Glossary for the definition to 'minimum impact activity;).

In assessing any application for the limited range of mining activities allowed for by the Crown Mineral Amendment Act 1997, the Minister of Conservation needs to take into account the national park status of the land and the actual and potential adverse effects of any such activity on natural, historic and recreational values of the park. Adverse effects on park values should be avoided, mitigated or remedied. Conditions are placed on some of these activities in relation to maximum vegetation clearance and land disturbance restrictions. The Department can also negotiate appropriate compensation for any resulting conservation loss. However, in considering whether to authorise access for these activities the Minister of Conservation must have regard to:

a) the provisions of section 6I (2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991;

b) the objectives of the National Parks Act 1980;

c) the purpose for which the land is held by the Crown;

d) the CMS and this management plan;

e) the safeguards against any potential adverse effects of carrying out the proposed programmed of work; and

f) other matters - including General Policy for National Parks.

The Minister may also need to consult with Tangata Whenua under section 61 (2)(e) and have regard to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi when exercising this power under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Before any party may approach the Department for an access agreement as outlined above, they must first obtain a permit under section 25 of the Crown Mineral Act 1991 to prospect, explore or mine, although exceptions apply (section 8 (2), (3)).

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, minerals themselves do not need to be sustainably managed (unlike all other natural and physical resources) as minerals are excluded from the need to have their potential sustained to meet the reasonable foreseeable needs of future generations (section 5 (2)(a)). However, the effects of activities associated with mining activities need to be avoided, remedied or mitigated and these activities undertaken in a sustainable manner.

Land administered by the Department can be closed to applications for explorations and mining activities by an Order in Council. The Crown Minerals Act 1991 allows for Crown land to be closed to exploration and/or mining. For any area of Crown land administered by the Department to be closed, a joint recommendation to the Governor General by the Ministers of Energy and Conservation for an Order in Council is required.

In general, all sand and shingle on Crown land, including the beds of rivers and lakes and in the coastal marine area, is Crown owned and subject to the management and allocation regime established under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 and the Minerals Programme for Minerals other than coal and petroleum. However, these would require a concession under the Conservation Act 1987. Consideration will be given to closing the Egmont National Park to the mining of sand and shingle where a permit under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 is not required. This will reiterate the Government's policy as stated in the Minerals Programmes.

Generally, mining activities are regarded as having unacceptable adverse environmental impacts and therefore are inconsistent with the purpose for which the park is held.

Actions

1. *Wherever possible, discourage applications under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 for access to undertake exploration and/or mining activities within the park.*
2. *Should mining or exploration occur, appropriate safeguards against adverse environmental effects will be required.*
3. *Investigate, in consultation with Tangata Whenua, user groups and the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, the merit of seeking a prohibition of access to the park for the exploration and/or mining of minerals covered by these programmes.*

NB: These actions only apply to any areas outside the mineral programmes.

3.4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Objective:
To foster closer links among Tangata Whenua, the national community, the Taranaki community, and the Department in relation to park management.

Public participation in management planning is required by Section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980.

Because of the large number of people living close to the park, and the enormous influence of the mountain on all people in Taranaki, the Department will aim to maintain, and in some cases foster, closer links with the Taranaki community and Tangata Whenua.

Policies:

- ***To encourage public participation especially in significant policy issues impacting on the park.***
- ***To provide opportunities for public involvement in conservation projects in the park.***
- ***To encourage and support community conservation initiatives in the park.***

In recognition of the importance of community support for, and involvement in, conservation initiatives in the park, this section establishes policies which will direct

the Department's approach to public participation in conservation. A major part of this public awareness is linked to the Department's statutory planning and advocacy functions (see the following section). The Department actively encourages community involvement in conservation programmes within the park where this will lead to the conservation of park values.

A number of communities of interest exist in relation to the park, including Tangata Whenua, recreational and conservation groups, tourism operators, scientists and educational groups. A number of user groups have an historical association with the park, including those clubs with lodges in the park. The Department will endeavour to keep key associates informed and consult with them by whatever means are appropriate on issues of joint concern.

At a policy level, the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board provides community input and monitors the work of the Department. The Conservation Board meetings are held throughout the year and are open to the public.

The Department will also maintain links with territorial and regional government.

Actions

1. *Maintain regular contact with user groups (including concessionaires) and other interested parties by informing them about coming events and reporting on major activities in the park that occurred in the preceding year.*
2. *Encourage wider community participation, specifically by those groups that are traditionally non-participatory.*
3. *Maintain a close relationship with local authorities in Taranaki who have an interest in, and concern for, the mountain and the park.*
4. *Support community and Tangata Whenua involvement in management of specific resources within the park where this has a benefit to park values and is consistent with Departmental priorities and is agreed upon by all parties (see also Co-operation in the Treaty of Waitangi Section, 3.1.3).*
5. *Encourage the community, both locally and nationally, to be aware of the values of the park and the management of them.*
6. *Develop and maintain relationships with adjoining landowners to encourage landuses adjacent to the park to be compatible with park values.*

3.5 STATUTORY PLANNING AND ADVOCACY

Objective:
To advocate the preservation of park values.

This section establishes the approach the Department will take on advocacy issues in relation to the park. Advocacy is an important function of the Department as it allows the Department to become involved in issues which may directly affect conservation values on and off land administered by the Department. The planning processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 provide the main opportunity for the Department to have an input into conservation issues, within the context of sustainable management across land of all tenures.

This management plan addresses a number of specific advocacy issues which impact on the park but which are not covered in the Wanganui Conservancy CMS. It discusses adjacent land uses, which have the potential to either complement or impact on the natural and historic values of the park.

Policies:

- ***To liaise with and seek co-operation of landowners, local authorities, and other agencies, to encourage land uses adjacent to the park that are compatible with conservation of natural and historic values within the park.***
- ***To seek to minimise any adverse effects of activities that are likely to detract from park values through statutory processes and by liaison with local authorities, Tangata Whenua, user groups and other organisations.***

It is important that areas adjacent to the park are utilised in a manner that does not detract from the natural and cultural values of the park. Particular areas of concern include the clearance of indigenous forest in the vicinity of the park. A number of adjacent areas have values similar to those of the National Park, and in a number of instances the Department may investigate purchase of these areas for inclusion in the park. Where purchase is not possible, or where the adjacent vegetation may provide other values such as buffering to the park, the Department will advocate through district plans for their protection (see Boundary Adjustments 3.2.1.8). Restoration of lost coastal habitat through a mountains-to-sea sequence may also be a long-term joint council, community and Department project.

Watercourses do not stop and start at the park boundary and therefore management of them cannot simply end at the park boundary. A key advocacy role for the Department is to ensure that management of watercourses outside the park does not adversely affect indigenous aquatic life within the park e.g. riparian management and removal of barriers to fish passage (see Aquatic Values 3.2.1.3).

Some other adjacent uses which may be of concern include the establishment of exotic forests, metal extraction, powerlines (see the Landscape Section 3.2.3); and goat, deer and pig farming (see Animal Threats 3.2.1.4).

Actions

1. *Maintain relationships with adjoining landowners to encourage adjacent land uses to be compatible with values associated with the park.*
2. *Advocate through the relevant district plans suitable methods to control adjacent land uses that would result in adverse effects on the park or conflict with park values.*
3. *Liaise with local authorities to ensure that the Department has adequate opportunity to have input into resource consent applications which raise issues of significance to the park.*
4. *Advocate, through district and regional plans, the protection of remnants of indigenous ringplain vegetation, riparian vegetation and re-establishment of a mountain-to-sea forest sequence where this will have positive effects for the Egmont National Park (see also Landscape in the Heritage section).*

3.6 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Objective:
To ensure that this management plan is an effective management tool.

A management plan once completed can gather dust on a shelf if its objectives and policies are not clear and actions helpful. This plan is intended to be a living document which sets direction for strategic management decisions as well as day-to-day management.

Policies:

- ***To ensure the Policies and Actions of this management plan are incorporated in annual business planning processes and implemented accordingly, subject to resourcing.***
- ***To ensure that this Management Plan is a current and effective planning document through ongoing monitoring and subsequent reviews or amendment.***

The Management Plan will be implemented through the Conservancy's annual business planning process. The business plan, prepared under Section 41(2)(d) of the Public Finance Act 1989, covers a 12 month period from July to June. It implements conservation work priorities and allocates staff, time and money for the forthcoming year. Within the overall direction set by the Conservation Management Strategy, this Management Plan will assist in focusing effort and funds, allocated through the business plan, to Egmont National Park so that the desired outcomes can be achieved.

Monitoring will be carried out to ensure that the management plan is being implemented effectively, that the provisions of the plan are still current and that they are best serving the interests of conservation within the park.

The Conservation Board has a role to play in this as Section 6M(1)(c) of the Conservation Act 1987 establishes as one of the functions of the Conservation Board "To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General of Conservation on the implementation of Conservation Management Strategy and conservation management plans". In exercising this function the Conservation Board plays an important role in furthering the objectives and outcomes of this Management Plan and is a link between the public and the Department.

Processes for review and amendments of the management plan are provided for in sections 47 and 48 of the National Parks Act 1980.

A review of the plan as a whole or in part may be initiated at any time by the Director-General after consultation with the Conservation Board. The plan as a whole must be reviewed not later than 10 years after its approval, although the Minister may extend this period.

Amendments to the plan may be initiated at any time by the Director-General after consultation with the Conservation Board. Every amendment must be carried out in accordance with sections 47 and 48 of the National Parks Act 1980. However, where the proposed amendment is of such a nature that the Director-General and the Conservation Board consider that it will not materially affect the plan's objectives or policies, a simpler process may be used. In such a case, section 46(5) of the National Parks Act will apply and no formal public consultation is required.

Actions

1. *Implement the vision, goals, objectives, policies and action points set out in this management plan, through the annual business plans process;*

2. *Review or amend the plan under one or more of the following circumstances:*

   - *At the direction of the Director-General of Conservation;*
   - *When general policy or government directions represent a significant departure from the provisions of the plan;*
   - *When plan monitoring indicates that provisions in the plan are impractical or have been superseded by new information or evidence;*
   - *Where this plan becomes inconsistent with approved changes to the CMS;*
   - *No later than 10 years from the date of approval.*

Glossary

activity

Includes a trade, business, or occupation.

(Conservation Act 1987)

advocacy

The collective term for work done to promote conservation to the public and outside agencies by the Conservation Department, conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Advocacy includes taking part in land use planning processes and using a range of methods to inform and educate the public and visitors on conservation issues.

amenity values

Those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, cultural and recreational attributes.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

archaeological site

Any place in New Zealand that:

(a) Either

  i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900, or;

  ii) is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900 and

(b) Is or may be able through investigation by archaelogical methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

(Historic Places Act 1993)

concession or concession document

Means a lease, or a licence, or a permit or an easement granted under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 and includes any activity authorised by the concession document.

(Conservation Act 1987)

conservation plan

A document that outlines the cultural significance of an historic place and specifies the nature of the physical works to be undertaken in order to conserve it.

conservancy

The Department of Conservation has 13 conservancy offices in different parts of the country. The area each office is responsible for is called a conservancy.

conservation

In respect of conservation areas, means the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations.

(Conservation Act 1987)

conservation boards

There are 14 regional conservation boards, each comprising not more than 12 appointed members. Their functions include overseeing the preparation of the conservation management strategies and national park management plans for their area, approval of conservation management plans (e.g. for the Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Protected Area), advising the New Zealand Conservation Authority or Director-General of Conservation on regional conservation matters and advising on new walkways. The Wanganui Conservancy of the Department of Conservation services the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board.

(Conservation Act 1987 s6M)

conservation management plan (CMP)

A plan for the management of natural and historic resources, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes which implements the conservation management strategy and establishes detailed objectives for integrated management within any area or areas specified in a conservation management strategy.

(Conservation Act 1987 s17E)

conservation management strategy (CMS)

A strategy which implements General Policies and establishes objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. The strategy is reviewed every 10 years.

(Conservation Act 1987 s17D)

consultation

A genuine invitation to give advice and genuine consideration of that advice. To achieve consultation, sufficient information must be supplied and sufficient time allowed by the consulting party to the consultee to enable it to tender helpful advice. It involves an ongoing dialogue. The consulting party must remain open minded and be ready to change its views and even start afresh; nevertheless it is entitled to have a working plan in mind. Case law on Tangata Whenua consultation (MfE, 1999) should also be referred to.

(Wellington International Airport Limited v Air New Zealand [1993] 1NZLR 671)

Department, the

Department of Conservation.

district plan

This is prepared and changed by the territorial local authority according to the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of sustainable management of natural and physical resources. District plans indicate what uses are permitted for land within the district.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

ecology

The study of organisms in relation to one another and to their surroundings.

(NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary)

ecosystem

A biological system comprising a community of living organisms and their environment involved together in the process of living. There is a continuous flow of energy and matter through the system. The concept implies process and interaction. They range in size from small freshwater ponds to Earth itself.

endemic

Refers to species of plants and animals which are unique to an area or animals which may migrate but breed only in the area.

(Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981)

exploration (in relation to mining)

Any activity undertaken for the purpose of identifying mineral deposits or occurrences and evaluating the feasibility of mining particular deposits or occurrences of one or more minerals; and includes any drilling, dredging or excavations (whether surface or sub-surface) that are reasonably necessary to determine the nature and size of a mineral deposit or occurence and also may include prospecting. To explore has a corresponding meaning.

(Crown Minerals Act 1991)

fish and game councils

Fish and game councils are responsible for the management of sports fish and game birds for the benefit of recreational hunters and anglers. Council members are elected by licence holders for a three year term.

habitat

The environment in which a particular species or group of species lives. It includes the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned. For example, the habitat of the blue duck consists of swift water with an abundance of freshwater insects.

hapu

A group of extended families recognising a common ancestor.

historic area

An area of land that:

(a) Contains an inter-related group of historic places; and

(b) Forms part of the historic and cultural heritage of New Zealand; and

(c) Lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand.

(Historic Places Act 1993)

historic place

Any land (including an archaeological site), building or structure (including part of a building or structure); or any combination of land and a building or structure that forms part of the historic and cultural heritage of New Zealand and lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand; and includes anything that is in or fixed to such land.

(Historic Places Act 1993)

integrated management

The management of activities, existing or potential, in a manner which ensures that each is in harmony with the other and that priorities are clear.

intrinsic value

This is a concept which regards the subject under consideration as having value in its own right independent of any value placed on it by humans. Elements of intrinsic value with respect to ecosystems can include their integrity, form, uniqueness, functioning inter-relationships and resilience (refer *biodiversity*).

interpretation

Conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of national or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media. It occurs in the vicinity of the subject and is designed to stimulate visitor interest, increase understanding and promote support for conservation.

invertebrates

Animals without backbones - including snails, insects, worms, etc.

Iwi

A group of several sub-tribes which share common ancestral links.

Iwi authority

The authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

kaitiakitanga

The exercise of guardianship by tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Maori in relation to natural and physical resources; and includes the ethic of stewardship.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

kaupapa

An abstract word with many meanings. Within the Department it is generally used in the sense of vision, philosophy, cause, idea or theme.

land status

Legal classification given to land by the Act under which it is administered.

lease

A grant of an interest in land that:

- gives exclusive possession of the land, and
- makes provision for any activity on the land that the lessee is permitted to carry out.

(Conservation Act 1987)

licence

Is a

- profit a prendre, (the right to take produce from land) or any other grant that gives a non exclusive interest in land, or
- a grant that makes provision for any activity on the land that the licensee is permitted to carry out.

(Conservation Act 1987)

mana

Authority, control, influence, prestige, power.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

mainland island

Area on the mainland intensively managed like offshore islands (e.g. through keeping pests at low levels through continuous control). Used to develop and test improved conservation management techniques.

management planning

The process of setting and confirming objectives for the management of natural and historic resources,and recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes, and specifying the actions and resources necessary to achieve those objectives.

(Management Planning Guidelines, DOC)

mauri

Life principle, special character.

(The Revised Dictionary of Maori, P.M. Ryan)

Minimum impact activity

means any of the following:

(a) Geological, geochemical, and geophysical surveying:

(b) Taking samples by hand or hand held methods:

(c) Aerial surveying:

(d) Land surveying:

(e) Any activity prescribed as a minimum impact activity:

(f) Any lawful act incidental to any activity to which paragraphs (a) to (e) relate to the extent that it does not involve any activity that results in impacts of greater than minimum scale and in no circumstances shall include activities involving-

(g) The cutting, destroying, removing, or injury of any vegetation on greater than a minimum scale; or

(h) The use of explosives; or

(i) Damage to improvements, stock, or chattels on any land; or

(j) Any breach of the provisions of this or any other Act, including provisions in relation to protected native plants, water, noise, and historic sites; or

(k) The use of more persons for any particular activity than is reasonably necessary; or

(1) Any impacts prescribed as prohibited impacts; or

(m) Entry on land prescribed as prohibited land.

(Crown Minerals Act 1991)

mining

To take, win or extract, by whatever means a mineral existing in its natural state in land, or a chemical substance from that mineral for the purpose of obtaining the mineral or chemical substance; but does not include prospecting or exploration. To mine has a corresponding meaning.

(Crown Minerals Act 1991)

natural character

The qualities of an area that taken together give it a particular, recognisable character. These qualities may be ecological, physical, spiritual or aesthetic in nature.

natural value

Having importance for the presence of indigenous species or ecosystems, or unmodified landforms (see *naturalness*).

naturalness

The degree to which a place is characterised by indigenous species (see *natural value*). A high degree of naturalness occurs when there are few or no impacts from exotic species, including human impacts.

natural hazard

Any atmospheric or earth or water related occurrence (including earthquake, tsunami, erosion, volcanic and geothermal activity, landslip, subsidence, sedimentation, wind, drought, fire, or flooding) the action of which adversely affects or may adversely affect human life, property, or other aspects of the environment.

(Resource Management Act 1991 s2)

natural resources

Include plants and animals and their habitats, landscape and landforms, geological features, and systems of interacting living organisms, and their environment.

(Conservation Act 1987)

New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)

A national body of 13 appointed members established under section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987. Amongst other functions, it has the statutory responsibility for advising the Minister on General Policy, approving Conservation Management Strategies, Plans and National Park Management Plans.

(Conservation Act 1987)

pa

Fortified village, or more recently any village.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

park values

Those values or reasons justifying the park's classification as a national park. This includes natural, landscape, intrinsic, cultural, historic, amenity and recreational values.

predate (predation)

Preying upon, searching out to kill.

prospecting

Any activity undertaken for the purpose of idenitifying land likely to contain exploitable mineral deposits or occurrences and includes

a) geological, geochemical and geophysical surveys

and b) the taking of samples by hand or hand held methods

and c) aerial surveys.

To prospect has a corresponding meaning.

(Crown Minerals Act 1991)

Protected Natural Areas Programme (PNAP)

A programme which aims to establish a network of reserves and other protected natural areas which is representative of the full range of New Zealand's natural diversity. Ecological districts are surveyed and areas identified which best represent the diversity of their natural features. These are termed recommended areas for protection or RAPs.

protection plan

A plan that outlines how the Conservancy's historic places are going to be legally protected. It includes a database of those places.

preservation

In relation to resources under the Conservation Act 1987, means the maintenance, so far as is practicable, of their intrinsic value.

(Conservation Act 1987)

rahui

A restriction on access, prohibition.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

regional councils

Locally elected councils which have primary responsibility for management of water, soil, geothermal resources and pollution control. They are also responsible for regional aspects of hazard mitigation, soil conservation and hazardous substances.

regional plans

The purpose of these is to assist regional councils to carry out their functions. They are designed to address specific resource management issues for which regional councils are responsible. Councils must decide what regional plans they will prepare. Plans may cover matters such as water management, soil conservation, natural hazard mitigation and air pollution (refer *regional policy statement*).

(Resource Management Act 1991)

restoration

Means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state by reassembly, reinstatement and/or the removal of extraneous additions.

(ICOMOS 1993)

review

In relation to management plans means to reconsider objectives and policies and following a process of public comment, to approve a new plan, having regard to increased knowledge or changed circumstances.

(National Parks Act 1980)

rohe

Boundary, tribal region.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

runanga

Assembly, council.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

species recovery plan

A plan of action intended to halt the decline of a threatened species and increase its population.

Strategic

Planned approach to a problem or issue.

sustainability, ecological

The use of the components of an ecosystem in ways that allow for the perpetuation of the character and natural processes of that ecosystem.

sustainable management

'Managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, (b) safe-guarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems, and (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.' This definition is specific to the Resource Management Act 1991.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

taking

In relation to plants this includes breaking, cutting, destroying, digging up, gathering, plucking, pulling up and removing of the plant. In relation to fish it means fishing.

(Conservation Act 1987)

Tangata Whenua

People of a given place *(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)* in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu that holds mana whenua over that area.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

taonga

Prized possession, property.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

threatened (species)

A term used loosely to include species that are rare, vulnerable, endangered and of indeterminate status.

urupa

Cemetery, burial ground.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

visitors

Visitors are people who visit land administered by the Department for recreation; participating in activities for personal satisfaction, interest or enjoyment. Visitors include adults and children, from both New Zealand and overseas, and they may either arrange their own visit or use the services of a concessionaire. The term 'user' can also be used to describe 'visitor'.

wähi tapu, waahi tapu

Sacred place.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

waiata

Song, chant.

whakapapa

Chant recounting genealogical lineage.

wetland

Permanent or intermittently wet areas, shallow water and land-water margins. Wetlands may be fresh, brackish or saline, and are characterised in their natural state by plants or animals that are adapted to living in wet conditions.

(NZ Wetlands Management Policy 1986)

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Appendix 1

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

The New Zealand Court of Appeal has determined that the Department's obligations to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi includes notions of reasonableness, awareness of other Treaty partner's views, willingness to accommodate those views, fairness and good faith. As the court of appeal has stated: "It is the principles of the Treaty which are to be applied, not the literal words"[1]. The Privy Council has characterised the principles as dynamic: "They reflect the intent of the Treaty as a whole and include, but are not confined to, the express terms of the Treaty ... with the passage of time the principles which underlie the Treaty have become much more important than its precise terms"[2]. The principles are still evolving through the pronouncements of the courts and the Waitangi Tribunal. In general terms the principles to date are as follows:

THE ESSENTIAL BARGAIN

Principle 1 - Kawanatanga

To recognise the Crown's authority to make laws for the good order and security of the country (This will include conservation related purposes).

Principle 2 - Rangatiratanga

To recognise the right of Maori to exercise Iwi authority and control over their own land resources and taonga.

Principle 3 - Oritetanga

To recognise the rights of Maori and non-Maori alike to equality of treatment and privileges of citizenship.

CO-OPERATION

Principle 4 - Whakawhanautanga

To act reasonably and in good faith.

DUTY TO BE INFORMED

Principle 5 - Here Ki Te Mohio

To make informed decisions.

[1] New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney General [1987] 1NZLR 641 (lands case)

[2] New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney General [1990] 1NZLR 513 (broadcasting case)

ACTIVE PROTECTION

Principle 6 - Tautiaki

Where appropriate and to the fullest extent practicable, to take active steps to protect Maori interests.

AVOID PREJUDICIAL ACTIONS

Principle 7

To avoid action which would create new Treaty grievances.

Principle 8

To avoid actions which would prevent redress of claims.

Appendix 2

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN HISTORIC PLACE

Criteria for assessing significance of an historic place taken from the Historic Places Act 1993. The extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of New Zealand history:

* The association of the place with events, persons, or ideas of importance in New Zealand history:
* The potential of the place to provide knowledge of New Zealand history:
* The importance of the place to Tangata Whenua:
* The community association with, or public esteem for, the place:
* The potential of the place for public education:
* The technical accomplishment or value, or design of the place:
* The symbolic or commemorative value of the place:
* The extent to which the place forms part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape:
* The importance of identifying rare types of historic places:
* The extent to which the place forms part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape:
* Such additional criteria for the registration of Wahi Tapu areas, historic places, and historic areas of Maori interest as may be prescribed in regulations made under the Historic Places Act 1993:
* The importance of accessibility and visitor appeal.

Appendix 3

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK BYLAWS

INDEX

Amendment No. 1: S.R. 1996/357

PURSUANT to section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980, the Minister of Lands hereby makes the following bylaws.

ANALYSIS

BYLAWS

1. TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT—

(1) These bylaws may be cited as the Egmont National Park Bylaws 1981.

(2) These bylaws shall come into force on the 1st day of April 1981.

2. INTERPRETATION—

In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires,—

"The Act" means the National Parks Act 1980:

"Aerodrome" means an aerodrome licensed under the Civil Aviation Regulations 1953; and includes any place which is within the park and which is authorised under those regulations for use as an aerodrome:

["Camp" includes staying overnight in any vehicle or boat:]

["Camping site" means any area that has been appropriated as a camping site under section 49 (1) (d) of the Act or under section 28 (1) (i) of the National Parks Act 1952:]

"Hut" means a hut, hostel, or other building owned by the Department and available for public accommodation in the park:

"Hut warden" means an officer or employee of the Department bearing a written authorisation from the Commissioner empowering him to supervise the activities relating to any hut or huts in the park:

"Official notice" means a conspicuous notice publicly displayed containing instructions or directions as to conduct in the park:

"Park" means the Egmont National Park:

"Road" includes all tracks formed for the use of vehicles and all bridges, culverts, and fords forming part of any road.

Other expressions defined in the Act have the meanings so defined.

Hist. "Camp": Definition inserted on 2 January 1997 by S.R. 1996/357/2.

Hist. "Camping site": Definition inserted on 2 January 1997 by S.R. 1996/357/2.

3. POLLUTION OF PARKS—

No person shall—

(a) Wilfully or carelessly pollute in any manner the waters of the park; or

(b) Wilfully or carelessly spill or cause to be spilled any petrol, oil, or similar substance in the park.

4. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE—

No person shall—

(a) Leave any object or substance introduced into the park by him, or introduced into the park and in his possession, in any part of the park other than in a suitable litter receptacle provided in the park; or

(b) Bury any refuse in the park.

5. USE OF PARK HUTS—

(1) Except in an emergency, no person shall use any one hut for more than 2 successive nights without the prior consent of a ranger or officer or employee of the Department.

(2) Every person who uses a hut shall leave it in a clean and tidy condition after use.

(3) No person shall remain in any hut after he has been directed to leave by a ranger or hut warden on the grounds that he has acted in a manner likely to offend or annoy other people, or has damaged or appears likely to cause damage to a hut.

(4) No person shall cause or allow any dog for which he is responsible to enter or be under any hut.

5A. CONDITIONS ON ACCESS TO CERTAIN PLACES—

(1) Any person may have access to:

(a) The area within 100 metres radius of any hut:

(b) Any emergency shelter—

subject to the conditions in subclause (2) of this bylaw.

(2) No person shall camp in any place or part of any place listed in subclause (1) of this bylaw unless—

(a) That place or that part of the place is a camping site; or

(b) That place is an emergency shelter and that person is camping in that shelter in an emergency.]

Hist. r.5A inserted on 2 January 1997 by S.R. 1996/357/3.

6. FIRES—

(1) No person shall light within the park any fire (other than a fire fuelled by gas or vaporised petrol, oil, or similar substance) within 200 metres of any formed road unless the fire is in a permanently constructed fireplace.

(2) No person shall light a fire within the park in circumstances where it is likely to present a fire hazard.

(3) No person shall light a fire within the park (except in a permanently constructed fireplace) within 3 metres of any tree or dry vegetation.

(4) Every person who lights a fire within the park shall keep that fire continuously under supervision until it is completely extinguished.

(5) No person shall drop, throw, or otherwise place in any combustible material any match, lighted cigarette, or other lighted matter, except for the purpose of lighting a fire as permitted by these bylaws.

(6) Nothing in this bylaw shall exempt any person from the requirement to obtain an authority or permit to light a fire in the open air within the park pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 or any other requirement of that Act and any regulations made or fire control measures taken under the authority of that Act.

7. VEHICLES—

(1) Except in an emergency or where the Commissioner considers it necessary for the proper and beneficial management, administration, and control of the park, no person shall drive a vehicle or permit a vehicle under his control to remain in any part of the park that is not a formed road or has not been appropriated as a parking place under the Act.

(2) No person shall drive a vehicle on a formed road (not being a public road) within the park—

(a) If the vehicle is of a class excluded by an official notice from that formed road; or

(b) If the vehicle is not currently registered or does not display a current warrant of fitness; or

(c) If the driver does not hold a current driver's licence for the particular class of vehicle being driven.

(3) Nothing in this bylaw shall apply to any person who is operating a vehicle in accordance with an express authorisation in any lease or licence granted under any of sections 49 to 51 of the Act or any easement granted under section 54 of the Act.

8. PARKING OF VEHICLES—

The driver of any vehicle shall ensure—

(a) That it is parked in accordance with the directions of any ranger or officer or employee of the Department, or the directions contained in any official notice; or

(b) Where no such directions are given, that it is parked in a safe and considerate manner and position.

9. AIRCRAFT—

(1) Except in an emergency or where authorised by a licence or permit issued under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 or where the Commissioner considers it necessary for the proper and beneficial management, administration, and control of the park—

(a) No person shall land an aircraft at or take off from any place within the park that is not an aerodrome:

(b) No person shall hover an aircraft over any part of the park.

(2) The pilot in command of an aircraft which flies in contravention of, or fails to comply with, subclause (1) of this bylaw commits an offence against these bylaws.

(3) The Commissioner may, by official notice, prohibit persons from entering any part of the park that is likely to be affected by the landing or taking off of aircraft within the park for such a period of time as he considers necessary for the safety of the public.

(4) Every person commits an offence against these bylaws who wilfully enters or wilfully remains on any part of the park at a time when entry to that part of the park is prohibited by an official notice under subclause (3) of this bylaw.

(5) Nothing in this bylaw shall apply to any person who is operating an aircraft in accordance with an express authorisation in any lease or licence granted under any of sections 49 to 51 of the Act or any easement granted under section 54 of the Act.

10. COMPETITIVE SPORTS—

(1) No person shall, without the prior written consent of a ranger or officer or employee of the Department, conduct or engage in any competitive sport or in any organised training for any competitive sport in the park.

(2) Nothing in this bylaw shall apply to any activity carried out on any land that is being administered under the Tourist and Health Resorts Control Act 1908 or the Tourist Hotel Corporation Act 1974.

11. USE OF SPOTLIGHT FOR HUNTING PROHIBITED—

No person shall use a spotlight within the park for the purpose of identifying or dazzling prey.

12. PORTABLE GENERATORS—

(1) Except in an emergency or where the Commissioner considers it is necessary for the proper and beneficial management, administration, and control of the park, no person shall install or operate a portable electric generator in any part of the park.

(2) Nothing in this bylaw shall apply to any activity carried out on any land that is being administered under the Tourist and Health Resorts Control Act 1908 or the Tourist Hotel Corporation Act 1974.

13. PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS—

(1) No person shall install or operate any public address system in the park unless that system—

(a) Is installed in a building or vehicle; and

(b) Cannot be heard outside that building or vehicle.

(2) Nothing in this bylaw shall prevent the installation or operation of a public address system in the park for the purpose of making announcements relating to the safety of the public.

14. OFFENCES—

Every person commits an offence against these bylaws who acts in contravention of or fails to comply in any respect with any of the provisions of these bylaws.

15. PENALTIES—

Every person who commits an offence against these bylaws is liable on summary conviction—

(a) In the case of an offence against bylaw 9 (2) of these bylaws, to a fine not exceeding $5,000:

(b) In the case of any other offence against these bylaws, to a fine not exceeding $500.

16. PROCEEDINGS UNDER ACT IN RESPECT OF OFFENCES—

Nothing in these bylaws shall limit or prevent the taking of proceedings under any Act in respect of any offence committed within the park.

Dated at Wellington this 19th day of March 1981.

V. S. YOUNG,

Minister of Lands.

Date of notification in Gazette: 20 March 1981.

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK BYLAWS 1981, AMENDMENT NO. 1

S.R. 1996/357

PURSUANT to section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980, the Minister of Conservation hereby makes the following bylaws.

———————————————————

BYLAWS

1. TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT—

(1) These bylaws may be cited as the Egmont National Park Bylaws 1981, Amendment No. 1 and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Egmont National Park Bylaws 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the principal bylaws).

(2) These bylaws shall come into force on the 28th day after the date of their notification in the Gazette.

2. INTERPRETATION—

Inserted definitions in bylaw 2 of principal bylaws.

3. CONDITIONS ON ACCESS TO CERTAIN PLACES—

Inserted bylaw 5A into principal bylaws.

Dated at Wellington this 25th day of November 1996.

DOUG KIDD,

for Minister of Conservation.

Date of notification in Gazette: 5 December 1996.

Appendix 4

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK TRACKS AND HUTS - SITE PRIORITY SCORES AND VISITOR GROUPS

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK TRACK SITES

SITE PRIORITY SCORE	TRACK NAME	SITE NUMBER	VISITOR GROUP	TRACK CLASSIFICATION
20	Stratford Plateau - walk to viewing platform	800088	SST	SW
20	Konini Dell Loop Track	800101	SST	SW
19	North Egmont Nature Walk	800248	SST	SW
18	Wilkies Pools Loop Track	800103	BCA	TT
17	Northern Summit Route	800077	BCA	R
16	Connett Loop Track	800250	SST	SW
16	Manganui Gorge Track	800087	DV	TT
15	Kapuni Loop Track	800108	BCA	TT
13	Ngatoro Loop Track	800251	BCA	TT
13	Dawson Falls Power Station Walk	800236	SST	SW
13	Veronica Loop Track	800072	BCA	TT
13	Hasties Hill Loop Track	800109	BCA	TT
12	Pouakai Route	800086	BCA	R
12	AMC-Tahurangi to Manganui Ski Field	800078	BCA	TT
12	Southern Summit Route	800111	BCA	R
11	Ridge Loop Track	800106	BCA	TT
11	Kamahi Walk	800089	SST	SW
11	Enchanted Track	800092	BCA	TT
11	Ahukawakawa Track	800082	BCA	TT

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK TRACK SITES CONTINUED

SITE PRIORITY CLASSIFICATION SCORE	TRACK NAME	SITE NUMBER	VISITOR GROUP	TRACK
11	Dawson Falls Summit Track	800110	BCA	TT
10	York Road Loop Track	800097	DV	WT
10	AMC-Pyramid Route	800124	BCA	R
10	Kapoaiaia Track	800246	BCA	TT
10	Lower Lake Dive Track	800113	BCA	TT
9	Patea Loop Track	800091	DV	TT
9	Waingongoro Track	800107	BCA	TT
9	Curtis Falls Track	800093	BCA	TT
9	Upper Lake Dive Route	800112	BCA	R
9	Holly Hut Track	800080	BCA	TT
9	Bells Falls Track	800083	BCA	TT
9	Mangorei Track	800058	BCA	TT
8	AMC-Humphries Castle Link Route	800079	BCA	R
8	Brames Falls Route	800118	BCA	R
8	Waimoku/Sefton Ridge Tracks	800052	BCA	TT
8	Davies Track	800050	BCA	TT
8	North Egmont Summit Track (Translator Rd)	800076	BCA	TT
8	Veronica Track	800073	BCA	TT
8	Maketawa Track	800074	BCA	TT
8	Kokowai Track	800081	BCA	TT
8	Ridge Track	800104	BCA	TT
7	Oaonui Track	800121	BCA	TT
7	Kahui Track	800123	BCA	TT
6	Taungatara Track	800116	BCA	TT

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK TRACK SITES CONTINUED

SITE PRIORITY SCORE	TRACK NAME	SITE NUMBER	VISITOR GROUP	TRACK CLASSIFICATION
6	Ihaia Track	800119	BCA	TT
6	Lake Dive Track	800115	BCA	TT
6	Kaiauai Track	800064	BCA	TT
6	Potaema Track	800095	SST	TT
6	AMC-Enchanted Track to Wilkies Pools	800105	DV	TT
5	Puniho Track	800127	BCA	TT
5	Maude Track	800056	BCA	TT
5	Stony River Route	800128	BCA	R
5	Dover Route	800085	BCA	R
5	Ngatoro Track	800071	BCA	TT
4	Waiwhakaiho Viewpoint to Kaiauai Track	800066	BCA	TT
4	Waiwhakaiho Track	800063	BCA	TT
4	Mangaoraka Loop Track	800061	SST	SW
4	Mangaoraka - Waiwhakaiho Link Track	800252	BCA	TT

EGMONT NATIONAL PARK HUTS

SITE PRIORITY SCORE	HUT NAME	SITE NUMBER	VISITOR GROUP
16	Camphouse	800224	ON
12	Syme Hut	800111	BCA
10	Konini Lodge	800225	ON
10	Lake Dive Hut	800113	BCA
9	Waingongoro Hut	800107	BCA
9	Holly Hut	800080	BCA

SITE PRIORITY SCORE	HUT NAME	SITE NUMBER	VISITOR GROUP
9	Pouakai Hut	800058	BCA
8	Maketawa Hut	800074	BCA
8	Waiaua Gorge Hut	800118	BCA
7	Kahui Hut	800123	BCA
6	Kaiauai Hut	800064	BCA

Visitor Group Codes and Track Classification for the above tables:

Visitor Groups Codes

SST = Short stop traveller

This visitor group makes short visits to sites (up to one hour) along main roads and highways to break up a journey; they expect a safe and comfortable experience with a very high standard of facilities and services. Sites visited by short stop travellers receive high use from both domestic and international visitors. e.g. picniking, visitor centre visitors.

DV = Day visitor

This group uses a wide range of sites, such as backcountry access points and coastal areas, for visits lasting from one hour up to one day; they expect a safe and comfortable experience with a high standard of facilities and services. Sites visited by day visitors receive medium to high use and tend to be used more by domestic visitors and locals unless they are on main tourist routes.

ON = Over nighter

This group often camps undertaking a variety of activities including the traditional New Zealand family summer holiday experience. They expect basic to high standard facilities and services. Sites visited by overnighters are busy over the summer with low use for the rest of the year. They are mainly used by New Zealanders.

BCC = Backcountry comfort seekers

This group mainly tramps on major tracks (e.g. Great Walks such as the Milford and Kepler Tracks) for two to five days. They expect a safe and comfortable experience with a high standard of facilities and services, including well constructed tracks and comfortable huts. On these tracks there is an equal proportion of New Zealand to international visitors.

BCA = Backcountry adventurers

This group mainly visits the backcountry for two to five days, but can include day trips. They have a good level of outdoor skill and experience and accept some risks. They expect only basic facilities and are generally younger New Zealanders.

TS = Thrill seekers

This group wants specialised facilities or services that provide exciting experiences. Their visits usually last one day. There is a high number of visitors in this group, which is largely made up of young international visitors. Concessionaires tend to provide the services for this group. Thrill seekers visit the full range of sites and are not restricted to one group. e.g. downhill skiing, paraponting.

Note: There are currently no visitor sites in Egmont National Park classified as backcountry comfort seeker (BCC) or thrill seeker (TS) sites.

(See the Visitor Strategy and VAMP Factsheet No. 4, "Managing Recreation on Conservation Land - Structures" for further details on visitor groups. See VAMP Factsheet No.3 for an explanation of site priority scores and how they are used).

Track Classification

SW = Short walk

Well formed, up to one hour's easy walking. Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some may cater for physically disabled people, but will only be developed to barrier-free standard where there is a demonstrated demand or significant potential use by disabled people.

WT = Walking Track

Up to a days relatively easy walking. Suitable for relatively inexperienced visitors with little backcountry skill.

TT = (BCA) Tramping track

Marked tramping track over a wide range of terrain. Generally cater for backcountry visitor with moderate to high backcountry skills and experience. Trips vary in length from half-day to multi-day.

R = Route

Generally unformed, lightly cut route catering for the most experienced of backcountry visitors.

See Track Service Standards, Department of Conservation, December 1998, QD Code: VC/1200 for further information on track standards).

Note:

a) *The visitor groups and /or the classification of some tracks may change as a result of decisions made following the 1999/2000 Tracks and Signs Baseline Inspection Programme.*

b) *Tracks in the park will be classified according to the Department of Conservation's Track Service Standard (1998).*

Appendix 5

GENERAL POLICY FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Policy 7.1(ii)

In addition to the requirement to assess areas as to their suitability for national park status in terms of Section 4(1) the following criteria will be considered:

(a) In general, national parks should be relatively large, preferably in terms of tens of thousands of hectares and preferably comprising contiguous areas.

(b) In general, areas under consideration should be natural areas, but predominantly natural areas will be considered if they:

- contain modified areas which can be restored or are capable of regeneration, or
- contain features of significant historical, cultural, archaeological or scientific value, or
- contain features which have no equivalent in an unmodified area in a national park and which are so beautiful, unique or so scientifically important that they should be protected in a national park.

Policy 7.3

In fixing the boundaries of new parks or additions to existing parks the following criteria will apply and will also be used to assess proposals for changes to existing boundaries:

(i) Ecosystems within the park should be able to withstand pressures from possible environmental change on lands adjacent to the park.

(ii) Adjacent land uses should not detrimentally affect or dominate park values.

(iii) Boundaries should encompass complete landscape units.

(iv) Boundaries should allow the maximum possible right of access by the public consistent with the need to preserve park values.

(v) Boundaries should be convenient for efficient management of the park and also for the occupier of adjacent land.

(vi) Boundaries should where possible follow physical features such as ridgelines and streams as these are natural and easily identifiable on the ground. Natural physical boundaries are normally preferable to vegetation boundaries, man-made features or straight line boundaries.

Appendix 6

FORMAL NAMES OF SPECIES, AS USED IN TEXT

* Denotes introduced species

PLANTS

Common Name	Formal Name
alpine fern	*Polystichum cystostegia*
* banana passionfruit	*Passiflora mollissima*
beech	*Nothofagus* spp.
* broom	*Cytisus scoparius*
* Chilean flame creeper	*Tropaeolum speciosum*
* Chilean rhubarb	*Gunnera tinctoria*
* climbing asparagus	*Asparagus scandens*
* climbing spindleberry	*Celastrus orbiculatus*
giant milfoil	*Myriophyllum robustum*
* ginger	*Hedychium gardnerianum, H.flavescens*
* gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
green mistletoe	*Ileostylus micranthus*
* heather	*Calluna vulgaris*
* hawkweed	*Hieracium* spp.
hinau	*Elaeocarpus dentatus*
kahikatea	*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*
kaikawaka	*Libocedrus bidwillii*
kamahi	*Weinmannia racemosa* var. *racemosa*
kanuka	*Kunzea ericoides* var.
king fern	*Marattia salicina*
kohekohe	*Dysoxylum spectabile*
kohurangi	*Brachyglottis kirkii*
leatherwood	*Brachyglottis rotundifolia*
leek orchid	*Prasophyllum* sp.
mahoe	*Melicytus ramiflorus*
miro	*Prumnopitys ferruginea*
* montbretia	*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora cliffortioides*
mountain flax (= whaririki)	*Phormium cookianum*
Mountain foxglove	*Ourisia macrophylla*
mountain ribbonwood	*Hoheria glabrata*
mountain toatoa	*Phyllocladus alpinus*
mountain totara	*Podocarpus hallii*
nikau	*Rhopalostylis sapida*
northern rata	*Metrosideros robusta*
* old man's beard	*Clematis vitalba*
* pampas (grass)	*Cortaderia selloana* and/or *C.jubata*
* Peruvian lily	*Alstroemeria aurantiaca*
pua o te reinga	*Dactylanthus taylorii*
pukatea	*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*
puriri	*Vitex lucens*
pigmy pine	*Lepidothamnus laxifolius*
* ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*
rata	*Metrosideros* spp. (excluding *M.excelsa*)
red tussock	*Chionochloa rubra*
reed	Emergent aquatic plant with linear leaves or no leaves (including raupo, rushes, some sedges)
rewarewa	*Knightia excelsa*
rimu	*Dacrydium cupressinum*
sedge	Any member of Family Cyperaceae (including species of *Carex, Uncinia, Isolepis, Baumea)*
shrub daisy	*Olearia capillaris*
snow totara	*Podocarpus nivalis*
sphagnum (moss)	*Sphagnum* spp.
swamp maire	*Syzygium maire*
tawa	*Beilschmiedia tawa*
toro	*Myrsine salicina*
titirangi	*Hebe speciosa*
titoki	*Alectryon excelsus*
tree-fern	*Cyathea* spp. and/or *Dicksonia* spp.
* wandering willie	*Tradescantia fluminensis*
whau	*Entelea arborescens*
whipcord hebe	*Hebe subsimilis*
wilding pine	*Pinus* spp
wood-rose	Piece of host tree to which *Dactylanthus taylorii* was attached

ANIMALS

Common Name	Formal Name
bat - long-tailed	*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*
- short-tailed	*Mystacina t. tuberculata*
bellbird	*Anthornis m. melanura*
blue duck	*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*
bully common	*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*
* cat	*Felis catus*
* dog	*Canis familiaris*
eel - long fin	*Anguilla dieffenbachii*
- short fin	*Anguilla australis*
falcon, New Zealand	*Falco novaeseelandiae*
fernbird, North Island	*Bowdleria punctata vealeae*
* ferret	*Mustela furo*
gecko - forest	*Hoplodactylus granulatus*
giant amphipod	*Tara taranaki*
* goat	*Capra hircus*
* hare	*Lepus europaeus*
* horse	*Equus caballus*
kereru (NZ pigeon)	*Hemiphaga n. novaeseelandiae*
* kiore (rat)	*Rattus exulans*
kiwi, North Island Brown	*Apteryx australis mantelli*
koaro	*Galaxias brevipinnis*
kokopu - banded	*Galaxias fasciatus*
- giant	*Galaxias argenteus*
- shortjawed	*Galaxias postvectis*
koura (freshwater cray)	*Paranephrops planifrons*
mouse	*Mus musculus*
pig	*Sus scrofa*
* possum	*Trichosurus vulpecula*
* rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*
rifleman, North Island	*Acanthisitta chloris-granti*
skink - brown	*Oligosoma zelandicum*
* stoat	*Mustela erminea*
tomtit, North Island	*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*
* trout - brown	*Salmo trutta*
- rainbow	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*
tui	*Prosthemadera n. novaeseelandiae*
wasp	*Vespa germanica vulgaris*
* weasel	*Mustela nivalis*

Appendix 7

MINERALS PROGRAMMES

Each of the Minerals Programmes that came into effect on 1 October 1996 included the following provision under section 4.1.1:

In accordance with section 15(3) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, the areas of land defined below shall be unavailable for inclusion in any permit….

(e) Mount Taranaki and the Pouakai, Pukeiti and Kaitake Ranges as defined by the area of the Mt Egmont National Park, where the land (surface and subsurface) is above sea level, containing 33764.7817 hectares more or less, are:

Pts Sub 2, Subs 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, Pts Subs 7, 8, 10, Pts Secs 49, 170, Pt Sec 189, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 DP 13397, Lot 1 DP 15932, Blk III Cape SD,

Pt Sec 169 Oakura District, Blks III & VII Cape SD,

Secs 1-3, 11-14, 16-18 Blk V Egmont SD,

Sec 38 Blk VI Cape SD,

Lot 2 DP 7882, Secs 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, Blk VII Cape SD,

Lot 1 DP 10394, Lot 1 DP 8824, Lot 2 DP 8649, Lot 1 DP 11816 & Secs 8, 14, 16, 18, Blk XI Cape SD,

Pt Sec 3, Blk XV Cape SD,

Lot 1 DP 10401, Blk XII Egmont SD,

Secs 54, 55, 68 & Pt Sec 63, Blk IV Kaupokonui SD,

and Egmont National Park in Blks V, VI, VII, IX, X, XI, XIII, XIV, XV Egmont SD, Blks XI, XV Cape SD, Blk IV Opunake SD, and Blks I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII Kaupokonui SD

Section 1 SO 13356 Blk XII Egmont SD

Pt Sec 134 Omata District Blk VI Egmont SD

Lot 1 DP 13427 Blk I Egmont SD.

Mt Taranaki and the Pouakai, Pukeiti and Kaitake Ranges are a fundamental source of tribal identity and mana for the iwi of Taranaki. The iwi of Taranaki consider Mt Taranaki and its associated ranges to be a tipuna (ancestor). The area is regarded as a wahi tapu (of special and/or sacred importance).

Appendix 8

MOUNT EGMONT VESTING ACT, 1978

R.S. Vol. 34

REPRINTED ACT [WITH AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED]

REPRINTED AS ON 1 OCTOBER 1995

Commenced: 11 Oct 1978

ANALYSIS

MOUNT EGMONT VESTING ACT, 1978

1978, No.38

An Act to provide for the symbolic return of Mount Egmont to the Taranaki Maori Trust Board on behalf of the Maori tribes concerned, and the gift of the Mountain back to the Crown by the Board for the purposes of a national park for the use and enjoyment of all the people of New Zealand [11 October 1978]

Whereas Mount Egmont (known in Maori as Taranaki) (in this preamble referred to as the Mountain) comprises part of the Egmont National Park: And whereas the Mountain comprises, in part, land that was confiscated by the Crown from its former Maori owners pursuant to the New Zealand Settlements Act 1863 and, in part, land that has been purchased by the Crown from its former Maori owners: And whereas certain provisions in relation to the confiscations above referred to were made by the Taranaki Maori Claims Settlement Act 1944 and are now contained in the Maori Trust Boards Act 1955, which Act continued in existence the Taranaki Maori Trust Board: And whereas, in consideration of the special significance that the Mountain has for the Maori people of the Taranaki district, it has been agreed between the Crown and representatives of those Maori people that the Mountain shall be formally transferred to the Taranaki Maori Trust Board as representing the Maori people of the Taranaki district in order

that it may be given back to the Crown for the purposes of a National Park as a free gift and as a symbol of love to all the people of New Zealand by the Board on behalf of the Atiawa, Ngati Mutunga, Ngati Maru, Ngati Tama, Ngati Ruanui, Ngaruahine, Taranaki, and Ngarauru tribes, and their descendants: BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. Short Title—-

This Act may be cited as the Mount Egmont Vesting Act 1978.

This Act is not affected by anything in the National Parks Act 1980, see s. 79 of that Act.

This Act is administered in the Department of Conservation: see s.6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

2. Interpretation—-

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—-

"Board" means the Taranaki Maori Trust Board referred to in section 9 of the Maori Trust Boards Act 1955:

"Minister" means the Minister of Conservation:

"The Mountain" means Mount Egmont, being the land more particularly described in the Schedule to this Act.

3. Act to bind Crown—-

This Act binds the Crown.

4. Vesting of Mountain in Taranaki Maori Trust Board—-

The Mountain is hereby excluded from the Egmont National Park, and is hereby vested in the Board for an estate in fee simple.

5. Gift of Mountain for purposes of National Park—-

(1) The Board is hereby empowered to give and does give the whole of the interest in the Mountain vested in it by section 4 of this Act to Her Majesty the Queen for the purposes of a national park, subject to the condition set out in section 6 of this Act.

(2) For the purposes of giving full effect to that gift, the Mountain is hereby vested in Her Majesty, to be held by Her Majesty for the purposes of and as part of the Egmont National Park, under and subject to the National Parks Act 1980.

6. Board to be consulted in respect of proposal to exclude Mountain from National Park—-

The Board's gift of the Mountain is subject to the condition that every proposal to exclude any part of the land comprising the Mountain from the Egmont National Park shall be referred by the Minister to the Board, and he shall give the Board a reasonable opportunity to consider the proposal and to comment on it to the Minister.

7. Gift duty exemption—-

No duty shall be payable in respect of the gift of the Mountain by the Board.

8. Act not limited by other Acts—-

The provisions of this Act shall apply notwithstanding anything in the National Parks Act 1980, Part XXI of the Maori Affairs Act 1953, the Maori Trust Boards Act 1955, the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1968, or any other enactment.

9. Savings—-

(1) Nothing in section 6 of this Act shall limit or affect the provisions of section 11 (1) of the National Parks Act 1980 (which provides that land may be excluded from a national park only by Act of Parliament).

(2) Nothing in this Act shall affect any Order in Council, notice, regulation, rule, or bylaw or any lease, licence, authority, or document made or granted, or any thing whatsoever done, under the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980, or any corresponding former enactment; and every such Order in Council, notice, regulation, rule, bylaw, lease, licence, authority, document or thing, so far as it is subsisting or in force on the date of the commencement of this Act, shall continue to have effect as if the Mountain had at all times remained subject to the National Parks Act 1980.

SCHEDULE

Section 2

First, all that parcel of land in the Taranaki Land District, containing 18307.4969 hectares, more or less, being part Blocks XI and XV Cape Survey District, and Sections 18 and 19, Block V, and part Blocks V, IX, XIII, and XIV, Egmont Survey District, part Block IV, Opunake Survey District, and Sections 6, 7, and 8, Block II, and part Blocks II, III, V, VI, and VII, Kaupokonui Survey District; being the whole of the area hatched brown on S.O. Plan 11271; and

Secondly, all that parcel of land in the Taranaki Land District, containing 13653.0823 hectares, more or less, being Subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, and part Subdivisions 2 and 10 of Section 170 and Section 174 and parts Sections 169 and 170, Oakura District, situated in Block II, Wairau Survey District, and Blocks III and VII, Cape Survey District, and part Section 2, Block XIV, Sections 2 and 3, Block XV, Section 8, Block XI, Section 38, Block VII, Block X, and part Blocks VI, VII, IX, X, XI, XIV, and XV, Egmont Survey District, and part Blocks II and III, Kaupokonui Survey District; being the whole of the area hatched blue on the said S.O. Plan 11271.

The Mount Egmont Vesting Act 1978 is administered in the Department of Conservation.