



# Kahurangi National Park Management Plan

(incorporating the 2009/2010 partial  
review and 2016/2017 amendment)

JUNE 2001



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



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**Cover:** Looking West, Saddle Lake, adjacent to Wangapeka Track, Little Wanganui Saddle, Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Janice Gravett.

# Kahurangi National Park Management Plan 2016/2017 amendment

## EXPLANATION OF 2016/2017 AMENDMENT

The 2016/2017 amendment to the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan (incorporating 2009/2010 partial review) was carried out in accordance with sections 46-48 of the National Parks Act 1980. The purpose of the amendment was to extend the mountain biking season on the Heaphy Track.

The Department prepared the draft amendment to the management plan in consultation with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board, iwi and key stakeholders. The draft amendment, to extend the Heaphy Track mountain biking season from 1 May - 30 September to 1 April - 30 November, was publicly notified on 11 May 2016 for written comments (submissions). During the submission period, which closed on 12 July 2016, 188 submissions were received. Hearings for eight submitters were held in Motueka and Westport in August 2016. The hearing panel comprised two representatives from the Department and two members of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board (the Board).

Following the hearings and consideration of all submissions, the amendment was revised to remove April, but retain October/November, for the mountain biking season extension. The Board agreed with this revision in December 2016 and recommended it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval. The NZCA considered the recommendation and comments from the Minister of Conservation before approving the plan amendment on 3 April 2017, subject to a few requirements, including reporting back to the NZCA on monitoring.

The amendment is part of this Kahurangi National Park Management Plan.

# Kahurangi National Park Management Plan 2009/2010 Partial Review

## EXPLANATION OF 2009/2010 PARTIAL REVIEW

The 2009/2010 partial review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan was prepared in accordance with sections 46 and 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. It reviewed parts of the existing Kahurangi National Park Management Plan 2001.

The matters reviewed were:

- (a) Mountain bike access on the Heaphy, Flora Saddle to Barron Flat (Flora Carpark to Upper Takaka Valley), Kill Devil (adjacent to Uruwhenua Road, Upper Takaka) and Lake Sylvester tracks.
- (b) Private accommodation on the Heaphy Track.
- (c) Access provisions for aircraft.
- (d) Hunting access restrictions.
- (e) Horse riding concessionaire access - limited to a part of the Park near Puponga Farm Park.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy of the Department of Conservation prepared the partial review of the management plan in consultation with key stakeholders, the Nelson/ Marlborough Conservation Board, iwi, and other interested groups and individuals.

The Department notified its intention to carry out a partial review of the plan in July 2007 and received 160 written suggestions. The Department took those suggestions into account in the development of the draft partial review.

The draft partial review was publicly notified for comment (submissions) on 1 July 2009. The submission period closed 4 September 2009. 645 submissions were received. All comments were considered by a hearing panel comprising members of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and Departmental representatives. Hearings were held in Nelson, Motueka, Takaka and Karamea for those submitters who indicated they wished to be heard.

As a result of the hearings and consideration of all submissions, changes were made to the draft partial review prior to it being presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) on 15 April 2010 for approval. Following consideration by the NZCA and the Minister of Conservation, some further changes were made before the partial review was approved by the NZCA on 8 December 2010. These changes include minor amendments to spelling and grammar within those parts of the original plan not subject to the partial review.

The partial plan review is part of, and will be effective for, the life of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan.

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# Preface

This Management Plan for Kahurangi National Park has been prepared in accordance with Sections 45-48 of the National Parks Act 1980. This Management Plan is a statutory document which implements Conservation Management Strategies and provides for the management of Kahurangi National Park in accordance with General Policies and the Act.

A partial review has been carried out for specific sections of the management plan to meet changed circumstances and policy. The partial review process was undertaken in accordance with sections 45 - 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. The outcomes of the partial review will remain in place for the life of the management plan.

A Management Plan is generally a statement of intent and does not override the provisions of legislation, general policy and agreements. The objectives of this plan express the Department's overall management intentions for Kahurangi National Park over the next 10 years. 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 are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding and support.

This Management Plan has been prepared jointly by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy and the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy of the Department of Conservation, in consultation with the general public and with representatives from tangata whenua, the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and other interested groups and individuals.

This management plan recognises the mana and tangata whenua status of Ngai Tahu, Ngati Apa, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama and Te Atiawa over their ancestral lands and waters within the Park and its significance to them. The recognition of mana and tangata whenua status is present through all sections and policies of this management plan.

This plan is a working tool for the future of the Park only, but acknowledges the Crown's relationship with and obligations to Ngai Tahu, Ngati Apa, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama and Te Atiawa under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 which requires the Department to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. This plan also acknowledges the Department's obligations under the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Prior to Kahurangi becoming a national park a discussion document was prepared for the national park investigation. Submissions on that document were taken into account in the development of the draft plan. The first round of public consultation on the draft plan was carried out in July 1996 when a notice was published calling for suggestions.

The draft plan was then notified for public submission on 1 November 1997. A total of 317 submissions were received and 60 submitters were heard in support of their submissions. These submissions were taken into account in the development of this plan.

The plan will be effective for 10 years from the date of approval (13 June 2001), but may be reviewed at any time as a result of changes in circumstance. A partial review was undertaken in 2009/10 and an amendment was carried out in 2016/2017. The processes and the subject matter of the partial review and amendment are set out in the Introduction which follows.

HE WHAKATAUAKI TUPUNA

(A PROVERB)

Kia au mai nga tatai nga whetu ta tu atu ki te kaupapa

Kia au ki te mana, ihi, wehi, o nga mea katoa

Kia tapu te mara o Papatuanuku. He karakia mo tera mara mo tiki kai  
me mahi kai

Kia whakatu tika te Tai Ao me Te Tai Ao tiaki te Tai Ao

Kia mohio tika te tangata nga korero me nga tikanga o Te Tai Ao.

*Hold fast to the genealogy lines from the stars to oneself and all  
things*

*Hold strong to the sacredness, prestige and awe of all things created*

*Keep the garden of mother earth sacred and open through  
appropriate incantations*

*for all things and when planting or gathering food*

*If the environment is kept well and strong it will look after itself*

*The one who teaches about the environment must understand the  
structure, lore and rituals pertaining to it.*



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The purpose of a Management Plan is to provide for the management of the park in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980, Conservation Management Strategies and the General Policy for National Parks. The plan will guide the work of the Department in the park from 2001-2011. As a guide for the next 10 years, the plan seeks to give clear directions for management while remaining flexible enough to allow for changing circumstances within the 10 year time frame.

The Park has been created to protect its valuable natural features in perpetuity. These features can be looked on as resources which are scarce and irreplaceable. As development proceeds elsewhere, they will become even more scarce and more valuable, which implies greater pressure on them. The purpose of this plan is to provide for the management of these scarce resources so that their intrinsic values can be retained, while, at the same time, allowing for the public to have access to them. Underlying all decisions must be the need to preserve the Park as far as possible in its natural state.

Section 45(5) of the National Parks Act requires that a management plan be prepared for a national park within two years of the formation of that park.

The process for the preparation of a management plan is set out in Section 47 of the Act and is summarised as follows:

1. An initial notice is published asking for suggestions and comments. (July 1996).
2. A draft management plan is prepared in consultation with the Conservation Board.
3. The draft management plan is released for public submission for at least 2 months. (November 1997).
4. Those wishing to be heard in support of their submissions appear before representatives of the Department and the Conservation Board.
5. The draft plan is revised in light of submissions.
6. The Conservation Board considers the revised draft and the summary of submissions and may make further amendments. (December 1998)
7. When satisfied the Board recommends the revised draft to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval (August 1999).

8. The NZCA considers the amended draft and refers the draft to the Minister of Conservation for comment (March 2000).
9. When satisfied, the NZCA approves the management plan (June 2001).

This is the first management plan for Kahurangi National Park, although much of the area was previously North West Nelson Forest Park and was covered by its management plans.

A partial review and an amendment have been undertaken in accordance with sections 46-48 of the National Parks Act 1980. The process for the partial review followed the process for a full review of a management plan as outlined above. The amendment followed the above process, except for step 1.

The partial review and amendment of this management plan were undertaken for specific matters for the following reasons:

*"... so that it takes account of increased knowledge or changing circumstances"* (section 46(1) National Parks Act 1980)

And

*"Review or amend this management plan where changes in circumstances or legislation, or new knowledge cause the policies in the plan to become ultra vires, outdated or irrelevant"* (Section 7, Implementation 3 of this plan)

The matters reviewed were:

- (a) Mountain bike access on the Heaphy, Flora Saddle to Barron Flat (Flora Carpark to Upper Takaka Valley), Kill Devil (adjacent to Uruwhenua Road, Upper Takaka) and Lake Sylvester tracks.
- (b) Private accommodation on the Heaphy Track.
- (c) Access provisions for aircraft.
- (d) Hunting access restrictions.
- (e) Horse riding concessionaire access - limited to a part of the Park near Puponga Farm Park.

The amendment extended the mountain biking season on the Heaphy Track.

Kahurangi National Park is administered by two conservancies of the Department of Conservation, the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy administered from Hokitika and the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy administered from Nelson. Day to day management activities are carried out by Area Offices at St Arnaud, Motueka, Takaka and Westport.

## 1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

### 1.2.1 The National Parks Act 1980

National Parks Act, Section 4: *“(1) 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”*

It is further stated in Section 4(2) 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 the 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 provisions 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 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.”*

This management plan and subsequent partial review has been prepared under Section 45 of the Act and provides for the management of the park in accordance with the Act.

#### ***Bylaws***

Section 56 of the National Parks Act provides for the Minister of Conservation to make bylaws for controlling access and various activities in national parks. Bylaws can not be inconsistent with the management plan for the national park.

Bylaws for Kahurangi National Park came into effect on 27 March 2009. These bylaws were amended in 2011 to give effect to the 2009/2010 partial review, and will be amended to give effect to the 2016/2017 plan amendment.

### **1.2.2 The General Policy for National Parks**

The General Policy for National Parks (1983) was prepared by the National Parks and Reserves Authority as a guide for the interpretation and exercise of discretions contained in the National Parks Act 1980 and is directed at achieving the broad objectives of that Act. From time to time the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) may approve additional statements of General Policy or may review General Policies.

The General Policy for National Parks (1983) was reviewed by the NZCA and a new General Policy for National Parks was approved in 2005. This management plan must be in accordance with the General Policy for National Parks. Policy 1(h) of General Policy for National Parks 2005 identifies that national park management plans prepared under the General Policy for National Parks 1983 will continue to have effect until they are amended or reviewed, except where they clearly derogate from General Policy for National Parks 2005.

General Policy for National Parks 2005 provided for mountain biking to occur in national parks following a public process and enabled the possibility of mountain biking occurring in parts of Kahurangi National Park (see Section 4.1.1 Mountain biking).

General Policy for National Parks 2005 requires that a management plan identifies the outcomes planned for places within the national park, consistent with the values of any places identified in the planning process. Outcomes describe what a place will be like at the end of the life of this plan. Places are particular areas identified in this plan for the purposes of integrated management. This plan identifies one place: the Heaphy Track Corridor (see Section 1.6 Heaphy Track Corridor Place).

### **1.2.3 The Conservation Act 1987**

This Act brought about the establishment of the Department of Conservation and directs the administration and management of all land and resources under the Department's control.

#### ***The Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)***

Kahurangi National Park is administered by two conservancies, Nelson/Marlborough and the West Coast *Tai Poutini*. Under Section 17 of the Conservation Act each Conservancy must prepare a 10 year Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) which applies to all land administered by the Department in that conservancy. The Nelson/Marlborough CMS was approved in September 1996. The West Coast *Tai Poutini* has a draft CMS at present which is expected to be approved in 2002.

The purpose of a CMS is *“to implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species, managed by the Department under the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, The Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, the National Parks 1980, the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990, or the Conservation Act 1987, or any of them, and*



*for recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes”* (Conservation Act 1987, Section 17D(1)).

The CMS is an overarching document which sets the general direction for the management of all land administered by the Department, including this national park. This management plan comes under the CMS and must be in accordance with policies contained within the approved Nelson/Marlborough CMS and the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS, once it has been approved. As the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS is still in draft form, development of this management plan should have regard to the policies contained in the draft West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS.

#### **1.2.4 The Conservation Amendment Act 1996**

This Act came into effect on 1 July 1996 and covers new provisions regarding concessions (leases, licences, permits and easements) on land administered by the Department. It requires applicants for concessions to identify all possible effects of their proposed activity and suggest ways in which adverse effects may be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

#### **1.2.5 Ngai Tahu Acts**

##### ***Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu Act 1996***

This Act established the Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu as a *“body corporate”* with the authority to act on behalf of all Ngai Tahu Whanui and enshrined in legislation the boundary of Ngai Tahu as established by the Māori Appellate Court in 1990.

##### ***Ngai Tabu Claims Settlement Act 1998***

This Act came into effect on 1 October 1998. It contains a number of provisions that are relevant to this plan.

##### ***Ngai Tabu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997***

This Act transferred ownership of all pounamu found within the Ngai Tahu Takiwa to Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.

#### **1.2.6 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 reasonably 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 implemented 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 Statement, 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 land use activity is in accordance with a management plan or a CMS and where it does not have significant adverse effects outside the boundary on the Park.

Section 74(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 Strategies for Nelson/Marlborough and the West Coast *Tai Poutini* (once approved) and this management plan when preparing their plans and policies.

#### **1.2.7 The Crown Minerals Act 1991**

The purpose of this Act is *“to restate and reform the law relating to the management of Crown owned minerals”*.

The Crown Minerals Amendment Act (No. 2) 1997 restricts mining in those national parks in existence as at 1 October 1991. All national parks created after this date, which includes Kahurangi, are subject to the mining provisions set out in Section 61(2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

#### **1.2.8 Other strategies and plans**

The Department produces plans, strategies and reviews of particular issues both on a local and national basis. Important documents include: the national Visitor Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, Historic Strategy and Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy, recovery plans for threatened native species, also local animal/plant pest control plans, Nelson/Marlborough Hut and Track Review, Camp and Service Area Review, and the Heaphy Track Operational Plan 2008 to 2018.

This plan is a means of implementing these documents and strategies.

#### **1.2.9 Other bodies with administrative responsibilities**

Buller District Council, Tasman District Council and West Coast Regional Council - responsible for regional and district planning through Regional Policy Statements and District and Regional Plans, civil defence, water and soil conservation and air pollution control.

The New Zealand Police - responsible for law and order and search and rescue.

Ministry of Health - responsible for public health.

The New Zealand Fire Service - responsible for determining standards of fire prevention, safety and control.

The Ministry of Transport (Civil Aviation Authority) - responsible for aviation safety and regulation.

The Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast Fish and Game Councils - 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.

Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu - responsible for the on-going relationships between Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and the Department of Conservation, the Minister of Conservation, and the Conservation Board with respect to a series of statutory duties and functions pursuant to the Ngai Tahu Settlement. Te Runanga is also the owner of any pounamu which may be located within the area of the Park which is also in the Ngai Tahu Takiwa.

### 1.3 BACKGROUND

#### **Te Tapuae o Te Kahu o Te Rangi**

The name is Māori for sky blue, Princess, blue skies of Rangi, a precious type of stone, which all symbolise Kahurangi National Park. It is the meeting place of a great diversity of life forms and forces of nature, and a marker for the meeting place of peoples.

Kahurangi National Park was formally gazetted in April 1996. The 452,000 ha park lies in the northwest of the South Island and is the second largest national park in New Zealand. It contains the greatest range of landforms, habitats and communities of plants and animals of any of the national parks in New Zealand.

A full resource description and further information about the Park is contained in the Northwest Nelson National Park Investigation Public Discussion Paper, 1992. References of relevance to each section of this plan are listed in the boxes at the end of each implementation section.

#### **1.3.1 Physical landscape**

##### *Te tinana o Te Whea Tapu*

Understanding the geology of the park is an important key to understanding the landforms, landscapes and biodiversity of the park. The Kahurangi area is geologically one of the most complex in New Zealand. There is a basic pattern of five geological bands orientated in a north-south direction. From west to east the bands are firstly, a wide band of western Karamea granites followed by a western sedimentary belt of sandstones and quartzites, a complex central sedimentary belt about the Anatoki

Thrust, an eastern sedimentary belt with much marble and, just on the edge of the park, Separation Point granites. Overlying this in various places are younger rocks dominated by limestones and in the north, along the Wakamarama Range, there are conglomerates, siltstone and coal measures.

The geology is the most diverse of any protected area in the country, with the best sequence of Palaeozoic rocks in New Zealand. Complex rock patterns suggest that the Palaeozoic rocks comprise three former continents which have collided. The area contains dozens of rock types and in many places the exact nature and relationship of the rock units is still unresolved and subject to on-going research. Such study is yielding much evidence of the history of the Earth, and New Zealand in particular. The geology of the area is a crucial element in the reconstruction of geological events in the southwest Pacific region (including Antarctica and Australia) dating back more than 500 million years.

The Cambrian rocks contain the oldest fossils in New Zealand, including trilobites and graptolites. At Baton River there is an outstanding Devonian fossil assemblage equalled in New Zealand only by fossils in the Reefton area. The whole sequence forms the longest fossil record in New Zealand, covering 220 million years, from Cambrian to Devonian. At Parapara Peak Permian fossils are found which are unlike any others of their age in New Zealand, thereby providing the links that bind New Zealand to ancient land mass of Gondwanaland.

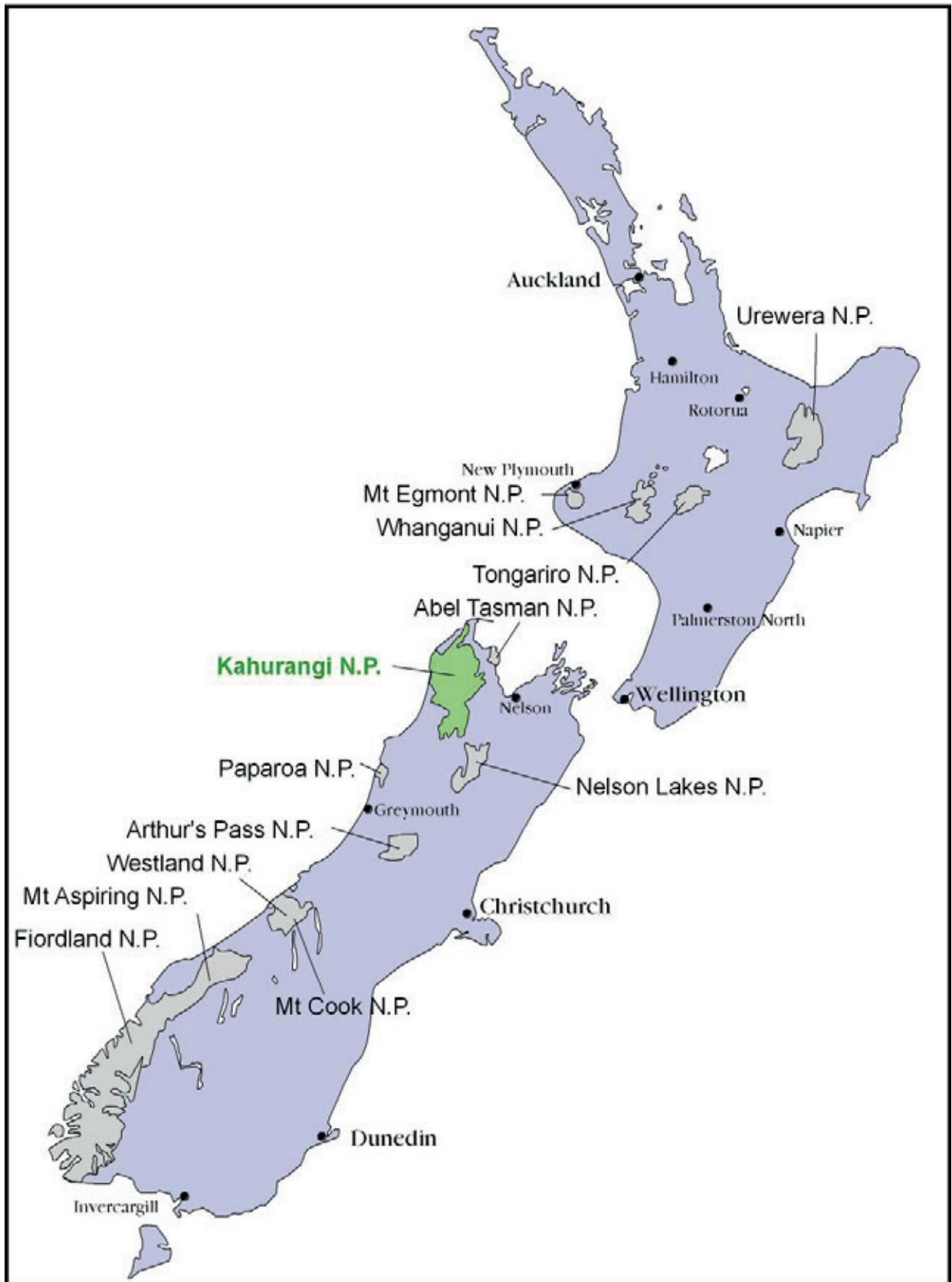
Outstanding Pleistocene fossil bird, amphibian and reptile bone deposits are found in the Honeycomb Hill Cave in the Oparara Valley. This unique assemblage of fossil deposits is helping to unravel the biological and climatic history of the area through the peak of the last glaciation. The cave systems contain an internationally important fossil record of now extinct native birds extending back 20,000 years.

Nowhere else in New Zealand is such variety in age of landforms and rocks found so close together. The oldest landforms are the exposed peneplains of Goulard Downs, Gunner Downs and Mt. Arthur Tablelands, nationally important because they are the most intact examples in the country. Elsewhere in the park the peneplain remnants are largely overlain by Tertiary rocks forming the spectacular plateaux of the Garibaldi Ridge and the Thousand Acres Plateau. These areas of young Tertiary sediments on very old horizontal peneplains are found nowhere else in New Zealand. Natural erosion accentuates the layering of the Tertiary marine sediments, creating remarkable tiered landscapes such as in Silvermine Creek and on the Pyramid.

Downcutting into the uplifted peneplain surface by glaciers and rivers has resulted in most peaks being of similar height, with only a few higher peaks. Over much of Kahurangi there is now a complex, youthful landscape of ridges and valleys with some impressive gorges. Where this landscape meets the coast it has produced formidable cliffs between Kahurangi Point and the Heaphy River.

Glaciated landscapes are an important part of Kahurangi. The most spectacular are in the Island Lake-Cobb area where there are fine

MAP 1: Locality





examples of cirque lakes, U-shaped valleys, horn peaks, moraines and polished roches moutonnées. The Cobb is the longest glaciated valley in Kahurangi and is associated with the Lake Sylvester cirque field.

Earthquake-formed lakes of several different ages attest to a long history of seismic activity. Lake Matiri was formed by an ancient, rock-block slide and Lake Stanley is of recent origin. The 1929 Murchison earthquake heavily scarred the landscapes on Karamea Granites in the south and centre of the Park and left a series of debris dams on the Karamea River and its tributaries. It also produced widespread, dramatic earthquake shatter in the Matiri Range and Matiri Valley.

### ***Caves and karst***

Mt. Owen supports the finest example of glaciated marble karst in the Southern Hemisphere. The Mt. Arthur Range also contains areas of similar terrain, which are ranked of national importance in the Cave and Karst Inventory. Fiordland is the only other place in New Zealand where areas of glaciated karst occur, but they are very small.

Kahurangi contains the longest (39.9km), deepest (889m) and oldest (at least 700,000 years) known cave systems in New Zealand. They are still being explored and the potential exists to make discoveries which may greatly increase the known extent of the cave systems. The Mt Owen area also contains New Zealand's best example of an ice cavern and ice speleothems.

The well-known karst landforms of the Oparara valley include the Oparara Arch which is the largest such feature in New Zealand and Australia. The diversity of karst landscapes is noteworthy as nowhere else in New Zealand is such a range of lowland and upland limestones and marble landforms found. The lowland limestones of the Oparara Syncline are paralleled by the upland Matiri and Garibaldi limestones; marbles extend from the lowlands near Takaka to the summit of Mt. Owen. Each produces very different landforms.

### **Māori cultural values**

To tangata whenua, Papatuanuku, the Earth Mother, one of the primal parents, is personified in all land, including karst. Through cave systems, people can return, literally, back into the safety and care of Papatuanuku for whatever purpose or occasion.

Caves are some of the areas where the many worlds and universes come together - the terrestrial, the physical, the spiritual and the metaphysical. They are the cultural po (supports) of the beliefs of iwi. Caves are places of healing, learning, instruction and security for the families of those undertaking the higher aspects of learning, places to congregate, to receive or give wise counsel, and places of refuge in hard times. Some caves and rock shelters also contain writings. Nga iwi view these writings as taonga (sacred), requiring respect, understanding and preservation.

Caves and karst areas are also burial places. These burial sites are not just convenient holes or spaces for putting deceased people in, they



are instead special areas because of the maternal relationship with Papatuanuku.

The significance of specific sites of karst areas is enshrined in the tikanga and kawa of those with the whakapapa to talk about them. Even if there are no visible signs of ko iwi (bones) or taonga (relics, artefacts, treasures), the sites may be of cultural significance to nga iwi. Such sites are "windows in time" which connect the nga iwi of today with the beliefs, knowledge and responsibilities of their ancestors. Caves and karst are, therefore, of great cultural significance and are extremely precious to nga iwi.

### **1.3.2 Waters**

#### *Nga wai tapu o Tangaroa te toto beke o nga tuupuna*

The Park contains a large number of sub-alpine lakes of glacial origin, including Diamond Lake, Lake Sylvester, Little Lake Sylvester and Iron Lake, in the Lockett Range, Bulmer Lake on Mt Owen and Boulder Lake, which is the South Island's northernmost glaciated valley with a superb array of features.

Major earthquake-induced landslides have created lakes in the Karamea, Waingaro and Matiri Valleys. The largest of these is Lake Stanley. Major river systems in the Park include the Karamea, Heaphy, Aorere, Takaka, Wangapeka, Owen and Matiri. The Park provides a water source for most of the surrounding land and settlements.

#### ***Māori cultural values***

The landforms of Kahurangi National Park have a close relationship with water in aspects of their formation. To nga iwi these connections are fundamental to the cultural values of the area. "Te Tinana o Te Whaea Tapu (physical landscape) refers to the body of the primal parent Papatuanuku. The waters are connected to this parent and are the manifestation of the first life-force which came forth after the separation of Ranginui and Papatuanuku. Therefore, these waters are all pervading and part of the nga iwi's holistic view of the Kahurangi landscape.

The caves and karst which occur throughout the park landscape are formed by water, and are an important part of the cultural beliefs of the nga iwi. The waters flow from known tupuna sites which are all culturally significant to nga iwi. Water in all its forms, frozen, liquid or gaseous, is culturally sensitive and of paramount importance to nga iwi.

The cultural significance of the waters is specific to every location and the management of all areas by the Department should reflect this through active consultation with nga iwi to obtain their cultural viewpoint and input. Management of the park should reflect these cultural views where possible.

Nothing in this section (1.3.2) is intended to infer or imply that there is ownership of waters by Māori.



### 1.3.3 Ecosystems, plants and animals

*Te toi potapotae o Te Wa-o-nui-a-Tane*

#### **Ecosystems**

The geology and soils, together with differences in rainfall and altitude, contribute to the pattern of Park vegetation and produce a variety of ecosystems which reflect a range of plant and animal life.

#### **Alpine communities**

Despite the relatively small area which alpine communities cover they contain most of the Park's plant diversity. There are distinctive flora types on the various substrates in the alpine zone (granite, limestone and marble, volcanic, sedimentary). Landforms and micro topography are especially important for determining vegetation types in the alpine zone.

#### **Limestone and marble communities**

Examples of important limestone and marble areas in the Park include the Matiri Range and Valley, Tablelands, Garibaldi, Mt Owen, Mt Arthur and the Twins, Mt Burnett, Oparara and Heaphy Valleys, summit limestone on Mts Mytton, Olive and Patriarch and Gouland Downs limestone remnants.

These limestone ecosystems are important because of the high diversity, endemism and rarity of species associated with them. Almost half of the 66 endemic plant species in the Park are limited to marble or limestone substrates. They are also important areas for giant land snails (*Powelliphanta*) and other smaller land snails. There is a diversity of cave dwelling animals, unequalled anywhere else in New Zealand. Some cave dwelling species are limited to a single karst area.

The high stability of streams draining limestone/marble areas contributes to the large caddisfly populations which in turn supports the sizeable population of blue duck in the Park.

The Park's alpine limestone and marble areas are particularly important as they are the most extensive examples of these ecosystems in New Zealand.

#### **Ultramafic communities**

These areas contain high levels of endemism. The largest area in the Park is centred on the lower Cobb Valley. In the northern South Island, the only other large areas of these communities occur in the Dun Mountain and Red Hills area of Mt Richmond Forest Park and on D'Urville Island. Ultramafic areas contain distinctive, low diversity communities dominated by heath species and often comprised of prostrate forms of other plants. Some of these prostrate plants are endemic to the area at the sub-species level.

### **Lowland forest communities**

Approximately 20 percent of the Park is lowland forest (lying below 600 m altitude). Outside of the West Coast, there are very few other substantial areas of lowland forest remaining in the South Island. There are large areas of low altitude forest in Southland, but these generally have low biodiversity and their species composition resembles the montane forests further north. New Zealand has lost most of its lowland forest, making remaining areas very important for conservation. Significant areas of regenerating and mature lowland forest occur in West Coast areas.

There are excellent examples of pure stands of lowland podocarp forest in the Oparara and Heaphy valleys. These are mixed podocarp forests dominated by rimu. The trees are scientifically important due to their large size.

### **Coastal communities**

The coast from Kohaihai to Kahurangi Point is nationally important due to its almost totally unmodified ecological sequences and the fact that it is the only piece of Wilderness coastline in central and northern New Zealand. These communities include a narrow zone of some of the least modified dune ecosystems in the South Island and a strip of very diverse coastal forest (including northern rata, nikau, karaka, kiekie). Note: the Park boundary only extends down as far as mean high water spring, so beaches are not included within the Park.

### **Granite communities**

Upland granite communities occur on wet, infertile areas. They are characterised by pink and yellow pine, cedar and *Dracophyllum traversii*. The Park includes some of the largest areas and most representative examples of this vegetation type in the country. The western parts of Northwest Nelson outside the park, southern Fiordland and Stewart Island are the only other regions containing comparable areas of this type. The Park's granite areas also contain several species endemic to the northwest Nelson - Paparoa region (*Dracophyllum townsonii*, *Pseudowintera traversii*, and *Celmisia parva*).

Lower lying areas of granite occur in the Goulard, Mackay, Gorton and Gunner Downs. These areas are characterised by mosaics of red tussock and stunted trees of similar species to the upland granite areas. Together, these Downs ecosystems are the most extensive and best examples in the country.

### **Pakihi communities**

The peneplain surfaces in the Aorere support some of the most extensive pakihi ecosystems in the northwest South Island. They contain a mix of the southern pakihi endemic species (e.g. *Epacris alpina*) and species common to Northland gumfields (e.g. *Leptidosperma filiforme*). They are also an important habitat for fernbirds.

### ***Native plants***

The diversity of plant life within the Park is impressive with representatives of around 1200 species of native vascular plants (conifers, flowering plants, ferns and fern allies). This amounts to nearly half of New Zealand's 2500 or so native plant species, including over a third of all tree, shrub and climber species, and an exceptional 80 % of the New Zealand alpine flora species.

The Park has by far the highest number of endemic plants of any National Park because of the high regional endemism of northwest Nelson. Of the 75 or so plant species confined to Northwest Nelson, at least 64 occur in the Park including several which are not yet formally described (Appendix 1). A further 10 extend outside the Park only as far south as the Paparoa Range. Around 60% of the Park's endemic plants are confined to alpine ecosystems.

At least 38 (12%) of the 320 or so of New Zealand's nationally threatened plants occur in the Park, including 18 species for which very little information exists about their taxonomy, ecology and biogeography. Most of these 18 species appear to be endemic to the Park (Appendix 1). Direct damage by wild animals is the single greatest threat to 8 of the 10 most threatened species. Habitat loss elsewhere in the country, especially of wetlands, is the main reason why many of the remaining 30 species, including nine confined to wetlands, are threatened. Competition by weeds such as gorse and marram on dunes and *Hieracium* or hawkweeds in alpine herbfields is also a major threat to some threatened plants and their communities. Several rare species have restricted distributions, or are in low numbers due to the natural rarity of their habitat in the Park, for example species which require special or relictual substrates or landforms, like the limestone outcrops on the Goulard Downs.

There are an additional 14 species in the Park whose national distributions are sufficiently localised to require regular monitoring in case they become threatened. Six of these are endemic to the Park.

There are at least a further 55 plant species which, while not nationally threatened or localised in their occurrence, are nevertheless very rare in the Park. Generally, these species are at their natural limits of distribution, such as the suite of dry, eastern South Island high country plants which retain a western toehold along the relatively dry eastern flanks of the Park.

Parts of the Park are strongholds, or appear be vestigial refuges, for a number of species which have very disjunct distributions nationally. Many of these distributions give an indication of Northwest Nelson's ancient biogeographical affinities with Fiordland, Western Otago and Central North Island.

Many of the more common plants in the Park are confined to the South Island and reach their northern limits in the Park, and, because of Northwest Nelson's biological affinities to the North Island, several species also reach their southern limits here.

There are a number of reasons why the Park supports a very rich flora and a high number of endemics. A long and complex geological history, including glaciation and tectonic processes, has brought about the adaptation and evolution of plants and animals in the area. The Park contains an extraordinary diversity of substrates (sandstone, limestones, marble, coal measures, granite and ultramafics) and associated ecosystems (coastal bluffs, duneland, riparian, rainforest, mesic forest, subalpine shrubland, karrenfield, fertile swamp, alpine bogs, cirque tarns, fellfield, tussockland, scree, alpine bluffs and rockland), each of which support their own type of plants. Substrates profoundly influence vegetation composition, structure and dynamics by their effect on soil fertility, topography and landforms, stability, erosion patterns, and water regimes.

In addition the Park encompasses a wide range of altitude, and climatic conditions. Although much of the high diversity in the area must have been present before the last ice age, speciation during ice age isolation has contributed to species richness.

Some endemic species or varieties, may be either relics of species that were previously widespread but now extinct outside Northwest Nelson, or may have evolved from a more widespread species after the Northwest Nelson population was isolated.

### ***Native animals***

There are well established fur seal colonies along the Heaphy/Kahurangi Point coast adjacent to the Park. Both long-tailed bats and short tailed bats, New Zealand's only two native land mammals, have been recorded in the Park and both are nationally threatened.

The diversity of habitat in the Park provides for a wide range of native alpine and forest birds (approximately 18 species). The large size of the Park means that it is a stronghold for birds which range widely, including South Island kaka, kea, kereru (New Zealand woodpigeon), kakariki (yellow crowned parakeet) and New Zealand falcon. The kea and pipit are the most common native species above the treeline. The rare rock wren is widespread but low in numbers and occurs locally in boulder fields above the treeline.

The Park, particularly the western part, is also an important haven for the threatened great spotted kiwi, as one of only three such strongholds in the country. Many of New Zealand's freshwater birds inhabit the lakes and waterways of the Park, including the New Zealand scaup and the Australasian bittern. It is also a stronghold for the rare blue duck (whio).

The reptilian fauna of the Park is poorly known although four species of gecko and at least one species of skink have been recorded in the area.

The Park has a high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates which exhibit a high level of endemism, for example the Northwest Nelson giant weta. This arises because of complex biogeographic processes, including the area's role as an important refuge during the Pleistocene

ice ages, and also because of the many specialised habitats present. For instance, the Park is an important centre for obligate cave dwelling species (troglodytes) because of the large areas of karst and numerous cave systems. Of particular note is a cave spider (*Spelungula cavernicola*) which is found in limestone fissures and caves of the Oparara and lower Heaphy valleys.

The Park is the most important part of New Zealand for *Powelliphanta*, with 29 of the 64 known taxa found only in the Park (endemic). Populations have declined dramatically due to predation by rats, pigs and possums and through habitat modification. The Park also has a rich diversity of native slugs and small land snails.

A total of 12 native fish species have been recorded from the Park, including 4 threatened species. Extensive areas of the Park are free from introduced fish. The absence of trout from such large and diverse areas is uncommon in mainland New Zealand and is of national value scientifically, as it provides opportunities for the scientific study of native fish in their natural habitat. High levels of diversity in native fish generally coincide with low altitude and close proximity to the coast. The maintenance of unmodified lowland forest ecosystems is therefore of great importance to the preservation of native fish diversity. Most native freshwater fish rely on unimpeded access to and from the sea to complete their life cycles.

Long finned eels are the most widespread fish species in many rivers and used to occur in large numbers in the Park, but populations are thought to have declined due to harvesting by commercial fishers in the earthquake lakes of the Karamea River and some montane lakes. Eel populations occupying the montane lakes and rivers are believed to have very slow growth rates compared to populations at lower altitudes. Short finned eels are usually found in lowland areas, especially wetlands and slower moving waters, which are uncommon habitats in the Park. Five whitebait species are also found in the Park.

#### **1.3.4 Introduced animals and plants**

*Nga kararehe nga rakau me nga otaota tau hou*

##### ***Introduced animals***

###### **Deer**

Red deer were liberated in the Park area in 1906. Highest deer densities occurred initially along river flats and on clearings, where the vegetation was quickly depleted through browsing. From there, the browsing pressure shifted gradually to alpine and upper forest areas. In the late 70s, early 80s, concentrated pressure from commercial helicopter based hunters greatly reduced deer numbers.

Fallow deer were liberated at upper Takaka and on the Arthur Range. These two herds established rapidly and soon merged. Today fallow deer occur in the Mt Arthur - Tableland - Cobb area but recreational hunters appear to maintain low deer numbers throughout the fallow range.

### **Goats**

Wild goats originated from herds abandoned by early settlers, gold diggers and graziers. More recently, animals have escaped from herds used for scrub clearing and domestic purposes along the eastern boundary. Problems in some areas, including the Lower Wangapeka, have also been created by the release of goats from collapsed commercial ventures. Goats are among the most damaging of introduced animals. The main population extends from Mt Patriarch to the head of the Riwaka River. Scattered colonies occur in the Leslie and Crow catchments and on the Wakamarama Range in Golden Bay. Goats also occur in the Cobb, Stanley and Waingaro Catchments. Heaviest concentrations are in the Waingaro River environs, as well as in the northern Arthur Range where the vegetation shows significant damage.

Current control measures focus on prevention of goats spreading into western and central areas which are currently goat-free, and on protection of limestone vegetation communities. For example, extensive goat control is underway in the Matiri/Owen areas to prevent goats spreading into alpine and/or goat-free areas. Goats are not highly regarded as a sport or commercial animal.

### **Chamois**

Chamois were first liberated at Aoraki/Mount Cook and rapidly dispersed northward up to the Buller River. Chamois are present throughout the Park. They have been found in the Mt Owen area and recently at Silvermine Creek and as far north as Anatoki Peaks. They can cause considerable damage, particularly to alpine areas, if left uncontrolled.

### **Possums**

Liberations of possums occurred in the Takaka, Aorere and Karamea valleys. Other unrecorded liberations are evident from distribution patterns. Colonisation and establishment were rapid, aided by official protection from trapping. They are now found throughout the Park. Because large tracts of even-aged beech forest provide limited food opportunities for possums, densities are lower in these forests. Higher densities occur on the western side of the Park where vegetation types, such as rata and kamahi, provide a more suitable food source. As well as the recognised effects on plants, possums act as competitors and predators for many bird species, eating eggs and young and competing for food. They also eat invertebrates, including large native land snails.

### **Pigs**

From the early days of European settlement pigs escaped into the forests and shrublands to form wild populations. Pigs are scattered throughout the Wakamarama Range and along the eastern fringe of the area from Parapara to Wangapeka Rivers. They also occur locally in the Karamea area. Pigs seldom inhabit alpine areas and only the occasional pig occurs as far west as the Roaring Lion River. Pigs rarely occur in sufficient numbers to cause significant damage to vegetation. Their main impact

is on populations of native land snails of the genus *Powelliphanta* and where pig numbers are locally concentrated, usually in areas bordering farmland. Pigs also feed on a wide range of small animals and the eggs of ground nesting birds.

### **Rabbits and hares**

Rabbits scarcely penetrate the forest and although present along the Motueka River are not known to be in Golden Bay. Hares however spread rapidly throughout the South Island from a single liberation at Lyttelton. They are common throughout lowland and alpine grasslands of the Park, except for the centre, which they are still colonising. They appear to be widespread and in high numbers in the sub-alpine zone, with subsequent high impacts on native vegetation there.

### **Other predators**

Stoats, ferrets, feral cats, hedgehogs, wasps, rats and mice also occur in the Park and between them they are capable of preying on or competing with most native animal species. Rats have a major impact on native birds and in some areas on *Powelliphanta* snail populations, while stoats and ferrets have a significant impact on native birds. Feral cats affect bird and lizard populations and hedgehogs and wasps prey on native invertebrates.

### **Birds**

Approximately 20 introduced bird species are recorded within the Park or along its shores. About five of these are widespread throughout the forests, including blackbirds, song thrush, hedge sparrows, redpolls and chaffinches. About seven introduced species inhabit lakes and waterways of the area. Mallard were liberated along the northern and eastern boundaries of the Park in the 1950s and numbers have increased dramatically in farmed areas outside the Park. Mallard do interbreed with the native grey duck, but generally prefer lowland grassy habitats and so do not pose a significant threat to grey duck, which prefer heavy forest cover. Dabbling duck numbers are not particularly high in the Park as most wetlands and lakes are at high altitude and are therefore not a favoured habitat. Californian quail are present in low numbers in drier areas in the east of the Park.

### **Fish**

Rainbow and brown trout are the only introduced fish found in the Park. Brown trout are widely spread throughout park waters, although larger populations of sizeable trout are confined to the larger rivers, particularly the headwaters of the upper Buller, Motueka, Takaka, Aorere, Wangapeka and Karamea Rivers and their tributaries. Rainbow trout have been released into the Cobb Reservoir and are also present in the upper Cobb River, and have been periodically restocked, although not in recent years. Extensive areas of the Park however, either remain free from trout, or have only the occasional non-resident sea run brown trout.



### ***Introduced plants***

Few introduced plants occur in the interior of the Park. For example, one study found only about 25 species of weeds in the Haupiri Range. However, peripheral areas have more weeds (e.g. 141 species have been recorded from lowland forest areas in the Karamea area), including gorse, marram, buddleia, cotoneaster, broom, pines, hakea, blackberry, wild ginger, German ivy, kikuyu grass, pampas, nasturtium, lupin, blackberry and old man's beard.

Substrates with moderate to high fertility, such as limestone and alluvium, tend to support more weeds than infertile substrates such as granite and non-calcareous sandstones. The high fertility substrates also have a predisposition towards providing for the establishment of new weed species.

Gorse is widespread in peripheral areas such as the Aorere area and has spread via machinery into largely pristine places such as Goulard Downs and the Cobb valley. In these latter areas, major attempts have been made to remove it. Gorse has also invaded the Heaphy valley and the coast from Kohaihai to north of the Heaphy River. Scattered wilding pine trees occur on the eastern margins of the Park near Uruwhenua, the Takaka Valley and in the Little Onahau granite area. Hakea is present in the Onekaka area and the Aorere valley, but in the absence of fire it will be eliminated in the long term by the reversion of scrub to forest. Marram grass is a problem on the coastline north of the Heaphy and is being controlled, along with gorse in that area. Horsetail is widespread in the Mokihinui River catchment and is becoming a problem in the Karamea River area. Wild ginger is becoming firmly established around Kohaihai in forest and scrub areas where it is beginning to spread.

Some parts of the Park were previously farmed and these are slowly regenerating. There are also some plantations and trial plots of exotics which will be harvested when mature.

### **1.3.5 Historic and cultural heritage**

*Koorero tuuturu o nga taonga tuku iho*

#### ***Māori history***

The human history of the Park has seen a predominant pattern of coastal settlement and exploration of the region's diverse natural resources.

It seems probable that Polynesians had settled in the Park around 700 to 800 years ago. Although little detailed archaeology has been done in the area, it is evident from the continually improving record of archaeological sites that Māori sustained a substantial presence in the region and derived intimate knowledge of its geography and resources.

The pattern of Māori settlement is overwhelmingly coastal, with middens and general occupation clustered around the larger river mouths and estuaries, which provided both shelter and abundant food resources. The most notable of these are the Kohaihai, Heaphy, Whanganui, Pakawau,



Ruataniwha and Parapara inlets. Defensive Pa and kumara storage pits were also established on coastal ridges and terraces around Golden Bay.

The only extensive excavation undertaken in the area to date was at a site at the Heaphy River mouth by Canterbury Museum in 1962-63. This revealed a small village dating from about 1380 AD, where the occupants were hunting moa (*Anomalopteryx didiformis*), fur seal (kekeno) and Polynesian dog (kuri). Tools were being manufactured from a variety of materials, mostly imported from elsewhere in New Zealand, such as nephrite (pounamu), artillite (pakohe), chert (kirpaka) and obsidian (mata).

Evidence from the more rugged inland areas of the Park is much more sporadic and relates to seasonal food gathering, or regularly travelled routes between Nelson Bays and the West Coast.

Traditional evidence shows that by 1600 AD Ngati Tumatakokiri held much of the northwest until after the arrival of Ngai Tahu on the West Coast and Ngati Apa in Tasman and Golden Bays, around 1800. Ngai Tahu applied pressure on Ngati Tumatakokiri's southern boundary around the Buller and Grey Rivers, winning a decisive victory near Whanganui Inlet under their chiefs Wharakino and Tuhuru, while Ngati Apa defeated them in the Nelson Bays.

Ngati Apa's period of mana whenua was comparatively short-lived and they, in turn, were displaced in the raids of 1828-30 by Te Atiawa, Ngati Rarua and Ngati Tama. Under their chiefs Niho, Takerei, Te Koihua and Te Puoho, control was gained over much of the northwest, extending at one stage as far south as Hokitika. By 1837 Te Puoho had been defeated by Ngai Tahu and Niho and Takeri had withdrawn to the north of Kahurangi Point. It is these iwi who now hold mana whenua of that area while it is Ngai Tahu who retain mana whenua to the south of Kahurangi Point.

The legal status of the Ngai Tahu boundary is that which is set out in the Māori Appellate Court decision of 1990, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act 1996, and the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

At the time of this plan's publication, various land claims are before the Waitangi Tribunal, and some elements of the region's history are disputed. Material for this brief summary has been sourced from 'Nelson - A History of Early Settlement' by Ruth M. Allen and adapted from the 'Northwest South Island National Park Investigation: Discussion Document' (also the associated Report to the New Zealand Conservation Authority).

## ***Post-European settlement***

### **Settlement**

Although both Tasman and Cook described the coast of Kahurangi as they sailed past, the first European visitors were Australian sealing gangs who established seasonal camps at Toropuhi and Kahurangi between about 1803 and the 1820s, and later Marlborough whalers who worked the seal rookeries in the off-season until 1844. The New Zealand Company settled Nelson between 1841-1842

## **Exploration**

In the 1840s, Heaphy, Fox, Brunner and other explorers, accompanied by the Māori guides Kehu, Tau, Pīkewati and others, undertook journeys following the Māori routes along the Northwest Coast and the Buller River, which had long provided Māori with access from Nelson to the West Coast nephrite sources. These journeys are almost legendary in the history of the exploration of the South Island by these famous European explorers.

## **Mining**

Following the settlement of Nelson the mining and use of geological and other natural resources increased rapidly.

The first mineral mined by Europeans was coal, found in exposed seams at Whanganui Inlet. Subsequent commercial coal mining was centred around Puponga and Mangarakau and finished as recently as 1974. Several old mines are located within the Park.

The discovery of gold in tributaries of the Aorere in 1856 saw the Aorere become New Zealand's first official goldfield (mostly outside the Park) and heralded the start of over 50 years of concentrated gold mining throughout much of the northwest. Other historically important mining ventures included the quarrying of iron ore near Onekaka and asbestos in the Upper Takaka, where the evidence is still visible on the landscape.

More than anything, gold mining was responsible for the establishment of settlements and the exploration and opening up of the rugged interior of the Park with established tracks and routes. Many of the present recreational tracks were first developed by goldminers and graziers. The tracks over the Heaphy and Wangapeka were further upgraded by the Government as pack tracks between 1888 and 1899 to provide links with the Karamea settlement established in 1874. Several places within the Park, including the Mt Arthur Tableland, were regularly grazed up until the 1960s and the lower Heaphy valley was grazed until the mid 1980s.

## **Logging**

Commercial logging and milling of native timber has been carried out adjacent to the Park since the 1840s. Some parts of the Park have been logged in the past and logging was carried out in Oparara as recently as 1986.

## **Water and power**

Many streams were dammed last century to supply water to alluvial goldfields. Early hydroelectric generation schemes supplied power to the Onekaka Ironworks, and a dam in Campbell's Creek supplied power to Takaka. Although the latter was abandoned by the 1970s, the Pupu Hydro Society recently reopened the Pupu Scheme and there is also a proposal to redevelop the Onekaka Scheme. The first dam and reservoir in the Cobb valley were built in 1944. The present dam was completed

and the reservoir filled in 1955. The reservoir and the surrounding strip of land cover about 317 hectares and the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (ECNZ) retains freehold about 8.5 hectares for part of the dam, penstocks and generating plant. All hydroelectric schemes were excluded from the national park when it was formed, as case law prohibits such power schemes in national parks, although transmission lines transferring energy from these schemes still exist within the park in very limited locations.

### **Recreational hunting and fishing**

Hunting and fishing were some of the first recreational activities carried out in what is now the national park. Trout have been fished in the Wangapeka since the 1880s and deer have been hunted in the Wangapeka and Tablelands areas since the early 1900s. Both activities continue to be popular today. The Park was used increasingly in the 1940s and 1950s by recreational hunters and trampers.

### **Recent times**

The earliest gazettals of the State Forests, which became part of the national park, were in 1920. There were 13 State Forests north of the Buller River, the eight northernmost were combined to form Northwest Nelson Forest Park in 1972.

Mineral exploration of the then Forest Park was undertaken by mining companies in the 1970s, the evidence of which is still visible. Mining interest heightened in the 1980s and focused public interest on seeking a higher level of protection for the area through national park status. The Forest Park, along with other small reserves and parts of Mt Owen and Matiri State Forests, became Kahurangi National Park in 1996.

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Maruia Society and Federated Mountain Clubs played important roles in the establishment of the Tasman Wilderness Area in 1988, and later in gaining national park status for Kahurangi in 1996. World Heritage Area status was also sought in the past, prior to the area gaining national park status.

## **1.3.6 Use and accessibility**

*Nga painga me nga putangatia*

### **Access**

Kahurangi National Park is accessible from a large number of road-ends around the periphery (Map 2). The most commonly used points of entry are the Cobb Valley, Flora Saddle, Brown River, Kohaihai, the Wangapeka, and Little Wanganui. There are also several popular visiting points on the perimeter of the Park such as the Riwaka Resurgence, Hawke's Lookout, Hope Lookout and the Oparara Arches. The remainder are less popular and serve a limited number of hunters and trampers. The Park is also accessible by helicopters with concessions (except in the Tasman Wilderness Area), but there are no functional landing strips for fixed wing aircraft.

Two areas in the Park have special status which affects accessibility. The 80,000ha Tasman Wilderness Area, in the heart of the Park, was first gazetted in 1988 and was re-gazetted in 1996 when the national park was formed. It provides a special wilderness recreational opportunity where visitors can encounter wild and remote country entirely on nature's own terms. Huts, tracks and all other facilities, as well as vehicles of any kind, including aircraft landings and power boats, are prohibited (except for park management, including wild animal control, scientific and search and rescue purposes). Access is open but is not promoted. The 120ha Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area protects a range of outstanding scientific values contained within its cave systems. Entry is by permit only.

### ***Recreational use***

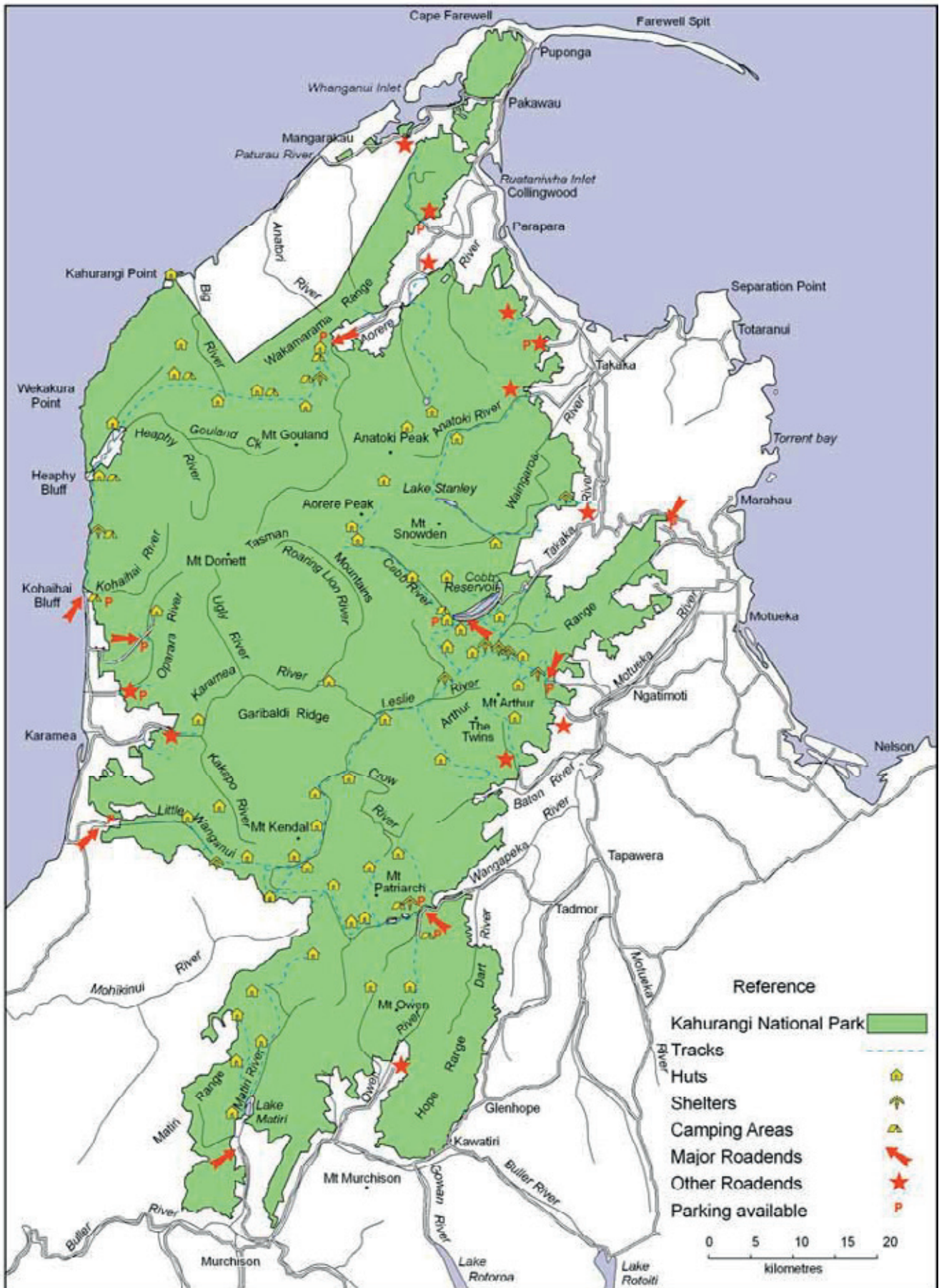
Use of the Park by both New Zealanders and overseas visitors has been increasing steadily over the past 10 years. Public use of the area peaked in the 1970s when a road was proposed along the Heaphy Track and thousands of people walked the track in protest. During the 1980s numbers on the Heaphy Track dropped off again, but use continued to gradually increase in the Park area generally. Publicity arising from the national park investigation process and resulting from the newly acquired Great Walk status of the Heaphy Track has probably played a part in raising the profile of the Park more recently. Use of the Heaphy Track has increased by 63% in the last 10 years and use of the Matiri, Cobb, Wangapeka, Mt Arthur and Mt Owen areas is rising rapidly. Experiences in other national parks indicate that there is a high probability that visitor use will increase for the reasons outlined above.

At the time of writing there are over 570 km of walks, tracks and routes, 60 public huts and four shelters within the Park (Map 2). Only a small proportion of these facilities, mostly those on the Heaphy and in the Tablelands, experience a high level of use. Most of the Park's facilities have a medium level of use and about a third are used infrequently, which makes them attractive to trampers seeking a remote experience. The Tablelands Track network is the most popular in the park and receives over 12000 visitors each year. The Heaphy Track draws about 4500 visitors per annum, and the Wangapeka Track is used by about 1200 visitors each year. About 800 people annually use the Leslie-Karamea Track. Elsewhere, there is a range of low to moderate use by locals, domestic and overseas visitors.

It is estimated that a third of Park users are from overseas and half the domestic visitors come from the North Island. The Heaphy is the most popular track in the Park among overseas visitors. Areas which tend to be valued most by locals include the Cobb Valley, Mt Arthur Tableland, the Douglas Range, the Wangapeka Track, the Leslie-Karamea Track, the Fenian Track and the Anatoki, Little Wanganui, Mt Owen and Matiri areas. The most popular areas for day visits are the lower Wangapeka Valley, Graham Valley (Flora Saddle), Cobb Valley, the Riwaka Resurgence and the Oparara and Kohaihai areas.



Map 2 Access and Facilities





Visitor surveys identify two major visitor groups almost equal in number: day visitors and multi-day trampers. Day visitors are mainly overseas visitors and local people who regularly use a few favoured sites for short walks, while climbers, trampers, fishers and hunters venture further into the Park for longer and seek a diversity of experiences. Only 15% of visitors spend more than 5 days on each trip. A very small proportion of visitors, usually associated with tramping clubs, organise longer trips to remote areas such as the Tasman Wilderness Area. Caving clubs usually organise two or three major expeditions a year and will camp at a cave site for up to two weeks.

Limestone and marble karst areas, containing extensive cave systems, attract a high level of interest from speleologists and cavers from throughout the world and local caving groups are also active. The cave systems of Mt Arthur and Mt Owen are of particular interest to cavers because of their length and depth. The Nettlebed cave system under Mt Arthur has at least 24 km of passage and is New Zealand's deepest known cave at 889m. The Bulmer Chasm, on the south side of Mt Owen, extends for at least 39.9 km and is 749 m deep (the longest and third deepest in New Zealand). The Oparara Arches are also an important karst visitor attraction. The Honeycomb Hill Cave system in the Oparara Valley near Karamea has high scientific values which are very vulnerable to damage and so has Specially Protected Area status. There is presently only one concessionaire operating a guiding service for this cave system.

The vast network of waterways in the park attracts an increasing number of kayakers from around the country, as well as international visitors.

The Karamea River is nationally important for kayaking and rafting, particularly for multi-day trips. It is a challenging river (graded four to five on a scale of six) and is regarded highly for its wilderness experience. It also provides one of the most challenging long (three to four day) kayak/raft trips in New Zealand. Guided raft trips are offered by concessionaires. Kayakers often use helicopters to access remote rivers.

Recreational hunting is popular and hunters play a significant role in the control of animal pests, particularly deer and pigs. Fallow deer hunting occurs in the Cobb Valley and Mt Arthur Tableland, which was previously managed as a Recreational Hunting Area in the former Forest Park. Red deer are hunted throughout most of the central ranges and the Little Wanganui and Karamea areas. Pig hunting is popular in the north-eastern areas and in the eastern valleys of the Mt Arthur Range.

Brown trout occur in many of the Park's major rivers. The Wangapeka and Karamea and several of its tributaries contain nationally or internationally recognised fisheries due to the abundance of wild trophy-sized fish and the magnificent setting. Rainbow trout occur in the Cobb Reservoir and upper Cobb River. Backcountry and wilderness fishing in the Park is both highly valued and popular, with a significant proportion of fishers coming from outside the region or from overseas. Several concessionaires operate helicopter transport and guiding services for hunting and fishing. Trout fishing is managed by the West Coast and Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Councils, from whom a licence is required to fish.

Snow is of insufficient duration and depth to provide any major potential for ski field development. However, Mt. Arthur and the Tablelands areas are occasionally used for cross-country skiing in good snow years. Flora Saddle is an important access point for local family groups to visit the snow in winter.

The Tasman Wilderness Area is one of New Zealand's premier tramping, hunting and fishing wilderness areas and is highly valued by those who recreate there.

Powered off-road vehicles, are allowed only on formed roads in the National Park, except for management or search and rescue purposes. Mountain bikes are only allowed on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use or on routes which have been specifically identified for mountain bike use within this management plan (see Section 4.1.1 Mountain biking). When most of Kahurangi was still a forest park, mountain biking was not prohibited and the Department actively encouraged it on some routes. Biking on the Heaphy Track was discouraged, but it was still used extensively by mountain bikers until the national park was formed.

The Park is also used for a range of other recreational activities including photography, botanising, bird watching, education and sight seeing and is an important part of regional tourism marketing.

### ***Scientific study***

The Department and other organisations such as Fish and Game Councils and Universities, carry out some scientific studies within the Park related to species and ecosystem management. Scientific study by those outside the Department is permitted in the Park under a concession, which may or may not allow for the taking of samples.

### ***Customary harvest and use***

Māori have traditionally collected plants and animals from the Park area for food and use in traditional clothing or ceremonies as part of their right as kaitiaki. The harvest of natural resources in this way is protected by the Treaty of Waitangi. Although the Department actively encourages nga iwi to harvest cultural materials outside of the Park area, where appropriate, cultural harvest in accordance with tikanga Māori may be allowed within the Park. This activity is controlled by way of a permitting system administered by the Department of Conservation.

### ***Non-recreational commercial use***

Commercial use of the Park is relatively low and most concessionaires offer recreational activities such as guiding, transport and ecotourism.

Commercial deer hunters carry out deer recovery by helicopter in the Park, which assists the Department with animal pest control. Other companies use the Park for purposes such as the siting of telecommunication structures, high voltage electricity transmission structures and filming.

Mining and prospecting were historically widespread in the Park but all areas being actively mined or with mining or prospecting rights over them were excluded from the Park at its formation. Since the Park's formation,



the Crown Minerals Amendment Act (No. 2) 1997 was introduced to restrict mining in National Parks. However, Kahurangi National Park is not covered by this amendment (being gazetted after 1 October 1991). In considering applications for access arrangements to undertake mining activities, the Minister of Conservation is required to have regard to the matters set out in Section 61(2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

#### 1.4 VISION

The vision is a prediction of what the Park will be like in the long term future, as a result of effective management.

##### **Diversity ~ Sanctuary ~ Wilderness**

Kahurangi National Park will stand as a premier example of natural New Zealand. It will be a sanctuary for a diversity of nationally and internationally important native plants, animals and geological features. It will be protected from the ravages of plant and animal pests and uncluttered by intrusive structures. It will be a treasured relic of pre-human ecosystems, natural landscapes and landforms and will provide a window to the cultural history of the northwest South Island. On its fringes a network of high quality tracks will allow visitors to make short excursions to explore its historic areas, karst landscapes, forests, coastal and mountain scenery and experience natural quiet, peace and tranquillity. More adventurous visitors will venture further on extensive track systems and routes to experience peace, solitude, inspiration, recreational enjoyment and challenge. In its wild heart, the Tasman Wilderness Area will contain undisturbed natural treasures and provide the ultimate nature experience to those who wish to meet its challenges. The Park will be treasured and supported by the local communities surrounding it and by the nation.

#### 1.5 PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- To preserve in their natural state in perpetuity the landscape, natural ecological systems, wilderness and natural and historic features of Kahurangi National Park and as far as possible eradicate introduced plants and animals.
- To retain the essential character of Kahurangi National Park as a remote, undeveloped, natural area of great beauty, natural quiet and diversity, and of value for whakapapa, recreation, appreciation and study.
- To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, at least to the extent that the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 are not inconsistent with those principles.
- To give the public the opportunity to gain benefit, enjoyment, inspiration and opportunities for recreation from the Park to the extent compatible with the Objectives above.

## 1.6 HEAPHY TRACK CORRIDOR PLACE

### 1.6.1 Outcomes for Heaphy Track Corridor

- (a) The Heaphy Track Corridor continues to reflect the diversity of values that contribute to it being a unique place and historic route in Kahurangi National Park. These include a range of exceptional landscapes, scenery, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities together with interesting historical and cultural heritage features.
- (b) The Heaphy Track Corridor provides a premier example of natural New Zealand giving a backcountry experience in the heart of Kahurangi National Park.
- (c) Visitors to the Heaphy Track Corridor can experience natural beauty, quiet and solitude. The Corridor is a relatively undeveloped environment and remains free from the proliferation of man-made structures.
- (d) Within the Corridor the Heaphy Track is managed as a Great Walk, which encourages self-reliance in a moderate to low risk backcountry environment. It gives visitors with limited backcountry experience a safe and challenging environment, accessed either by foot or seasonally by mountain bike where potential conflicts between different user groups are minimised.
- (e) The integrity of the historic pack track on the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy side is preserved.

### 1.6.2 Description of the Heaphy Track Corridor

Within the context of a national framework the Heaphy Track (see Map A) is the longest of New Zealand's nine Great Walks and is managed to a specific standard. These standards require that it is well formed, well marked, has facilities for river crossings and is suitable for people with average fitness and limited back country experience. The Heaphy Track complies with all these standards, except for the track formation in some sections, and is one of the least developed and modified of the Great Walks.

The Corridor includes the entire length of the track (part of the track, along the lower reaches of the Heaphy River, is not in the Park, but is on conservation land) as well as extending 500 metres either side, consistent with the 500 metre corridor established for other Great Walks and the hunting exclusion zones (see Section 4.1 Visitor services and management - Hunting). The exception to this is on the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy side, between Heaphy Bluff and Kohaihai Bluff, where the Corridor place extends only as far as mean high water mark on the seaward side of the track (the boundary of the Park).

The Heaphy Track Corridor also deviates slightly from the 500 metre corridor boundary at Perry Saddle to include the track and summit of Mt Perry which trampers often take in as part of their Heaphy Track walk. The side track is not managed as part of the Great Walk but contributes to the overall context of the Heaphy Track Corridor experience.



# MAP A Heaphy Track Corridor Place





### 1.6.3 Justification for the Heaphy Track Corridor

General Policy for National Parks 2005 seeks that a “place” is identified for the purposes of integrated conservation management. The Heaphy Track Corridor can be identified as an area where integrated conservation management is necessary because of the need to balance its intrinsic worth and values with the recreation interest it attracts.

The Heaphy Track Corridor is an area which has been defined using the following criteria: it is a major recreation and tourism destination; it has common management considerations as a Great Walk; and has unique management needs as it straddles two conservancies which manage it for a single purpose. It also has several discrete ecosystems which in combination characterise the Heaphy Track Corridor.

The values of the Heaphy Track are described in more detail below, outlining those features which contribute to making the Heaphy Track Corridor a distinctive place.

### 1.6.4 Values of the Heaphy Track Corridor

The Heaphy Track Corridor as a place can be determined by its:

- (i) Significant recreation values and tourism destination - the Heaphy Track is managed as a Great Walk and as such there is a defined standard of level of facilities (both for huts and tracks) that the Department seeks to provide in order to meet visitor expectations. The recreational facilities on the track support backcountry recreation such as multi-day tramping, hunting and mountain biking. Limited helicopter landings at the Heaphy Hut provide access for trampers (particularly day walkers), fishers (including whitebaiters) and hunters.
- (ii) Natural values - along the Heaphy Track Corridor there is a range of outstanding natural features and complex ecosystems that provide habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species.
- (iii) Historic and cultural values - it is a location of significant historic activity as a former trading route and access to and from the West Coast for Māori and European alike as well as in more recent times being a favoured recreation destination. The track is recorded in the NZ Archaeological Association site record file (Number L26/11).

#### *Natural Values*

The Heaphy Track Corridor contains a diverse range of landforms and ecosystems that span from mountain to the sea. The entire length of the track has high biodiversity and habitat values, particularly for the great spotted kiwi (roa), blue duck (whio) and *Powelliphanta* land snails. The Department has developed and is implementing species recovery plans for all these species.

The changing vegetation patterns, influenced by a range of altitudes and underlying geologies along the track, give the Heaphy the reputation of being a diverse botanical experience. From the Golden Bay end, the first section of the track climbs from Brown Hut to Perry Saddle through



forest dominated by hard beech and rimu below 700 metres, changing to red and silver beech above this altitude. Trees become more stunted with increasing altitude and mountain beech begins to appear near Perry Saddle.

Through Gouland and Saxon Downs the landscape opens out onto a gently sloping plateau known as peneplain. Here, the bedrock underlying this landscape is close to 500 million years old, some of the oldest in New Zealand. The gentle landforms, relatively high altitude, high rainfall and poor drainage heavily influence the vegetation here. Pakihi comprising wire rush, *Baumea* and tangle fern dominates over large areas. Where there is better drainage, red tussockland is found along with mountain flax, stunted shrubs and small herbs. Two species confined to the Downs are the small yellow-flowered lily *Bulbinella talbotii* and a small native foxglove *Ourisia goulandiana*. The peneplain is also studded with outcropping limestone remnants which have their own distinct flora. Of particular note is an unnamed limestone-endemic species of woollyhead (*Craspedia*) which has a tiny range and has a conservation status of nationally critical.

West of Gouland-Saxon Downs, through to James Mackay Hut and beyond, the bedrock changes into Karamea granite - pink stained and grained with large black and white crystals of mica, quartz and other minerals. The vegetation changes from stunted upland beech forest as the track descends off the peneplain. Below 600 metres the large emergent podocarps: rimu, kahikatea, miro and matai, tower above the beech canopy. Below 300 metres, along with the podocarps the broad-leaved lowland species co-dominate such as northern rata, mahoe, pigeonwood, hinau, pokaka and pukatea.

At the Lewis River confluence the first of the nikau palms appear. These become more frequent along the coast and are a characteristic feature of the coastal landscape to the end of the track at Kohaihai, providing a sub-tropical element to the vegetation. Coastal headlands support maritime herbfields and shrublands, while native sand binders: pingao and *Austrofestuca*, still dominate the foreshore dunes.

There is also significant native fauna within the Heaphy Track Corridor. Native bird species include western weka, South Island fernbird, pipit, tui, bellbird, kereru, kākāriki, South Island robin, kākā, morepork and the nationally endangered blue duck (whio), as well as iconic species such as the great spotted kiwi and the kea.

One of New Zealand's only two land mammals, the long-tailed bat, can be found along the Corridor as well as half of New Zealand's 40 species of carnivorous land snail (*Powelliphanta*). This is by far the highest concentration of *Powelliphanta* species in New Zealand. The largest is *Powelliphanta superba prouseorum* which measures about 90mm across.

### ***Historical and cultural values***

Routes between the Heaphy River mouth and the Aorere River were known to Māori and, from the late 1850s, European explorers, gold

miners and farmers. The alignment of these routes is likely to have varied; however the current route along the Heaphy Track Corridor follows a line surveyed in 1885.

Evidence of early human occupation has been found at the mouth of the Heaphy River. This site is recognised as one of the places of earliest human settlement in New Zealand and has been dated to around 1300AD. This places the site within the first century of East Polynesian (Archaic Māori) settlement and its material culture has provided important information about the lifestyle of these people. The site contains evidence of cooking features and structures and has paved areas reminiscent of sites in other parts of Eastern Polynesia. There is also evidence of stone tool manufacture and the range of stone types demonstrate that even at this date early Māori had extensive knowledge of New Zealand's geological resources.

In later years the Heaphy-Aorere route was one of several used by Māori to access the West Coast pounamu (greenstone) sources which were so important in providing stone for tools, weapons and ornaments.

The river and the track are named after the artist, surveyor and explorer Charles Heaphy. In 1846 he and New Zealand Company surveyor Thomas Brunner and local Māori, Kehu and Tau, travelled from Golden Bay to the West Coast seeking new land for settlement. Although their route was along the coast Heaphy learned from Kehu that an inland route between the Whakapoai (Heaphy) and the Aorere had been used by Ngati Apa on hunting expeditions.

The first Europeans to use the route were miners travelling from Golden Bay to the newly discovered goldfields on the Buller. The first marked route (which differed significantly from the present track) was made by James Mackay and John and Arthur Knyvett in 1862. In 1885 John Saxon was employed by the Collingwood County Council to survey a route for a cart track. This was to give overland communication between Nelson and the Karamea settlement and to open up economic opportunities. Although a cart road did not eventuate, a horse track was cut along this line. This was completed in 1893 and is the foundation of the present track.

Use of the track diminished significantly in the early 1900s and its condition deteriorated. Sporadic attempts at maintenance were made through the first half of the 20th century but it was not until the New Zealand Forest Service took over management of North West Nelson Forest Park and the track in the 1960s that the track was upgraded and established as a popular walking track.

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy actively manages the Heaphy as an historic pack track to preserve its historical and cultural values. Specific sites such as the archaeological site near the Heaphy Hut are also actively managed.

The option to form a vehicle road through this area had been lobbied for by local authorities for many years and gained sufficient traction in the late 1960s to see a preferred route option, which included a substantial section of the track, surveyed by Ministry of Works. The road proposal

coincided with an upsurge in public interest in the environment and public enjoyment of the Heaphy as a walk. In the end the project foundered through public opposition and lack of Government enthusiasm.

The Heaphy Track Corridor has a long standing culture and tradition of recreation with accounts of crossings on the track by foot, and until the National Park was created in 1996, on bicycles.

### ***Recreational values***

The Heaphy Track Corridor is a significant recreation destination in the Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast *Tai Poutini* conservancies with approximately 4500 people walking the track each year. The Heaphy Track has the lowest number of visitors of any of the nine Great Walks.

It offers a multi or single day tramping experience of “Great Walk” standard which provides visitors with a reasonable expectation of a high standard track and facilities. The track can be walked either by individuals or as a guided walk with a concessionaire.

Provision has been made for limited aircraft (helicopter) landings at the Heaphy Hut to support recreational access at this site (excluding the transportation of mountain bikes, see Sections 4.1.1.4(f) and 4.2.1.5) and because landings could potentially take place in this vicinity on land outside the Park, such as on the beach at low tide. Landing at other huts on the Heaphy Track is inconsistent with the outcomes sought for the Heaphy Track Corridor, particularly natural quiet and encouraging a self reliant experience on a multi day Great Walk, and for this reason existing concessions to land at these huts should be phased out by 31 December 2015 (see Section 4.2.1.6b).

The Heaphy has a long held iconic status along with tracks such as the Milford as one of New Zealand’s premier walking experiences.

Mountain biking use occurred prior to Kahurangi National Park being formed in 1996. This plan provides access for mountain bikers on a seasonal basis from 1 May to 30 November, when walker numbers are lower (see Section 4.1.1 Mountain biking).



## 2. Treaty of Waitangi

### *Policy*

*To actively protect and provide for the interests of iwi.*

### **Background**

Under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 the Department is required to interpret and administer that Act so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Case law has established that those obligations also apply to the National Parks Act 1980 to the extent that the provisions of the National Parks Act are not clearly inconsistent with those principles.

The Department must recognise the mana and tangata whenua status of nga iwi whose rohe includes the Park and ensure where appropriate that nga iwi are actively involved in the protection of their taonga (treasures) within the park. Consultation from the early stages of any proposed undertaking which may affect iwi interests and full consideration of their views is essential. It is important to establish and maintain a close relationship with nga iwi and ensure that their concerns are heard and acted on.

Settlement of the Ngai Tahu Treaty of Waitangi claim has been negotiated with the Crown. This will affect the way in which the Department manages some areas of Kahurangi National Park. The Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 has also been passed as part of the settlement process and this must be taken into account in the implementation of this plan. (A map of the Ngai Tahu Takiwa boundary is shown on Map 4 Administration in Section 5 of the plan.)

### *Settlement mechanisms*

Mechanisms established in the Deed of Settlement and Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act place a number of specific obligations on the Department of Conservation with respect to land administered by the Department, in addition to the general duty imposed by Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

### *Topuni*

The concept of Topuni derives from the traditional Ngai Tahu tikanga (custom) of persons of rangatira (chiefly) status extending their mana and protection over a person or area by placing their cloak over them or it. In its new application, a Topuni confirms and places an 'overlay' of Ngai Tahu values on specific pieces of land managed by the Department. A Topuni does not override the existing status of the land (for example, National Park status), but ensures that Ngai Tahu values are also recognised, acknowledged and provided for.

One Topuni, Kahurangi, has been declared in the Kahurangi National Park area.

A Topuni involves three levels of information:

- a statement of the Ngai Tahu values in relation to the area;
- a set of principles aimed at ensuring that the Department avoids harming or diminishing those values;
- specific actions which the Director-General of Conservation has agreed to undertake to give effect to those principles.

Further details relating to these Topuni are contained in Appendix 2.

There is another Topuni, Otukoro Iti, which is located adjacent to the Park on its north-western side.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and New Zealand Conservation Authority are required to have particular regard to the Ngai Tahu values and specific principles in relation to each Topuni, and to consult with and have particular regard to the views of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu in the preparation of Conservation Management Plans and National Park Management Plans in relation to these areas. The specific actions may change over time as circumstances change.

### ***Protocols***

Pursuant to Section 282 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act, the Minister of Conservation has issued protocols in relation to the Department's relationship with Ngai Tahu. In this context, Section 281 of the Act provides:

*“... the term ‘protocol’ means a statement in writing, issued by the Crown through the Minister of Conservation to Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu, which sets out:*

- (a) how the Department of Conservation will exercise its functions, powers and duties in relation to specific matters within the Ngai Tabu claim area; and*
- (b) how the Department of Conservation will, on a continuing basis, interact with Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu and provide for Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu's input into its decision-making process.”*

The ‘specified matters’ dealt with in the protocols are:

- cultural materials;
- freshwater fisheries;
- the culling of species of interest to Ngai Tahu;
- historic resources;
- Resource Management Act involvement;
- visitor and public information.

The protocols, which are enforceable against the Minister of Conservation by way of public law action (Section 285), make general statements about how the Department should conduct its business in these areas. The protocols also establish a process whereby Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu can have input into the Department's business planning processes, and identify specific projects to be pursued, subject to available funding.

A schedule of all the provisions of the Ngai Tahu settlement that are relevant to the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan are contained in Appendix 3.

In addition to the Ngai Tahu settlement, there are claims currently registered with the Waitangi Tribunal which may affect some areas of the Park<sup>1</sup>. However, major areas subject to Treaty of Waitangi claims, such as the lower Heaphy (Whakapoai) valley and Taitapu, were excluded from Kahurangi National Park when it was established and continue to be managed in the interim as remnant Forest Park, while recognising the national park status of the adjacent land.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Actively consult and work with nga iwi throughout the term of this plan regarding its implementation.*
- 2. Recognise that this management plan is being developed and will be implemented in an environment of evolving legislation and policy.*
- 3. Recognise that certain provisions of the Ngai Tahu Settlement Act 1998 will affect management of the Park land which is in the Takiwa/area of Ngai Tahu and that other Treaty settlements may affect the implementation of this plan.*

## REFERENCES

### **Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Treaty Obligations, p111-112

### **West Coast Te Tai o Poutini draft CMS**

Giving Effect to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, p20-26

### **Treaty of Waitangi**

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<sup>1</sup> Hearings began in August 2000.



## 3. Heritage preservation

### 3.1 BIODIVERSITY

#### ***Policy***

*To preserve the indigenous biodiversity of the Park and maintain the integrity of its natural ecosystems as the highest management priority.*

#### **Background**

(See also previous Sections 1.3.3 and 1.3.4)

#### ***Values***

A complex geological history, recent ice-age influence, and its function as an isolated refuge during the Pleistocene ice age have resulted in the development of a rich geological and biological diversity and an exceptional variety of ecosystems in northwest Nelson. The Park has several areas of particular importance in terms of biodiversity and these are often associated with karst landscapes.

Kahurangi National Park contains nearly half of all native vascular plant species. It has a very high number of plant and animal species found nowhere else (endemic) and many species that reach their distributional limits there. The Park also supports 12% of the country's threatened plants. It is home to 60 percent of all native land bird species and is a stronghold for birds which range widely, including the threatened kea, South Island kaka, kereru, kakariki and New Zealand falcon. The Park is also an important stronghold for the threatened great spotted kiwi and blue duck (whio). Both long- and short-tailed bats have also been found in the Park, both of which are nationally threatened.

Kahurangi is a major centre of evolution for the giant native land snails of the genus *Powelliphanta*, with almost half the named forms confined to the area. The Park also supports a wide range of the country's named terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates. It contains endemic species of almost every group of insects, including the giant weta, and some particularly primitive insects. The native cave spider is also endemic to the Park area.

There are 12 species of native fish in the freshwater bodies of the Park, including four threatened species. There is also a large diversity of aquatic invertebrate species which exhibit a high level of endemism.

### ***Introduced plants and animals***

Introduced animals pose a significant threat to native plants and animals through predation, competition and browsing. The most common introduced animals are deer, chamois, goats, possums, mustelids, vespid wasps, pigs and rats. Possums, rats and pigs feed on *Powelliphanta* snails while stoats and rats prey on most bird and lizard species. Vespids prey on invertebrates and compete with nectar-feeding birds, such as the kaka, for the sugar-rich honeydew found on the trunks of beech trees. Goats, chamois, deer and possums browse on a range of native vegetation and, when present in the same area, can cause severe ecological damage, even canopy collapse. Possums cause widespread die-back and eventual tree mortality, while deer, chamois and goats prevent seedling establishment.

Browsers can also compete with birds for nectar and fruit. Pigs are capable of massive disturbance of the forest floor while rooting for food. Cave and karst areas are particularly vulnerable to damage from browsing animals through both vegetation removal and trampling/erosion.

Trout are present in several rivers within the Park and their management is dealt with in Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility, as they are primarily a recreation resource. Although coarse fish (e.g. koi carp) are not yet known to occur in the South Island, they are a potential long-term threat to the aquatic ecosystems of the Park.

In contrast, introduced plants are generally not widespread and do not pose a significant threat to the Park at present. However, wilding pines, gorse, horsetail, marram, pampas and wild ginger are becoming an increasing problem in some areas.

### ***Other threats***

Fire and human impacts can also threaten Park values and these are dealt with in Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility.

## **Issues and opportunities**

### ***Survey, monitoring and research***

The special qualities of the Park give it an important role in the protection and preservation of many indigenous species of plants and animals. Apart from the fact that these species exist in the Park, not much more is known about many of them. The top priorities are to survey, monitor, and/or undertake research on species which are currently considered to be nationally threatened, as well as species which are very localised in the Park. This will include ascertaining species distributions, numbers and ecology, identifying threats, determining whether active management is required, and if so, establishing management programmes and recovery plans to ensure their preservation. Species Recovery Plans are in operation

nationally for kiwi, bats, native frogs and the blue duck (whio).

Animals which particularly need to be targeted for survey in the Park are the threatened blue duck, weka and both species of bat, as they are known to be in the Park but their distributions are not clear. A search is required to determine whether or not some previously recorded native species are still present, particularly *Leiopelma* frogs. Further native fish survey work is also required, especially in small streams close to the coast. Research is currently being undertaken on the great spotted kiwi, the South Island kaka, blue duck and *Powelliphanta* snails. This research will continue and further projects need to be initiated for species such as the New Zealand falcon, in order to develop successful management programmes.

Survey, monitoring and research priorities for plants need to focus on the nationally threatened species, and endemic species listed in Appendix 1. Research into the taxonomic status of the unnamed endemics in the Park needs to be encouraged.

### ***Biodiversity***

The Department is in the process of developing a national Biodiversity Strategy which will set strategic directions and priorities for the management of the natural environment. The Biodiversity Strategy will require both Conservancies to improve and maintain the biological resource databases of the Park by way of general surveys, inventories and vegetation mapping. This management plan will implement that Strategy.

The Department has developed a programme of establishing "mainland islands" where intensive pest control is undertaken and native species rehabilitation is monitored. No new areas have been established recently, however, the potential remains for their establishment in the park. "Islands" chosen are usually typical of an area rather than those containing threatened or rare species.

The Park has several Key Biodiversity Areas (Table 1) which contain biological organisms or associations of particular importance and vulnerability. These areas need to be managed as a priority for pest monitoring and native species protection, monitoring and research. Visitor impacts on Key Biodiversity Areas should also be carefully monitored (see Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility).

TABLE 1 KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS IN KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK

| LOCATION                         | BIODIVERSITY VALUES  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Mt Burnett                       | <p>Forest and shrubland communities endemic to marble and dolomite on Mt Burnett.<br/>A nationally important centre of biodiversity.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Powellipbanta g. gilliesi</i>, <i>Carex</i> 'Burnett', <i>Senecio glaucophyllus</i> ssp. 'Burnett', <i>Myrsine</i> 'Burnett', <i>Melicytus</i> 'Burnett', <i>Hebe</i> aff. <i>glaucophylla</i> ssp. 'Burnett', <i>Gingidia</i> 'Burnett', scarlet mistletoe, <i>Libertia</i> aff. <i>grandiflora</i>, <i>Hymenophyllum</i> aff. <i>flexuosum</i>, <i>Hebe townsonii</i>, <i>Coprosma obconica</i>.</p>  |
| Kaituna - Mt Haidinger           | <p>Pakihi forest and heathland, coal measure shrublands Knuckle Hill</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: bearded orchid, <i>Powellipbanta gilliesi</i> 'Haidinger', forest ringlet butterfly, <i>Bulbophyllum tuberculatum</i>, scarlet mistletoe, <i>Brachyglottis rotundifolia</i> var. 'cockaynei'.</p>  |
| Mangarakau                       | <p>Part of largest freshwater wetland in Nelson-Marlborough regions.</p> <p>Rainforest on limestone, coastal, swamp forest, low fertility wetland and estuarine communities.</p> <p>Absence of introduced fish.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Powellipbanta gilliesi aurea</i>, Australasian bittern, fernbird, Patarau coast cave fauna (only representation in the Park), brown mudfish.</p>   |
| Kahurangi Point                  | <p>Coastal lagoon and estuary communities, high fertility freshwater wetland, coastal and lowland rainforest, salt turf communities, open dunelands, dune forest and shrublands. Vegetation sequences from coastal communities and landforms, to upland infertile granite communities.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: great spotted kiwi, <i>Powellipbanta gilliesi kaburangica</i>, <i>Raunuculus recens</i>, <i>Oreomyrrhis</i> 'minutiflora', <i>Leptinella calcarea</i>.</p>   |
| Gouland, Gorton and Mackay Downs | <p>Ancient granite peneplain landform with residual limestone blocks - regionally significant landforms. Extensive low fertility forest, shrubland, red tussockland, pakihi and rockland vegetation on undulating peneplain topography.; complex vegetation mosaics. Remnant limestone forest ecosystem on scattered outcrops. A stronghold for numerous animal and plant species.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: great-spotted kiwi, fernbird, blue duck, <i>Powellipbanta gilliesi montana</i>, 5 subspecies of <i>P. superba</i> (3 endemic to the area), West Coast skink, NW Nelson giant weta, <i>Craspedia</i> 'Gouland', <i>Bulbinella talbotii</i>, <i>Coprosma talbrockiei</i>, <i>Ourisia goulandiana</i>, <i>Ourisia modesta</i>, <i>Astelia subulata</i>, <i>Microlaena thomsonii</i>, <i>Gingidia baxterae</i>, <i>Olearia capillaris</i>, red mistletoe, <i>Pseudowintera traversii</i>, <i>Pimelea gnidia</i>, <i>Simplicia buchananii</i>, <i>Gratiola nana</i>.</p>  |
| Heaphy limestone                 | <p>Extensive karst plateau and bluff landscape. One of the largest cave systems in New Zealand - regionally important.</p> <p>May have internationally important fossil collection.</p> <p>Large area of lowland rainforest on limestone. Extensive northern rata - mixed broadleaf forest.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Powellipbanta gilliesi</i> 'Heaphy', <i>P. superba harveyi</i>, <i>P. annectens</i>, spelungula cave spider, blue duck, <i>Parabebe</i> 'hairy', great-spotted kiwi.</p> <p>Extensive, largely unmodified tract of coastal ecosystems: flaxland; kiekie vineland; broadleaved forest dominated by northern rata, nikau and karaka; salt turf land; duneland.</p> <p>Excellent quality dunes still dominated by native species: pingao, sand tussock.</p> <p>Large breeding populations of NZ fur seal.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: sand spurge, sand tussock, <i>Lepidium flexicaule</i>, <i>Oreomyrrhis</i> 'minutiflora', fur seal.</p> |



| LOCATION   | BIODIVERSITY VALUES   |
|--|---|
| Gunner Downs   | <p>Extensive mosaics of low fertility forest, shrubland, red tussockland, pakihi and rockland vegetation on undulating peneplain topography.</p> <p>Remnant upland forest ecosystem on scattered limestone outcrops.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: great spotted kiwi, fernbird, <i>Powelliphanta superba</i> 'Gunner Downs', <i>Ourisia goulandiana</i>, <i>Pseudowintera traversii</i>, <i>Microlaena thomsonii</i>, kea.</p>  |
| Oparara  | <p>Altitudinal sequence from coastal plains and older terraces to tertiary sequences and granite plateau. Impressive limestone landscape of arches, canyons, bluffs, caves and underground streams.</p> <p>Honeycomb cave is internationally important for its cave fossil deposits, and regionally important as one of the largest cave systems in New Zealand.</p> <p>Dense stands of alluvial and hillslope podocarp-beech forest and large areas of fertile, lowland forest on limestone. Vegetation sequences from coastal to subalpine habitats.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: short-tailed bat, blue duck, <i>Powelliphanta annectens</i>, spelungula cave spider, great-spotted kiwi, kaka, kakariki, <i>Simplicia buchananii</i>, <i>Asplenium 'calcicole'</i>, pukatea, silver fern.</p>   |
| Aorere pakihi  | <p>Extensive gently tilted, low-altitude peneplain intersected by deep gorges - a regionally significant landform.</p> <p>Large areas of lowland pakihi heathland and rushland. Lowland forest in gorges.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: fernbird, blue duck, great-spotted kiwi, <i>Lepidosperma filiforme</i>.</p>  |
| The Castles  | <p>Isolated limestone block with karst landforms on the Aorere peneplain.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Powelliphanta gilliesi compta</i>, <i>Myosotis spatulata</i>.</p>   |
| Parapara Peak - Walker Ridge                           | <p>Internationally important fossil-bearing Permian rock.</p> <p>Large forested ecosystem on forest on marble substrate.</p> <p>Most diverse assemblage of <i>Powelliphanta</i> snails known.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Powelliphanta gilliesi fallax</i>, <i>P. hochstetteri anatokiensis</i>, <i>P. superba superba</i>, <i>P. 'Parapara'</i>, <i>Coprosma obconica</i>, <i>Hymenophyllum</i> aff. <i>flexuosum</i>, scarlet mistletoe.</p>   |
| Mt Olympus - Lead Hills - Boulder Lake - Douglas Range | <p>One of the best exposures of a contact between granite and metamorphosed schist in New Zealand nationally important. Excellent glacial landforms and features - Boulder Lake cirque complex is regionally important as the northernmost glacial feature in the South Island. Douglas Range and Dragons Teeth a major upthrust fault feature.</p> <p>Extensive alpine rockland and bluff vegetation on glaciated granite and sedimentary rocks; tarn communities; red tussocklands; subalpine shrublands.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: lake-locked koaro, great-spotted kiwi, fernbird, rockwren, <i>Powelliphanta s. superba</i>, <i>P. hochstetteri anatokiensis</i>, <i>Pittosporum patulum</i>, <i>Pittosporum dallii</i>, <i>Pseudowintera traversii</i>, red mistletoe, <i>Ourisia</i> 'Clark', <i>Rytidosperma pulchrum</i>, <i>Meliccytus 'Matiri'</i>, <i>Dracophyllum</i> aff. <i>kirkii</i>.</p> |
| Heaphy coast (Kahurangi River to Kohaihai River)       | <p>Introduced trout absent from Boulder Lake.</p>   |
| Devil River - Anatiki Range                            | <p>Remnant alpine peneplain and extensive glaciated landscape.</p> <p>Diverse alpine flora on base-rich geologies and glaciated landforms.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: rock wren, blue duck, falcon, <i>Powelliphanta</i> 'Anatoki Peak', NW Nelson giant weta, forest ringlet butterfly, red mistletoe, <i>Pittosporum dallii</i>, <i>Pittosporum patulum</i>, <i>Hebe ochracea</i>, <i>Olearia cymbifolia</i>.</p>   |

| LOCATION                                      | BIODIVERSITY VALUES   |
|---|---|
| Snowden Range -<br>Lake Stanley               | <p>Lake Stanley an excellent example of an earthquake debris formed lake - nationally significant landform; the only known oolitic limestone in NZ - nationally important geology; second highest peak in NW Nelson.</p> <p>Scree vegetation rare in NW Nelson; high altitude alpine rockland vegetation, bands of limestone alpine vegetation.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: eastern South Island scree flora, rock wren, <i>Hebe ochracea</i>, <i>Hebe</i> 'marble'.</p> <p>Lake Stanley trout-free; lake-locked populations of koaro.</p>   |
| Riwaka River<br>headwaters                    | <p>Part of the most extensive and best exposed marble formation in New Zealand - nationally important; includes part of the Riwaka caves complex (and resurgence) - nationally significant for its geomorphology and depth.</p> <p>Extensive ecosystems on marble substrate - lowland broadleaved forest, dryland upland plateau forest and shrublands, bluff vegetation.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Craspedia</i> 'Pikikiruna', blue duck, <i>Powelliphanta b. hochstetteri</i>, cave fauna including <i>Horatia nelsonensis</i>.</p>   |
| Hoary Head - Crusader                         | <p>Alpine non-glaciated karst landscape with marble rockland and bluff vegetation, doline turfand, tussockland, subalpine shrubland and upland forest.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Myosotis arnoldii</i>, <i>Clematis marmoraria</i>, moonwort, <i>Powelliphanta b. hochstetteri</i>, <i>Schizetelema colensoi</i>, <i>Coprosma</i> 'rimicola', <i>Dracophyllum</i> aff. <i>kirikii</i>, <i>Carex enysii</i>, 3 species of unnamed <i>Carex calicoles</i>, <i>Colobanthus</i> 'marble', <i>Oreoporanthera alpina</i>, <i>Raoulia</i> subsericea.</p>  |
| Diamond Stream Lakes<br>- Cobb Valley Range   | <p>Trilobite rock internationally significant; ultramafic geology (talc, asbestos, serpentinite, magnesite) and cambrian volcanic Peel outcrops nationally significant; Mt Mytton paleozoic marble nationally significant; nationally significant fossil localities; regionally important valley and cirque field glacial features, roche moutonnee landform nationally significant.</p> <p>Endemic heathland on ultramafic geology; extensive valley floor red tussocklands, shrublands and wetlands; extensive and diverse alpine communities on a wide range of glaciated landforms and base-rich geologies; glaciated marble rockland and bluff vegetation; scree communities; tarn and rare ephemeral wetland communities.</p> <p>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: rock wren, <i>Powelliphanta b. hochstetteri</i>, lake-locked koaro, NW Nelson giant weta, scree weta, <i>Corosma obconica</i>, <i>Pittosporum dallii</i>, <i>P. patulum</i>, red mistletoe, <i>Olearia capillaris</i>, <i>Hebe ochracea</i>, <i>Hebe</i> 'marble', <i>Pimelea</i> aff. <i>sericeo-villosa</i>, <i>Clematis quadribacteolata</i>, <i>Coprosma</i> 'rimicola', <i>Pterostylis micromega</i>, <i>P. oliveri</i>, <i>Oreoporanthera alpina</i>, <i>Myosotis tenericaulis</i>, <i>Chionochloa defracta</i>, <i>Carex devia</i>, <i>Dracophyllum longifolium</i> var. 'serpentine', <i>Colobanthus</i> 'serpentine', <i>Trisetum</i> 'serpentine', <i>Myosotis brockiei</i>, <i>M. spatulata</i>, <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>, <i>Simplicia buchananii</i>, <i>Lacnagrostis</i> 'Sylvester', <i>Euphrasia</i> 'Mt Arthur', <i>Gentiana</i> 'Cobb', <i>Ranunculus simulans</i>, <i>R. ternatifolius</i>, <i>R.</i> 'Cobb', <i>R.</i> 'Burgoo', <i>Luzula</i>, 'Cobb', <i>L.</i> 'albicomans', <i>Hypsela</i> 'Burgoo', <i>Craspedia</i> 'Henderson', <i>Carex kirikii</i>.</p> <p>Introduced trout absent from lakes.</p> |
| Tablelands - Flora -<br>northern Arthur Range | <p>Alpine marble glaciated karst with superb solution features nationally important. Nettlebed and Ellis Basin cave systems the deepest in the Southern hemisphere and second longest in NZ. - with the Pearse resurgence, internationally significant. Regionally significant peneplain landform. Complex geology including marble, limestone, base-rich sedimentary and volcanic rocks, conglomerates.</p> <p>Extensive alpine karst rockland and bluff vegetation; extensive peneplain red tussocklands; alpine ultramafic vegetation; diverse limestone forest and bluff vegetation.</p>  |

| LOCATION                                     | BIODIVERSITY VALUES   |
|--|---|
|  | Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: endemic cave fauna, rock wren, blue duck, <i>Powelliphanta</i> 'striped Lodestone', <i>P. b. bochstetteri</i> , <i>P. patrickensis</i> 'Baton', NW Nelson giant weta, scree weta, <i>Myosotis angustata</i> , <i>M.</i> 'Flora', <i>M. petiolata</i> , <i>M. brockiei</i> , <i>M. spatbulata</i> , <i>Montia</i> 'Arthur', <i>Euphrasia</i> 'Arthur', <i>Olearia capillaris</i> , orange mistletoe, <i>Craspedia</i> 'Loveridge', <i>Hebe</i> 'marble', <i>Coprosma</i> 'rimicola', <i>Simplicia buchananii</i> , <i>Oreoporanthera alpina</i> , <i>Pimelea pseudolyallii</i> , <i>Carex</i> 'brockiei', <i>Colobanthus</i> 'marble', <i>Ourisia modesta</i> , <i>Ranunculus simulans</i> , <i>Senecio</i> g. ssp. <i>glaucohyllus</i> , <i>Pterostylis</i> aff. <i>cycnocephala</i> , <i>Anemone tenuicaulis</i> .   |
| Garibaldi Ridge                              | Limestone karst plateau landforms regionally important.<br><br>Plateau tussocklands, wetlands and karst vegetation; bluff and scree communities, talus shrublands.<br><br>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: rock wren, <i>Powelliphanta patrickensis</i> 'Garibaldi', <i>Ranunculus</i> 'Hope', <i>Astelia subulata</i> , <i>Carex</i> 'Matiri', <i>C.</i> 'brockiei', <i>Craspedia</i> 'Garibaldi', <i>Anemone tenuicaulis</i> .   |
| Southern Arthur Range (Baldy to Patriarch)   | Nationally important fossil beds.<br><br>Very diverse alpine communities on base-rich substrata; marble rockland and bluff communities.<br><br>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Euphrasia</i> 'white', <i>Melicytus</i> 'Matiri', <i>Craspedia</i> 'Loveridge', <i>Olearia capillaris</i> , <i>Poa sudicola</i> .   |
| Owen Massif - Turks Cap - Fyfe               | Internationally important as one of two best areas of glaciated karst in the Southern hemisphere. Internationally important cave systems with unique formations (including the longest and third deepest cave in the country). Highest peaks in the Park.<br><br>Extensive alpine karst vegetation, doline turflands and herbfields, subalpine cedar forest and shrublands.<br><br>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: blue duck, marble gecko, <i>Powelliphanta</i> 'striped Owen', <i>P.</i> 'big green northern', moonwort, <i>Myosotis angustata</i> , <i>M. concinna</i> , <i>Hebe ochracea</i> , <i>Olearia capillaris</i> , <i>Pittosporum patulum</i> , <i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> , scarlet mistletoe, <i>Pterostylis</i> aff. <i>cycnocephala</i> , <i>Simplicia buchananii</i> , <i>Brachyscome longiscapa</i> , <i>Senecio rufiglandulosus</i> , <i>S. g. glaucohyllus</i> , South Island scree species, <i>Colobanthus</i> 'marble', <i>Melicytus</i> 'Matiri', <i>Craspedia</i> 'Fyfe', <i>Pterostylis humilis</i> , <i>Schizeilema colensoi</i> , <i>Carex enysii</i> , <i>Anemone tenuicaulis</i> , <i>Oreoporanthera alpina</i> . |
| Lookout Range                                | Extensive, dry alpine carpet grasslands, rockland, and quartz sandfield vegetation on granite geology.<br><br>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Gentiana</i> 'Lookout', <i>Anisotome flexuosua</i> , scree weta.   |
| Hope Range                                   | Broad granite plateaux with impressive tor features.<br><br>Extensive mosaics of plateau upland forest and red tussocklands; plateau tarn complex; big pine communities.<br><br>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Ourisia</i> 'Hope', <i>Coprosma talbrockiei</i> .  |
| Matiri Range                                 | Extensive area of limestone plateaux and bluffs, and extremely well-defined cirque complex on gentle topography around Mt Misery are nationally significant landforms.<br><br>Threatened/Endemic/Notable species: <i>Powelliphanta</i> 'big green northern', <i>Crassula multicaulis</i> , <i>Tetrachondra bamiltonii</i> , <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> , <i>Dracophyllum</i> aff. <i>kirkii</i> , <i>Melicytus</i> 'Matiri', <i>Poa sudicola</i> , <i>Carex enysii</i> , <i>C.</i> 'Matiri', <i>C.</i> 'brockiei', <i>Anemone tenuicaulis</i> , <i>Gingidia baxterae</i> , <i>Schizeilema colensoi</i> .   |
| Coastal Streams (between Karamea and Takaka) | Many of the lowland and coastal stretches of larger river catchments and smaller streams support the Many of these areas support threatened species such as banded, giant and short-jawed kokopu. The presence of lowland podocarp/broadleaf forest has particular significance for short-jawed kokopu as this species is not found in streams with riparian beech forest.  |
| Various river systems including Matiri, Fyfe | Introduced trout absent.  |

### ***Pest control***

The National Parks Act requires that introduced plants and animals be exterminated as far as possible. However, in most cases control or localised extermination are the best that can be achieved using current methods. The General Policy for National Parks recognises this problem and states that until the technological means of eradication become available, the immediate objective is the reduction of pest numbers by all available means to a level the flora and fauna can tolerate. Salmonids (trout) and game birds are exempt from this provision.

Departmental animal pest control priorities are determined by national control plans such as the Policy Statement on Deer Control, the Feral Goat Control Plan and the Possum Control Plan. The Conservation Management Strategies determine priority areas for pest control within Conservancies. On a national level, the Department directs funds where they will have the most long term effect (based on a process of ranking and prioritising control effort nationally) and on research into more effective control methods. Where practical and meeting the objectives of the plan, the Department's pest control programmes should be co-ordinated with those of adjoining land managers to maximise efficiency.

### ***Animal pest control***

Deer are primarily controlled with the assistance of recreational and commercial hunters (this is discussed in detail in Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility). When deer numbers are not adequately controlled by private hunters, other methods of control will need to be used. Recreational hunters can be encouraged to assist in the control of chamois, goats and pigs in conjunction with hunters employed by the Department. Dogs can be an effective management tool for the hunting of animal pests such as pigs or goats. However, other pests such as rats, hares and possums have little or no commercial or recreational value at present, so control must be carried out by the Department. In line with the National Parks Act, all animal pests have to be exterminated as far as possible by the Department using the most efficient and appropriate means available, including hunting, trapping, biocontrol, ground baiting and aerial poisoning.

Currently there are no economically feasible methods for effective possum control throughout an area as large as the Park. Other animal pests such as mustelids and vespid wasps also cannot be effectively controlled over large areas by any known method. However, smaller areas of the Park can be targeted for local control of possums and these other pests using existing methods, where this is justified by the special values of those areas. Further research into new methods of control and eradication is required and is currently being carried out by the Department and other organisations. Such research includes the use of biological control methods for controlling possums and wasps.

Regional Councils (which include Unitary Authorities) have responsibilities for setting animal pest control priorities for regions and these are set out in Regional Pest Management Strategies. The Department must control certain pests as agreed with Local Government. The Department will target its funds to control priority pests in the highest value areas of the park using the most effective methods at its disposal.

TABLE 2: ANIMAL PEST CONTROL PRIORITIES

| ANIMAL    | PEST CONTROL   | STRATEGY PRIORITY CONTROL AREAS   |
|-----------|--|---|
| Goat      | DOC hunters.<br>Encourage recreational and commercial hunters.   | Prevent spread south along Wakamarama Range towards the Heaphy, west into the Roaring Lion and north of the Karamea; Limestone/Marble vegetation - Mt Arthur Range, Tablelands, Leslie, Mt Owen, Matiri; Alpine vegetation and forest communities Leslie/Karamea, Cobb/Tablelands, Waingaro, Anatoki, Owen, Matiri, Arthur Range, Wakamarama Range, Parapara                        |
| Possum    | DOC hunters. Poison - bait stations/aerial drops.<br>Encourage recreational and commercial hunters.<br>Encourage research into new control techniques. | Land snail populations - Wakamarama Ranges, Kahurangi Point, Heaphy/Gouland, Castles, Mangarakau, Parapara, Cobb, Mt Arthur/Flora, Leslie, Anatoki, Riwaka and commercial hunters. South Branch, Oparara; Forest communities - Wakamarama Ranges/Mt Burnett, Kahurangi Pt, Heaphy/Gouland, Parapara, Castles, Riwaka South Branch, Roaring Lion, Leslie, Cobb, Matiri, Baton, Owen. |
| Deer      | Recreational and commercial hunters; other methods if necessary.   | Priority areas determined in conjunction with goat management regarding impacts on forest regeneration, and on relative protected status of individual plant species at risk.   |
| Pig       | Encourage recreational and commercial hunters initially; Department control in priority areas.   | Landsnail populations - Kahurangi Pt, Mangarakau, Parapara, front faces of Devil to Anatoki, Cobb Ridge, Flora, Riwaka South Branch, Billie's Knob; Forest communities where pigs impacting on regeneration.  |
| Chamois   | Identify and eliminate core breeding populations. Encourage recreational and commercial hunters; DOC hunters (with other pest work)                    | All areas in the Park, particularly those known to have harboured chamois periodically such as Mt Owen, Herbert Range, head of Roaring Lion and alpine areas in the north.  |
| Hare      | Monitor impacts; encourage recreational hunters and research into impacts and control techniques.  | Alpine grasslands, especially where control of other pests is undertaken.   |
| Rat/Mouse | Support research into control techniques.  | No control planned.   |
| Wasp      | Nest destruction; support research into bio-control techniques.  | All areas in the Park, particularly along key tracks and high recreational use areas.   |
| Mustelids | Support research into control techniques.  | Areas where special fauna values justify localised control.   |

### ***Plant pest control***

Plant pests need to be eradicated where possible, or controlled to prevent their establishment in the pristine areas of the Park. Monitoring also needs to be undertaken to prevent the establishment of new plant pests in the Park, including waterweeds. Infested areas need to be cleared and vehicular access may need to be limited in some areas to prevent transportation of weeds further into the Park.

Priorities for plant pest control are set out in the two Conservation Management Strategies and Conservancy Plant Pest Control Strategies. In addition, certain plant pests such as boxthorn, buddleia, old man's beard, pampas, broom, gorse, blackberry, and ragwort must be controlled as agreed with Regional Councils and Unitary Authorities and set out in their Regional Pest Management Strategies.

Potential invaders such as old man's beard, German ivy, Kikuyu grass, buddleia, tutsan, Spanish heath and lupin which are common outside the Park, and garden escapes, such as Himalayan honeysuckle and nasturtium, need to be prevented from taking hold in the Park. The waterweeds *Egeria densa* and *Lagarosiphon major* are not present within the Park but exist in Golden Bay and Blenheim and could be easily spread to the Park via eel nets and other such equipment.

In the Oparara area there are some trial plots of Tasmanian blackwood and eucalypts. There is also an area of exotics over which Timberlands West Coast Ltd has cutting rights for the harvest of existing trees. In addition there is a pine plantation in the Pakawau Gorge which the Department has the cutting rights to.

### **Fire**

The Department sets management policies for fires through the preparation of annual Fire Plans. The fire plans for the West Coast *Tai Poutini* and Nelson/Marlborough Conservancies will be implemented in the management of the Park (see also Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility).

TABLE 3: PLANT PEST CONTROL PRIORITIES

| PLANT PEST   | PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONTROL  |
|--|---|
| Gorse  | Goulard Downs (to protect tussocklands and communities for rare plants); Parapara Peak/ Haupiri Range and Herbert Range (to protect sub-alpine shrublands); Cobb (to protect a range of communities); coast north of Heaphy River (to protect coastal dunelands). |
| Old mans beard/ banana<br>passionfruit/ blackberry/lupin | All Park boundaries (to protect forest ecosystems).   |
| Broom  | Cobb (to protect shrublands, ultramafic communities, red tussocklands and herbfields).  |
| Buddleia/cotoneaster                                     | Mt Burnett; Cobb; Parapara.   |
| Wilding trees/hakea                                      | Pakihi; Aorere; monitoring and impact assessment required elsewhere in Park.  |
| Wild ginger  | Kohaihai; monitoring and impact assessment required elsewhere in Park.  |
| Horsetail  | Matiri catchment; Upper Karamea River catchment; monitoring and impact assessment required elsewhere in Park. Herbicide trials required.  |
| Marram   | Coast north of Heaphy River   |
| Ragwort/thistle  | Karamea; Heaphy; Cobb (monitoring, impact assessment required).   |
| Barberry   | Cobb.   |

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. *Carry out effective survey, monitoring and research on native species and habitats in accordance with this management plan and CMS priorities.*
2. *Carry out effective survey, monitoring and research for threatened plants and endemic plant species listed in Appendix 1.*
3. *Manage native plant and animal populations consistent with CMS priorities and the Department's Biodiversity Strategy (when complete).*
4. *Manage great spotted kiwi, long and short-tailed bats, Leiopelma frogs and blue duck (whio) according to their approved Species Recovery Plans.*
5. *Make special provisions for the management of threatened plants and animals as and when required.*
6. *Investigate the potential for establishing a mainland island in the park and implement if appropriate.*
7. *Recognise Key Biodiversity Areas as places of high vulnerability and seek to protect the biodiversity of those areas as a priority.*
8. *Monitor and inventory plant and animal pests in Key Biodiversity Areas in the Park as a priority.*
9. *Carry out animal pest eradication/control operations consistent with priorities identified in Table 2, the two CMS's, national pest control plans and Regional Pest Management Strategies.*
10. *Assist and encourage research into new control methods for animal pests, particularly wasps, mustelids and possums through the annual science funding round and liaison with research agencies.*
11. *Encourage commercial and recreational hunters to assist with deer, goat, chamois, hare and pig control (see also Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility).*
12. *The Department will use whatever method or combination of methods for wild animal control necessary to maintain ecosystem health.*
13. *Carry out plant pest eradication/control consistent with priorities identified in Table 3, the CMS's, conservancy pest control strategies and Regional Pest Management Strategies.*
14. *Where practical and where they meet the objectives of this plan, co-ordinate pest control programmes with those of adjoining land managers.*



15. *Prevent the establishment of new populations of significant plant and animal pests where achievable by removing any individuals or groups that are found outside their established range.*
16. *Provide for the managed harvest of trial plots of exotic trees in the Oparara Basin by local communities and facilitate the regeneration of those plots in native species.*
17. *Provide for the managed harvesting of remaining exotic plantations by Timberlands West Coast Ltd and facilitate the regeneration of native species once logging has been completed.*
18. *Manage the Park in accordance with the annual Fire Plans for Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancies.*

## REFERENCES

### **Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Upland Ecosystems, p55-65

Legal Protection Responsibilities for Species, p137-140

Management of Threatened Species and Communities, p141-154

Research, Survey and Monitoring, p167-177

Plant Pests, p187-194

Animal Pests, p195-208 Fire, p209-220

### **West Coast Te Tai o Poutini draft CMS**

Natural Diversity, p79-145

Identification and Assessment of Frameworks, p81

Terrestrial Ecosystems, p88

Freshwater/wetland Ecosystems, p96

Karst Ecosystems, p109

Threatened Species, p119

Pest Management, p128

Mainland Habitat Islands, p137

Science and Research, p139

Survey and Monitoring, p140

Summary, p145

### **National Parks Act 1980**

### **Wildlife Act 195**

### **Wild Animal Control Act 1977**

### **Biodiversity Strategy (under development)**



**Species Recovery Plans for kiwi, frogs, bats, blue duck**

**Policy Statement on Deer Control - February 2001**

**Possum Control Plan**

**Feral Goat Control Plan**

**Regional Pest Control Plans**

**Conservancy Fire Control Plans**

**Karst Management Guidelines - Policies and Actions, May 1999**

## 3.2 LANDSCAPE

### *Policy*

*To preserve and protect the landscape and scenic values of the Park*

### **Background**

(See also sections 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 4.2)

Kahurangi National Park contains imposing mountains and plunging gorges, massive rivers, spectacular waterfalls and tall cliffs. Many landforms in the Park are considered internationally, nationally or regionally important.

The mountains of the northwest dominate the scenic backdrop of cities and towns of the surrounding land. The mountainous skyline presented by the Mt Arthur and Mt Owen ranges is integral to the landscape visible from Nelson and Motueka. Likewise the mountains of the Douglas and Anatoki Ranges form a backdrop for Golden Bay communities. Mt Newton is a dominant feature of the landscape close to Murchison and the Fenian Range and mountains on the western fringes form a backdrop for the Karamea community.

The Park has no single dominating landform, but rather a great variety in nature and scale. No single process dominates the area. Some of the highest points were carved by glaciers, and others were uplifted and remain as largely intact plateaux. Water is a powerful force shaping the landscape and recent massive earthquakes have also left their mark. Chemical processes have produced many varied forms of karst landscape, with extensive cave systems.

One of the striking features of the Park is its vastness. The scale of the area is apparent from its highest points where vistas of bush clad valleys and interconnecting ranges can be viewed stretching into the distance. Special scenic features include the vast red tussocklands on the raised peneplains such as the Mt Arthur Tableland and the Thousand Acres Plateau. The layering of tertiary sediments, including limestone, and interesting contrasts between cliffs and plateaux create spectacular scenery in the Thousand Acre and Hundred Acre Plateaux and the Garibaldi Ridge. The jagged skyline of the Dragons Teeth in the Douglas Range presents a distinctive landmark which can be viewed from many angles.

The grandeur of the Mt Arthur and Mt Owen marble karst has been shaped by solution weathering and carved by glaciers, creating complex landscapes of mazed and fluted stone. These expansive areas contain rock gardens of alpine plants with buttercups, gentians, daisies and specialised plants hanging onto the steep sides of sinkholes and depressions. In the vast cave systems of karst areas there are spectacular cave formations (speleothems). Places such as the Honeycomb Hill Caves in the Oparara basin, where animal-life was trapped and fossilised in caves, provide a unique scientific opportunity. The limestone Oparara Arch is the largest of its kind in Australasia. Other scenic limestone features include the forested limestone bluffs of the lower Heaphy valley.

An earthquake shattered landscape stretches from Murchison northwards into the Karamea River for over 50km, with dozens of massive land slips often extending from ridge top to river, and many huge earthquake formed dams in the rivers.

The contrast between red tussockland and patches of stunted woody vegetation create visually interesting vegetation mosaics on the undulating tablelands of the Goulard, Mackay, Gorton and Gunner Downs. The Lockett Range in the Cobb vicinity has glaciated scenery including numerous tarns and cirques and the Cobb valley itself is a very accessible and classic example of a glaciated 'U' shaped valley.

The largely unmodified coast between Kahurangi Point and the Heaphy river mouth has very high scenic values, with its strongly cliffed granite coast and its wild and rugged nature.

## **Issues and opportunities**

### ***Development***

The high quality of the Park's landscape is one of Kahurangi National Park's principle attributes. Landscape values, as well as natural values, can be adversely affected by the development of facilities such as telecommunication structures, buildings, huts, signs, bridges, fences and tracks. By careful consideration of the impact of development on the landscape, detrimental effects can be avoided, for example by using colours and shapes which blend in with the environment and locating buildings away from ridgelines. The quality of design and materials often determines how well structures fit into the natural landscape.

Some facilities such as alpine huts and route markers must be highly visible for safety reasons. In these instances a conscious decision should be made that this is the case. For all other facilities, specific attempts should be made to reduce the visual impacts of development.

For private or commercial structures the applicant must first show that there are no practicable alternative sites outside the Park. Because of the primary objective to retain the undeveloped nature of the Park, commercial accommodation developments would generally be discouraged as not in keeping with the management philosophy of the Park. Mitigation measures such as those mentioned above would have to be implemented in any approved structural development.

### ***Signs***

All signage relating to the Park will need to be produced to the Department's national sign standards and be located in safe and appropriate locations. Liaison with Transit New Zealand should be undertaken for signs on roadsides.

### ***Views***

The appreciation of landscape values is an important aspect of the Park's use. There may be instances where this can be facilitated by judicious removal of trees to open up significant views. Such opportunities to increase the enjoyment of the landscape should only be considered on a limited scale and where it would not significantly affect vulnerable ecosystems. The approval of the Minister is required where such a specific exception to the primary objective of preservation is warranted.

### ***Aircraft***

Landscape values can also be affected by the visual intrusion of aircraft into a natural scene. Air access is covered in Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility and Section 4.2.1 Air access.

### ***Cave and karst***

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy has an operative Cave and Karst Management Strategy which sets management directions and priorities for these vulnerable systems. The Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy intends to have a Cave and Karst Management Strategy completed in 2003. This management plan will implement those strategies.

Cave and karst features, especially cave formations, can be easily damaged by visitors and need to be actively protected, this issue will be addressed in the Cave and Karst Management Strategies and is also dealt with in Section 4.0 Use and Accessibility.

### ***Pou whenua***

Pursuant to Section 254 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu may erect a pou whenua (boundary marker) subject to certain conditions that the Minister may impose to, amongst other things, protect the National Park values of the area and to mitigate any effects the erection of the pou whenua might have. Te Runanga has guaranteed access to erect and to maintain the pou whenua.

## **IMPLEMENTATION (SEE SECTION 4.2 ALSO)**

- 1. In assessing applications for private or commercial structures in the Park, require the applicant to first demonstrate that the structure cannot be practically located outside the Park, and discourage commercial accommodation developments as not in keeping with the primary objectives of this management plan.***

2. *Assess any proposed development, including huts, tracks, bridges, shelters, picnic sites, camp sites, fences etc, for their impact on the landscape prior to their construction.*
3. *Require that any new structures are not intrusive, are sensitively designed to blend in to the natural environment, are coloured in sympathy with the surrounding environment, are of high quality and are located sensitively to avoid ridge tops and other sensitive areas, or are located adjacent to existing structures.*
4. *Ensure signs are produced to national design standards and that the siting of any roadside signs complies with Transit New Zealand requirements.*
5. *Ensure that earth and vegetation disturbance is kept to a minimum in facility development and that the site is rehabilitated as nearly as possible to a natural state.*
6. *Ensure any new development does not cause undue damage to geological and natural features.*
7. *Ensure that any new track development is carefully sited so as to avoid significant visual impacts on landscape values and consider re-routing existing tracks with high visual impacts.*
8. *Allow for exceptions to the above policies for safety reasons only.*
9. *Obtain the approval of the Minister for limited removal of vegetation adjacent to huts and tracks to open up significant views where this does not impact on significant natural values.*
10. *Manage cave and karst features located in areas of the Park in the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancy, in line with the West Coast Cave and Karst Strategy.*
11. *Develop, through consultation with key stake holders, a Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Cave and Karst Strategy for completion in the year 2003 and manage relevant Park cave and karst features in line with that strategy when complete.*

### 3.3 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

#### *Policy*

*To preserve wahi tapu, cultural, historic and archaeological sites and preserve information relating to those sites.*

#### **Background**

(See also Section 1.3.5)

### ***Nga iwi (Māori)***

The national park area, in association with the Taitapu and other adjacent lands, which are currently held outside of the gazetted boundaries of the Park, are of great importance to nga iwi. Generations from the past to the present have established settlements, trails and trading routes, wahi taonga/wahi tapu (special places and sites), mara (gardens), wahi wananga (areas of learning), tauranga waka (canoe landing places) and used the natural resources. Each of these practices has generated historic sites or associations that are of importance to iwi and as such these need to be recognised and protected by the management plan and through Park management practices. The Department will actively protect the cultural and historic places which may be identified in confidence or openly by nga iwi as of significance to them.

### ***Post-European settlement***

The first European visitors to the park area were sealing gangs who established seasonal camps at Toropuahi and Kahurangi between about 1803 and the 1820s. Later came whalers who worked the seal rookeries in the off-season until the 1840s.

Heaphy and other famous explorers made now legendary journeys through the Park, accompanied by Māori guides, and established the Heaphy Track as major route through the Park area.

The search for grazing and minerals drove much of the early European exploration of the park. Goldfields were developed in the Quartz Range, Kaituna, Aorere, Anatoki, Waingaro, Mt Arthur, Tablelands, Gordon's Pyramid, Leslie, Baton, Wangapeka, Owen Valley and the Fenian. Other mining occurred at Onekaka (iron) and Upper Takaka (asbestos) and there was some exploration in the Roaring Lion. A range of old workings, including tailings and drives (tunnels), and other archaeological features such as hut sites remain. Coal mining occurred near Puponga but most of the structures and workings lie outside the park.

The Heaphy and Wangapeka Tracks were pack tracks and of significance as major trading routes between Nelson and Westland. Benched tracks were developed in many other places, including the Kaituna, Kill Devil, Waingaro, Anatoki, Fenian, Leslie and Flora tracks. Many of these old tracks have formed the basis of today's recreational track network, while others remain obscured by vegetation.

One of the more significant historic constructions in the park was the long water race from Boulder Lake to the Quartz Range goldfield. Other visually impressive sites are at Doctors Creek and the quartz and alluvial mining complexes on the Rolling and Kaituna Rivers. Throughout the Park the various gold mining sites are representative of a range of technology and techniques used in New Zealand gold mining.

From 1926 to 1986 logging occurred in the lowland forests, especially in the far north and in the Oparara and also in small areas near Karamea. Old logging roads and scattered stands of exotic trees, especially in the Oparara, are evidence of this use.

Some of the park huts have historic value. These include Adams Flat (1920s), Old King's Cottage (1935) and Asbestos Cottage (1890s). Other campsites and huts need to be evaluated for their historic worth.

Evidence from past hydroelectric generation schemes remain at Cobb Lake, Round Lake, Lake Sylvester and Little Sylvester Lake. The track on the old road to Lake Sylvester is the most evident remains of past access to this area. In the Waikoropupu catchment a smaller water race (just outside the park) takes water to a recently rebuilt power station.

## **Issues and opportunities**

### ***Surveys***

Since knowledge of archaeological sites and historic places (Māori and European) is incomplete, further investigation needs to be carried out to identify unknown sites. The understanding of many sites would greatly benefit from research of documentary sources and a programme of oral history recordings. Detailed surveys are necessary in areas where historic values are suspected or inadequately known. Conservation of significant historic places should be effected by a programme of active management. Priority historic resources for active management, as set out in the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* and Nelson/Marlborough CMS's are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4: HISTORIC RESOURCES FOR ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

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Old King's Hut

Asbestos Cottage

Remnant gold machinery etc.

Johnstons United gold battery Rolling River gold mining sites

Oparara / Fenian pack track

Fenian Goldfield and Ferris Brothers Sluicing claim

Adams Flat hut and John Adams grave

Baton Track

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### ***Māori involvement***

Nga iwi need to be actively involved in the management of their wahi tapu and nga taonga. They need the opportunity to care for these sites in traditional ways, which may include keeping their presence confidential. The Department must ensure that it works with the nga iwi in the management of sites of significance to them and provides the opportunity for an iwi representative to be present at any excavations or archaeological surveys.

### ***Protection***

Archaeological and historic sites are easily damaged both by natural processes and human impacts. Erosion, earthquakes, track building, trampling and even tree planting can damage historic sites. The reforestation of a pa site for example can destroy the historic values of that site through root damage to the human-made structures. In such circumstances, the preservation of historic values must be weighed against the ecological values of revegetation on a case by case basis.

The Historic Places Act 1993 makes it an offence to modify a historic site without a permit, so the Department needs to ensure that a permit is gained for any site restoration or modification and that sites are not accidentally destroyed. To this end, it is important to discover unknown sites so that they can be protected from inadvertent damage. The Buller District Council also requires that a resource consent be obtained for any activity which adversely affects an historic site listed in the District Plan.

Archaeological sites and historic places will continue to be identified and protected according to the priorities and procedures, including consultation with relevant iwi, set out in the General Policy, the national Historic Resource Strategy, the two CMS's and the two Conservancies' Historic Resource Strategies. Detailed information on the management of key places is contained in the Conservancies' registers of actively managed historic places.

Protection of sites may include discouraging access to sites by way of diverting tracks away from an area and placing special conditions on concessions granted within the Park area.

### ***Interpretation***

Interpretation and information can enhance visitor understanding of historic sites and can help them gain an appreciation for the historic values preserved in the park. Opportunities for interpretation of historic sites need to be evaluated in terms of the historic significance and suitability of the site in terms of public access and interest. In some cases it may be more appropriate to protect a site through not publicising its existence to the general public, as some sites are better able to cope with visitor impacts than others. Where any Māori site is well placed for interpretation, the relevant nga iwi must be consulted as to the appropriateness of interpretation and its content.

### ***Artefacts***

Māori artefacts and their custody are regulated by the Antiquities Act 1975. Māori also have protocols for action following the discovery of Māori artefacts and these include reburial in the place they were found, removal to a marae or placement in a museum. It is up to the relevant nga iwi, in consultation with the Department, to decide what to do with a Māori artefact, provided it is consistent with the Antiquities Act.



European artefacts, including old bottles, are important to our understanding of more recent archaeological and historic sites. In terms of the National Parks Act it is an offence to remove any artefacts and relics from the Park without written authorisation from the Department.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. *Consult with appropriate nga iwi where an archaeological survey, management, or interpretation of a Māori site is proposed.*
2. *Ensure that wahi tapu and nga taonga are conserved and managed in a way which incorporates the exercise of kaitiakitanga and appropriate tikanga.*
3. *Carry out archaeological and historic surveys within the park and actively protect, restore and interpret historic sites and artefacts in line with Table 4, the CMS's, the national and Conservancy Historic Resources Strategies and the Historic Places Act 1993.*
4. *Prior to any proposed activities involving earthworks or ground disturbance carry out an archaeological assessment, notify the relevant nga iwi and provide an opportunity for inspection and consultation.*
5. *Research documentary and oral history of the park and its historic places and preserve the information and assess any new sites identified.*
6. *Assess existing but sites for historic values and encourage their preservation where practical.*
7. *Where preservation of historic values conflicts with the preservation of ecological values evaluate each case carefully on its own merits.*
8. *Inform the appropriate nga iwi of any discovery of a Māori artefact in the Park and seek their advice on the appropriate protocols for its care, in a manner consistent with the Antiquities Act.*

## REFERENCES

**Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Historic Resources, p155-166

**West Coast Te Tai o Poutini draft CMS**

Historic Resources, p137-161

**Historic Places Act 1993**

**Antiquities Act 1975**

**National and Conservancy Historic Resource Strategies**

## 4. Use and accessibility

### 4.1 VISITOR SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT

#### ***Policy***

*To provide for a range of appropriate activities in the Park, subject to the preservation of its intrinsic natural and historic and cultural values and the protection of the remote and wilderness qualities of the Park.*

#### **Background**

(See also Section 1.3.6)

#### ***Access***

Kahurangi National Park has many access points on its periphery (Map 2). The major road-ends are generally well developed with short stop/day use flowing from these sites.

In the interior, the Park contains extensive areas of wilderness and sanctuary and a great diversity of landforms and living things. The level of tourism promotion was low prior to the national park investigation but national and international promotion has increased markedly since then. The new national park status of the area is likely to increase the profile the Park which will attract more visitors, particularly those from overseas.

#### ***Recreational opportunities***

The Recreational Opportunities Spectrum (ROS) is a system of recreational categorisation developed in the 1980s to map the various recreational opportunities in a consistent way across all areas and organisations. There are six categories of recreational opportunity in the spectrum: Urban; Urban Fringe; Rural; Backcountry; Remote; and Wilderness. Each category has a set of criteria which define its characteristics and hence the type of recreational experience which is found within it. (Appendix 5). Kahurangi National Park offers backcountry, remote and wilderness ROS category experiences (as depicted on the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy ROS map and the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* draft CMS map, sheet 1).

The Park provides visitors with a range of opportunities from short bush walks close to a car park with a toilet (backcountry - drive in), to wilderness tramping with no facilities provided at all. In between are activities such as one to five day backcountry tramps on formed tracks with huts provided; remote camping and tramping on lightly marked routes; helicopter flights to remote sites for a fishing weekend; hunting

for deer and pigs on foot using formed tracks with huts (backcountry), or routes (remote); remote river rafting and kayaking; climbing and caving (backcountry/remote). The variety of activities require a range of practical experience to cope with the different levels of risk involved in each activity. In general, the further into the Park a visitor ventures, the higher the level of self reliance and skill required.

Remote and wilderness recreation are becoming rare opportunities in an ever developing world, so it is important to protect those opportunities which remain. Many of New Zealand's national parks offer short road-end walks and backcountry tramping opportunities, but few can offer the remote and wilderness experiences available in Kahurangi.

## **Issues and opportunities**

### ***Access***

The National Parks Act states that *“subject to the provisions 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 gained from mountains, forests, sounds, seacoasts, lakes, rivers and other natural features”*<sup>2</sup>. This gives the public the general right of free access to the Park, but also gives the Department the ability to limit access if necessary to protect the natural values of the Park.

### ***Visitor use***

Use of tracks and huts is likely to increase, but it is expected that this would be centred on key backcountry tracks which are already developed and promoted. The Park has an extensive hut and track system, much of which has a low level of use at present, and existing facilities could cope with an increase in use. As use grows, it will be increasingly important to maintain a range of differing levels of opportunity and associated facilities.

Some environments can cope with high visitor numbers better than others, for example with some further work to bring the entire track to Great Walk standard the Heaphy Track could sustain much higher levels of use, including walking and mountain biking, than many of the high altitude and fragile substrates of the Park. Cave and karst areas are particularly vulnerable to damage by visitors through wearing down of the sharp edged sculpting of exposed marble and bogging up tracks in wet karst forest areas. Facilities also have the potential to damage these areas through toilet wastes entering karst aquifers, track drainage into sinkholes and track cutting over karren areas. The Key Biodiversity Areas (see Section 3.1 Biodiversity) can also be particularly vulnerable to human damage and impacts need to be monitored in order to identify areas which may need further protection through visitor management.

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<sup>2</sup> National Parks Act 1980 S4(2)(e).

The draft West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS identifies a specific area in the south west of the Park as a Remote Experience Zone with certain restrictions on activities and facility provision. This management plan must implement those restrictions.

### ***Visitor management***

The Department does not intend to provide rubbish bins in the Park as they are not in keeping with the wild character of the Park. Therefore, rubbish produced by visitors needs to be removed from the Park by those visitors using a pack in-pack out system. The introduction of soaps or washing water into waterways, particularly alpine and sub-alpine tarns, can create adverse effects on the pristine lake environments of the Park and needs to be prevented. Ecological and environmental monitoring is required to ensure any increased use of the Park does not damage fragile features and ecosystems.

Social impacts also need to be monitored to see if visitor numbers and behaviour are having adverse effects on other visitors' experiences. It is important to protect the remote and wilderness experiences provided by certain areas from overuse, as that would in effect alter the experience. It should be recognised that the perception of crowding is highly individual and that people who are seeking a wilderness experience may be uncomfortable with levels of use which are acceptable to those looking for a short road-end walk.

Options for managing visitor numbers and crowding include placing limits on bunk occupation by large groups; limiting the number of nights visitors can stay in certain locations; requiring permits to stay for extended periods; introducing booking systems; and other mechanisms where required.

### ***The Heaphy Track Corridor***

Between 2001 and 2009, use of the Heaphy Track Corridor by walkers did not increase as expected.

The booking system implemented for the Heaphy Track in July 2005 has managed the issue of potential crowding at huts. Data collected through the booking system indicated that, at the time of partial plan review, the visitor numbers were stable and the level of accommodation met visitor demand. The booking system contributes to achieving the planned outcomes for the Heaphy Track Corridor (see Section 1.6.1 Outcomes for the Heaphy Track Corridor).

There is an existing two night limit in huts on the Heaphy.

This plan provides for mountain biking on the Heaphy Track on a seasonal basis from 1 May to 30 November (see Section 4.1.1 Mountain biking).

### ***Facilities***

Existing facilities may need to be rationalised and new ones may be developed in order to effectively manage a range of visitor opportunities for an increasing number of visitors.

As a result of the Cave Creek Inquiry, the Department is carrying out a Visitor Asset Management Review on all its visitor facilities. The outcome of this review will result in amendments to the Nelson/Marlborough CMS, as present priorities in the CMS will be updated by the new review. The plan must remain consistent with the CMS's. It is important that this management plan provides for the implementation of the outcomes of these reviews.

Areas on the periphery at road-ends will be the focal points and facilities must be maintained to an acceptable standard and carrying capacity. Where use increases beyond the capacity of facilities at road-ends, expansion should only be considered where environmental impacts would be low and where a facilitated increase in visitor numbers would not adversely affect recreational values.

Apart from the high profile Heaphy Track, there are several other multi-day tracks, such as the Wangapeka, Cobb Valley, Tablelands, and Karamea-Leslie Tracks, which need to be maintained to a reasonable standard to provide a full range of recreational opportunities within the Park.

The present track and route network is considered to be adequate and no further tracks are currently proposed, except perhaps a short walk in the vicinity of the Cobb reservoir, and perhaps the development of short walk opportunities in the Karamea area. In the present funding environment, offers of assistance or sponsorship from other organisations for the provision of appropriate new facilities for public use should be considered by the Department.

### ***Climbing***

Climbers have expressed an interest in the placement of permanent climbing bolts in some rock faces and the Matiri already has some. Such bolts are very useful to climbers, but can have an adverse effect on landscape and remote/wilderness values and so the placement of climbing bolts will be discouraged. The Department intends to promote a code of conduct for climbers and cavers using the park. However, if impacts become unacceptable, then the Department will need to review this approach and take more preventative action. Wire-brushing and "gardening" of rock faces will be prohibited through a by-law as it has unacceptable adverse effects on natural and scenic values. This applies to all areas including caves, where the New Zealand Speleological Society Guidelines will also be advocated.

### ***Caving***

Caving is an activity which can potentially impact on the Park in ways which are different from other recreational activities. These different patterns of use need to be recognised, allowed for and controlled if necessary in park management. The physical features of caves have little or no ability to regenerate themselves if damaged, and many of these features are highly vulnerable to damage. Therefore caving has the potential to cause irreversible impacts on or damage to caves. The New Zealand Speleological Society and its member clubs promote safe caving

practices and cave conservation to their members to make them aware of these issues. However, people caving outside of these groups may be less aware. A number of methods can be used to protect cave features, from restricting entry (e.g. Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area), to providing educative and informative signs, to defining routes of least damage by laying tapes along cave floors. The latter method is only successful if subsequent visitors keep to the marked route.

Cavers sometimes wish to undertake direct modification of caves, these activities range from the removal of boulders from a rock fall to gain access beyond it, to the excavation of silt filled passages. The removal of boulders is considered to be a legitimate part of cave exploration and will usually have little significant impact. However, silt excavations can potentially have severe adverse effects on cave values. For example, the excavation of a route through a silt-filled passage may result in adverse effects from the disposal of the excavated material, the loss of scientific values within the sediment, or most importantly, if the passage was completely sealed by the silt in-fill, excavating a route could cause significant changes in air flows and microclimate, with possible impacts on cave fauna and the growth of speleothems. In order to protect fragile and irreplaceable cave features any such proposals for major sediment/silt removal ( $>0.5\text{m}^3$ ) or air flow alteration need to be assessed by the Department and permission given before any such activity is undertaken. Advocacy to caving groups about best practice methods could also help to protect vulnerable features and systems.

Most recreational users of the park (trampers, fishers and hunters) will move through an area in small numbers, seldom stopping for more than two consecutive nights at any site. Cavers undertaking cave exploration in an area will often be present in larger groups and base themselves at a convenient site for two weeks or more. This may cause localised impacts in the area of campsites, including problems with toilet waste, and can also result in the cavers "taking over" huts and making them unavailable to other users. This could be partially remedied by permitting such groups to occupy up to half of the available bunk space in any hut and requesting that they inform the Department of their location and the expected duration of their stay so other visitors can be made aware of their presence and can avoid the caving party if they wish. If necessary, by-laws will be sought to accomplish this.

The exploration of deep caves requires large amounts of technical equipment, including ropes and rigging gear, and even comparatively non-technical caves require a basic minimum of bulky and heavy equipment over and above the normal contents of a trampers' pack. For this reason many caving expeditions use helicopter support (see Section 4.2.1 Air access).

### ***Kayaking***

The Karamea River is considered one of the country's top wilderness kayaking rivers and interest is increasing through publicity. Other rivers in the Park are also becoming popular. Many other rivers have not yet been explored by kayakers, but interest in them remains. Many kayakers

use helicopter transport to take kayaks and other equipment to remote rivers (see Section 4.2.1 Air access). Kayakers value the remote and wilderness experiences available in the Park and do not require facility development. Impacts on the ground are generally negligible as they do not use tracks and move quickly, therefore requiring fewer nights in huts or camping in the Park.

### ***Hunting***

Recreational hunting on foot can be undertaken throughout the Park, but hunters must compete with commercial hunters using helicopters for deer recovery (see Section 4.2 Concessions for commercial deer and chamois hunting). As hunting is an important recreational activity in the Park and assists the Department with deer control, it would be beneficial to maximise the opportunities to work with recreational hunting groups to assist in the control of deer and other wild animals. In areas where fallow deer occur, they will be controlled in the first instance by recreational hunting. The use of commercial methods or Departmental operations are not ruled out where necessary to maintain ecosystem health.

In order to prevent conflicts with other Park users, the Cobb Valley Flats and Mount Arthur/Tableland area will need to be closed to all hunting from sunset, 22 December to sunrise, 9 February of the following year for public safety. In addition, 500 metres either side of the Heaphy and Wangapeka tracks will also be closed to hunters all year round. A 500 metre hunting exclusion area allows favoured deer habitat on the margins of river valleys to be hunted while minimising the effects of such hunting on the experience of track users. The 500 metre hunting exclusion area either side of the tracks is consistent with similar hunting exclusion corridors in Nelson Lakes National Park, Abel Tasman National Park and parts of Marlborough Sounds and is considered safe practice (Refer Section 4.1.2 The Tasman Wilderness Area, Helicopter hunting, and Section 4.2.1 Air access, for further information regarding the use of helicopters for recreational hunting purposes).

### ***Fishing***

Trout fishing has been occurring in the Park area since the 1880s. The most popular fisheries in the Park are the Wangapeka and Karamea Rivers. Use of the Park by anglers is not high by national standards but the experience gained by anglers is highly valued by them. A few of the most sought after fisheries are accessible by vehicle, including a small part of the Wangapeka, part of the Takaka and the Cobb reservoir. Most fisheries are accessible on foot by day from a road-end, such as the Little Wanganui, Cobb, Aorere, and lower Karamea Rivers. Extended trips can also be made to the Karamea, Crow and Leslie Rivers. Helicopters are also used by some anglers to access the more remote areas (see Section 4.2.1 Air access). The outstanding fisheries of the Roaring Lion, Beautiful and Ugly rivers in the Tasman Wilderness Area are accessible only on foot from the helipad just outside the Wilderness Area, as helicopter landings are prohibited in Wilderness Areas in terms of the National Parks Act.



Trout fishing in the Park is managed by the West Coast and Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Councils under the Conservation Act 1987 and a licence is required from them to fish. The Fish and Game Council is currently undertaking research in the Park to determine angler perceptions of the social carrying capacity for popular fisheries in the Park. Management of fisheries, in co-operation with the Fish and Game Council, is covered in both CMS's. The release of trout and other fish species into any new rivers where they have not been released before is considered in terms of Section 26ZM of the Conservation Act and, because of the high ecological values of rivers free from introduced fish species, the Department will recommend that the Minister of Conservation exercise his/her discretion to prohibit the release of trout and other introduced aquatic life where not previously released or where it does not already exist.

### ***Boating***

Power boating is not popular in the Park and use is rare. The use of power boats and personal water craft (e.g. jet skis - see glossary) is considered to be incompatible with the primary objectives for the Park and should be prohibited through a by-law. An exception will be made for the use of such boats by approved eelers in defined waterways and only for the duration of their access permits.

### ***Visitor information***

Visitor Centres, Information Centres, and Conservancy and Area Offices of the Department provide visitors with a range of information and maps relating to the Park. This information needs to be kept up to date to ensure accuracy and safety. Any new interpretation will be concentrated at road ends and on the periphery of the Park.

The two Conservation Management Strategies (CMS's) set out priorities for interpretation within each Conservancy and this management plan must provide for the implementation of those priorities in relation to Kahurangi National Park.

### ***Dogs***

Under the National Parks Act 1980 (Part VA) dogs are not permitted in a national park without a permit, unless (Section 56E) they are seeing eye, companion (as defined in Section 2), search and rescue, or police dogs, or for Park management purposes.

Permits can be issued, subject to conditions. The Director-General can issue a dog control permit if he or she is satisfied that the dog is essential for the proposed activity; that the proposed activity is lawful and is not inconsistent with the purposes of the National Parks Act, relevant management strategy or conservation management plan. Hunting dogs may not stay in the Park overnight because of the threats they pose to native birds and animals, kiwi in particular. Permits will be issued subject to conditions that prohibit such dogs from staying in the Park overnight and restrictions on access to the periphery of the Park (approximately

a half-day's walk from the boundary into the Park). Permits will not be issued where hunting could occur near known populations of threatened species that could be adversely affected by hunting activity.

### ***Fires***

Fire is a major threat to the natural values of the Park and therefore requires controls. On major tracks there are huts and permanent fireplaces which can be safely used by visitors. However, the lighting of fires in other areas can be unsafe and has the potential for severe damage to the Park and safety risks to visitors. Fires should therefore be limited to permanent fireplaces on the Heaphy, Wangapeka and Tablelands track networks where they are provided. Where fireplaces are not provided, open fires may be lit and should be closely attended. No fires are permitted during a total fire ban.

### ***Disabled access***

There is currently disabled access to the Park at the Riwaka Resurgence and Kohaihai (Nikau Walk), there is also access to the visitor shelter at the Flora carpark. In order to cater for the disabled more effectively, any future upgrades of toilet and other facilities at developed road-ends should meet disabled access standards where practicable.

### ***Mountain bikes***

In accordance with General Policy for National Parks 2005 mountain biking is considered appropriate on the following routes in the Park: Heaphy Track, Flora to Barron Flat and Kill Devil. Seasonal biking is allowed on the Heaphy Track from 1 May to 30 November each year and year-round on the Flora to Barron Flat and Kill Devil routes (see Section 4.1.1 Mountain biking).

There is a history of mountain biking in Kahurangi National Park which predates the creation of the Park in 1996. The Heaphy Track has been used by back country mountain bikers since the sport gained popularity in New Zealand in the 1980s. There are anecdotal accounts of bicycles on the Heaphy Track as early as 1936. The other routes identified in the review process have had an association with mountain biking also. Flora to Barron Flat track has provided a transport link from Motueka to the Cobb Valley for walkers, pack ponies and cyclists in the past and the Kill Devil track has a history of being ridden on the legal road, as far as Skeet Creek, as a challenging day ride.

### ***Karamea-Collingwood Road proposal***

The development of a road link from Collingwood to Karamea is a long standing proposition and there has been considerable public debate throughout the Park formation and planning processes. However, no defined agreed route or corridor has yet been presented.

This management plan can neither provide for nor prohibit any such road or road corridor proposal, because any land required for a public road would first need to be taken out of the national park.

Any proposed public road would have to be designated by an appropriate requiring authority and would have to proceed through the appropriate Resource Management Act process. If the designation were confirmed and land contained within the Park was necessary for the road, the requiring authority would need to approach the Minister of Lands to acquire the land on its behalf. To comply with Section 11 of the National Parks Act that Minister would introduce an Act of Parliament to remove the land from the national park. If a road was built it would be outside the national park and would be administered by the requiring authority, not the Department of Conservation.

#### IMPLEMENTATIONS (ALSO SEE SECTION 4.1.3)

1. *Protect the Park from over-use and over-development through management of visitor impacts and ongoing monitoring of the social and environmental impacts of visitors.*
2. *Monitor visitor impacts on Key Biodiversity Areas as a priority and implement management controls if necessary.*
3. *Manage the West Coast Remote Experience Zone in line with the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS.*
4. *Continue to administer the accommodation booking system to avoid crowding in huts on the Heaphy Track.*
5. *Prior to the development of any new tracks or facilities, carry out an environmental and social impact assessment and seek to avoid adverse environmental and social impacts.*
6. *Promote and implement a pack in-pack out system for the management of visitors rubbish and discourage the use of soap or other washing products in waterways, particularly lakes, in the Park, through advocating compliance with the Environmental Care Code.*
7. *Manage and maintain hut and track facilities in accordance with Departmental and Conservancy priorities consistent with the CMS's and periodic facility reviews.*
8. *Undertake a public consultation process involving key stakeholders regarding the future of huts and tracks in Kaburangi.*
9. *Continue to manage the Heaphy Track as a Great Walk with the provision for controlled seasonal use (from 1 May to 30 November each year) for mountain biking.*
10. *Consider the development of short walk opportunities in the Karamea area and a short walk adjacent to the Cobb reservoir to provide access to and interpretation of the roches moutonnees field at the head of the reservoir.*
11. *Maintain road-end facilities and upgrade where appropriate and practicable, as set out in periodic facility reviews and ensure that access is safe and convenient for visitors.*

12. *Co-operate with road control authorities to ensure public access roads into the park are maintained to acceptable standards.*
13. *Ensure that all new or upgraded toilet facilities at appropriate developed road-ends meet disabled access standards.*
14. *Invite offers of assistance or sponsorship for the development or maintenance of appropriate visitor facilities, including historic huts, for general public use (not as commercial or private facilities) where they are not a Departmental priority.*
15. *Develop and promote a code of conduct for climbers and cavers to minimise their impacts on the environment.*
16. *Seek a bylaw to prohibit the wire-brushing and "gardening" of rock faces for climbing.*
17. *Seek a bylaw that requires any group of more than 10 people wishing to stay in the Park more than one night to obtain a permit.*
18. *Seek a bylaw that requires that where large expedition groups of more than 10 people are based in or around huts, at least half of the hut bunk capacity remains free for other Park users, tents for the entire party are carried, and environmental effects are avoided or mitigated and waste is removed.*
19. *Continue to limit overnight stays on the Heaphy Track to two nights per hut through a bylaw.*
20. *Seek a bylaw that requires any group or individual intending to stay in a hut for more than three nights, or at a campsite for more than seven nights, to obtain a permit and to ensure that any adverse environmental or social effects resulting from their presence are avoided or mitigated.*
21. *Encourage all cavers to adhere to the New Zealand Speleological Society's ethical guidelines and practise good cave conservation practices and advocate best practice methods to caving clubs.*
22. *Seek a bylaw which requires a permit for major excavations of fine sediments ( $>0.5\text{m}^3$ ) and any excavations which may alter air flows in caves, and assess applications on a case by case basis in terms of the vulnerability to disturbance of natural cave features, scientific and cultural values and fauna.*
23. *Amend the existing bylaws to close the Cobb Valley flats, Mt Arthur and Tableland Area, to all hunting from sunset 22 December until sunrise, 9 February in the following year.*
24. *Amend the existing bylaws to close corridors 500 metres each side of the Heaphy and Wangapeka Tracks to all hunting at any time.*

25. *Liase with Fish and Game Councils regarding sports fishery management, research and monitoring.*
26. *Recommend that the Minister exercise his/her discretion to prohibit the release of trout and other introduced aquatic life where they have not previously been released or where they do not already exist.*
27. *Seek a bylaw prohibiting the use of motorised vessels in the Park, except for specified eelers as part of their access concessions.*
28. *Ensure visitor information is readily available at community and Departmental Visitor Centres and DOC offices and that it is up to date and accurate.*
29. *Develop any new interpretation consistent with CMS priorities at popular and accessible amenity areas and road ends on the periphery of the park.*
30. *Seek a bylaw to prohibit the lighting of fires on or adjacent to the Heaphy, Wangapeka and Tablelands Tracks, except in permanent fireplaces.*
31. *Recommend that the Director-General ensure that all dog control permits be issued only for hunting and contain conditions which limit the use of dogs to within half a days walk of the Park's boundary (and exclude areas where there are known populations of threatened species) and prohibit such dogs from remaining in the Park overnight.*
32. *Seek a bylaw to prohibit the use of all vehicles, including mountain bikes, within the Park except on formed roads or otherwise specified routes, unless for search and rescue, management, or facility servicing purposes, in line with General Policy.*
33. *Retain the existing bylaws allowing mountain biking on the specifically approved routes of the Heaphy Track, Flora to Barron Flat Track, and Kill Devil Track subject to the measures set out in Section 4.1.1 Mountain biking, including the Implementations.*
34. *Do not resume the unformed legal road through the north-west of the Park and consider the proposal for its development as a mountain biking track, in conjunction with Tasman District Council.*
35. *Consider any proposal for a road link or corridor between Collingwood and Karamea if and when a requiring authority proposes such a designation. Any such consideration must ensure that the protection of the landscape, ecological, historic and recreational values remains the primary objective of Park management.*

## **4.1.1 Mountain biking**

### **4.1.1.1 Policy**

*To provide opportunities for a range of mountain biking experiences on specific routes in Kahurangi National Park while minimising adverse effects on national park values and protecting the experiences of others.*

### **4.1.1.2 Background**

At the time Kahurangi National Park was formed the General Policy for National Parks (1983) prohibited the use of any motorised or non motorised vehicle anywhere in a national park except on formed roads (Policy 19.6). This meant that although there were submissions (on the 1997 notified draft management plan) in support of some mountain biking to continue in the Park it could not be allowed.

General Policy for National Parks 2005 allows the use of specified types of non-powered vehicles on routes specifically identified in a management plan, and where track management measures would ensure that adverse effects on national park values can be minimised, track standards are suitable and the benefit, use and enjoyment of other people can be protected. (Policy 8.6(h))

When the intention to carry out the partial review was publicly notified four tracks were identified as potential routes where mountain biking could be considered. They were the Heaphy Track, Flora Saddle to Barron Flat (Flora Carpark to Upper Takaka Valley), Kill Devil (adjacent to Uruwhenua Road, Upper Takaka) and Lake Sylvester tracks.

Following the public suggestion process and consultation with key stakeholders, the Department identified three routes which were considered appropriate for mountain biking activity on a trial basis. They were the Heaphy Track (seasonal access), the Kill Devil Track, and the Flora to Barron Flat Track (see Map B). Lake Sylvester Track was not considered suitable for mountain biking as adverse effects on park values and the experience of other users could not be minimised.

The Lake Sylvester Track is easily accessible for families, school groups and clubs on introductory day trips or overnight in Sylvester Hut and as such is a popular and well-used walking track. There are parts of the track that would be suitable for high speed, downhill mountain biking as it is of moderate to steep gradient, good width and clear lines of sight. Consequently there is significant potential to create hazards for walkers on this track.

Beyond Sylvester Hut there are fragile alpine tussock grasslands, which are vulnerable and prone to damage should mountain bikers go past the end of the track. It is considered that the risk of potential damage to this area is significant and adverse effects would be difficult to manage. For these reasons mountain biking was considered inappropriate on Lake Sylvester Track.





MAP B  
Specified mountain bike routes





The Heaphy Track, Flora Saddle to Barron Flat Track and Kill Devil Track were considered appropriate because they have low levels of use by trampers during the periods mountain biking is provided for, the construction and quality of the tracks are generally of a suitable standard for mountain biking and the adverse effects to the national park values are more easily managed.

The three identified routes also provide a range of mountain bike experiences in the Park. The Heaphy Track is a multi-day ride which requires a good level of fitness, an advanced to expert level of skills to ride in a backcountry environment across a variety of landscapes and requires a moderate degree of self-reliance. The Flora Saddle to Gridiron Junction section of the Flora to Barron Flat Track provides an entry level ride on a fairly flat, smooth, wide 4WD track suitable for families and beginners. The remainder of the Flora Saddle to Barron Flat Track and the Kill Devil Track are one-day rides for advanced and expert riders. They are technically challenging, on rough, remote terrain which requires the rider to walk or carry their bikes at various points.

The mountain biking trial concluded successfully in 2013. Mountain biking was allowed to continue under the same conditions of use and has subsequently been amended to extend the season on the Heaphy Track.

#### **4.1.1.3 *Issues associated with mountain biking***

There are a number of issues associated with shared use of the tracks between walkers and mountain bikers as set out in Table A. Key issues include:

(a) **Safety**

One of the objections to mountain biking on tracks which have primarily been managed for walking and tramping is the issue of safety and the potential for collisions and injury to walkers. Research suggests, however, that the risk of collision is often over estimated by walkers and through implementing measures on the use of the track (such as a code of conduct and safe mountain bike riding techniques) the risk can be managed.

(b) **Appropriate user behaviour**

In order to manage a track for both walkers and bikers, both types of user must display consideration for each other. On a shared track mountain bikers will be expected to maintain safe travelling speeds, be aware of other users of the track and adhere to a nationally recognised user code of conduct.

(c) **Track and facility damage**

There is a physical impact on tracks and facilities by any user group and mountain biking is no exception. General Policy for National Parks 2005 criteria for managing mountain biking state that these adverse effects need to be minimised in order to protect national park values. Ways in which the impact can be minimised include

maintaining the standard of the track construction and surface, and adherence to user codes of conduct and guidelines on appropriate use of particular tracks, together with regular monitoring.

(d) **Flora and fauna disturbance**

National parks are managed for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. Kahurangi National Park provides critical habitat for three of New Zealand's threatened and endangered iconic fauna species and the protection of their habitat is important in the management of mountain biking on the Heaphy Track in particular, where *Powelliphanta* (land snails), whio (blue duck) and roa (great spotted kiwi) are present.

#### **4.1.1.4 General management measures and considerations**

General Policy for National Parks 2005 policy 8.6(i) requires the identification of measures to manage mountain bikes in national parks to minimise adverse effects. The following measures have been identified for all three routes where mountain biking is allowed. Additional management measures which apply to individual tracks have been identified in Sections 4.1.1.5 - 4.1.1.10.

(a) **Mountain biking for a trial period**

Mountain biking on the selected routes was initially trialled between 2010 and 2013, but no further trial periods are in place.

(b) **Restricted seasons**

On higher use tracks, providing a restricted season is an effective tool for managing user conflicts and potential safety issues by identifying specific times of the year when the activity can occur. The Heaphy Track has a restricted season for mountain biking from 1 May to 30 November.

(c) **Limited group numbers**

Limiting group numbers assists in reducing the risk of collisions as well as giving reassurance to walkers that they are unlikely to encounter large groups of mountain bikers on a track which could detract from their experience. Group numbers are limited to six riders on all tracks identified for mountain biking.

(d) **Adherence to a nationally recognised user code of conduct**

Identifying an acceptable level of behaviour for mountain bikers and enforcing it through bylaws and monitoring for compliance, on identified shared tracks, helps establish understanding and awareness between different user groups and reduces the potential risks to other track users. The national mountain bike user code of conduct, referred to as the "Mountain Bikers Code" has been developed between the Department and Mountain Bike New Zealand to guide mountain bike behaviour and will be applied. (See "Mountain Bikers Code" in Appendix A)

(e) **Mountain bike track grading system**

As part of assessing the suitability of these tracks for mountain biking and their management, the routes have been ranked in terms of track conditions, and biker skills and experience required, using Mountain Bike New Zealand's grading system (see Appendix B). The three tracks where mountain biking routes are proposed provide for a range of mountain bike grades, from easy/beginner through to expert/experienced riders. The track gradings will be provided in visitor information and on track signage.

(f) **Concessions and organised events**

Concessions for commercially guided mountain bike operations can be considered on the routes identified for mountain bike use.

All concessionaires should be advised that concessions may have further restrictions placed on them, or be terminated, if monitoring shows that the impacts of mountain biking on any of the approved routes are significant and/or unacceptable. Each trip should be limited to a maximum of 5 clients and one guide.

Organised, sporting or competitive bike events and heli-biking (where bicycles are dropped off or picked up at any point on a track by helicopter), are concession activities that should not be allowed in the Park. These activities are considered to be inappropriate because:

- (i) all of the identified mountain biking routes are two-way, shared use tracks, where not only walkers but also other mountain bikers of varying skill and experience levels will be present; and
- (ii) they attract mountain bikers who are interested in travelling as fast as possible, rather than enjoying the experience at a more measured pace.

(g) **Provision of information**

Placement of signage along the tracks and in huts should reinforce the shared use of the tracks and remind mountain bikers how to avoid impacts on Park values and the historic integrity of the tracks, and minimise conflicts with other users.

(h) **Monitoring**

Monitoring of mountain biking activity and effects occurs as part of national visitor and biodiversity monitoring, with more specific programmes if required.

TABLE A: MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND MEASURES FOR MOUNTAIN BIKING

| ISSUE                        | MANAGEMENT MEASURES            | EXPLANATION (refer to text for specific details)   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| User conflict and experience | Education/information          | Ongoing provision of information for all user groups to improve visitor awareness, satisfaction and safety.  |
|                              | Seasonal access (Heaphy Track) | Access to the Heaphy Track restricted to 1 May until 30 November   |
|                              | Signage                        | Clear signage identifying routes, environmental and safety requirements, and appropriate visitor behaviour.  |
|                              | Code of Conduct                | "Mountain Bikers Code" clearly identifies expected behaviours and will be displayed at track ends, in huts, on websites and in visitor information.      |
|                              | Limits on group numbers        | Group numbers are limited to six to increase safety and minimise adverse effects for all users and reduce physical impact on the track.                  |
|                              | Visitor feedback               | Opportunity for all users to supply feedback on visitor satisfaction on DOC or Mountain Bike New Zealand (MTBNZ) websites and user surveys.              |
|                              | Monitoring                     | Numbers of mountain bike users and walkers, and the experiences of all user groups on the tracks will be monitored.                                      |
| Appropriate user behaviour   | Education/information          | Ongoing provision of information for all user groups to increase awareness and responsibility for track usage.   |
|                              | Code of Conduct                | "Mountain Bikers Code" sets out expectations for the behaviour of riders.  |
|                              | Facility use                   | User guidelines posted in huts requiring outside storage of bikes and appropriate use of facilities whilst in/around the huts.                           |
|                              | Bylaws                         | Bylaw to prohibit bikes being taken into huts or onto hut verandas or porches.   |
|                              | Monitoring                     | Monitoring of user behaviour, including compliance with the bylaws and the "Mountain Bikers Code", will be carried out.                                  |
| Safety                       | Education/information          | Information about track grades for mountain biking and level of skill required.  |
|                              |                                | Information provided to mountain bikers about length of ride, potential for adverse weather, and equipment requirements in the back country environment. |
|                              | Code of Conduct                | "Mountain Bikers Code" encourages safe mountain bike riding practices to minimise risks to other users.  |
|                              | Awareness and communication    | Ensuring through visitor information that user groups are aware of risks on multi-use tracks in remote areas.  |
|                              | Dual directional flow          | Allows groups to stay together and/or leaders to go back for slower riders, poor weather or gear failure.  |

| ISSUE  | MANAGEMENT MEASURES                                   | EXPLANATION (refer to text for specific details)   |
|--|---|--|
| Track damage                                   | Ongoing maintenance of tracks to suitable standard    | Ongoing maintenance of tracks to suitable standards.   |
|  | Monitor physical impacts on tracks                    | Established Departmental standards used to monitor track conditions and assess physical impact of mountain biking on tracks.                                   |
|  | Track closures during unfavourable weather conditions | Tracks may be closed during and after heavy rainfall protecting tracks from unnecessary damage.  |
| Protection of historical and cultural heritage | Bylaws  | Bylaws will require mountain bikers to stay on the formed tracks.  |
|  | Monitoring  | Departmental standards used to monitor impacts on historical and cultural heritage   |
|  | Signage and track marking                             | Signage and track marking to reduce off-track activity.  |
| Fauna disturbance                              | No night riding                                       | Bylaw to prohibit mountain biking during the hours of darkness on the Heaphy Track and Flora to Barron Flat Track (when threatened fauna activity is highest). |
|  | Education/information                                 | Information about fauna activity will be posted on signs and in huts to increase awareness.  |
|  | Monitoring  | Departmental standards used to monitor impacts on fauna  |
| Flora disturbance                              | Code of Conduct                                       | Mountain bikers will be expected to follow the "Mountain Bikers Code" and respect the back country flora.  |
|  | Bylaws  | Bylaws will require mountain bikers to stay on the formed tracks.  |
|  | Signage and track marking                             | Signage and track marking to reduce activity off-track.  |
|  | Monitoring  | Departmental standards used to monitor impacts on flora.   |

#### **4.1.1.5 Heaphy Track**

The Heaphy Track (see Map C) is a multi-day tramping and mountain biking track and is managed as a Great Walk. Use of the Heaphy Track by walkers is highly seasonal. On average over 5000 people walk this track each year with use concentrated over the summer months.

Records of hut and campsite use via the Department's booking system indicate that about 80% of those who walk the track each year do so between the months of November to April, peaking in January, with 24% of April use occurring over Easter (when it is in April). During the winter months walker numbers decline sharply.

The majority of the Heaphy Track is a robust, well formed, hard surfaced track maintained to the Great Walk standard. Upgrades of the non-standard sections are being undertaken. It is capable of withstanding use by mountain bikes. The Department uses small vehicles on parts of the track for efficiency of management.

As the track was built prior to 1900 it is subject to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. The West Coast Tai Poutini section of the track is actively managed to protect its historical and cultural heritage. It is important that visitor behaviour is managed so that degradation of historic values does not occur.

For most mountain bikers, the track is a multi-day ride although some day use 'in and out' at Karamea and the Aorere valley ends occurs. This includes downhill use from Perry Saddle Hut for day return or overnight trips.

The track is promoted as being suited to riders with advanced skills (Grade 4) and can increase to expert (Grade 5) when factoring in distance, remoteness, and the technical skills riders require in wet and/or cold weather, although track upgrades may bring it more in line with Grade 4.

Total ride time is estimated at 10-20 hours depending on experience, fitness and track conditions at the time.

#### **4.1.1.6 *Management of mountain biking on the Heaphy Track***

Mountain biking on the Heaphy Track is from 1 May to 30 November. During this time user records indicate there are fewer people walking the track, therefore the potential for user conflicts and demand on facilities is reduced.

Given that the track is not a circuit and track users need to arrange transport to and from both ends, the Heaphy Track route has dual directional flow, allowing for members of groups to start at either end. This aids the transport logistics, allows leaders in a group to go back to find slower members, and it also means that bikers are able to cycle part of the track as a day trip or overnight and then return the way they came.

To manage this situation and to assist in visitor safety for all users of the track, bikers are expected to adhere to the 'Mountain Bikers Code' at all times (see Appendix A).

Another measure that assists in visitor safety and maintains visitor experiences for all recreation users is limiting group numbers to no more than six. A limitation on mountain bike group size assists in limiting pressure on facilities and reduces the potential to adversely affect the experiences of walkers.

The *Powelliphanta* land snail, roa (great spotted kiwi) and whio (blue duck) are species which occur within the Heaphy Track Corridor. The former is under serious threat and the protection of their habitat is critical. Whilst the kiwi populations are stable in this area it is still vital that habitat and individuals are protected as much as possible.

Being nocturnal, kiwi and *Powelliphanta* land snail activity occurs from dusk to dawn. Therefore, riders cannot ride the track during the hours of darkness, as set out in the Kahurangi National Park bylaws.



# MAP C Heaphy Track: specified mountain bike route





Bikers are required to remain on the track at all times and to respect huts and other track facilities. Guidelines apply for the appropriate use, storage and maintenance of bikes while in and around the huts and the Kahurangi National Park bylaws prohibit bikes from being taken into a hut and onto or under hut steps, verandas or porches. This is to ensure adequate space for other users and to maintain hut and veranda cleanliness. The Department may consider the installation of temporary shelters at selected huts on the Heaphy Track for overnight storage and maintenance of bikes. Mountain bikers should be self-reliant and carry a groundsheet or fly if they wish to carry out repairs, maintenance or store their bike under cover.

All promotional material, signage and other media details these measures and monitoring is carried out to ensure compliance.

The track may be closed to mountain bike use after storms, heavy rain or snow or high tide events which may affect the integrity of the track, particularly on the West Coast Tai Poutini side.

#### **4.1.1.7 *Flora Saddle to Barron Flat Track***

Flora Saddle to Barron Flat (see Map D) is a one day backcountry ride which traverses through a variety of landscapes and terrains. The track is historically an old pack track which begins at the Flora carpark and connects through to Golden Bay and Barron Flat. The full route offers a challenging ride in a backcountry environment for riders with intermediate level of skills, with a mixture of technical, single track and cross country riding experiences. The route from the Flora Saddle to the Upper Junction turnoff is a wide benched track of easy grade suitable for less experienced riders and family groups.

Overall the use of the track by trampers is low with the exception of the Flora to Upper Junction section which is particularly popular over the summer months. There is easy access to this part of the track from the Flora carpark, where it is a 30 minute walk to the Flora Hut. This makes it a traditional trip for families and introductory trampers. The section of the track from Upper Junction to Barron Flat narrows and the track surface is uneven and the terrain rough. This section of the track is not well used by trampers.

At the Barron Flat end the track leaves the Park and continues onto various land tenure arrangements, including conservation land, private land and formed legal road, until it meets Cobb Valley Road. An easement agreement across private land provides access for mountain bikes, but not for motorised vehicles, to the end of Cobb Valley Road.

As parts of the track have previously been a transport route the section of the track from the Flora carpark through to Upper Junction is generally well formed and benched and constructed. Although muddy in some sections, it is generally either gravelled or a hard surface. This part of the track is used by Departmental staff in 4WD vehicles to service huts and carry out other maintenance. From Upper Junction to Lower Junction the track is of similar standard but reduces to a benched walking track width.



The track then reduces in width again and is of a lower standard from Lower Junction to Grecian Stream. Some parts of this track are boggy or prone to erosion and the track crosses streams and scree slopes. The remainder of the track within the Park is through to Barron Stream, on a former stock route or bridle path, and is therefore of more gentle gradient and terrain. On leaving the Park a road of four wheel standard leads to Cobb Valley Road.

#### **4.1.1.8 *Management of mountain biking on the Flora Saddle to Barron Flat Track***

Historically the Upper Junction to Barron Flat portion of the Flora Saddle to Barron Flat track has not been a high use track for trampers. The Flora Saddle to Barron Flat track is an approved mountain bike route with all year access for the trial period. It is dual directional, with a maximum group limit of six. Part of this route includes habitat of the nocturnal *Powelliphanta* snail. To avoid any adverse effects on this threatened species, mountain bikers should not ride during the hours of darkness and the current bylaws will be amended accordingly. On the Flora Saddle to Upper Junction section there is potential for mountain bikers to travel quickly as it is a wide track of four wheel drive standard. During the summer months when there are more people on the track this could pose a potential risk. However because the track is wide with good sight lines it does allow for both user types to pass each other safely. Track signage will ask mountain bikers to limit their speed and adhere to the “Mountain Bikers Code”, respecting the shared-use nature of the track.

Signage for this route will be important as there are several tracks leading off it where mountain bikes are not permitted. Taking a mountain bike or other non-motorised vehicle past any sign that indicates where mountain bikes are not allowed will be an offence against the bylaws. Towards the Barron Flat end there are several side roads and tracks coming off the main route out of the Park and off the legal road across private land. Signs and other markers will be necessary to clearly identify the route. Mountain bikers will be expected to stay on the marked route and respect the various land tenures, particularly private land.

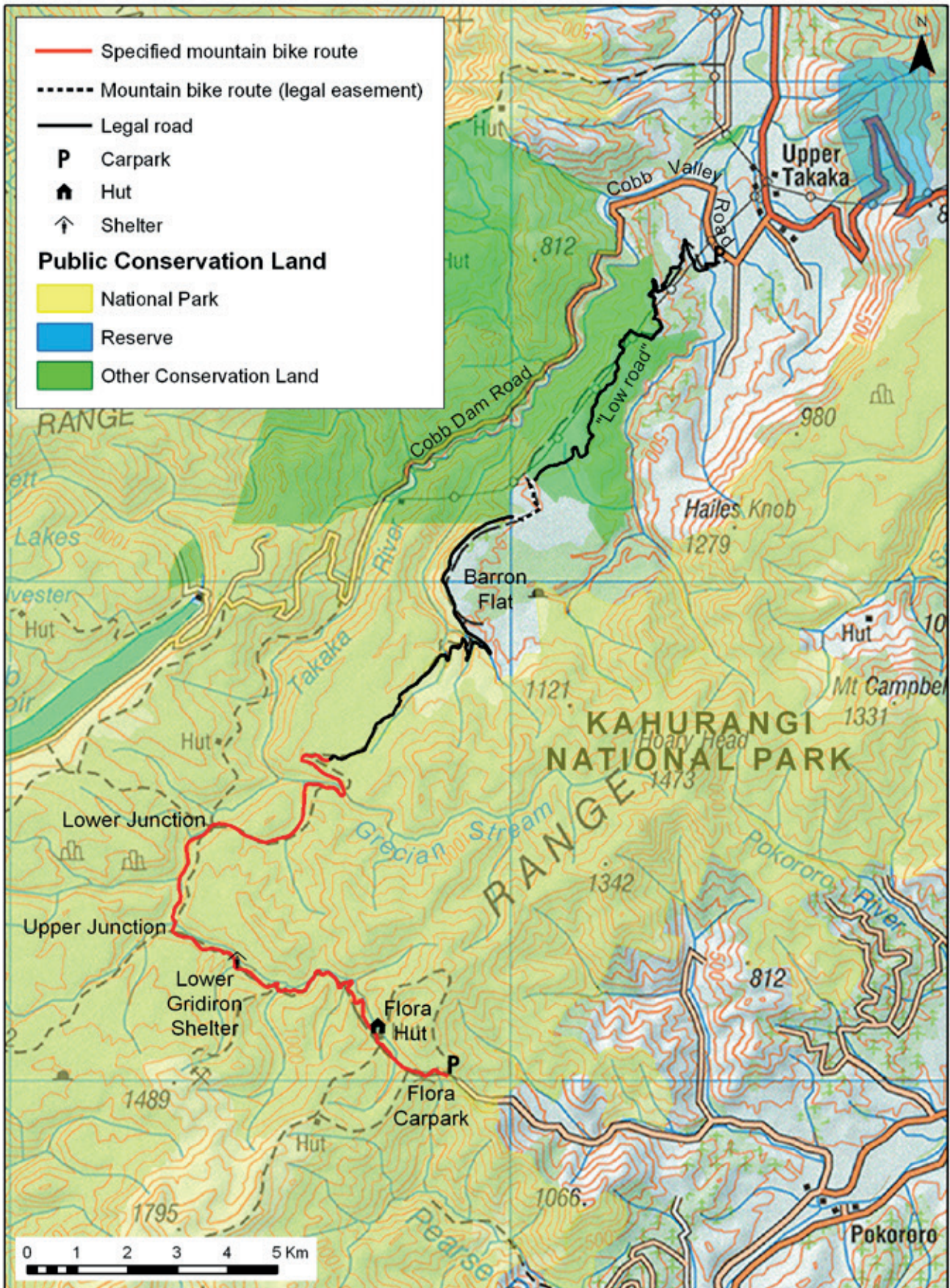
It is anticipated that the natural flow for this route will be from the Flora carpark to Barron Flat due to the topography and transport logistics between the track ends. However this route will be managed for dual directional riding. Those mountain bike riders who choose to ride from the Barron Flat end are requested to park their motorised vehicles at the end of the legal road located off Cobb Valley Road adjacent to the Waitui Stream, approximately 200 metres from the Waitui and Cobb Valley Road junction. From here mountain bikers are expected to ride the “low road” to the start of the Park (see Map D for exact location). There will be clear on-site signage indicating vehicle parking areas.

#### **4.1.1.9 *Kill Devil Track***

The Kill Devil Track (see Map E) commences on unformed legal road which starts at Camp Creek off Uruwhenua Road in Upper Takaka, continues into the Park and across the Lockett Range as far as Skeet



**MAP D**  
**Flora Saddle to Barron Flat Track: specified mountain bike route**





**MAP E**  
**Kill Devil Track: specified mountain bike route**





Creek. From there the formed track leaves the legal road and continues through to Waingaro Forks Hut. The section of the track from Uruwhenua Road to Skeet Creek has a history of use by mountain bikers. While it is possible for helicopters to transport bikes and riders to the top of the track section and land on the legal road (which is outside the Park) for a downhill ride (heli-biking), this is an activity that the Department does not encourage. Heli-biking is prohibited in the Park. Map 5 identifies Kill Devil as one of the roads to be considered to be resumed (transferred) to the Park. Monitoring should be carried out to ensure that helicopters are not landing in the Park and to assess the effects of heli-biking on the experiences of other track users. The Kill Devil Track is a technically challenging ride which can be done either as a single day or an overnight trip staying at either Riordans or Waingaro Forks Hut. The track offers spectacular views from the ridge tops of the Lockett Range including west towards the Devil River Peak, Devil Range and down into the Waingaro River Valley. Riordans Hut and the branch track to it are on conservation land outside of the Park. Riding mountain bikes is permitted on this conservation land.

One of the features of the track is the historic huts and shelters which have been or are being restored. Tin Hut Shelter and Riordans Hut have been upgraded using techniques sympathetic to the character of the original structures. Waingaro Forks Hut has been restored using the same techniques.

The first section of the Kill Devil Track is former stock route and therefore the track is mostly of benched construction with a rock base. Climbing up to the Lockett Range the track is mostly in good condition with minor areas of erosion.

Once on the Lockett Range the track is characterised by rough rocky sections mixed with short lengths of smooth packed dirt. The track is generally well drained and follows a mixture of moderate to steep gradient along the ridge top. It would be considered a technically challenging ride by an experienced mountain biker with a high level of fitness.

The Kill Devil track is currently part of a bigger loop track that provides walking access to Lake Stanley and on to Anatoki Forks Hut, exiting the Park at Anatoki Road. The complete trip takes three to four days by experienced walkers. The track is not well marked therefore careful navigation is needed. There is low level use of the track by trampers.

#### **4.1.1.10 *Management of mountain biking on the Kill Devil Track***

Signage on the track will need to be upgraded to provide better track direction, guidance and safety. The route will be promoted as an advanced track for expert mountain bikers. As there are no *Powelliphanta* or kiwi on the route there will be no restrictions on the hours of riding, but all other bylaw requirements such as staying on the track and not proceeding past the end of the approved route, beyond Waingaro Forks Hut, will still apply.



#### **4.1.1.11 Monitoring**

Monitoring the social, physical and ecological effects of mountain biking is important for the extended mountain biking season on the Heaphy Track, particularly given its significance as a Great Walk.

Hut book analysis and feedback through the Department's website is used to record visitor experiences and inform social monitoring. Online surveys can be carried out through the Department's national online booking system for huts and Park facilities. Other mechanisms used to measure the effects of mountain biking on the Park values include:

- (i) Compliance with the bylaws,
- (ii) Compliance with the "Mountain Bikers Code" (Appendix A),
- (iii) Recording of all enforcement incidents and outcomes,
- (iv) Keeping a register for departmental staff to record field observations regarding mountain bike activity,
- (v) Recording feedback from all user groups, and
- (vi) Monitoring walker and mountain biker interactions.

#### **4.1.1.12 IMPLEMENTATIONS**

- 1. Provide for mountain biking on three routes: the Heaphy Track, the Flora to Barron Flat Track, and the Kill Devil Track (as identified on Maps B, C, D and E).**
- 2. Amend the existing bylaws to allow the use of mountain bikes on the Heaphy Track (as identified on Map C) from 1 May to 30 November with a maximum of 6 riders per group.**
- 3. Amend the existing bylaws to allow the use of mountain bikes year round on the Flora to Barron Flat Track and the Kill Devil Track (as identified on Maps D and E), with a maximum of 6 riders per group.**
- 4. Allow dual directional flow on all approved mountain biking routes for their entire length.**
- 5. Require mountain bikers to adhere to the "Mountain Bikers Code" (Appendix A).**
- 6. Signage for all approved mountain bike routes should provide clear directions and limits of the tracks; identify safety issues or specific requirements for the track (such as discrete areas with high *Powelliphanta* or other fauna densities, and where the route passes through private land); and display the "Mountain Bikers Code".**
- 7. Guidelines for the appropriate use, storage and maintenance of bikes whilst in and around the huts should be posted in selected huts along the approved mountain bike routes.**

8. *Consideration should be given to the provision of temporary shelters or other facilities for bike storage and maintenance.*
9. *Retain the existing bylaws to:*
  - (a) *prohibit the use of mountain bikes on the Heaphy Track and the Flora to Barron Flat Track during the hours of darkness; and*
  - (b) *provide for the temporary closure of the approved mountain biking routes at any time if unfavourable weather, track conditions or other management issues arise; and*
  - (c) *prohibit the taking of mountain bikes into a hut and onto or under hut steps, verandas or porches; and*
  - (d) *require mountain bikes that are used on the approved mountain biking routes to remain on the formed track.*
10. *No organised or competitive bike events should be allowed on the approved mountain biking routes.*
11. *Applications for concessions for commercial mountain bike operations may be considered on the routes identified for mountain bike use, in accordance with the following:*
  - (a) *each trip should be limited to a maximum of five clients and one guide; and*
  - (b) *concessions may have further restrictions placed on them, or be terminated, if monitoring shows that the impacts of mountain biking on any of the approved routes are significant and/or unacceptable*
12. *Mountain bikers accessing the Flora to Barron Flat track from the Barron Flat end will be encouraged to park their motorised vehicles at the end of the legal road off Cobb Valley Road, adjacent to the Waitui Stream approximately 200 metres from the junction of the Waitui Stream and Cobb Valley Road.*
13. *Establish and implement a mountain biking monitoring programme to record and report on the following:*
  - (a) *Numbers of walking and mountain biking visitors on the Heaphy Track and their experiences;*
  - (b) *Absence or presence of mountain bike activity off or beyond the allowed route (i.e. off track);*
  - (c) *Impacts on the track surface due to mountain bike activity;*
  - (d) *Any enforcement incidents and their outcomes;*
  - (e) *Any damage to or removal of signs;*
  - (f) *Nature and level of conflict, if any, between walkers and mountain bikers, including feedback from visitors;*

- (g) *Impacts on native fauna and flora, and disturbance to habitat due to mountain bike activity;*
  - (b) *Compliance with the 'Mountain Bikers Code' and the bylaws;*
  - (i) *Damage to historical and cultural heritage features due to mountain bike activity;*
  - (j) *Use of helicopters on the Kill Devil Track.*
14. *Provide reports to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on the Heaphy Track monitoring, carried out in accordance with implementation 13, following the 2018 and 2020 mountain biking seasons.*
15. *If monitoring shows that the impacts of mountain biking on any of the approved routes are significant and/or unacceptable, then:*
- (a) *further restrictions may be placed on the activity in order to manage these adverse effects; and*
  - (b) *the relevant bylaws may be amended accordingly*

#### **4.1.2 The Tasman Wilderness Area**

##### ***Policies***

*To preserve the integrity of the Tasman Wilderness Area and preserve its existing boundaries.*

*To recognise the importance of the Tasman Wilderness Area as the only gazetted Wilderness Area in the top half of the South Island.*

##### **Background**

The Wilderness Area (Map 3) provides a special recreational opportunity, offering sanctuary, peace, solitude and inspiration to wilderness seekers who have the desire and self-reliance necessary to explore the Park's wild heart. It gives visitors an opportunity to witness a truly unspoilt landscape and experience nature on a one to one basis in the absence of tracks, huts or any other facilities.

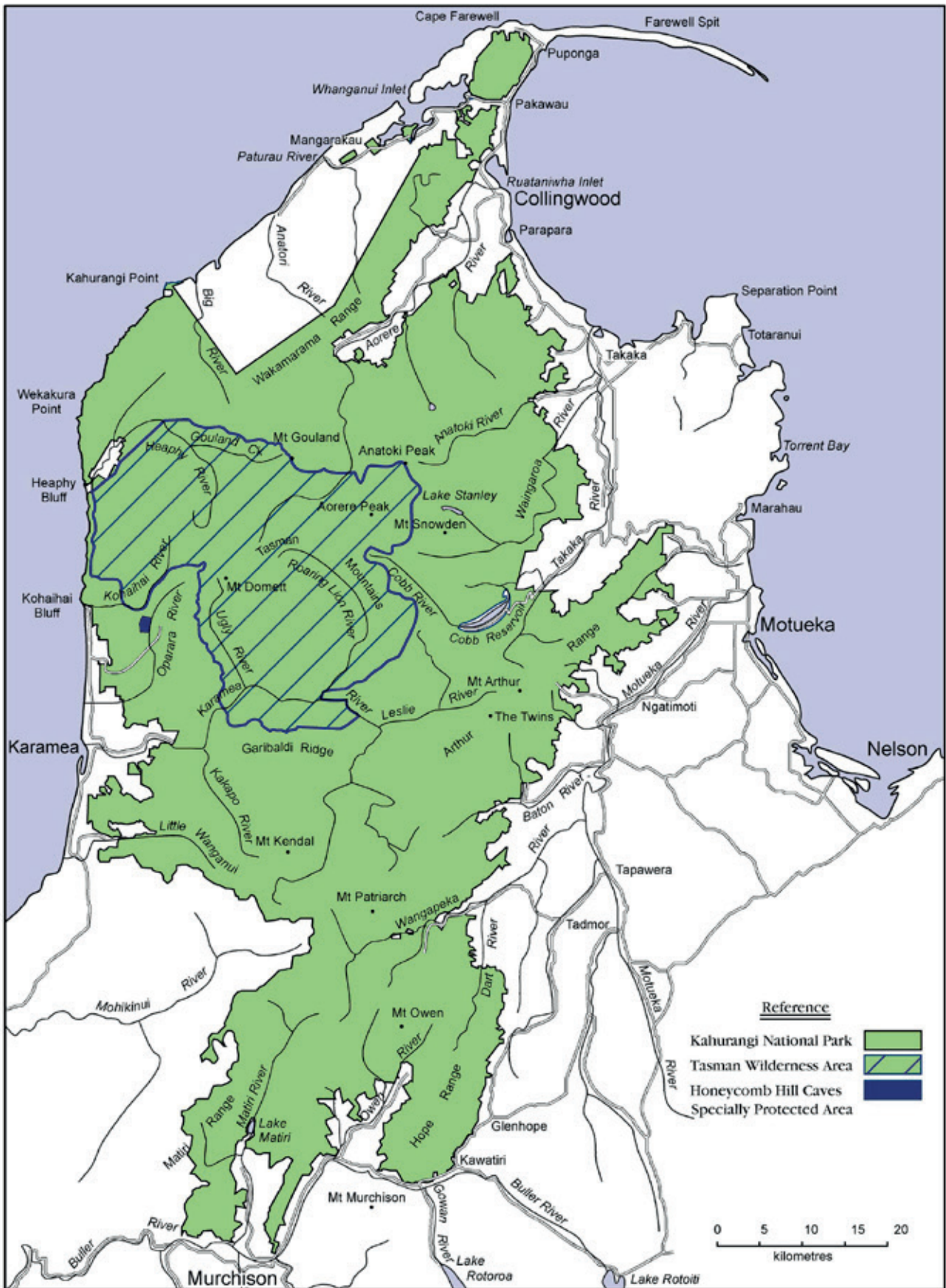
##### **Issues and opportunities**

##### ***Access***

There is pressure to make the Wilderness Area more accessible to more visitors, particularly by helicopter. However, it should be noted that Section 14(2) of the National Parks Act prohibits the use of any vehicle, including aircraft and powered vessels, in a Wilderness Area except for park management, wild animal control, approved scientific use and emergency purposes. Roads, tracks and all other facilities are also prohibited in gazetted Wilderness Areas.

There are very few places left in this country where people can go to experience a true wilderness. There are other places in this and other

# Map 3 Land Status







national parks where visitors can fly into a pristine area to experience a wilderness setting without impacting on the experiences and expectations of wilderness seekers in a formally gazetted Wilderness Area.

### ***Helicopter hunting***

Monitoring has indicated that heavy deer browse of palatable plant species and numbers of deer seen is an issue in the Tasman Wilderness Area. The Department recognises the potential contribution of hunters in preserving indigenous biodiversity through the control of deer, and may allow restricted access into the Wilderness Area at certain times of the year.

The Wilderness Area is open to commercial helicopter hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) for most of the year, in terms of Section 14(4) of the National Parks Act, provided the operator has a concession under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 to carry out the activity in the Park. This situation means that commercial hunting helicopters, including landings (see section 4.2.1.6), are uncontrolled in the Wilderness Area and have the potential to impact on visitor experiences. However, they do provide necessary wild animal control.

Commercial hunting operations (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) form the largest component of the Department's deer control in the Tasman Wilderness Area. The optimum time for deer hunting is the summer and autumn months. However, the use of helicopters for hunting is currently prohibited by the Kahurangi National Park bylaws for most of this time. To rectify this, the bylaws should be amended to reduce the exclusion period for commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) in the Tasman Wilderness Area to 22 December to 5 January (of the following year) and from 23 March to 9 April (plus the four days of Easter if it falls outside this period). This is consistent with the exclusion periods for commercial hunting in Wilderness Areas in the South Island.

The Department may use ground-based recreational hunters, positioned by helicopters, to undertake deer control in the Tasman Wilderness Area (i.e. to reduce the effects of deer browse on threatened indigenous plants). This activity should only occur between 23 March and 9 April (plus the four days of Easter if it falls outside this period), when the commercial operators are excluded; and be subject to conditions that ensure the values of the Tasman Wilderness Area are protected, such as leaving no trace of any human presence. Monitoring should also be carried out to determine whether this activity (in conjunction with commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer)) results in a reduction in deer browse of threatened plant species in the Tasman Wilderness Area. Air access for this activity is addressed in section 4.2.1 (Air access).



### ***Boundaries***

The Department has taken into account the submissions on the draft plan and the extensive consultation over at least a decade which produced the current boundaries along with the benefits gained by both the local communities and the country as a whole from the presence of the Tasman Wilderness Area. As wilderness opportunities are becoming rarer they are also becoming a highly valuable recreation resource, providing a rare opportunity for visitors and locals to experience true isolation and oneness with nature.

The existing boundaries are the result of lengthy discussions and are supported and will be retained by the Department.

### ***Visitor impacts***

As the profile of the national park increases, the “wilderness” image which the Tasman Wilderness Area lends to the Park will attract increasing numbers of domestic and international visitors to the Park as a whole and to the surrounding communities.

Due to the isolated nature and the unspoilt image of the Wilderness Area it is important to minimise human impacts in order to maintain the experience for future visitors. To this end, the building of temporary or permanent structures or campsites is prohibited, except in emergencies, under Section 14(2)(a) and (b) of the Act.

## IMPLEMENTATIONS

1. ***Aircraft landings in the Tasman Wilderness Area will not be permitted except for:***
  - (a) ***emergency, search and rescue, approved scientific, and Park management purposes;***
  - (b) ***commercial hunting operations (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) authorised by a concession issued under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977; or***
  - (c) ***the positioning of ground-based recreational hunters authorised by the Minister, where the Department determines that deer control is necessary or desirable for the preservation of the area’s indigenous natural resources (see section 4.2.1 Air access).***
2. ***Monitor the social and environmental impacts and the number of visitors to the Tasman Wilderness Area.***
3. ***Monitor the effectiveness of commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) and ground-based recreational hunting in the Tasman Wilderness Area in reducing the effects of deer browse on threatened plant species.***

4. *Retain the Tasman Wilderness Area, at its present size with existing boundaries and propose that the NZCA recommend the existing boundaries to the Minister.*
5. *Amend clause 13(3) of the existing Kaburangi National Park bylaws regarding exclusion periods for commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) in the Tasman Wilderness Area to:*
  - (a) *22 December to 5 January of the following year (inclusive); and*
  - (b) *23 March to 9 April (inclusive); and*
  - (c) *all four days of the Easter holiday period (inclusive).*

#### **4.1.3 The Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area**

##### ***Policy***

*To actively preserve the natural, cultural and scientific values of the Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area*

##### **Background**

The Honeycomb Hill Caves area (see Map 3) has Specially Protected Area status under Section 12 of the National Parks Act. Such status means that visitors require a permit from the Department for entry. The Honeycomb Hill Caves contain natural features and the Pliocene fossil remains of birds and animals which are of very high scientific and cultural value and must be protected from damage by visitors.

##### **Issues and opportunities**

A single guiding concession operates in the cave system, enabling visitors to view the delicate features under strict supervision. The concessionaire has an access permit and clients do not require a personal permit. However, anyone wishing to visit the caves independently of the guide must apply for a permit from the Department.

The Department is concerned about damage to the cave system and is, therefore, reviewing the management regime. Management options to be considered will include tendering concession opportunities, limiting visitor numbers, limiting public access to Speleological Society members only, and consideration of cave closure. This management plan may require amendment once the review is complete (2001).

#### **IMPLEMENTATIONS**

1. *Complete a review of the management regime in the Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area by 2001 with regard to access, involve key stakeholders and, until that review is complete, retain the status quo.*

2. *Until the management review is complete, recommend that the Minister limit guiding concessions to one, and restrict activities to the section of the caves which has already been developed, in order to ensure the protection of cave features and values.*
3. *Monitor the guiding concession for its impacts on natural and scientific features, and review concession conditions as appropriate to ensure protection of natural, cultural and scientific values.*
4. *Monitor the impacts of other visitors on natural and scientific features.*

## REFERENCES

### **Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Visitors to Areas Administered by the Department, p265-333, ROS map

### **West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* draft CMS**

Visitors, p173-233

ROS map

### **National Parks Act 1980**

### **Wild Animal Control Act 1977**

### **Dog Control Act 1996**

### **Resource Management Act 1991**

### **General Policy for National Parks 1983**

### **Wilderness Policy 1985**

### **Visitor Strategy 1996**

### **Hut and Track Review 1993 (Nelson/Marlborough)**

### **Camp and Service Area Review 1995 (Nelson/Marlborough)**

### **NZ Recreational Opportunity Spectrum: Guidelines for Users 1993**

### **Environmental Care Code**

## 4.2 CONCESSIONS

### ***Policy***

*To allow for appropriate concession activities in the Park while preserving its intrinsic natural, historic, cultural and recreational values from adverse effects.*

### **Background**

A concession is an official authorisation to carry out an activity on land administered by the Department of Conservation. Concessions include leases, licences, permits and easements. Concessions are required for all activities including, but not limited to, transport services, commercial education or instruction services, commercial guiding, commercial attractions and services, grazing, scientific research, recreational events, filming, the taking of materials, commercial hunting, trading, operating a business, building or occupying a structure, easements or occupation of land.

### ***Legislative changes***

Section 49 of the National Parks Act makes the provisions of Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 (as amended by the Conservation Amendment Act 1996) applicable to national parks.

The Conservation Act 1987 (Part IIIB) places new responsibilities on concession applicants to identify possible effects of their proposed activities and to suggest ways in which any adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated. It also specifies the matters the Minister must consider when deciding whether or not to grant a concession. The matters to be considered include whether or not the proposed activity is in line with the relevant CMS's and this management plan.

### ***Recreation values***

Remoteness, impressive scenery, peace and natural quiet are the things that attract most visitors to the Park. People see the Park as a place to get away from it all and experience nature at its best. Visitors have different levels of confidence and experience and therefore need different levels of facilities and services. This is where concessionaires can offer assistance with guiding and transport services which can enable visitors to have a variety of experiences and to reach different parts of the Park. Many concessionaires value the wilderness qualities of the Park and base much of their advertising on that image.

Existing concessions operating in the Park at present include ecotourism, recreational events, rafting trips, guided tramping, hunting and fishing, caving and helicopter and road transport services. There are also commercial concessions in the Park that are not related to visitor services and recreation. These include commercial deer hunting using helicopters, telecommunication transmitter sites and water and electricity supply easements.

### ***Scientific research***

Research activities currently being undertaken within the Park include the study of great spotted kiwi ecology, *Powelliphanta* distributions and the South Island kaka. Information gathering projects such as species distributions and geological mapping are also ongoing. In the past, large survey projects obtained basic information on plant ecology and introduced animal impacts. There is provision in the General Policy for approval to be given for samples to be taken for research purposes, but this also requires a concession. Projects that modify habitat can not be undertaken unless they are considered to be in the national interest. The Department itself does not require a concession to undertake research.

### **Issues and opportunities**

#### ***Protection***

The national park has significant intrinsic natural, historic and recreational values. Some concessions offer visitors an enhanced recreational or educational experience of the Park, others are for scientific purposes, filming, sports events, or for the occupation of Park land for things such as easements and the siting of telecommunication facilities. All these activities have the potential to adversely affect the natural environment and the experiences of other visitors. It is the Department's primary mandate to protect the natural values of the Park. Use by visitors and commercial interests is secondary and may not occur at the expense of the primary mandate. It is appropriate for the Minister to take a precautionary approach when little is known about the effects of an activity. Where there is a conflict the purposes of the National Parks Act will prevail.

#### ***Air access (see Section 4.2.1)***

The control of air space is the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Ministry of Transport and is administered in terms of the Civil Aviation Act 1990. Unless they are landing, aircraft are not permitted to operate below 500 feet (152m) above ground level. The Department can control the landing of aircraft, which it does through requiring permits, but it cannot control over-flying itself.

Helicopter landings and over-flying are the activities which are perceived to have the most potential to impact on the experiences of other visitors, particularly if use increases. One of the guiding principles of the Department's Visitor Strategy is that the qualities of solitude, peace and natural quiet will be safeguarded as far as possible in order to enhance visitor's enjoyment. The two Conservation Management Strategies also reflect this stance.

In order to protect the peace and natural quiet of the Park helicopter access needs to be managed in such a way that impacts on other visitors are minimised, while the opportunities provided by such access are retained. The arrival of visitors by helicopter in remote and wilderness areas can offend those trampers who have walked there and can also

result in crowding problems in huts. Helicopters are often used by the Department for park management purposes. This puts some onus on the Department to attempt to minimise the adverse social effects of its use of helicopters in the Park (see Section 6.0 Administration).

The Park has previously been used for training helicopter pilots, which is not in keeping with the remote values of the Park and should be discouraged as there are more appropriate areas outside the Park. The social impacts of fixed-wing aircraft over-flying the Park (but not landing) also need to be monitored. The Department should advocate to the Civil Aviation Authority for controls on aircraft over-flight, should adverse effects on visitor experiences become unacceptable.

The Airforce has a Defence Training Agreement with the Department and jets occasionally over-fly the Park at low altitude for training exercises. This activity should be discouraged as it is not in keeping with the wilderness and remote values of the Park.

### ***Caving***

Caves are an area where the potential for damage to ancient and fragile natural features is high and experience is generally necessary. Guiding concessions offer the general public an opportunity to experience caving in a safe and supervised environment thus helping to protect the unique and ancient features inside. However, most caves in the Park would not be appropriate for concessionaire use because of access and/or technical difficulties, safety issues, or vulnerability of the cave or karst features.

In some caves guiding concessions may be appropriate, however the number of concessions should be limited to a maximum of one per cave system in order to minimise and monitor human impacts. Concessionaires should not be given exclusive access rights to cave systems which prevent members of the public or caving clubs from exploring on their own (with the exception of Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area where an access permit is required - see Section 4.1.3). Some cave systems may need to be closed to visitors where human impacts are likely to result in unacceptable or irreversible damage to cave features.

The Cave and Karst Strategies in place and being developed will address this issue and determine cave and karst management in the Park (see also Section 3.2 Landscape).

### ***Structures and private or commercial accommodation***

The Department provides and maintains all huts and other accommodation within the Park at present, except for one hut in the Cobb which is leased to the NZ Deerstalkers Association. The Department generally views the development of privately owned commercial accommodation as inappropriate within this Park.

Structures and buildings can have impacts on the landscape and natural values of an area. It is therefore important to ensure that such adverse impacts are avoided or mitigated through sensitive design, colour, sighting and revegetation (see Section 3.2 Landscapes, Implementations 1-3 and 4.2 Concessions).



General Policy for National Parks 2005 provides for accommodation in national parks under certain criteria. Any authorisation for the development of private accommodation would need to be given by the Minister of Conservation and would need to demonstrate that it can meet the requirements of General Policy for National Parks 2005 policies 9(d) and 9(e), particularly:

- (a) The accommodation or related facility cannot reasonably be located outside the national park; and
- (b) It cannot reasonably be built elsewhere in the national park where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less; and
- (c) The applicant cannot reasonably use or share an existing structure or facility; and
- (d) Be consistent with the outcome planned for places; and
- (e) Minimise adverse effects on national park values and on the existing benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access; and
- (f) Avoid proliferation of the built environment; and
- (g) Be available for use by the public.

The overall Vision and Objectives for Kahurangi National Park is that the Park will be a place known for its “*diversity*”, “*sanctuary*” and “*wilderness*” (Section 1.4); and “*uncluttered by intrusive structures*” and “*remote and undeveloped*” (Section 1.5). The place outcome statements for the Heaphy Track Corridor indicate that visitors can expect an experience which remains free from the proliferation of manmade structures (Section 1.6).

Any private or commercial accommodation would therefore be inconsistent with General Policy for National Parks 2005 and the provisions of this management plan.

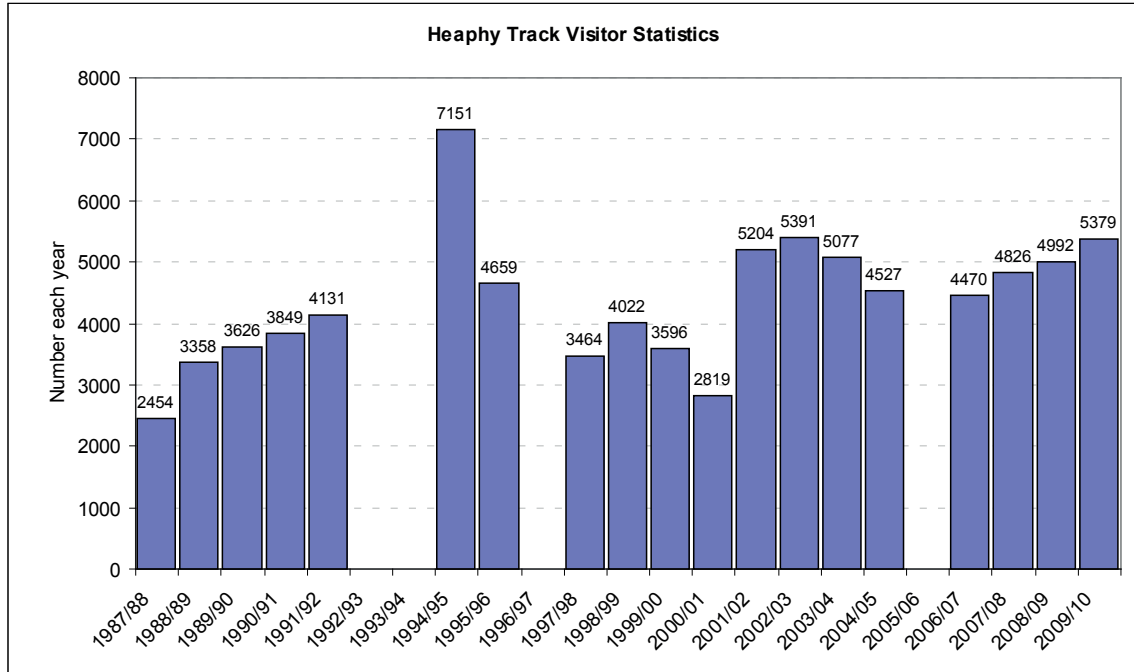
The “Heaphy Track Operational Plan” (2008) identifies potential upgrades and developments for the accommodation along the track. The intention is to upgrade or replace some existing huts over the next 5 years. Some huts will have a slightly increased capacity to align with existing visitor use patterns. Information gathered from the online hut booking system indicates that there is no increased demand for accommodation and in fact the data suggest that visitor numbers are relatively stable, as shown in Figure A.

The year round booking system for huts and campsites ensures that overcrowding and associated visitor conflicts along the Heaphy Track Corridor are minimised. The capacity of the existing accommodation limits the number of visitors walking the track on any particular day. There are a small number of day visitors but these visitors make little demand on the accommodation facilities.

The existing accommodation capacity provides a visitor experience that is consistent with the outcomes planned for the Heaphy Track Corridor. Additional accommodation would detract from this desired outcome (see

Section 1.6), lead to an increase in visitor numbers and create extra traffic on the track to service huts for commercial clients. For all these reasons additional private or commercial accommodation would not be appropriate within the Heaphy Track Corridor.

FIGURE A: HEAPHY TRACK VISITOR NUMBERS 1987 - 2007



### ***Guiding***

Guided tramping is offered by concessionaires in the Park on several of the formed tracks and also into remote areas and the Tasman Wilderness Area. Guiding is also offered for rafting, caving, hunting and fishing. Guiding concessions offer visitors, particularly those with limited experience, an opportunity to explore the Park more widely than they would on their own. There is however, the potential to clash with other visitors through overcrowding at huts or by taking large numbers of people into remote and wilderness areas.

Fishing guides in the Park require a concession from the Department and will soon also need to obtain a licence from the Fish and Game Council. It is therefore important that the two organisations liaise effectively in the administration of guided fishing.

(See also Section 4.1.1.4 Mountain biking - General management measures regarding commercially guided mountain biking)

### ***Crowding***

Increasing visitor use of the Park is likely to result in crowding, particularly in the more accessible areas of the Park and around hut sites. Conditions will be set on hut occupation by large groups, and permits will be required for extended stays in one place. Conditions can also be placed on recreational concessions. Setting limits on guided group

sizes could reduce crowding in huts and the perception of crowding in remote areas. However, in some cases, for example school groups, limits on group sizes may need to be waived for a particular guided trip.

In order to minimise crowding at huts, guiding concessionaires should only be allowed to occupy up to half of the available bunk space in any hut, on a first come first served basis, to allow for public use. It should also be made a condition of their concession that they carry or provide tents for all their clients in the event that the hut is already full or partially full. Should no other trampers arrive by dark, guided groups could then fill the remaining bunks if unoccupied. A booking system has been implemented and this has alleviated the crowding problem on the Heaphy Track. In addition, limiting the number of trips concessionaires can take into the Park per week/month may also be a useful way to manage visitor numbers.

Through limiting guided group sizes, the number of trips and hut occupation through conditions on concessions, other visitors are less likely to be disturbed or overcrowded by such groups and visitor numbers to the Park can be partially managed.

### ***Tasman Wilderness Area***

In the Tasman Wilderness Area guiding is seen by some to be in conflict with the purpose and values of the area. The self-reliance required and the solitude experienced by visitors independently exploring the Wilderness Area could be degraded by allowing guides to take large groups of inexperienced clients into the Area. Limiting the number of clients per trip and the number of trips permitted would help to avoid this conflict. There are also alternative parts of the Park, outside of the Tasman Wilderness Area, that have high remote and wilderness values which would provide guided groups with a similar experience. Guiding concessionaires should be encouraged to use those areas in preference to the Wilderness Area.

Wilderness river rafting guided tours on the Karamea River in the Tasman Wilderness Area are controlled through concession conditions, which allow for up to 20 trips per year to be shared out between all concessionaires and trips must be at least two weeks apart. There is a limit of 21 people, including guides, per trip to allow for two rafts to travel together as a safety precaution and all waste and rubbish must be removed. These limits effectively protect the environment and the wilderness experience and should be retained unless environmental effects warrant a reduction in the future.

### ***Horses***

General Policy for National Parks 2005 provides for horses to be taken into a national park if they are authorised by a management plan. Horse-riding may be undertaken in the Park in two locations: the Kahurangi Point area and near Puponga Farm Park.

Guided horse-riding to Kahurangi Point, which requires a concession, was authorised and occurring before the creation of the Park. Horses enter



**MAP F**  
**Horse access route**





the Park for a short distance to reach Kahurangi Keepers House, the former lighthouse-keeper's house, and are tethered on the grass outside the house. There is minimal impact on national park values from the presence of horses in this location. Permits for independent horse rider(s) should not be granted to access the Kahurangi Keepers House.

In recent years the issue of safety associated with guiding horses on the narrow and winding Wharariki Road (leading to Puponga Farm Park, a recreation reserve) has arisen. For this reason, provision has been made in this management plan for horse riders to access the reserve through a small part of the Park near Puponga and an adjacent block of conservation land. The route is shown on Map F.

This part of the Park has been previously modified by historical coal mining activity and the route for horse use follows the remains of an old stock route and tracks associated with the mining.

The vegetation along the route is sparse and stunted, and is predominantly manuka and gorse. Horse-riding concessionaire use of this route should be limited to eight return trips per day. As well as concessionaire use, it is reasonable to provide independent horse rider(s) with the opportunity to ride along this route. Access for independent horse rider(s) is through Puponga Farm Park. A permit from the Department's Golden Bay Area Manager is required for independent horse rider(s) to use this horse route in the Park (and to ride over Puponga Farm Park), with a limit of four permits per day. Any concession or permit should require that horse(s) are only allowed on the route if they are being led or ridden; and no horse should be permitted to stay in the Park unattended or overnight.

Environmental impacts, particularly weed spread, on the route through the Park to Puponga Farm Park, will be monitored and it is expected that concessionaires will contribute to monitoring and to any weed control, boundary fencing and maintenance work which may be required.

### ***Commercial deer and chamois hunting***

It is important to protect native vegetation from the browsing pressure of deer and chamois and the National Parks Act 1980 requires that all introduced animals are exterminated as far as possible. Deer are a high value recreational and commercial resource, but they are also an animal pest in the Park. A useful side-effect of commercial deer recovery is the control of deer numbers within the Park. Typically, commercial hunting operations (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) use helicopters, which unfortunately have adverse effects on the natural quiet and wilderness values of the Park through the generation of high noise levels and visual impacts.

Commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) requires a concession under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 to operate in the Park. There is no limit on the number of helicopter landings associated with this activity (see Section 4.2.1.6).

Commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer), authorised by a concession issued under



the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, helps to reduce deer and chamois numbers in the Park. It is therefore reasonable to allow this activity to take place over most of the Park with the exception of the Cobb Valley, Mt Arthur and Tableland area, within the Heaphy Track Corridor and along the Wangapeka Track. This is for public safety reasons and to protect the experiences of visitors to these areas. Commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) in the Tasman Wilderness Area should be excluded during the period 22 December to 5 January (of the following year) and from 23 March to 9 April (plus the four days of Easter when it falls outside of this period) (see Section 4.1.2). These exclusion periods are consistent with commercial hunting exclusion periods in Wilderness Areas in the South Island and coincide with high recreational use.

### ***Eeling***

Commercial eeling was carried out under permit in the former Forest Park from time to time over the last couple of decades. Commercial eeling permits are granted by the Ministry of Fisheries under the Fisheries Act 1996. However, a permit to take indigenous animals, under Section 5 of the National Parks Act, and a concession for access under Section IIIB of the Conservation Act (Section 49 National Parks Act), is also required from the Minister of Conservation for any commercial eeling in the Park. The General Policy for National Parks allows for commercial eeling only where there is a tradition of such use and only where the resource is sustainable.

Eel populations have been found to be highly vulnerable to over-fishing and even local extinction, due to their slow growth and reproductive rates. Because knowledge of eel ecology is limited and the sustainability of eel harvesting in the Park is unknown, the Minister should take a precautionary approach to applications. Further long-term research is required to determine the ecological sustainability of the species and this research should include both scientific and traditional Māori practice concepts.

Commercial take is considered to be inappropriate. Consequently, in order to protect vulnerable eel populations and to maintain the ecological sustainability of eels, it will be necessary to limit access to only those eelers with a proven history of fishing in the Park and to monitor the effects of such harvest. Any permit granted for commercial eeling and any concession for access should be limited to specific waters outside the Tasman Wilderness Area which have previously been fished and already have trout present, as determined by the Department. The absence of trout in some waters in the Park make those eel populations particularly valuable ecologically and eeling should not be permitted in those areas. Any authorities granted for commercial eeling should be limited to one only five year term from the date of the plan's approval.

### ***Telecommunication facilities***

Because of the mountainous nature of the Park it can provide sites for effective telecommunication facilities, some of which already exist in

the Park. Because these facilities impact on scenic and landscape values, applicants should be encouraged to locate these facilities outside the Park where practicable. Where siting in the Park is considered necessary, applications will need to be carefully assessed for adverse effects and proposed mitigation measures and whether or not the option of co-location at an existing site has been adequately investigated (see also Section 3.2 Landscape).

### ***Hydroelectric power schemes***

Operative hydroelectric power schemes in the vicinity of the Park were excluded from the national park when it was formed. However, there is some public interest in using the Park waters for small scale power generation. Such developments would only be considered appropriate where water take was negligible (less than 5% of 5 year return low flow), fish passage was provided and generating structures were located outside the Park. Hydroelectric power schemes are prohibited in national parks as they are incompatible with the National Parks Act, and this has been confirmed by case law<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Easements***

The Park is the main source of water for the communities surrounding it and easement concessions are allowed for water pipelines provided take is sustainable. Easements can also be granted for right of way access to properties surrounded by Park land.

### ***Electricity transmission facilities***

A small portion of the Park adjacent to State Highway 60 contains poles and overhead power lines which transmit high voltage electricity from the Cobb Hydroelectric Power Station. It is acknowledged that these are existing facilities which only traverse a few hundred metres of Park land. These lines provide an essential utility service and their existence, including minor upgrading, should be allowed to continue unimpeded.

However, the establishment of new overhead power lines is likely to be inappropriate within the Park.

### ***Scientific research***

Scientists and organisations outside the Department require a concession to undertake scientific research in the Park. The Department needs to encourage and support research that will provide useful information to assist in the management of plants, animals, habitats, geological features, archaeological and historic sites, pests and visitors in the Park, in line with the General Policy. Avoidance or mitigation of permanent negative environmental effects must be a requirement of any research concession in order to protect the natural values of the Park. There is provision for the taking of samples for scientific use and other scientific undertakings, but applications for such approvals must be carefully considered in accordance with the provisions of the legislation and General Policy.

All of these uses of the Park need to be managed in such a way as to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on native plants and animals, ecosystems, landscapes, geological features, historic sites, water and air quality and the experiences of visitors.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. *Process all applications for concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 (Part IIIB) and manage approved concessions under the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 and any other relevant Acts, the General Policy and the two Conservation Management Strategies.*
2. *Include in any concession issued conditions necessary to ensure that any actual or potential adverse environmental and social effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.*
3. *In assessing applications for concessions have regard to the Primary Objectives of this plan.*
4. *Recommend that the Minister does not grant concessions for any activities that are inconsistent with the Outcomes for the Heaphy Track Corridor, and/or where actual or potential adverse effects will be significant, and/or proposed mitigation measures will not adequately avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects, and/or there is no technical or other reason that the activity could not practicably be located outside the Park.*
5. *Liaise with the Fish and Game Councils regarding the management of concessions involving sports fish and/or gamebirds.*
6. *Give effect to, and where necessary establish, a protocol with nga iwi for a consultation process for concessions applications, which reflects the provisions of the Ngai Tahu Claim Settlement Act.*
7. *Recommend that the Minister ensure all concessions for guided walking include conditions which limit the number of people per trip to 6 (including guides) in the Tasman Wilderness Area, 8 (including guides) in the remote zones of the Park and 12 (including guides) in the backcountry zones of the Park.<sup>4</sup>*
8. *Consider exceptions to group number limits for single trips for school and other such groups on a case by case basis (but not in the Tasman Wilderness Area), to be approved by the Conservator.*
9. *Make an exception to group number limits for guided rafting*

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<sup>3</sup> Case Law: Buller Electricity Limited vs Attorney General [1995] 3NZLR344.

*in the Tasman Wilderness Area and allow a maximum of 21 (including guides) per trip.*

10. *Consider placing a limit on the number of trips permitted per week/month as a condition on guiding concessions where frequency of operation will have adverse effects on other users.*
11. *Recommend that the Minister make rubbish removal and, where appropriate, waste removal a condition of all guiding and transport concessions.*
12. *Ensure all guiding concessions include conditions which permit all guides and clients in any one but to occupy a total of no more than 50 percent of available bunk space on a first come, first served basis and require concessionaires to carry or provide tents for their entire party for use in case bunks are occupied.*
13. *Consider placing a limit on the total number of guiding concessions in the Park if cumulative adverse environmental or social effects become unacceptable.*
14. *Recommend that the Minister does not grant authorisation for any private accommodation within the Heaphy Track Corridor as it is not consistent with the outcomes identified for this place (see also Section 1.6 Heaphy Track Corridor Place).*
15. *Recommend that the Minister consider concessions for guided mountain biking on tracks identified for mountain bike use in accordance with Section 4.1.1.12, Implementation 9.*
16. *Advocate to the Civil Aviation Authority for flight path and/or altitude regulations should they be considered necessary as a result of monitoring impacts on visitors.*
17. *Discourage the Air Force from using the airspace above the Park for training flights and ensure that any Defence activities comply with the Defence Training Agreement.*
18. *In those cave systems where concessions are considered appropriate in terms of the Cave and Karst Strategies, recommend that the Minister permit a maximum of one guiding concession per cave system, while still allowing for the public right of free access (except in the Honeycomb Hill Caves Specially Protected Area - see Section 4.1.3) see also Section 3.2 Landscape.*
19. *Consult the New Zealand Speleological Society, local caving clubs and iwi when establishing the appropriateness of concessionaire activity in any cave.*
20. *Guided horse riding concessions should only be allowed in the following locations:*

- (i) *the Kaburangi Point area; and*
- (ii) *the route to the south of Puponga Farm Park as shown on Map F from NZTM co-ordinate 1574703E, 5514912N adjacent to Puponga Farm Park to NZTM co-ordinate 1575595E, 5514141N.*
21. *Conditions should be placed on guided horse riding concessions to minimise effects on national park values, and:*
- (i) *for the route to the south of the Puponga Farm Park, include a limit of eight return trips per day and financial contributions towards monitoring, boundary fencing and track maintenance;*
- (ii) *for the Kaburangi Point area, in accordance with the concession that was in existence in 2001, to ensure that the levels of use in 1998 are not exceeded, horse(s) are not kept in the Park overnight, and horse(s) are restricted to areas specified in the concession.*
22. *Independent horse rider(s) should be allowed to use the horse route to the south of Puponga Farm Park (as shown on Map F) provided a permit has been granted, and no more than four permits are granted per day.*
23. *Recommend that the Minister consider granting an authority<sup>5</sup> for commercial eeling only where an application meets the following criteria:*
- *the take will not affect the ecological sustainability of the species;*
  - *the applicant is an individual with a proven history of regularly fishing for eels in the Park;*
  - *the waterways in which fishing is to take place are outside the Tasman Wilderness Area; already have introduced fish species present and are considered appropriate by the Department;*
  - *catch monitoring and ecological research are carried out.*
24. *Recommend that the Minister limit any commercial eeling authority to a single five year term and make the rights non-transferable.*
25. *Seek a bylaw to prohibit all commercial eeling in the Park*

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<sup>4</sup> This implementation policy needs to be read in conjunction with the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy approved in April 2010 for that part of the Tasman Wilderness Area covered by that conservation management strategy. This is because a national park management plan cannot derogate from a conservation management strategy. In other words the provisions of the more recent West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy carry greater authority than those in this management plan which date from 1996.

*after five years from the approval of the management plan.*

26. *Work with the Ministry of Fisheries and nga iwi to ascertain whether or not eeling is ecologically sustainable within the Park and is otherwise compatible with national park values.*
27. *Allow for the use of appropriate motorised vessels by commercial eelers with concessions in the waterways specified on their permit.*
28. *Consider applications for water take for small scale micro-hydroelectric power generation where generating structures are located outside the Park and water take is less than 5% of five year low flow, other environmental impacts are minimal and provision is made for fish passage.*
29. *Continue to grant easements for water supply, where sustainable, and easements for electricity supply and transmission, and access to property where necessary.*
30. *Encourage scientific research projects which are relevant and beneficial to Park management.*
31. *Assess applications to take samples for scientific use on a case by case basis.*
32. *Encourage applicants for telecommunications facilities to locate them outside the Park where possible, or to co-locate them at existing sites within the Park where practicable and to minimise their visual impacts as far as possible (see also Section 3.2 Landscape).*

## REFERENCES

### **Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Use of Areas Administered by the Department, p231-263

### **West Coast Te Tai o Poutini draft CMS**

Private and Commercial Activities, Structures and Facilities, p235-262

### **Conservation Act 1987 (Part IIIB)**

### **National Parks Act 1980**

### **Wild Animal Control Act 1977**

### **Civil Aviation Act 1990**

### **General Policy for National Parks 1983**

### **Visitor Strategy 1996**

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<sup>5</sup> An authority consists of a concession for access under Section 49 of the National Parks Act, and a permit to take under Section 5 of that Act.



## **4.2.1 Air access**

### **4.2.1.1 Policy**

*To manage and control aircraft landings to minimise impacts of aircraft activity on the Park's natural values and visitor experiences and allow for a range of recreational opportunities.*

### **4.2.1.2 Statutory framework**

All aircraft operators taking off or landing in the Park need a concession in accordance with section 17ZF of the Conservation Act 1987 (other than the exceptions outlined below). This includes private aircraft. The definition of landing includes hovering or setting down or taking on people or goods.

Concessions are not required for aircraft landings associated with emergency or search and rescue activity (in accordance with section 17O(3)(c) of the Conservation Act 1987); or aircraft landings by the Department, or its contractors or agents, for conservation management purposes (in accordance with section 17O(3)(d) of the Conservation Act 1987). These include the Department's hut and track servicing, wild animal control operations, species and habitat protection activities, weed control, and protection of historical and cultural heritage. Whilst this work is necessary, or desirable for the preservation of the Park's natural and historic resources, or to provide for the public use and enjoyment of the Park, the adverse effects are potentially the same as for other aircraft use. All flights and landings should therefore be kept to a minimum and managed in a way that minimises adverse effects, such as following good practice guidance developed between the Department and concessionaires.

Aircraft landings in the Park for commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) require a concession under Part 2 of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, in accordance with Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 (see Section 4.2 Concessions - Commercial deer and chamois hunting). This type of access provides conservation benefit through the control of deer and other species. The concession may include conditions to minimise the effects of the activity on the values of the Park, including visitor experience.

Aircraft landings in the Tasman Wilderness Area for the positioning of ground-based recreational hunters are only permitted for deer control purposes (see sections 4.1.2 and 4.2.1.6d). The hunter requires authority from the Minister under section 14(4) of the National Parks Act 1980. The helicopter operator requires a concession under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987.

Any person who lands an aircraft in the Park without a concession (where one is required) commits an offence under the National Parks Act 1980 in accordance with Section 60(1)(i).

In addition to the above statutory provisions, General Policy for National Parks 2005 policies 10.6(a) to 10.6(h), which address the use of powered aircraft, have been taken into account in the development of the air access provisions in this plan.

#### **4.2.1.3 Background and current use**

There is a history of helicopter access prior to Kahurangi National Park being created, when it was still managed as the North West Nelson Forest Park. The use of helicopters to support trout fishing, hunting and tramping has been an established use for more than 30 years; and in the case of caving, more than 40 years.

The main focus of activity is on the Karamea Bend area which is recognised as an internationally significant trout fishery. Recreational fishers and fishers accompanied by professional fishing guides use helicopters to gain access to the area.

In more recent years there has also been an interest in visiting sites around Mt Owen and Mt Olympus - sites used in the “Lord of the Rings” films. There has also been a growth in heli-tramping where walkers use a helicopter to transport them into more remote parts of the Park. Cavers, rafters and kayakers have traditionally made use of helicopters to transport people and equipment.

Prior to the creation of Kahurangi National Park, aircraft were allowed to land anywhere within the (then) North-West Nelson Forest Park, except the Tasman Wilderness Area. When Kahurangi National Park was created this traditional aircraft use was recognised and the need for an air access strategy signalled. There are currently eight concessionaires (not associated with commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer)) with authority to land aircraft in the Park.

#### **4.2.1.4 Issues**

Allowing helicopters to land in the Park provides recreational opportunities, particularly for fishers and hunters. The demand for aircraft access to public conservation land creates management issues for the Department. Over-flights and actual landings impinge on natural quiet values and can diminish the experiences of recreationists who expect a high level of natural quiet. Visitors arriving by air can encroach on the experience of others who have invested more effort accessing remote areas on foot. Helicopter transportation can also increase the risk of introducing or spreading pest plants and animals (such as didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*)) in the Park.

Underpinning the management approach is the principle that the further a visitor is away from road access in the Park, the higher the probability that they will have a remote experience and fewer people will be present. However, it is often these areas of the Park that have the highest demand for helicopter access.

#### **4.2.1.5 Air supported activities**

The Department seeks to manage air access so that impacts on others are minimised. A balance is required between protecting areas for their biodiversity values; the social values of remoteness, solitude, peace and quiet; and providing visitors with access to those areas by aircraft for

recreational activities. In order to achieve this, limits on where and how often aircraft land in the Park have been introduced (see Section 4.2.1.6). The range of recreational activity supported by aircraft access in the Park, provided for by this plan, is described in detail in the sections below. Some activities, such as commercial or recreational heli-biking are not considered appropriate in the Park) (see Sections 4.1.1.4 (f) and 4.1.1.12 Implementation 2).

#### **4.2.1.5a *Fishing***

The Park has high quality trout fishing rivers. Most famous of these are the Karamea Bend and Roaring Lion sections of the Karamea River, with a number of other outstanding areas, including the Crow and Aorere River. Access to these areas would take several days on foot and would be impractical for many users. As a result, use of helicopters by guided and unguided fishing parties has become an established activity at these locations. Operations are based in Nelson, Motueka and Karamea.

All aircraft landings associated with recreational fishing should be subject to the air access provisions in this plan. For the purposes of this plan, landing a helicopter and carrying out guided fishing are regarded as separate activities requiring separate concessions, one held by the helicopter operator and the other by the fishing guide.

#### **4.2.1.5b *Recreational hunting***

There is a history of recreational hunters using helicopter operators who are authorised by a concession to fly into and land in the Park (other than into the Tasman Wilderness Area). From the landing site the hunters conduct ground-based recreational hunting, often over a number of days before being flown out again. Whilst ground-based recreational hunting close to road ends and population centres can have a significant role in the control of animal pests, this is not the case in remote areas where access by helicopters is required. All aircraft landings for the purposes of positioning ground-based recreational hunters should be subject to the air access provisions in this plan. Shooting from helicopters for recreational purposes should not be allowed in order to protect the experience of other Park users.

#### **4.2.1.5c *Heli-tramping***

A growing trend is for a point-to-point walk, taking place over several hours or days, with the assistance of a helicopter to drop off and pick up visitors at the start and finish. This allows the visitor to experience the contrast in moving from civilisation to a very remote area in a short period of time. It also allows for a visitor to experience a remote area without having to spend a number of days walking to the location. This activity is growing in popularity for both New Zealand and overseas visitors, particularly for those who have limited time and/or reduced mobility.

#### **4.2.1.5d *Scenery appreciation***

Feature films, such as “Lord of the Rings”, have stimulated interest in

viewing particular scenic features in the Park, such as Mt Olympus. Helicopter landings for this purpose usually involve a very short stay but may incorporate a picnic or short walk.

#### **4.2.1.5e *Rafting and kayaking***

The Park has outstanding waterways for rafting and kayaking activities particularly on the Karamea River. Rafters and kayakers often require access to the rivers upstream of their trip start points in order to assess the flow. There is a need to transport equipment and people by helicopter to save time in getting to the start of the trip and avoid the practical difficulty of carrying heavy and/or awkward objects overland for long distances. There may in some cases be the need to pick up rafters, kayakers and equipment from within the Park as well.

#### **4.2.1.5f *Caving***

The Park contains an extensive network of caves some of which are nationally and/or internationally significant in terms of their geological, conservation and recreational caving value. Caving expedition group sizes may reach as many as 30 people (although more commonly 10-12). Often expeditions use helicopters to transport equipment and people to the cave site. This plan recognises caving as an appropriate activity to be supported through air access provisions. However, to protect the special values of the caves and surrounding ecology, caving expeditions are managed through a permit system (See Section 4.1 Visitor services and management - Caving).

#### **4.2.1.6 *Management approach***

This plan seeks to manage aircraft landings for recreational purposes and filming in the Park in a way that keeps the impact on the Park's natural values and on other users of the Park at a reasonable level. This approach facilitates legitimate recreational and some commercial activities whilst retaining the essential character of the Park as remote, undeveloped and with a sense of natural quiet.

In order to manage aircraft landings in the Park, a zone-based approach has been developed (see Map G and Appendix C). One of the tools originally used to determine the aircraft landing zones was the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), which identifies the type of recreation experience available in different ROS classes (see Appendix 5). Other factors taken into account include:

- (a) natural and recreation values; and
- (b) the historical, unrestricted use of aircraft to support recreational activities (such as fishing and caving) throughout the Park (except in the Tasman Wilderness Area). This use has primarily been based on transporting clients to locations of their own choosing (rather than sites pre-determined by the aircraft operator), which differs from other national parks where aircraft landings do not generally occur or are restricted to a limited number of specific landing sites.

In each zone the frequency of landings has been limited according to the legislative framework, the values of the land, the visitor experience sought and having regard to the current levels of landings occurring in each zone. The zones are “frequent”, “restricted”, “remote” and the “Tasman Wilderness Area”. Annual (1 July - 30 June) and monthly landing allocations are provided for visitor positioning, which includes activities such as walking, tramping, fishing, recreational hunting, kayaking, rafting and scenery appreciation, but not heli-biking. Landings associated with filming, commercial rafting, organised private rafting/kayaking groups, caving and private aircraft (see Section 4.2.1.7) have been provided for separately and in addition to the landing allocations for visitor positioning (see Section 4.2.1.7 and refer to Table B).

Individual aircraft operators will each be allocated an annual and a monthly proportion of the total specified landing limits for visitor positioning in each aircraft landing zone (as set out in Table B, section 4.2.1.8). With the exception of landings at the Heaphy Hut (see section 4.2.1.6b) and within the Tasman Wilderness Area (see section 4.2.1.6d), operators will be able to choose where and when they land in each of the aircraft landing zones in accordance with their individual allocation. Air access into the Tasman Wilderness Area is managed separately to these aircraft landing zones (see section 4.2.1.6d).

Where practicable, the aircraft landing zone boundaries follow distinct geographic features so that aircraft operators can easily identify where they can and cannot land. In most instances the boundaries follow prominent ridges or watershed catchments. Accompanying Map G (Aircraft landing zones) is a schedule (Appendix C), which describes the boundaries of the aircraft landing zones where they do not follow a ridgeline (for instance a hut landing site). The aircraft landing zone boundaries are plotted on the Department’s electronic Geographic Information System and are overlaid on topographic contours and aerial photographs. This electronic file, with New Zealand Mapping Grid Co-ordinates of all points on the aircraft landing zone boundaries, can be provided on request to aircraft operators and other interested persons.

Aircraft operators with a concession issued under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 for commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) may land anywhere in the Park, other than:

- (a) at all times, within the Cobb Valley flats, Mount Arthur and Tableland area, or within 1km of the Heaphy Track or Wangapeka Track (see Section 4.2 Concessions - Commercial deer and chamois hunting); or
- (b) at certain times within the Tasman Wilderness Area (see Section 4.1.2 The Tasman Wilderness Area).

These aircraft landings are not subject to the allocations set out in Table B (page 124).

Aircraft may land anywhere on public conservation land for management

or search and rescue purposes. When using aircraft associated with conservation activities the Department managers are encouraged to adhere to the zone criteria and recommended landing frequencies as much as possible, and to consider the effects of aircraft and ways to avoid, remedy, or mitigate those effects.

#### **4.2.1.6a *Frequent Zone***

Aircraft have traditionally been used to support recreational fishers and other visitors accessing the Karamea Bend and Roaring Lion Hut locations. As such, these two areas comprise the “frequent” zone (refer Map G). The maximum number of landings for this zone is 265 per year (1 July - 30 June) and 90 per calendar month.

#### **4.2.1.6b *Restricted Zone***

The majority of the Park is zoned “restricted” (refer Map G). The maximum number of landings for this entire zone is 520 per year (1 July - 30 June) and 145 per calendar month.

There are a number of specific “restricted” zone landing sites within the “remote” zone. These are: adjacent to the Kahurangi Keepers Hut and the Heaphy Hut; near Mt Olympus; adjacent to the mid-reaches of the Aorere River; at the Cobb Valley Road end (near Trilobite Hut); and adjacent to the lower and mid-reaches of the Crow River. Concessions for landings adjacent to the other huts within the Heaphy Track Corridor should be phased out by 31 December 2015. Specific provision has been made for aircraft landings at the Kahurangi Keepers Hut, the Heaphy Hut and the Cobb Valley Road end because landings could potentially take place near to these sites outside the Park (such as on beaches or legal road).

The Kahurangi Keepers Hut and Heaphy Hut landing sites have been limited to small areas adjacent to each hut to minimise adverse impacts on visitor experience. To further minimise adverse impacts on visitors there should be no more than 10 landings per year at the Heaphy Hut, restricted to one operator only, from 1 October to 30 April and between the hours of 10 am to 3 pm. The full review of the plan will canvas continued landings at the Heaphy Hut, including any measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

Viewing of Mt Olympus has been restricted to a 500 metre radius vantage point to provide for existing scenic flights, but excludes landings on the summit. The Aorere and Crow River areas provide for fishing access. The Cobb Valley Road end site has a long history of aircraft landing use. The access road to the Cobb Reservoir allows groups of people, particularly fishers and ground-based recreational hunters, to drive to the road end where they can then be ferried further into the Park by helicopter, thereby reducing the flying time.

Aircraft operators have the ability to decide when and where they use their allocations of aircraft landings within the “restricted” zone so long as they do not exceed the monthly and yearly limits described above. If monitoring indicates that aircraft activity is causing undue adverse effects,



further restrictions, such as daily landing limits, will be introduced. These could be for the whole “restricted” zone, or at particular sites or parts of the “restricted” zone. These limits and/or measures may be implemented through a booking system that will be zone and/or site specific.

#### **4.2.1.6c Remote Zone**

Selected areas of the Park have been identified as “remote” zone (refer Map G). The planned outcome for the “remote” zone is that their wilderness qualities are protected. Visitors have the opportunity to experience the remoteness, impressive scenery, peace and natural quiet of these areas. Aircraft landings within the “remote” zone should not occur. The “remote” zone will also protect geodiversity and scenic values, and biodiversity values that are sensitive to increased human activity, or are susceptible to weed and pest incursions.

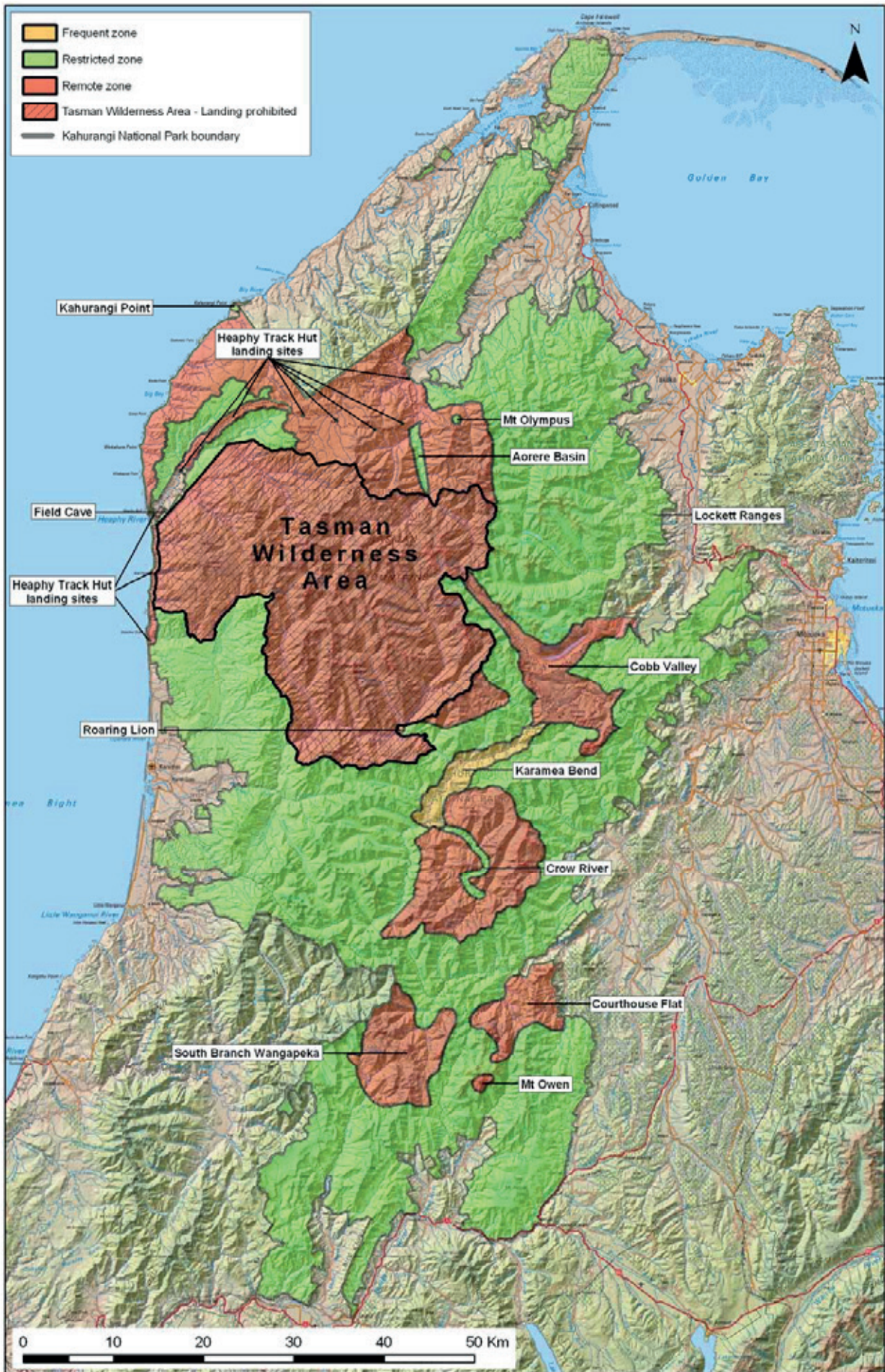
The areas designated as “remote” zone are located alongside the northwestern coastline and the Heaphy Track Corridor, and around: the Gouland Ranges and Mt Olympus; the Cobb Valley and Flora tracks; the Luna and South Arthur Ranges, Mt Arthur and Tableland area; Granity Creek and Courthouse Flat; Mt Owen; and the South Branch of the Wangapeka River.

Occasional landings within the “remote” zone by the New Zealand Speleological Society may be allowed for major caving expeditions to transport equipment (not people). Applications should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and any permits granted should contain conditions to minimise any adverse effects on the wilderness qualities of the remote zone.

The Department can only control landings on public conservation lands and waters (which excludes legal roads) and not the movement of aircraft in the air space above the Park, therefore some aircraft activity may be experienced by users of these remote areas. For example, from time to time there may be landings at Courthouse Flat on legal road outside of the Park.

#### **4.2.1.6d Tasman Wilderness Area**

The Tasman Wilderness Area was created in June 1996 in accordance with Section 14(1) of the National Parks Act 1980 to maintain its wilderness values. No aircraft are allowed to land or take off or hover in this Wilderness Area other than aircraft used for: Park management, approved scientific, or search and rescue purposes; positioning of ground-based recreational hunters authorised by the Minister under section 14(4) of the National Parks Act 1980 for deer control; or commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) authorised by a concession issued under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977. The Department recognises the potential contribution to the preservation of indigenous biodiversity that hunters can have through the control of deer populations in the Tasman Wilderness Area and may allow restricted aircraft access at certain times of the year (see Section 4.1.2 Tasman Wilderness Area).



MAP G  
Aircraft landing zones





#### **4.2.1.7 Other activities**

There are other activities that may take place in the Park which can involve a relatively intense period of helicopter landings for a limited period of time, such as rafting, caving and kayaking trips. Filming is another such activity.

Landing allocations for these activities, as well as private aircraft landings, have been provided for separately in addition to the landing allocations for the aircraft landing zones (see Table B and the sections below).

Only aircraft operators with concessions authorising them to land in Kahurangi National Park can land helicopters in the Park.

##### **4.2.1.7a *Filming***

The nature of filming is such that it is not possible to generalise about this activity. To date, most filming in the Park has been on a small scale, with the exception being the filming of 'The Lord of the Ring' which was a significant and large-scale filming event. Applications for helicopter landings for filming purposes should be considered on their merits on a case by case basis, with a maximum of 200 landings per year (1 July - 30 June) and 10 landings in any one day for this activity. In assessing any application the following factors should be taken into consideration:

- (a) The need to undertake filming in the Park;
- (b) The location, time of year and length of operation;
- (c) The number of landings required; and
- (d) The effects of the landings/take-offs.

Applications for helicopter landings for filming purposes must be considered in accordance with section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980, Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987, General Policy for National Parks 2005 and the provisions of this plan relating to aircraft use. The Minister of Conservation has previously used his or her discretion to enable large-scale filming events to take place in the Park.

##### **4.2.1.7b *Rafting (commercial)***

Commercial rafting trips are limited to no more than 22 trips per year (1 July - 30 June) and require a rafting concession to operate in the Park (refer Section 4.2 Concessions, Tasman Wilderness Area). In relation to aircraft access, each 'trip' comprises:

- (a) up to five landings in a three hour period to disembark people and unload equipment; and
- (b) up to five landings in a further three hour period to pick up people and equipment.

This allows for rafting clients and their guide to be dropped upstream on a river and a limited amount of equipment to be picked up later as part of the same trip if required. Aircraft landings required for commercial rafting trips will be considered as part of the concession application for commercial rafting. The commercial rafting concession can then be presented to an aircraft operator who is then authorised to land in the Park.

#### **4.2.1.7c Rafting/Kayaking (private)**

There are two different types of private rafting/kayaking trips, supported by helicopters, that can take place in the Park:

- (a) individuals who wish to be flown into the Park by a helicopter operator who holds a concession to land in the Park; and
- (b) organised groups who require multiple helicopter landings to support their activity.

Helicopter landings for the first type of trip are provided for, within the “frequent” and “restricted” zones, in the annual and monthly allocation for visitor positioning (refer Table B). Under the visitor positioning activity each landing is counted. Typically this provision would be used where the people and equipment can be taken in one or two helicopter flights. No prior permit is required for rafting or kayaking from the Department, but the helicopter operator does require a concession to land in the Park.

Helicopter landings for organised rafting and kayaking “trips” requiring multiple landings to drop off and pick up the group and their equipment are provided for by an additional landing allocation. Twelve rafting/kayaking trips supported by helicopter landings have been allocated per year (1 July - 30 June) for this type of private rafting or kayaking trip. Each “trip” comprises:

- (i) up to five landings in a three hour period to disembark people and unload equipment; and
- (ii) up to five landings in a further three hour period at a later time to pick up people and equipment.

This allows for private rafters and kayakers and their equipment to be dropped upstream on a river and for them and their equipment to be picked up later as part of the same trip if required either that day or on another day. Persons organising a private rafting or kayaking trip involving helicopter landings under this provision need to first apply to the Department for a helicopter landing permit and then present this to a helicopter operator who is then authorised to land in the Park. Flexibility in the dates, times and rivers may be considered in recognition that river conditions can change rapidly.

#### **4.2.1.7d Caving**

Twelve caving expeditions supported by helicopter landings are provided for each year (1 July - 30 June). Each expedition comprises up to five landings in a three hour period to disembark people and unload equipment, and five landings in a further three hour period at a later time to extract people and equipment, either that day or on another day. This allows for several landings at one site or staggered landings on a cave system depositing or collecting people and equipment.

Opportunities for caving expeditions supported by helicopter landings will be allocated in consultation with the New Zealand Speleological Society. Individuals or groups organising a caving expedition involving

helicopter landings need to first apply to the Department for a helicopter landing permit and then present this to a helicopter operator who is then authorised to land in the Park.

In recognition of long established practice in the Park for cavers, provision is made for “backloads” to be excluded from the landing allocation. A “backload” occurs where a caving expedition leaves heavy, non-perishable equipment secured in cargo nets at a site to await pick up by a helicopter operator when overflying from another flight (which could be up to several weeks later), while the cavers walk out carrying personal and lighter gear.

Landings for a “backload” must meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) Only equipment and rubbish are removed from the Park, not people. A backload cannot be used to transport equipment or people into the Park or from one cave system in the Park to another cave system within the Park.
- (b) The equipment and rubbish to be extracted and the location of extraction is from a caving expedition allocated in consultation with the New Zealand Speleological Society and undertaken under the authority of a permit issued by the Department.
- (c) The aircraft extracting the backload is already flying a route on or close to the site of the backload, generally on a return flight from another allocated landing, and the aircraft remains on the ground for the minimum time required to load the equipment and/or rubbish. Where possible the equipment and rubbish shall be well secured in cargo nets prior to the aircraft’s arrival.
- (d) The aircraft operator notes on their concession return provided regularly to the Department where and for whom the backload was picked up, and where it was taken to.

**Note:** Cave search and rescue exercises (SAREX) are not considered caving expeditions and are not included in the landing allocation. However, the relevant caving SAREX organisers should consult with the Department when such exercises are programmed, as it is important to ensure that unsustainable impacts to the local surface ecology or to the cave system do not occur.

#### **4.2.1.7e *Private aircraft***

These are landings by individuals who do not hold a commercial licence recognised by the New Zealand Aviation Industry (NZAI) but which still require a concession under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act. Landings of this nature have been limited to 20 per year (1 July - 30 June).

#### **4.2.1.8 Allocation of aircraft landings**

The maximum number of aircraft landings, per year (1 July - 30 June) and per calendar month, for visitor positioning and the other activities described above, are set out below in Table B.



TABLE B: MAXIMUM AIRCRAFT LANDINGS

| ACTIVITY REQUIRING AIR ACCESS  | ZONE<br>(REFER TO MAP G)        | YEARLY* MAXIMUM<br>(LANDINGS) | MONTHLY MAXIMUM<br>(LANDINGS) |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Visitor positioning (e.g. walking, fishing, ground-based recreational hunting, scenery appreciation, private kayaking and rafting) | Frequent                        | 265                           | 90                            |
|  | Restricted                      | 520                           | 145                           |
|  | Remote                          | -                             | -                             |
| Landing of private aircraft  | Frequent and restricted         | 20                            | -                             |
| Filming (maximum 10 landings in any one day)   | Frequent and restricted         | 200                           |                               |
| <b>Specific activity trips/expeditions (includes maximum of 10 landings per trip/expedition)</b>                                   |                                 |                               |                               |
| Caving expeditions (12 per year)   | Frequent, restricted and remote | 120                           | -                             |
| Commercial rafting trips (22 per year)   | Frequent and restricted         | 22                            | -                             |
| Private (organised group) rafting/ kayaking trips (12 per year)  | Frequent and restricted         | 120                           | -                             |
| <b>Total Landings</b>  |                                 | <b>1465</b>                   |                               |

\* 1 July - 30 June of the following year

Where the maximum number of aircraft landings identified in this plan has been allocated for any particular activity, any new concession application for that activity should be declined and applicants advised to use existing concessionaires to undertake the activity on their behalf. It should be noted that some or all of the levels of activities may already be allocated to existing concessionaires.

#### 4.2.1.9 Quiet technology

Changes in the aircraft industry include the development and the introduction of quieter aircraft technology. The Department encourages the use of quieter aircraft and quieter flying techniques, advocating use of best practice such as the “Fly Neighbourly Guide” (Fly Neighbourly Committee, 1993). There is no local aircraft user group for the Nelson/Marlborough region but the aircraft users should be encouraged to establish one.

Concessions will only be granted where aviation regulations are met and where adverse effects (such as noise) can be avoided, remedied or mitigated. As aircraft activity will be managed as a limited opportunity in the future, any new concessions processes will favour applicants using quieter aircraft technology. Such technology will be identified through liaison with individual concessionaires and industry representatives.

#### 4.2.1.10 Good practice

In recognition that the Department can only control landings on conservation land, the Department will work with concessionaires and

industry representatives to develop a good practice guide. The guide will focus on methods by which flights and landings can be conducted to minimise the impact of aircraft activity on other users of the Park. The guide will cover the following:

- (a) Distance from huts when landing.
- (b) Optimum times of landing near huts or on tracks.
- (c) Flight paths and heights to minimise impact on visitors and indigenous fauna.
- (d) Placing/location of aircraft when waiting for clients e.g. at picnic sites.

#### **4.2.1.11 Monitoring**

The effectiveness of the management approach to air access, particularly the zone-based aircraft landing restrictions, will be monitored. Monitoring covers potential adverse effects on the environment, and visitor experiences as well as operator compliance. Environmental effects will be measured on a site-specific basis to establish what impacts are occurring. Social impacts will be determined through visitor surveys on the Heaphy Track and feedback through the Department. Compliance monitoring will take place using concessionaire activity returns and through the use of available tracking technology. If appropriate, concessions will be amended to require the use of new technologies that monitor aircraft activity, which may be used to amend the boundaries of the zones or the zone-based aircraft landing management approach when the plan is reviewed in full.

#### **4.2.1.12 IMPLEMENTATIONS**

- 1. *All aircraft operators require a concession for aircraft landings in the Park, except landings for emergency or search and rescue purposes, or landings undertaken by the Department or its contractors or agents for management purposes.***
- 2. *Concessions should not be granted for aircraft landings associated with mountain biking.***
- 3. *Concessions should not be granted for aircraft landings within the Tasman Wilderness Area except for:***
  - (a) *commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) authorised under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 in accordance with Section 4.1.2; or***
  - (b) *the positioning of ground-based recreational hunters authorised by the Minister under section 14(4) of the National Parks Act 1980 for deer control; or***
  - (c) *approved scientific purposes.***

4. *Concessions for aircraft landings within the Tasman Wilderness Area to position ground-based recreational hunters should not be granted unless the Department considers that deer control is required to reduce the effects of deer browse on threatened indigenous plants in the Tasman Wilderness Area. Any concession should be subject to the following conditions and criteria:*
  - (a) *landings only occur between 23 March and 9 April and during the four days of the Easter holiday period;*
  - (b) *there is no practical alternative access to the area;*
  - (c) *it can be shown that no other visitor group is likely to be significantly adversely affected by the landings;*
  - (d) *all hunters hold a current hunting permit for the area;*
  - (e) *landings only occur at sites determined by the Department;*
  - (f) *no evidence of any human presence is left in the Park;*
  - (g) *all hunters are required to provide the Department with returns about the hunting trip, including how many deer were killed; and*
  - (h) *any continued access is dependent upon all criteria being met, particularly the effectiveness of the hunting parties in controlling deer, which may include an assessment of the returns provided above.*
5. *Concessions should not be granted for aircraft landings within the “remote” zone as identified on Map G (and in Appendix C) except for:*
  - (a) *commercial hunting (the recovery of carcasses for food processing and the live recovery of deer) authorised under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977; or*
  - (b) *caving expeditions approved in accordance with Section 4.2.1.7d.*
6. *Concessions should not be granted for aircraft landings for visitor positioning in the “frequent” and “restricted” zones on Map G (and in Appendix C) except in accordance with the criteria and limits set out in Sections 4.2.1.6a, 4.2.1.6b and in Table B.*
7. *Concessions should not be granted for one off aircraft landings in the “frequent” and “restricted” zones by private helicopter owners except in accordance with the criteria and limits set out in Section 4.2.1.7e and in Table B.*
8. *Concessions should not be granted for aircraft landings supporting commercial rafting trips, private (organised group) rafting/kayaking trips, or caving expeditions in the “frequent” and “restricted” zones except in accordance with*

*the limits set out in Sections 4.2.1.7b , 4.2.1.7c and 4.2.1.7d and in Table B.*

9. *Concessions should not be granted for aircraft landings for filming in the “frequent” and “restricted” zone except in accordance with the limits set out in Section 4.2.1.7a and in Table B.*
10. *Ensure all aircraft landing concessions include conditions to prevent the introduction of pest plants and animals.*
11. *Work with aircraft operators to explore possible ways to further minimise adverse effects of aircraft activity on Park values and/or visitors to the Park.*
12. *All aircraft use by the Department should be essential and follow any good practice guidance developed between the Department and aircraft operators.*
13. *Monitor the level and effects of aircraft use in the Park, primarily by analysis of returns provided by aircraft concessionaires and also using other available tools in accordance with Section 4.2.1.11.*
14. *Consider additional specific limits on aircraft landings or other management measures if monitoring shows that significant adverse effects are occurring.*

#### **4.2.2 Customary harvest and use**

##### ***Policy***

*To provide for the taking by tangata whenua of cultural materials from the Park, where it can be carried out without significant damage to Park values and is in line with the National Parks Act, other relevant legislation, CMS's, and national policies.*

##### **Background**

Māori have traditionally gathered certain plants and animals from the land and water for cultural use. These materials were essential to everyday life and a necessity for tangata whenua. There is a present day revival of former traditions and the use of natural materials. Traditional cultural materials include, but are not limited to, native plants used in weaving and for medicine and native birds and animals for their feathers and for food.

Many of the cultural materials remaining today are found on lands administered by the Department and may be requested by nga iwi in the continuation and revival of the use of cultural materials. Māori are bound by tikanga and whakapapa to ensure that the mauri is not debased in the customary harvest of cultural materials.

Section 5 of the National Parks Act allows for the cutting or taking of plant material and the trapping, killing, or taking of animals only with prior written consent. The General Policy provides for the traditional

taking of indigenous plants and animals from a national park, including any Wilderness Area, where the plants or animals are not protected under other legislation and demands are not excessive.

A permit from the Minister is required for the gathering of any material from the Park. Restrictions on such gathering may be necessary to ensure that materials are available to future generations and that native species are preserved.

The New Zealand Conservation Authority, following a public consultation process, has, at the request of the Minister of Conservation, prepared a report on Customary Use on land administered by the Department. This report may result in legislative amendment. This management plan will need to implement any approved policy and any resultant changes in legislation.

## **Issues and opportunities**

### ***Preservation***

There are provisions in the Wildlife Act and the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations which provide for the non-commercial gathering and use of freshwater fish, plants and some animals for traditional use by Māori. However, there is some conflict between the Department's legal requirements to preserve native species and their habitats in the national park and fulfilling Treaty obligations. Where there is a conflict the purposes of the National Parks Act will prevail.

The national park status of Kahurangi provides a high degree of protection to plants and animals within the park. The harvesting of plants and animals is not appropriate to the general purpose of a national park and Māori should be encouraged where possible to harvest traditional materials from areas outside the Park instead. However, some harvesting from within the Park may be appropriate in limited circumstances for the exercise of tikanga. Within the Ngai Tahu Takiwa, the Minister has agreed to develop and implement guidelines to define levels of use of cultural materials (Ngai Tahu Protocols). Native animals protected under the Wildlife Act should not be taken from within the Park for any reason, as that would be against the principle purpose of the National Parks Act.

A precautionary approach is appropriate in a national park, such that where little is known about a species, or the effects of an activity or harvest, then the most protective measures are taken and harvest is not permitted.

### ***Eeling***

Eels have been traditionally harvested from some rivers within the Park. Eel fisheries are managed by the Ministry of Fisheries under the Fisheries Act 1996 and access to those fisheries in the national park is controlled by the Department through permits. The Department is responsible for freshwater fish and their habitats in terms of the Conservation Act 1987.

Although the commercial component of the customary right of Māori to take eels was provided for in the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act (Section 10), the customary rights of Māori to take eels on a non-commercial basis remains and any such authorisation will be made in accordance with Section 5 of the National Parks Act.

Knowledge of eel ecology is limited but it is evident that, because they breed only once, eels are vulnerable to over-fishing. Further long-term research is required to determine the ecological sustainability of the species and this research should include both scientific and traditional Māori practice concepts. Any customary harvest which is permitted must be for non-commercial purposes and will have to be carefully monitored and catch sites varied to ensure that it remains sustainable in the long term.

Where restrictions need to be placed on the harvesting of eels, it is appropriate that the restrictions are firstly applied to the commercial harvest and secondly to the customary harvest.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. *Consider applications for the gathering of materials for traditional Māori uses by permit only, in accordance with relevant legislation, issued by the Minister in consultation with the relevant nga iwi.*
2. *Ensure that applications for non-commercial customary harvest (other than eels) meet the following criteria and conditions:*
  - *the species to be harvested is not a protected species under the Wildlife Act;*
  - *the species is not rare, endangered, or locally uncommon;*
  - *there is a justified need to use the resources from within the Park (eg. no other sources available or appropriate);*
  - *there has been historic use of that species in the Park;*
  - *use is not excessive and the protection and preservation of the species is ensured;*
  - *the species is of high importance to iwi;*
  - *iwi will carry out appropriate measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of taking.*
3. *Encourage nga iwi to carry out customary harvesting in areas outside the national park.*
4. *Where customary harvest could adversely affect ecological values or the viability of a species, take a precautionary approach.*



5. *Recognise iwi management of their non-commercial customary fishing (which excludes eels) in accordance with the Conservation (South Island Customary Freshwater Fisheries) Regulations, once they are promulgated.*
6. *Liase with the Ministry of Fisheries in the undertaking and encouraging of research into eel ecology and sustainability, including traditional Māori concepts.*
7. *Work with nga iwi to determine appropriate no-take (rahui) rivers in the Park to act as baseline controls for scientific study of eel ecology and for the maintenance of intrinsic values.*
8. *Allow for the customary harvest of eels for non-commercial purposes in specific areas where there is a tradition of such use and the catch will not affect the viability of that eel population.*
9. *Where cultural harvest of eels is permitted in the park, ensure that ecological and catch monitoring is carried out to detect any unacceptable adverse effects and act on this information accordingly.*

## REFERENCES

### **Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Māori Traditional Use, p237-239

### **West Coast Te Tai o Poutini draft CMS**

Customary Use, p27-28

Treaty of Waitangi

Conservation Act 1987

National Parks Act 1980

### **Wildlife Act 1953**

### **Fisheries Act 1983 and Regulations**

**NZCA Māori Customary Use - Interim Report and Discussion Paper 1997**

**South Island Eel Management Plan 1997**

## 4.3 MINING

### ***Policy***

1. *To ensure that any mineral prospecting, exploration and mining is permitted only where national park values are preserved or where the Minister of Conservation is satisfied that there are safeguards against any potential adverse effects.*

2. *The Minister of Conservation will consult with the Minister of Energy with a view to including Kahurangi National Park into the Fourth Schedule Crown Minerals Act 1991 under Section 61(4) of that Act.*

## **Background**

The park has historically been the target of mining interest because of its unique geology and high mineralisation. At the time the national park was gazetted, existing mining and advance prospect opportunities, such as the gold prospecting licence in Sams Creek and the dolomite mining licence on Mount Burnett, were excluded from the Park at the request of mining interests.

The Crown Minerals Act (No. 2) 1997 amended the Crown Minerals Act by restricting mining in national parks and other lands administered by the Department. The restriction on mining, however, relates to national parks in existence as at 1 October 1991. Kahurangi National Park is not covered by this amendment (being gazetted after 1 October 1991). In considering applications for access arrangements to undertake mining activities, the Minister of Conservation is required to have regard to:

- the objectives of the National Parks Act 1980; and
- the purpose for which the national park is held; and
- any policy statement or management plan of the Crown in relation to the national park; and
- the safeguards against any potential adverse effects of carrying out the proposed programme of work; and
- such other matters as the Minister considers relevant.

Also, in accordance with Section 18A of the National Parks Act 1980, the New Zealand Conservation Authority is consulted.

Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu is the owner of all pounamu found within the Ngai Tahu Takiwa. Although the largest pounamu deposits are found well to the south of the National Park, there is anecdotal evidence that some small deposits of pounamu exist as far north as the Kahurangi National Park area.

## **Issues and opportunities**

The Park is managed for the protection and preservation of the natural environment. In the past some mining interests have argued that mining activities can be undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner including ecological rehabilitation. Generally, however, mining activities are regarded as having unacceptable adverse environmental impacts and, therefore, being inconsistent with the purpose for which the Park is held.

In assessing any application for mining activities allowed for by the Crown Minerals Act 1991, the Minister 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.

Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu has advised that it will be seeking to enter into an agreement with the Department of Conservation across the Ngai Tahu Takiwa regarding access to public conservation lands, including national parks, to enable the collection of pounamu by Ngai Tahu whanui.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Consider applications for mining activities in terms of actual and potential effects, the necessity for the activity to occur in the Park, and the purpose of a national park.*
- 2. Seek to ensure that applications for any permissible mining activities include provisions for complete site rehabilitation and adequate compensation to ensure no net conservation loss to the Park.*
- 3. Manage mining activities in accordance with the CMSs, this management plan and relevant legislation.*
- 4. The Department will recommend that the Minister of Conservation consult with the Minister of Energy with a view to including Kaburangi National Park into the Fourth Schedule Crown Minerals Act 1991.*

## REFERENCES

**Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Mining, p255-258

**West Coast Te Tai o Poutini draft CMS**

Prospecting, Exploration and Mining, p256

**National Parks Act 1980**

**Crown Minerals Act 1991**

**Crown Minerals Amendment Act 1997**

## 5. Community relations

### ***Policy***

*To establish and maintain a constructive relationship with local communities and associates to preserve the natural values of the Park and retain opportunities for them to be involved in Park management.*

### **Background**

The Park is administered by the Department of Conservation but is also within the jurisdiction of the local authorities in terms of the Resource Management Act. The local authorities with responsibility for the Park are the Buller District Council, the Tasman District Council and the West Coast Regional Council (Map 4).

The Park has several communities of various sizes located close to its boundaries, including Westport, Karamea, Collingwood, Takaka, Tapawera, Motueka, and Murchison. Nelson is the closest city to the Park.

### **Issues and opportunities**

#### ***Consultation***

Consultation is an ongoing and evolving process which calls for regular meetings and liaison with affected and interested parties and key stakeholders, such as the local community (Community Forums), iwi, neighbouring landowners, farming, conservation and recreation groups, tourism organisations and commercial operators, in order to achieve effective management of the Park and public support for that management regime.

#### ***Local economies***

The presence of a national park can have beneficial spin-offs to a small community, particularly in terms of bringing tourism and the associated income to an area. The management of the Park can therefore have an impact on the economy of surrounding communities, particularly the smaller ones. It is important for the Department to foster a constructive relationship with these communities and, where possible, avoid hindering their use of the Park for appropriate activities. It is important for the communities located on the periphery of the Park to feel a sense of being involved in the management of the Park and the protection of its natural values.

#### ***Effects on the Park***

Communities can also have effects on the Park by way of increasing visitor numbers, causing impacts through commercial use, runoff, wandering stock, pollutants, weed spread and other associated neighbouring land use effects.

Most native freshwater fish rely on unimpeded access to and from the sea to complete their life cycles. The Park contains many water bodies with high native fishery values which flow through private land outside the Park on their way to the sea. Activities on private land, particularly the building of weirs and the like, can therefore have adverse effects on native fisheries within the Park.

In terms of the Resource Management Act, the Department can advocate, through the district and regional planning processes carried out by Local Authorities, for the protection of natural values and the control of activities outside the Park which could potentially have adverse effects on the natural values of the Park.

### ***The Conservation Board***

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board has jurisdiction over the entire Park. The Board is comprised of private individuals appointed by the Minister to represent the general public. Board members come from diverse backgrounds such as conservation, iwi, commercial concessions, farming and business.

The role of the Board is to represent public opinion and it also has statutory duties relating to the approval of Management Plans and Strategies. The Board also oversees the implementation of Management Plans and Strategies and ensures that the Department fulfils its obligations through the annual Business Plan.

As a result of the Ngai Tahu Settlement, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu may nominate at least one of the members of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board.

### ***Fencing***

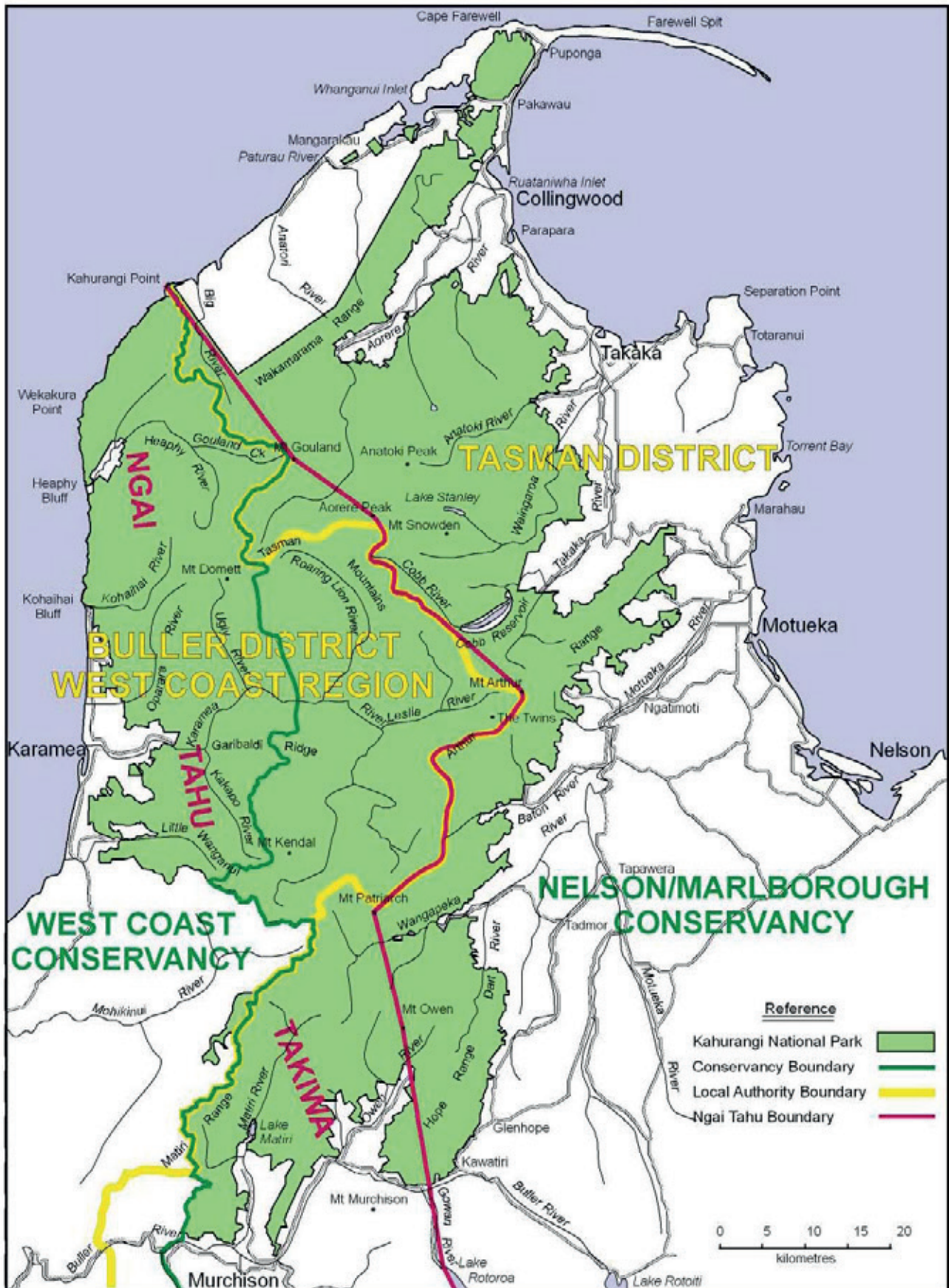
The Fencing Act does not require the Department to share the cost of boundary fencing. However, the Department has a policy of working with landowners on a case by case basis and negotiating, subject to resources, the sharing of fencing costs.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Meet with local communities, associates and key stakeholders on a regular basis with regard to the implementation of this management plan.***
- 2. Seek provisions in Regional and District Plans to protect water quality, cave and karst features and other natural values within the Park.***
- 3. Work with landowners on a case by case basis to consider the sharing of fencing costs.***



# Map 4 Administration







## REFERENCES

### **Nelson/Marlborough CMS**

Community Liaison, p357-358

Statutory Planning, p359-364

### **West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* draft CMS**

Advocacy in Statutory Planning Processes, p282

Working with Others, p141, 167, 226, 261

### **Buller District Plan**

### **Tasman District Plan**

### **West Coast Regional Plan**

### **Fencing Act 1978 S3(1)(b)**



## 6. Administration

### ***Policy***

*To administer the Park effectively in line with legislation, CMS's, the General Policy for National Parks, other General Policies and this management plan.*

### **Background**

The Park is administered primarily under the National Parks Act, but is also subject to other Acts, the General Policy for National Parks, other General Policies, and also to the CMS documents for Nelson/Marlborough and the West Coast *Tai Poutini*.

Management of the Park requires a range of administrative activities which enable the Department to carry out its legislative obligations and to implement this management plan and strategies.

The Department is in the process of putting in place a Quality Conservation Management (QCM) system which will improve the way the Department carries out its functions and manages land it administers. The QCM system will be introduced in stages, the first of which applies to structures and sets specific standards for the design and construction of all structures built by the Department. Soon all of the Department's activities, from planning to pest control will have a set of QCM guidelines which must be followed and standards which must be met. This plan will be implemented within the framework of the evolving QCM system.

### **Issues and opportunities**

#### ***Compliance and law enforcement***

The National Parks Act includes a list of offences (Appendix 6) for which offenders can be legally prosecuted. Conservation Rangers and Compliance and Law Enforcement officers of the Department carry out responsibilities in respect to offences in the Park. In order for the Park to receive the level of protection accorded to it under the National Parks Act, offences should first be discouraged through compliance education, then, should an offence occur it can be pursued through law enforcement.

#### ***Unformed legal roads***

There are several unformed legal roads within the Park, mostly on the periphery. These unformed roads were transferred to Local Authorities, without compensation, under the Local Government Act 1974. The Government retained the right of the Crown to take back (resume) the roads at no cost, provided certain criteria were met. A number of unformed roads in Kahurangi meet these criteria (see Map 5).

The General Policy for National Parks states that such roads "should be closed and incorporated into the Park except where they are essential

legal access to other lands". These unformed roads do not provide legal access to any other lands or properties and should therefore be transferred to the Department and incorporated into the Park in accordance with General Policy. It should be noted that the Northwest Nelson Forest Park Management Plan, which used to apply to the majority of the land now in the national park, had a similar policy. The Department will liaise with the Local Authority in which the unformed roads are vested, although it is not required to by legislation. Public consultation will not be undertaken.

### ***Additions to the Park***

In future, public land adjacent to the national park, which meets the criteria for national park status, could become available. In such cases, the Department should seek to add that land to the Kahurangi National Park through the process dictated in the National Parks Act.

Section 452 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act provides that an area of land at Whakapouai will become part of the Park in the future.

### ***Bylaws***

In terms of the National Parks Act, the Minister may make bylaws for park management that are not inconsistent with the management plan. Bylaws for the Park came into effect in March 2009. This management plan will require a number of amendments to be made to the 2009 bylaws in order to give effect to the implementation statements.

The Minister may, on the recommendation of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, make bylaws in respect of the Topuni area of Kahurangi.

### ***Management***

The Park straddles the Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancies, so it is important that liaison is maintained between those conservancies to ensure that management of the Park is consistent and is carried out efficiently.

Because of the special relationship between the Department and the Fish and Game Council in terms of the Conservation Act, regard must be had to the West Coast Sports Fish and Game Management Plan and the Nelson/ Marlborough plan, when prepared, in the management of fish (trout) and game birds in the park.

### ***Access***

Some parts of the Park are only accessible over private land through casual arrangements with the landowners. The Matiri Valley and the Little Wanganui River are two such areas and there are several others which are less frequently used by visitors. In order to provide permanent access to the Park, the Department needs to negotiate with the landowners to have these entry points formalised through easements.

### ***Communications***

The Department relies on radio communication within the Park and may require the installation of repeater stations to enhance communication systems for staff and public safety. In constructing any such structures, the Department will need to follow the guidelines for building structures as set out in Section 3.2 Landscape.

### ***Helicopter use***

The Department often utilises helicopters for park management purposes. As has been mentioned previously, helicopter over-flight can have a significant adverse effect on the experiences of some visitors. In order to minimise these effects, the Department should seek to carry out activities requiring helicopter support at times of the day or year when visitors are least likely to be disturbed by the noise and visual impacts (see also Section 4.2.1.10).

### ***Memorials***

The General Policy allows for memorials such as plaques to be attached to structures such as huts in the Park, where they are appropriate, and for the construction of monuments, but only where they are of exceptional importance.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Manage the Park in line with relevant legislation, General Policies, the two CMSs and this management plan.***
- 2. Carry out compliance and law enforcement activities in the Park in line with the National Parks Act and other relevant legislation.***
- 3. Consider resuming and incorporating unformed legal roads within the Park as indicated on Map 5, following liaison with the local authority in which the roads are vested.***
- 4. Seek to add adjacent public land, which meets the necessary criteria, to Kaburangi National Park if and when it becomes available.***
- 5. Provide for the passing of any bylaws necessary to enable the implementation of policies within this management plan.***
- 6. Ensure that there is regular and ongoing liaison between Nelson/ Marlborough and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancies in the implementation of this management plan and park management activities generally.***
- 7. Liaise with the Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast Fish and Game Councils in the management of sports fish and game birds in the Park.***

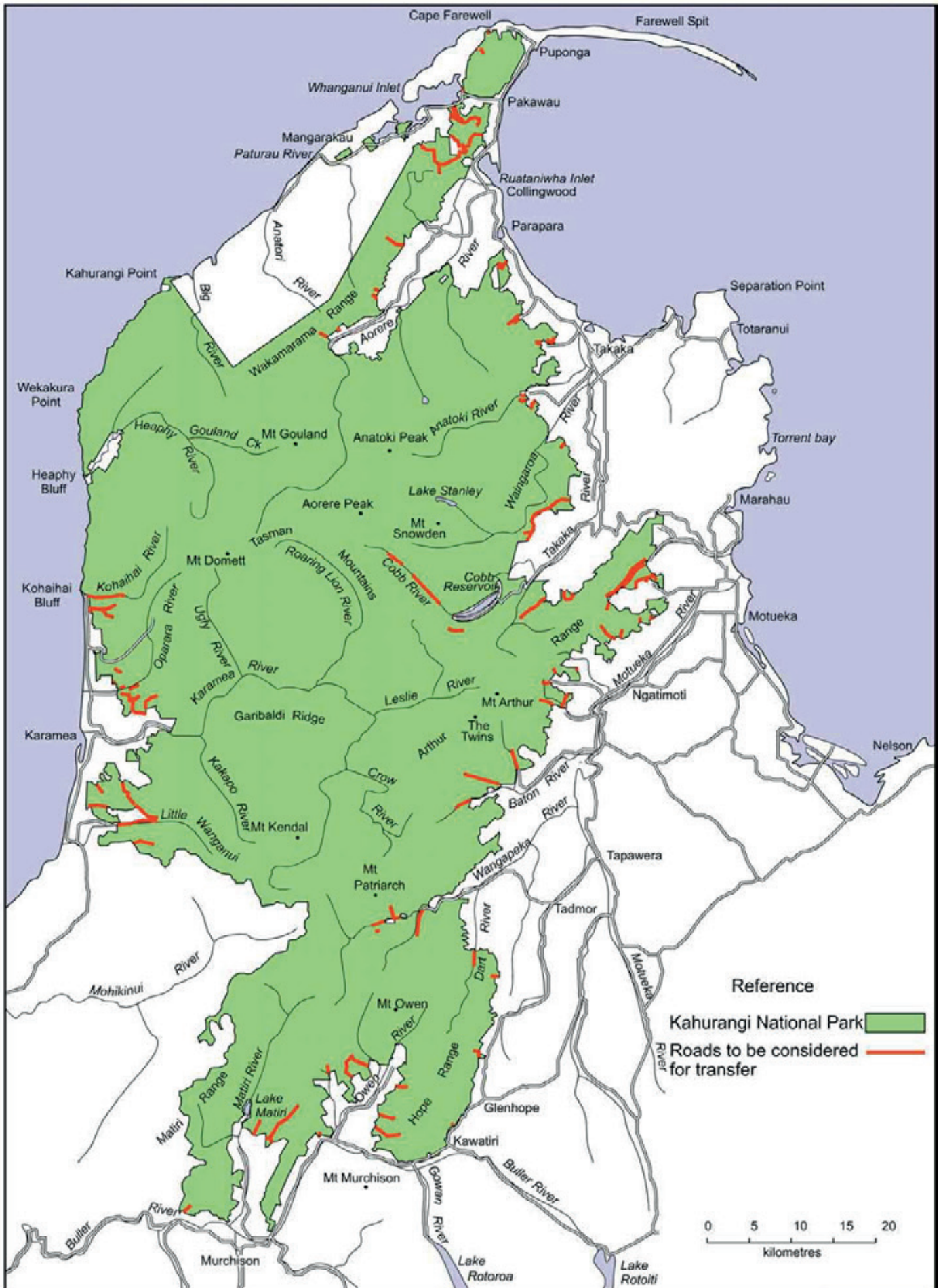


8. *Where informal access to the Park exists over private land, seek to legalise access through an easement.*
9. *Allow for the construction of communication facilities for Departmental use and ensure that they comply with the relevant policies listed in Section 3.2 Landscape regarding minimising impacts on landscape values.*
10. *Seek to minimise the impacts on visitors of helicopter use by the Department where possible through the timing of flights to avoid periods of high use and by avoiding over-flying areas where visitors are likely to have high sensitivity, such as the Tasman Wilderness Area.*
11. *Permit memorials of a monument type only where the historical association of the site, individual or event is of exceptional importance, in line with General Policy.*
12. *Where appropriate, permit benefactors of the Park to be commemorated by plaques on facilities such as huts, shelters and footbridges.*
13. *The Minister may, on the recommendation of Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu, make bylaws in respect of the Kaburangi Topuni area.*
14. *Provide for the passing of bylaws relating to Topuni.*
15. *Ensure that there is regular and on-going liaison with Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu in the management of Kaburangi Topuni and to give effect to other matters arising from the Ngai Tabu Settlement.*

## REFERENCES

Nelson/Marlborough CMS  
West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* draft CMS  
National Parks Act 1980  
Conservation Act 1987  
Wildlife Act 1953  
Wild Animal Control Act 1977  
Local Government Act 1974  
General Policy for National Parks 1983

Map 5 Unformed Legal Roads





## 7. Implementation and review

### ***Policy***

*To implement the management plan through the annual Business Plan and maintain its integrity through review and amendment where necessary.*

### **Background**

The priorities in the Conservation Management Strategy and management plans are put into effect through the annual Business Plan. Each year every Conservancy, in consultation with its Conservation Board(s), prepares a business plan setting out the activities it intends to complete in that financial year. This forms the basis for managing finance allocated to the Department and directed for use in the Conservancy.

The Department is funded by an annual appropriation from Parliament as a result of a purchase agreement between the Director-General and the Minister of Conservation to carry out an agreed range of activities which the Minister, and the government of the day, wish the Department to achieve.

One of the main purposes of this management plan is to provide a guide to the priorities to be pursued by the Department in Kahurangi National Park over the next 10 years. Thus this management plan establishes targets which the Conservancy will aim to achieve. Annual business plans will seek to reach these targets as personnel and finances permit and depending on the priorities of the government of the day.

This management plan has a statutory term of 10 years from the date of its approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). To keep up with increased knowledge and changing circumstances it will require periodic review and amendment and can be reviewed as a whole or in part. Major amendments will require the full public consultation process, but where an amendment is considered to be of a minor nature and does not alter the general intent of the document, it requires only the approval of the Conservation Board and the NZCA in terms of Section 46(5) of the National Parks Act.

### **Issues and opportunities**

Priorities in any one year may vary from those set out in the Conservation Management Strategy and this management plan according to national priorities and the extent to which priorities were completed in previous years. Threats to natural, historic and recreational values, finance, national priorities and many other factors can redirect the priorities from year to year. This management plan will be implemented within these constraints.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. *Ensure that the annual business plans acknowledges the priorities set out in this management plan.*
2. *Consult the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and liaise with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board on priorities for Park management prior to and during the preparation of the business plans.*
3. *Review or amend this management plan where changes in circumstance or legislation, or new knowledge cause the policies in the plan to become ultra vires, outdated or irrelevant.*
4. *Allow for the recommendation of minor amendments proposed by the Department directly to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and the NZCA.*
5. *Undertake a full review of this management plan within 10 years of the date of approval.*
6. *Consult with Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu on matters relating to Topuni and have particular regard to its views.*
7. *Consult with Te Runanga o Ngai Tabu in accordance with the Protocols.*

## REFERENCES

National Parks Act 1980

Conservation Act 1987

# Appendix 1

## NATIVE PLANTS

### Plants confined to Northwest Nelson (83 taxa)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Aciphylla anomala</i> #                                   | <i>Euphrasia</i> "Zetland"#                          |
| <i>Anisotome</i> "NW Nelson"#                                | <i>Forstera</i> "NW Nelson"#                         |
| <i>Astelia skottsbergii</i> #                                | <i>Forstera</i> "sedifolia small"#                   |
| <i>Brachyglottis</i> "Rochfort"                              | <i>Gentiana</i> "decumbent"#                         |
| <i>Brachyglottis greyi</i> var. " <i>laxifolia</i> "*        | <i>Gentiana</i> "Lookout"#                           |
| <i>Brachyglottis rotundifolia</i> var. " <i>cockaynei</i> "* | <i>Gentiana gracilifolia</i> *                       |
| <i>Bulbinella talbotii</i> #                                 | <i>Gingidia</i> "Burnett"*                           |
| <i>Cardamine</i> 'Magnesite'                                 | <i>Hebe</i> aff. <i>glaucophylla</i> ssp. "Burnett"* |
| <i>Carex</i> "brockiei"#                                     | <i>Hebe</i> aff. <i>matthewsii</i> #                 |
| <i>Carex</i> "Burnett"*                                      | <i>Hebe albicans</i> var. <i>albicans</i> #          |
| <i>Carex</i> "dissita small"#                                | <i>Hebe albicans</i> var. <i>recurva</i> *           |
| <i>Carex</i> "Matiri"#                                       | <i>Hebe</i> "marble"#                                |
| <i>Carex</i> "Takaka"*                                       | <i>Hebe masoniae</i> #                               |
| <i>Carex</i> "wakatipu small"#                               | <i>Lachnagrostis</i> "Sylvester"#                    |
| <i>Celmisia</i> "Bald Knob Ridge"#                           | <i>Leptinella calcarea</i> *                         |
| <i>Celmisia dallii</i> #                                     | <i>Libertia</i> "Burnett"*                           |
| <i>Celmisia gibbsii</i> #                                    | <i>Luzula</i> "Cobb"#                                |
| <i>Celmisia monroi</i> var. " <i>morgani</i> "               | <i>Melicytus</i> "Burnett"*                          |
| <i>Celmisia</i> "Pupu"                                       | <i>Myosotis angustata</i> #                          |
| <i>Celmisia rupestris</i> #                                  | <i>Myosotis brockiei</i> *                           |
| <i>Celmisia similis</i> #                                    | <i>Myosotis concinna</i> #                           |
| <i>Chionochloa juncea</i>                                    | <i>Myosotis</i> "Flora"#                             |
| <i>Clematis marmoraria</i> #                                 | <i>Myosotis</i> "Gorge"                              |
| <i>Colobanthus</i> "marble"#                                 | <i>Myosotis</i> "Otuhie"                             |
| <i>Colobanthus wallii</i> #                                  | <i>Myrsine</i> "Burnett"*                            |
| <i>Coprosma talbrockiei</i> *                                | <i>Neopaxia</i> "Arthur"#                            |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Burgoo"#                                   | <i>Oreoporanthera alpina</i> #                       |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "callicole"#                                | <i>Ourisia</i> "Clark"#                              |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Fyfe"#                                     | <i>Ourisia</i> "Hope"#                               |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Garibaldi"#                                | <i>Ourisia gouländiana</i> #                         |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "glandular"#                                | <i>Parabebe</i> "whiskers"*                          |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Gouländ Downs"#                            | <i>Pimelea</i> aff. <i>sericeovillosa</i> #          |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Henderson"#                                | <i>Pimelea longifolia</i> var. "Takaka"              |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Loveridge"#                                | <i>Pittosporum dallii</i> #                          |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Pikikiruna"*                               | <i>Poa sudicola</i> #                                |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "small"#                                    | <i>Pseudowintera traversii</i> #                     |



*Euphrasia* "Garibaldi" #  
*Euphrasia* "Mt Arthur" #  
*Euphrasia* "Mt Peel" #  
*Euphrasia* "NW Nelson" #  
*Euphrasia* "white" #

*Ranunculus* "Burgoo" #  
*Ranunculus* "Cobb" #  
*Ranunculus* "Hope" \*  
*Ranunculus mirus* #  
*Senecio glaucophyllus* ssp. "Burnett"  
*Senecio glaucophyllus* spp.  
*glaucophyllus* #

# = confined to Kahurangi National Park (57 taxa)

\* = occurring in, but not confined to, Kahurangi National Park (17 taxa)

## KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK THREATENED AND LOCAL PLANTS

ENDANGERED (taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if casual factors continue operating)

*Lepidium flexicaule*  
*Pittosporum patulum*  
*Pterostylis micromega*

VULNERABLE (taxa with depleted populations under threat from serious adverse factors, and likely to become endangered if casual factors continue operating)

*Alepis flavida*  
*Botrychium aff. lunaria*  
*Deschampsia caespitosa*  
*Peraxilla colensoi*  
*Peraxilla tetrapetala*  
*Pittosporum dallii*  
*Ranunculus ternatifolius*

RARE (taxa with small populations, usually localised within restricted area or habitat and are at risk)

*Austrofestuca littoralis*  
*Calochilus paludosus*  
*Coprosma obconica* ssp. *obconica*  
*Euphorbia glauca*  
*Gratiola nana*  
*Melicytus* "Matiri"  
*Myosotis brockiei*  
*Neopaxia* "Arthur"  
*Olearia capillaris*  
*Ourisia modesta*  
*Poa sudicola*

INSUFFICIENTLY KNOWN (taxa suspected of being at risk, but because of lack of information there is uncertainty about the degree of threat)

*Libertia peregrinans* agg.  
*Myosotis petiolata* s.s.  
*Trisetum* "serpentine"

TAXONOMICALLY INDETERMINATE (taxa that require taxonomic investigation, but area at risk)

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Cardamine</i> "Reporoa Bog"         | <i>Hebe</i> aff. <i>matthewsii</i> |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Goulard Downs"       | <i>Hypsela</i> "Burgoo"            |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Henderson"           | <i>Lachnagrostis</i> "Sylvester"   |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Fyfe"                | <i>Luzula</i> "Cobb"               |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Garibaldi"           | <i>Myosotis</i> "Flora"            |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Loveridge"           | <i>Ourisia</i> "Clark"             |
| <i>Craspedia</i> "Pikikiruna"          | <i>Parabebe</i> "hairy"            |
| <i>Dracophyllum</i> aff. <i>kirkii</i> | <i>Ranunculus</i> "Burgoo"         |
| <i>Euphrasia</i> "Zetland"             | <i>Ranunculus</i> "Cobb"           |
| <i>Euphrasia</i> "white"               | <i>Ranunculus</i> "Hope"           |
| <i>Hebe</i> "Bald Knob Ridge"          |                                    |

LOCAL (Not threatened but sufficiently localised in their distribution nationally to warrant monitoring)

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Brachyglottis traversii</i> | <i>Oreomyrrhis</i> "minutiflora" |
| <i>Bulbinella talbotii</i>     | <i>Myosotis angustata</i>        |
| <i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>  | <i>Myosotis arnoldii</i>         |
| <i>Clematis marmoraria</i>     | <i>Myosotis concinna</i>         |
| <i>Coprosma talbrockiei</i>    | <i>Ourisia goulardiana</i>       |
| <i>Crassula multicaulis</i>    | <i>Simplicia buchananii</i>      |
| <i>Epilobium margaretae</i>    | <i>Tetrachondra hamiltonii</i>   |
| <i>Hebe</i> "marble"           |                                  |

Rare/local plants in Kahurangi National Park (not including nationally threatened and local plants)

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Anisotome flexuosa</i>         | <i>Gnaphallum polylepis</i>               |
| <i>Brachyscome longiscapa</i>     | <i>Hebe epacridea</i>                     |
| <i>Carex</i> "Takaka"             | <i>Helicbrysum parvifolium</i>            |
| <i>Carex capillaris</i>           | <i>Hymenophyllum</i> "Burnett"            |
| <i>Carex devia</i>                | <i>Luzula</i> "albicomans"                |
| <i>Carex enysii</i>               | <i>Luzula</i> "rhizomatous rufa"          |
| <i>Celmisia baastii</i>           | <i>Luzula</i> "serpentine"                |
| <i>Carex kirkii</i>               | <i>Luzula traversii</i>                   |
| <i>Chionochloa defracta</i>       | <i>Mitrasacme montana</i>                 |
| <i>Chionochloa oreophila</i>      | <i>Myosotis tenericaulis</i>              |
| <i>Chionohebe ciliolata</i>       | <i>Olearia cymbifolia</i>                 |
| <i>Clematis quadribracteolata</i> | <i>Parabebe catarractae</i>               |
| <i>Coriaria angustissima</i>      | <i>Pimelea</i> aff. <i>sericeovillosa</i> |
| <i>Corybas acuminatus</i>         | <i>Poa dipsacea</i>                       |

*Corybas* aff. *trilobus*  
*Craspedia* "Garibaldi"  
*Deyeuxia youngii*  
*Elatine gratioloides*  
*Euphrasia dyeri*  
*Euphrasia cockayneana*  
*Euphrasia monroi*  
*Gentiana* cf. *divisa*  
*Geniana grisebachii*  
*Gentiana matthewsii*  
*Gingidia baxterae*  
*Gunnera prorepens*  
*Gnaphalium* "paludosum green"  
*Gnaphallum ensifer*  
*Pterostylis humilis*  
*Pterostylis oliveri*  
*Raoulia* "laxa"  
*Raoulia subsericea*  
*Raoulia subulata*  
*Rorippa palustris*  
*Rununculus* "Burgoo"  
*Rytidosperma pulchrum*  
*Rytidosperma pumilum*  
*Rytidosperma viride*  
*Senecio rufiglandulosus*  
*Uncinia sinclairii*  
*Utricularia novae-zelandiae*

## Appendix 2

Kahurangi Point, an area of approximately 28 hectares, was declared a Topuni in recognition of its Ngai Tahu values, by the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act. As a result of the Topuni, the Minister of Conservation has agreed a number of specific principles to guide the management of Kahurangi.

### NGAI TAHU VALUES RELATING TO KAHURANGI

Kahurangi is a tremendously significant landmark to Ngai Tahu, marking the extreme north western point of the tribal Takiwa. It is a distinctive and easily recognisable physical boundary marker.

The name 'Kahurangi', which in full, is said to be 'Te Kahu o te Rangi' (the blue skies of Rangi), refers to the temperate climate of this part of the coast, which is noted for its clear skies.

Kahurangi was a natural landing point for seafarers travelling south by waka, to prepare for the next stage along a section of coastline that had very few safe anchorages or landing sites.

Such tauranga waka (landing places) represent the intimate knowledge the tupuna (ancestors) had of navigation, river routes, safe harbours and landing places, and the locations of food and other resources. The traditional mobile lifestyle of the people led to their dependence on the resources of the land. Knowledge of these routes and trails continues to be held by whanau and hapu and is regarded as a taonga.

To Ngai Tahu, Kahurangi is an important expression of the iwi's mana over the vast tract of land to the south. Its significance in this respect is to be marked by the construction of a pou whenua (boundary marker). Ngai Tahu have expended great effort and human sacrifice over many generations to maintain the security and integrity of their Takiwa.

The mauri of Kahurangi represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngai Tahu Whanui with Kahurangi.

The Specific Principles relating to Kahurangi (Deed of Settlement, Attachment 12.141, paragraph 4) are set out below:

#### 4. Specific Principles Relating to Area

The following specific principles are directed at the Minister of Conservation avoiding harm to, or the diminishing of, the Ngai Tahu values related to the Topuni:

- (a) encouragement of respect for Ngai Tahu's association with Kahurangi;

- (b) accurate portrayal of Ngai Tahu's association with Kahurangi; and
- (c) recognition of Ngai Tahu's relationship with wahi tapu and wahi taonga, including archaeological sites.

#### 5. Actions by the Director-General of Conservation in Relation to the Specific Principles

Pursuant to Clause 12.5.10 of the Deed of Settlement, the Director-General has determined that the following actions will be taken by the Department of Conservation in relation to the specific principles:

- (a) Encouragement of respect for Ngai Tahu's association with Kahurangi:
  - staff, Conservation Board members, concessionaires and the public will be provided with information about the Ngai Tahu values and the existence of the Topuni over Kahurangi;
  - a review of conditions to be applied generally to new concessions will be undertaken;
  - the removal of all rubbish and wastes from Kahurangi will be encouraged;
  - the Department will ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that it disposes of waste, particularly human waste, in a way that minimises the risk of contamination of waterways; and
  - Te Runanga will be consulted about the siting and design of new buildings and structures, and particular regard had to its views.
- (b) Accurate portrayal of Ngai Tahu's association with Kahurangi:
  - the Department will ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that Ngai Tahu's association with Kahurangi is accurately portrayed in all of its new public information and interpretative material; and
  - the Department will consult with Te Runanga in the provision of its new public information or interpretative material, and as far as reasonably practicable will only use Ngai Tahu cultural information with the consent of Te Runanga.
- (c) Recognition of Ngai Tahu's relationship with wahi tapu and wahi taonga including archaeological sites:
  - significant earthworks and disturbances of soil and/or vegetation will be avoided wherever possible; and
  - where significant earthworks and disturbances of soil and/or vegetation cannot be avoided, Te Runanga will be consulted and have particular regard will be had to its relevant policies, including those relating to Koiwi Tangata (unidentified human remains) and archaeological and rock art sites.

For Ngai Tahu, histories reinforce tribal identity and solidarity, and continuity between generations, and document the events which shaped the environment of Te Wai Pounamu and Ngai Tahu as an iwi.

Otukoro Iti, an important kainga nohoanga (permanent settlement), was also the closest traditional settlement to the tribal boundary point of Kahurangi. As such, it is a symbol of Ngai Tahu's manawhenua (tribal authority) in this area.

Knowledge of trails continues to be held by whanau and hapu and is regarded as a taonga. The traditional mobile lifestyle of the people led to their dependence on the resources of the land.





# Appendix 3

## NGAI TAHU ACTS

As part of the Ngai Tahu Settlement the Ngai Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997 vested all pounamu in the Ngai Tahu Takiwa in Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.

Furthermore, pursuant to the Ngai Tahu Deed of Settlement (1997) and the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998:

- One Topuni was created within the National Park (ss 237-255) namely Kahurangi (Schedule 81). Otukoro iti (Schedule 86) is enclosed by, but not included in, the Park.
- Provision was made for the erection of a Pou Whenua (boundary marker) to be placed within the Kahurangi National Park (Section 256).
- Provided that Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu may have at least one member appointed to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board (Section 273).
- Recognition of certain taonga species Section 293 (Schedule 97).
- Entered into Protocols (ss 281-286).
- Provided redress for the beneficial owners of the SILNA land at Whakapoai. This land, which was originally left out of the Kahurangi National Park until the settlement of Māori claims to the area under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1976 were settled, will eventually be added to the Park (Section 452).
- Created the Otukoro Historic Reserve on land directly adjacent to the National Park (Section 150).



# Appendix 4

## 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<sup>6</sup> 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". 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". The principles are still evolving through the pronouncements of the Courts and the Waitangi Tribunal in general terms the principles<sup>7</sup> 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<sup>8</sup>.

### **Principle 2 Rangatiratanga**

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

### **Principle 3 Oritetanga**

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

## CO-OPERATION

### **Principle 4 Whakawhanaungatanga**

To act reasonably and in good faith.

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<sup>6</sup>NZ Maori Council v Attorney General [1987] 1 NZLR 641.

<sup>7</sup>Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy, Appendix A.

<sup>8</sup>This will include conservation related purposes.

## DUTY TO BE INFORMED

### **Principle 5 He Here Kia Mohio**

To make informed decisions.

## ACTIVE PROTECTION

### **Principle 6 Tautiaki Ngangahau**

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

## AVOID PREJUDICIAL ACTIONS

### **Principle 7 Whakatika I Te Mea He**

To avoid action which would create new Treaty grievances.

### **Principle 8**

To avoid actions which would prevent redress of claims.

# Appendix 5

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SPECTRUM (ROS) CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES

### Land-based classification

| MAIN CLASS        | SECONDARY CLASS                  | SUB-CLASS                       |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| U - Urban         |                                  |                                 |
| UF - Urban Fringe |                                  | UF (n) - Natural Remnant        |
| Ru - Rural        |                                  | RU (n) - Natural Remnant        |
| B - Back Country  | B(i) - Back Country Drive-in     | B(i)(d) - Developed Inclusion   |
|                   | B(ii) - Back Country 4W Drive-in | B(ii)(d) - Developed Inclusion  |
|                   | B(iii) - Back Country Walk-in    | B(iii)(d) - Developed Inclusion |
| Re - Remote       |                                  |                                 |
| W - Wilderness    |                                  |                                 |

### Water-based classification – coastal opportunities

| MAIN CLASS     | SECONDARY CLASS                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| U - Urban      |                                  |
| A - Accessible | A(i) - Accessible by land or sea |
|                | A(ii) - Accessible by sea only   |
|                | A(iii) - Accessible by land only |
| R - Remote     |                                  |
| W - Wilderness |                                  |



## WILDERNESS

### **General description**

These are extensive areas of unmodified environment with no facilities or tracks provided. The most important criteria is isolation from other users.

A wilderness opportunity provides a very high probability of experiencing isolation from evidence of human activity, independence, closeness to nature, tranquillity and self-reliance.

The environment offers a high degree of challenge and risk, requiring application of outdoor and survival skills. Boundaries will generally follow ridgelines.

### **Setting characteristics**

#### ***Physical setting***

##### **Accessibility**

- Very difficult.
- By foot only.
- Totally dependent upon the environment and skill of the visitor.

##### **Modification**

- Unmodified natural environment.
- No huts or tracks.

##### **Size**

- Very extensive area (>2,000 hectares).

#### ***Social setting***

- Small group size.
- No evidence of, or encounters with, other users.

#### ***Management setting***

##### **Facilities and services**

- No huts, tracks or other facilities provided.

##### **Restrictions**

- No discernible management presence.
- Exceptions for the purposes of managing the environment (wild animal control) and Search & Rescue.
- Aircraft not permitted.
- Departmental Wilderness Policy applies.

## REMOTE

### **General description**

These are reasonably extensive areas of essentially unmodified environment in which access may be by foot, track or unmarked route. Facilities may include huts or shelters.

A remote opportunity provides a moderately high probability of experiencing remoteness, tranquillity and self-reliance. Opportunities exist for challenge, risk and the application of outdoor skills.

Boundaries of areas generally follow ridgelines, gullies, streams or other dominant natural features.

### **Setting characteristics**

#### ***Physical setting***

- Difficult.
- Non-motorised access only.
- Some marked routes or tracks may exist.

#### **Modification**

- Natural essentially unmodified landscape.

#### **Size**

- Reasonably extensive (>1,000 hectares).

#### ***Social setting***

- Group size usually small.
- Interaction with other groups unlikely.

#### ***Management setting***

#### **Facilities and services**

- Some facilities such as huts, tracks, bridges, may be provided for safety and site protection.
- Maintenance operations to service facilities infrequent and unobtrusive.
- Restrictions.
- Minimal restrictions applied, e.g. hunting permits, fire control and hut fees.

## BACK COUNTRY

### **General description**

These are areas of moderately unmodified environment, having a natural

appearance which allows for a sense of being close to nature.

There is likely to be a wide range of experiences, reflecting the variation of access possible from foot-track access (walk-in) through to sealed-road access (drive-in).

The sense of self-reliance and isolation associated with more remote type recreation is not as important and a reasonable provision of facilities would be expected, associated with the type of access.

A back country opportunity provides a similar probability of experiencing interaction with individuals and groups to that of experiencing isolation from evidence of human activity, depending on the type of access.

Within the generally natural back country opportunity there is allowance for developed exceptions to be recognised (this could include extensive exotic forestry or high country pastoral areas).

Boundaries generally follow vegetation limits, ridgelines, and form a buffer from access routes.

### **Setting characteristics**

Three distinct divisions exist in this opportunity which primarily reflect the variation in accessibility:

- (i) Drive-in.
- (ii) All terrain drive-in.
- (iii) Walk-in.

### ***Physical setting***

#### **Accessibility**

- Access should be moderately provided for both foot and motorised means.
- Ranges from good quality walks and tracks for walk-in, to metalled or sealed roads for drive-in.

#### **Modification**

- Moderately unmodified natural landscape.
- Modification is likely to increase with the degree of accessibility which occurs across the opportunity.

#### **Size**

- Generally, area should be large and feel like back country.
- Ranges from >1,000 hectares for walk-in, to >500 hectares for drive-in.

### ***Social setting***

- Social interaction highly variable with considerable interaction likely on roads and popular tracks, but to a lesser extent on all terrain roads

and some tracks.

- Group size will vary.
- Visit duration generally full day or overnight.

### ***Management setting***

#### **Facilities and services**

- Reasonable provision of facilities for camping and picnicking particularly at the roadside and roadends.
- Facilities may be well serviced.

#### **Restrictions**

- Moderate degree of control evident, but subtle and in harmony with natural environment such as signposts and interpretation boards.

### ***Sub-classification***

A developed inclusion subclass provides a back country opportunity, but in a more modified environment than would otherwise be acceptable. This allows for particularly extensive areas of farming or forestry.

## **RURAL**

### **General description**

These are areas of predominantly modified primary production environment. Rural landscapes would include most developed farmland, horticultural land and extensively developed exotic forestry.

Challenge, risk and application of outdoor skills are not very important. Recreational opportunities relate mainly to convenience of access and open space for camping, group activities and unobstructed views.

Within the generally developed rural opportunity there is allowance for natural remnants to be recognised as exceptions.

Boundaries are identified by fence lines, road lines, or else natural features.

### **Setting characteristics**

#### ***Physical setting***

##### **Accessibility**

- General network of road and vehicle access throughout.
- Good aircraft access.

##### **Modification**

- Predominantly modified cultural landscape.

### ***Social setting***

- Moderate to high level of social interaction between groups and between activities.
- Visit duration often half-day use.
- Sense of human activity readily apparent.

### ***Management setting***

#### **Facilities and services**

- Substantial provision of a wide variety of facilities and services from commercial and club opportunities to publicly managed recreation opportunities (generally in natural remnants).

#### **Restrictions**

- High degree of control evident.

### ***Sub-classification***

A natural remnant subclass provides a rural opportunity, but in a more natural environment. This allows for pockets of remaining native vegetation.

## **URBAN FRINGE**

### **General description**

These are areas of predominantly modified cultural landscape surrounding and within easy access of urban areas.

Good provision of facilities may be evident.

Recreation opportunities relate mainly to convenience of access for all ages and levels of fitness.

Within the generally developed urban fringe opportunity, there is allowance for natural remnants to be recognised as exceptions.

Boundaries will be formed by cultural features in the main and are likely to form a buffer from urbanised areas.

### **Setting characteristics**

#### ***Physical setting***

##### **Accessibility**

- Very accessible to urban/residential environment.
- Good network of roads and tracks for driving, walking and cycling.

##### **Modification**

- Predominantly modified cultural landscape with mixed land uses.

### ***Social setting***

- Major interaction with other users likely.
- Wide variety of group size.
- Visit duration often an hour or two.

### ***Management setting***

#### **Facilities and services**

- Intensive provision of facilities and well maintained.

#### **Restrictions**

- Control is obvious and numerous.

### ***Sub-classification***

A natural remnant subclass provides an urban fringe opportunity, but in a more natural environment. This allows for pockets of remaining native vegetation.

## URBAN

### **General description**

Opportunities in this class may involve no interaction with the natural environment and are not likely to involve challenge, risk or use of outdoor skills.

Rather than identify opportunities specifically, urban areas (residential/commercial/industrial) have been identified. Full identification of urban opportunities would require separate assessment at a larger scale and is beyond the scope of this assessment, which is of non-urban areas.

## SEASHORE

### **Sheltered**

Estuaries, Harbours, Fiords, Sounds, Inlets

### **Exposed**

Coast exposed to the Influences of the Open Sea



## **Setting**

- Sheltered from the influence of the open sea.
- Interface between sea and land.
- Foreshore/coastal area dominated by marine influences.
- Seaward boundary may fluctuate with tides (estuaries etc., hence a transition zone may be present).
- May, at storm times, be inundated by salt spray.
- Generally extends 200 metres minimum distance off shore (speed limit restrictions).
- Includes surf zone, reefs, sandbars, sand dunes, beaches, cliffs and rocky shores.
- Includes exposed and predominantly natural vegetation covered sand dunes and open seashore shrubland, but generally not forest/bush.
- Probably include piers, footpaths very close to water, jetties, wharves, sea walls, boat sheds, ramps, slipways and vehicle access which leads directly onto the seashore.
- Landward boundary would usually stop at formed vehicle roads, housing or developed lands, including pasture, forestry etc., if they extended close to the shore.

## **Activity**

- Most recreation activities based on or from land, however, most require land/water transition.
- Depth of water would generally exclude recreation activities based on board vessels underway (trailer runabouts, trailer-sailers and larger vessels).
- Most vessels that operate in this zone would be portable and carried by hand to the water.

## **Experience**

- Recreation experiences very strongly linked to the sea.

# Appendix 6

## NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980 - OFFENCES

### Part VII

#### Offences

60. **Offences in parks** - (1) Every person commits an offence against this Act who, without being authorised by the Minister (the proof of which shall be on the person charged) or by any bylaw made under this Act

- (a) Causes or allows any animal owned by him or under his control to trespass on any park; or
- (b) Takes any animal into or liberates any animal in any park; or
- (c) Plants any plant, or sows or scatters the seed of any plant, or introduced any substance that he knows or ought to have known is injurious to plant or animal life, in any park; or
- (d) Removes or wilfully damages any, or any part of, any plant, stone, mineral, gravel, kauri gum, antiquity, or relic in any park; or
- (e) Wilfully digs, cuts, excavates, or damages the turf in any park; or
- (f) Occupies or uses any land in a park for cultivation or any other purpose; or
- (g) Wilfully damages or defaces any fence, building, or apparatus in any park; or
- (h) Takes or destroys or wilfully injures or in any manner disturbs or interferes with any native animal or the nest or eggs of any native animal in any park; or
- (i) Erects any building, sign, hoarding or apparatus in any park; or
- (j) Conducts in any park any activity for which a concession is required under this Act; or
- (k) In any way interferes with or damages the natural or historic features of any park; or
- (l) Contravenes or fails to comply with Section 51A or this Act.

(2) Every person commits an offence against this Act who -

- (a) When required by notice from the Minister or the Director-General to remove from a park any animal owned by him or under his control, fails to do so within the period specified in the notice; or
- (b) Being the driver of any vehicle or the pilot of any aircraft or the

person in charge of any boat that is illegally in a park or part of a park, fails or refuses to remove it from the park or part of a park when required to do so by any ranger; or

- (c) Without a [concession] or other right or authority, does or causes to be done any act, matter or thing for which a concession or other right or authority is required by this Act; or
  - (d) Unlawfully alters, obliterates, defaces, pulls up, removes, interferes with, or destroys any boundary marks, or any stamp, mark, sign, poster, intentions book, concession, or other right or authority issued by the Minister or the Department.
- (3) Every person commits an offence against this Act who uses, receives, sells, or otherwise disposes of any item specified in paragraph (d) or paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of this section known it to have been removed unlawfully from any park.
- (4) Every person commits an offence against this Act who, without being authorised by the Minister (the proof of which shall be on the person charged), -
- (a) Is in possession of any chainsaw or any firearm, trap, net, or other like object in a park; or
  - (b) Discharges any firearm in a park; or
  - (c) From outside a park, shoots at any animal or any other object or thing inside the park with any firearm.
- (5) Where any person is found discharging a firearm in contravention of subsection (4) of this section, Section 61 (6) of this Act shall apply in respect of that firearm in all respects as if it were illegally in the possession of that person in the park.
- (6) Any person convicted of an offence under this section shall, in addition to any penalty for which he may be liable for the offence, be liable to pay the cost of repairing or restoring any damage done to the park, or to any plant or property growing or being in the park in the course of committing such an offence.
- (7) Any person convicted of any offence under this section shall, in addition to any penalty for which he may be liable for the offence and in addition to any costs for which we may be liable under subsection (6) of this section, be liable to pay twice the full market value of any animal or substance removed from the park if the District Court Judge is satisfied that the animal or substance was so removed in the course of committing such an offence for commercial or other gain.
- (8) For the purposes of subsection (6) and (7) of this section, the cost or value shall be assessed by a District Court Judge, and shall be recoverable summarily in like manner as a fine.

**Note:** Further offences are listed in Section 13(5), Section 56J(2) and Section 63 of the National Parks Act. Other legislation also details offences which could occur in a national park, e.g. Wildlife Act etc.

# Appendix A

## MOUNTAIN BIKERS CODE

The following Mountain Bikers Code was developed by Mountain Bike New Zealand Inc (MTBNZ) in liaison with key stakeholders and the Department of Conservation.

### Respect others

- Stay in control. So you can safely avoid others and keep yourself intact.
- Give way to walkers.
- Use a bell or greeting when approaching others. Most negative feedback from walkers on shared-use tracks concerns being surprised by bikers approaching without warning.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups. A 'bike-train' with a dozen riders displaces other users. 6-8, or less, is a better number.



### Respect the rules

- Only ride MTB and shared-use tracks; stay off closed tracks - including those that are seasonally closed to protect the surface or minimise conflict with other users. Land managers are generally pretty reasonable so talk with them about issues or ideas you may have.
- Be prepared - take food, water, tools, First Aid and warm clothes. Plan for the unexpected - a change in the weather, an accident or getting lost and late.
- Obtain permission from private landowners before you set out.
- Leave gates as you find them either open or closed to keep stock where they are intended to be.








### Respect the track

- Don't skid, cut corners or make new lines. Skidding creates water channels and causes erosion. Use both brakes to slow down without skidding as you approach a corner. Cutting corners is cheating and damages fragile ecosystems.
- Avoid riding in the mud and rain. Both bikes and walkers damage soft, wet tracks.
- Clean your bike to prevent spreading weeds like gorse and didymo.
- Take rubbish home - like banana skins, old tubes and snack wrappers. Rubbish in the outdoors detracts from everyone's experience.



# Appendix B

## MOUNTAINBIKE GRADING SYSTEM

| MOUNTAINBIKE GRADING |  |    |
|----------------------|--|---|
| GRADE                | SYMBOL   | GRADE DESCRIPTION   |
| Easy                 | 1<br><br>BEGINNER       | Fairly flat, wide, smooth track or gravel road.   |
|                      | 2<br><br>EASY           | Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.   |
| Moderate             | 3<br><br>INTERMEDIATE | Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outside edge.  |
|                      | 4<br><br>ADVANCED     | A mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and obstacles that are difficult to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track's outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk. |
| Hard                 | 5<br><br>EXPERT       | Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.                               |
|                      | 6<br><br>EXTREME      | Downhill/free ride specific tracks. Extremely steep sections with large drop-offs and other unavoidable obstacles. May include man made structures and jumps.   |

Most rides become more difficult when wet





# Appendix C

## SCHEDULE OF AIRCRAFT LANDING ZONE BOUNDARIES (REFER MAP G)

The following descriptions of the aircraft landing zone boundaries are intended to provide additional guidance to Map G. For exact aircraft landing zone boundaries please contact the Department of Conservation for a copy of the electronic Geographic Information System file (showing topographic and aerial photographic overlays), with New Zealand Mapping Grid Co-ordinates of all points on the aircraft landing zone boundaries. This latter electronic file will prevail in any situations requiring clarification of the boundaries or for enforcement purposes.

### FREQUENT AIRCRAFT LANDING ZONES

#### **Karamea Bend Frequent Zone**

- (a) 1.5km from the centreline of the Karamea River - from Crow Hut in the south to the west of Karamea Bend in the north;
- (b) 1.5km from the centreline of the Leslie River - from the confluence with Karamea River to the confluence with Peel Stream in the north;
- (c) Northern end - watershed catchment boundaries of tributaries of Peel Stream (incorporating Spludgeons Shelter) to the boundary of the Cobb Valley Remote Zone.

#### **Roaring Lion Frequent Zone**

100m radius from Roaring Lion Hut

### RESTRICTED AIRCRAFT LANDING ZONES

#### **Kahurangi Keepers Hut Restricted Zone**

100m radius from Kahurangi Keepers Hut

#### **Heaphy Hut Restricted Zone**

100m radius from the hut, within the Park boundary

#### **Mt Olympus View Restricted Zone**

500m radius from the two points 40°53'27.4"S 172°30'39.2"E and 40°53'32.4"S 172°30'39"E

#### **Aorere Restricted Zone**

500m from the centreline of the Aorere River - from the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area in the south to the confluence with Flanagan Creek in the north.

### **Cobb Valley Restricted Zone**

100m radius from the point 41°7'48.76"S 172°36'51.55"E adjacent to the Cobb Valley camping area.

### **Crow River Restricted Zone**

500m from the centreline of the Crow River - from a point 200m upstream of the confluence with Taylor Stream in the south (such that the boundary crosses the confluence of Crow River and Blue Duck Stream) to the boundary of the Karamea Bend Frequent Zone in the north.

### **All Other Restricted Zones**

All other areas bounded by the Frequent and Remote Zones.

### REMOTE AIRCRAFT LANDING ZONES

#### **Northern Remote Zone\***

\*Excludes the Kahurangi Keepers Hut Restricted Zone, Heaphy Hut Restricted Zone, Mt Olympus View Restricted Zone, Aorere Restricted Zone

- (a) Boundary of the Park from a point adjacent to the lower reaches of Heaphy River in the south, along the western coastline northward to the Kahurangi Point area, then eastward to Mt Stevens;
- (b) Watershed catchment boundaries from Mt Stevens southward to the boundary of the Park at Walsh Creek;
- (c) Boundary of the Park (Walsh Creek) southward to the confluence of Clark River with Aorere River;
- (d) Watershed catchment boundaries from confluence of Clark River with Aorere River southward for ~2km, then eastward to the ridgeline separating Boulder River and Clark River catchments, then southward along the ridgeline (through Lead Hills, Clark Peak, Green Saddle, Needles Eye, The Needle, and the 1435m high point) to the confluence of two tributaries of Anatoki River, then eastward around other tributaries of Anatoki River for ~2km, then south-westerly to the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area at Drunken Sailors (1546m);
- (e) The boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area, westward to a point ~300m east of Tubman Hill;
- (f) Watershed catchment boundaries northward (from a point ~300m east of Tubman Hill) along the ridgeline separating Big River and Heaphy River catchments to the 800m high point ~4km to the north of Tubman Hill and 500m to the west of the Heaphy Track;
- (g) 500m from Heaphy Track westward and southward to the boundary of the Park (near Lewis Hut);
- (h) Boundary of the Park (near Lewis Hut) westward across Heaphy River to 500m west of Heaphy Track;
- (i) 500m from Heaphy Track northward and eastward to ~300m east of Blue Shirt Creek;

- (j) Watershed catchment boundaries northward, westward and southward along the ridgeline separating Heaphy River (including Lewis River) catchment from the other river catchments to the north and west, to the Park boundary adjacent to the lower reaches of Heaphy River.

#### **Tasman Wilderness Area Remote Zone**

The boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area plus the following:

##### Western Additional Area -

- (a) Watershed catchment boundary from the southern western corner of the Tasman Wilderness Area (between Scotts Beach and Big Rock Beach) to the Park boundary on the west coast;
- (b) The boundary of the Park from the southern headland of Big Rock Beach northward and then eastward to the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area (near Cold Creek);
- (c) The boundary of the Park from near Cold Creek (generally northward and eastward to the south and east of Heaphy River, and excluding the Heaphy Hut landing site) to the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area (~600m southwest of Gunner River);
- (d) The boundary of the Park from Gunner River westward, and then northward for ~650m, and from this point a watershed catchment boundary southward to the Tasman Wilderness Area.

##### South-eastern Additional Area -

Watershed catchment boundaries: from the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area at a point ~320m north of the high point (1465m) on Kakapo Spur between the two main tributaries of Peel Stream; then south-easterly through the high points (1485m, 1417m, 1289m) along the ridgeline separating the two main tributaries of Peel Stream to their confluence; then southward to the high point (1190m); then westward through the high point (1418m) to the catchment boundary between two minor tributaries of Hodge Creek; then south-westward across Hodge Creek; then westward along the catchment boundary of two other minor tributaries of Hodge Creek to the high point (1420m); then south to the high point (1370m); then westward along catchment boundaries to the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area ~670m to the southwest of the high point (1261m) on Kakapo Spur.

#### **Cobb Valley/Mt Arthur/Tableland Remote Zone\***

\*Excludes the Cobb Valley Restricted Zone and areas that are not part of the Park (the Cobb Reservoir, legal road and ~63ha of other lands).

- (a) Watershed catchment boundary from the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area in the north (~300m west of Waingaro Peak) southward to a point ~550m southeast of Fenella Hut;
- (b) 500m from the Cobb Valley Track south-eastward to a point ~400m east of the high point (845m) (~800m south of the confluence of Myttons Creek and Cobb River);

- (c) Watershed catchment boundaries (on the true left of the Cobb River) northward and eastward to and along the ridgeline (to the south of Iron Lake, Little Sylvester Lake and Lake Sylvester), including Lake Sylvester Hut and through the high point (1318m) above Galena Creek catchment to the boundary of the Park;
- (d) The Park boundary to a point on the Cobb Dam Road ~1.5km east of the Cobb Dam;
- (e) Watershed catchment boundary through the confluence of two minor tributaries of Takaka River to a point that is 500m from the Cobb Ridge Track;
- (f) 500m from the Cobb Ridge Track to its junction with the Bullock Track;
- (g) Watershed catchment boundaries south and eastward through the high points (1165m, 1067m) to the confluence of Deep Creek and Takaka River, then eastward to Mt Hodder, then southward to the confluence of Holmwood Creek with Flora Stream, then through the high points (1040m, 1143m, 1301m) (along the ridgeline between Horseshoe Creek and Holmwood Creek);
- (h) Stream bed - tributary of Flora Stream (from high point 1301m to its confluence with another tributary of Flora Stream);
- (i) South-eastward for ~950m across the Mt Arthur Track, then westward for ~400m across a tributary of Eyles Creek to a watershed catchment boundary;
- (j) Watershed catchment boundaries westward, then southward through the junction of two tributaries of Eyles Creek, then south-westward through the high points (1355m, 1732m), across Ellis Basin/Pyramid Route to the junction of two minor tributaries of Ellis River, then north-westward through the high point (1753m) to a point ~260m to the north;
- (k) Northward and eastward around the main ridgelines from Mt Arthur and into Horseshoe Basin;
- (l) Watershed catchment boundaries northward through the high point (1380m) to a point on Pyramid Ridge ~550m southeast of Gordons Pyramid, then south-westward to the main stem of Leslie River;
- (m) The centreline of the Leslie River westward for ~2km to the junction of Leslie River with a tributary ~1km south of Sphinx Valley Cave;
- (n) Watershed catchment boundaries north-westward to a point ~300m south of the junction of the Leslie Track, the Lake Peel Track and the Salisbury Track, then south-westward ~1.5km (to the boundary of the Karamea Bend Frequent Zone), then westward to the high point (726m), then northward alongside Peel Stream, across Tarn Creek, through the high points (1483m, 1534m), through Mt Peel to a point on a ridgeline ~400m north of Thorns Creek;
- (o) From the ridgeline northward for ~400m to a point ~850m east of Mt Mytton;

- (p) 500m from the centreline of the Cobb Valley Track north-westward to the boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area (to the north of the outlet from Lake Cobb);
- (q) The boundary of the Tasman Wilderness Area northward and eastward.

#### **South Arthur Range Remote Zone**

- (a) Watershed catchment boundaries from the boundary of the Karamea Bend Frequent Zone near Slippery Creek eastward through the high points (726m, 792m, 911m, 1580m), then generally south-eastward through the high points (1542m, 1563m, 1497m), then south ~1km along the ridgeline, then south-eastward through the confluence of two tributaries of Moran Creek, then eastward to the high point (1261m), then south-eastward to the confluence of Skeet River and a tributary of Skeet River, then westward and southward across Skeet River to the high point (741m), then southward and westward through the high points (1463m, 1531m), then southward across the upper reach of Clarke River to the ridgeline, then westward to Mt Gomorrah and the high point (1258m), then south-westward through the high points (1364m, 1463m, 1460m, 1566m, 1507m) to a point ~900m north of Mt Patriach, then westward through the high point (1135m) through Kiwi Saddle through the high point (1312m) to the high point (1578m), then north to Mt Luna, then south-westward to the high point (1315m), then westward through the high points (1457m, 1414m), then northward along the ridgeline to the lower tributary of Meteor Creek;
- (b) The centreline of the lower tributary of Meteor Creek to its confluence with Meteor Creek;
- (c) 1km to the west of Luna Ridge from Meteor Creek in the south to the northern end high point (1143m) of Luna Ridge;
- (d) Watershed catchment boundaries north-westward to the high point (978m) then north-eastward to the boundary of the Karamea Bend Frequent Zone;
- (e) The boundary of the Karamea Bend Frequent Zone (excluding the Crow River Restricted Zone).

#### **Courthouse Flat Remote Zone**

- (a) The Park boundary from the end of Wangapeka River Road (Courthouse Flat) northward to the Wangapeka River, eastward to the Dart River and southward to the end of Dart River Road;
- (b) Watershed catchment boundaries westward to Trig Point A69F, then south-westward through the high points (1487m, 1530m, 1549m) to the high point (1406m), then westward through the high point (1669m) to the high point (1764m);
- (c) Around the bluff northward to a point ~350m west of Granity Pass Hut;
- (d) Watershed catchment boundaries from Sanctuary Basin northward



through Ghost Valley to the high point (1507m), then north-westward through Culliford Hill to Dogface Flat, then northward to the high point ~1.4km north of Nuggety Creek, then westward across tributaries of Nuggety Creek to the Park boundary at Courthouse Flat.

#### **South Branch Wangapeka Remote Zone**

- (a) Watershed catchment boundaries from the Park boundary at the high point (1504m) on the Matiri Range (~1.7km south of Nugget Knob) south-eastward alongside Tin Creek to the confluence of Robson Stream and a minor tributary (just to the west of Wangapeka River South Branch), then south-westward ~750m to a high point, then eastward across Wangapeka River South Branch to the high point (1116m), then north, east and southward around the catchment of Loaf Creek through the high points (1344m, 1457m) to the high point (1568m), then south westward along the ridgeline separating the Wangapeka River South Branch and Fyfe River catchments (through the high points 1563m, 1141m, 1247m), then southward along the ridgeline separating the Fyfe River and Sandstone Creek catchments to ~700m south of the high point (1084m), then westward across Sandstone Creek valley to the top of the ridgeline, then north-westward to Mt Baigent, then south-westward to Trent Peak, then westward across tributaries of Trent Stream and the confluence of Trent Stream with Matiri River to Matiri Valley Track;
- (b) Matiri Valley Track northward for ~500m;
- (c) Watershed catchment boundaries from where the Matiri Valley Track crosses a tributary of the Matiri River northward through the high point (733m), then to the high point that the Matiri Valley Track circles around, then across the Matiri Valley Track and a tributary of Matiri River to the southern end the bluffs northwest of Lake Jeanette, then adjacent to Matiri River and Hurricane Hut to the Park boundary (at the high point 1312m);
- (d) The Park boundary northeast to the high point (1504m).

#### **Mt Owen Remote Zone**

- (a) Watershed catchment boundaries from the 1700m contour ~690m north-northwest of Mt Owen eastward for ~1.3km, then south-westward around the bluffs towards Pisa, then south-eastward (for ~420m), south-westward (for ~680m) and westward (for ~820m) to a point ~300m north of Sunrise Peak;
- (b) Westward for ~550m, then northward across Castle Basin for ~1.2km, then eastward and northward around Poverty Basin to the 1700m contour.

# Glossary

**access (public):** On foot only unless otherwise qualified.

**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.

**agreement:** mutual understanding; covenant; treaty; arrangement undertaken by and legally binding on parties. (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*)

**aircraft:** Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air otherwise than by the reactions of the air against the surface of the earth (Section 2, Civil Aviation Act 1990). (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*).

**archaeological site:** Any place in New Zealand, including shipwrecks, which was associated with human activity more than 100 years before present and which through investigation by archaeological techniques may provide scientific, cultural, or historical evidence as to the exploration, occupation, settlement, or development of New Zealand. (*Historic Places Act 1993*)

**authorisation:** Collective term for all types of approvals by the Minister and the Director-General of Conservation provided for in a statutory process (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*).

**biological community:** A group of plants or animals, of distinctive character related to a particular set of environmental requirements. The term is used in a general, collective sense.

**biodiversity/biological diversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (*United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992*)

**cirque field:** A field of steep sided semi-circular or crescent shaped depressions formed by glaciers.

**community (biotic):** A recognisable group of plants and animal living together in one place.

**concession or concession document:** A lease, licence, permit or an easement granted under Section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 and includes any activity authorised by the concession document. (*National Parks Act 1980*)

**conservation boards:** There are 14 conservation boards, each comprising up to 12 appointed members. Their functions include recommending approval, review and overseeing the preparation of the conservation management strategies and national park management plans for their area, approval of conservation management plans (for example, for Forest Parks), advising the New Zealand Conservation Authority or Director-General of DOC on conservation matters and advising on new walkways in the region. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**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 consulted to enable it to tender helpful advice. It involves an ongoing dialogue. It does not mean acceptance of the other party's view, but enables informed decision making by having adequate regard to those views. (*Adapted from Air New Zealand v Wellington International Airport. CP403/91, 6 January 1992*)

**cultural:** Spiritual, traditional and historic values pertaining to a race's culture.

**Department:** Department of Conservation.

**Director-General:** Director-General of Conservation.

**district plan:** Prepared and changed by the territorial 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.

**endangered:** A plant or animals in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue. (*Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981*)

**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):** Sampling to determine the feasibility of mining.

**fauna:** Animal life of a place or time. (*Collins Concise Dictionary*)

**fishery:** One or more stocks or species of freshwater fish or aquatic life that can be treated as a unit for the purposes of conservation or management. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**flora:** Plant life of a given place or time. (*Collins Concise Dictionary*)

**fossil:** A relic or representation of a plant or animal that existed in a past geological age, occurring in the form of mineralised bones, shells, etc.

**freshwater fish:** Species of finfish (classes Agnatha and Osteichthyes) and shellfish (classes Mollusca and Crustacea) that must spend all or part of their life histories in freshwater.

**General Policy:** A guide for decisions based on general approaches. General policy is used to mean a statement, directive or guide adopted by the Minister of Conservation, or the New Zealand Conservation Authority following a statutory process under the Conservation Act, National Parks Act, Reserves Act, Wildlife Act, Marine Reserves Act, Wild Animals Control Act, Marine Mammals Protection Act and the New Zealand Walkways Act. Conservation management strategies must implement statements of General Policy. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*)

**graptolite:** Extinct marine animal found as a fossil in lower Palaeozoic rocks.

**Great Walks:** Popular tramping tracks promoted in a particular way.

**habitat:** The environment in which a particular species or group of species live. 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:** Sub-tribe (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**historic place:** Any land and/or, building and/or structure that forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and is within the territorial limits of New Zealand. Includes anything fixed to this land. (*Historic Places Act 1993*)

**historic resource:** An historic place within the meaning of the Historic Places Act 1993. Includes any interest in an historic place. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**hours of darkness:** The period of time between half an hour after sunset on one day and half an hour before sunrise on the next day.

**indigenous animal:** Native animal.

**indigenous plant:** Native plant.

**integrate:** Bring together.

**integrated conservation management:** The management of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage, and, existing or potential activities in a manner which ensures that priorities are clear and that the effects of such activity on others are considered and managed accordingly. (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*).

**invertebrates:** Animals without backbones - including snails, insects, worms, etc.

**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.

**iwi:** Tribe, people (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**kaitiakitanga/kaitiakitaka:** The exercise of guardianship. In relation to a resource this includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself. (*Resource Management Act 1991*)

**kaimoana:** Sea foods.

**karakia:** Prayer.

**karst:** Type of landscape formed by solution of limestone rocks by rainwater.

**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 protection given to land by the Act under which it is reserved.

**lease:** See National Parks Act 1980, Section 2.

**license:** See National Parks Act 1980, Section 2.

**mana:** Authority, control, influence, prestige, power. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**mana whenua:** Customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu or individual in an identified area. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**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 Māori, PM Ryan*)

**mining:** Extraction of mineral, but may include prospecting and exploration.

**motorised vessels:** any boat, vessel or craft used in navigation not solely powered manually or by sail and including hovercraft and small motor craft.

**mountain bike:** See definition of 'non-motorised vehicle'.

**natural character:** The qualities of an area which are the product of natural processes and, taken together, give it a particular recognisable character. These qualities may be ecological, physical, spiritual or aesthetic in nature. (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*).

**natural quiet:** Natural ambient conditions in a natural area; the sounds of nature. (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*).

**nga iwi:** Any or all of the following groups is appropriate in the context - Ngati Tama, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Apa, Te Atiawa and Ngai Tahu.

**Ngai Tahu Settlement:** The Ngai Tahu Settlement includes the Ngai Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997 and the Ngai Tahu (Tutaepatu Vesting) Act 1998, the Ngai Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997 and the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

**Ngai Tahu Takiwa:** Tribal area of Ngai Tahu as set out in Section 5, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act 1996.

**Ngai Tahu Whanui:** Tribal members of Ngai Tahu as set out in Section 2, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act 1996.

**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 approving General Policy, conservation management strategies and plans and national park management plans. The NZCA must also be consulted over any access notice over national park land under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. (*Conservation Act 1987, National Parks Act 1980*)

**non-motorised vehicle:** A vehicle propelled solely by human power; and includes a mountain bike.

**objectives:** Statements of intended results. These can be broad or narrow in scope and should be accompanied by implementation provisions. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*)

**obligate cave dweller:** A species which can only survive in a cave environment.

**outcome:** A goal or end result of a conservation action or series of actions (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*)

**pakihi:** Areas of flat or gently sloping wetland on the West Coast of the South Island, which support a low stunted vegetation community on wet infertile soils.

**peneplain:** An ancient eroded land surface, usually almost flat, exposed by the erosion of overlying secondary layers.

**permit:** See National Parks Act 1980, Section 2.

**personal water craft:** Power-driven vessel that has fully enclosed hull, does not retain water on board if it capsizes, and is designed to be operated by a person standing, sitting or kneeling on the vessel, not seated within the vessel.

**place:** An area identified in a conservation management strategy or national park management plan for the purposes of integrated management. It may include any combination of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas and may be determined by a range of criteria including, but not limited to: ecological districts, geological features, catchments, internal Departmental, regional or district council or rohe/takiwā boundaries, land status, major recreation or tourism destinations, commonality of management considerations and unique management needs. (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*)



**podocarps:** A predominant Southern Hemisphere family of coniferous plants which includes the kahikitea (white pine), totara, Hall's totara, miro, rimu, tanekaha (celery pine) and mountain pine.

**predate (predation):** Preying upon, searching out to kill.

**private accommodation:** Place to live or lodge which is not available to the general public on an open basis. (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*)

**prospecting:** Initial survey with hand held methods.

**protocols:** an agreement entered into by the Minister of Conservation and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu pursuant to the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

**QCM:** Quality Conservation Management - a management system which sets in place standard operating procedures and standards for work.

**rahui:** A restriction on access, prohibition. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**rare:** Species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk. (*Setting priorities for the conservation of New Zealand's threatened plants and animals, Department of Conservation.*)

**refugia:** Places where species which were formerly more widespread survive following severe habitat modification.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** The ROS is a system for classifying outdoor experiences. It identifies opportunities along a continuum from urban to wilderness. It has eight main categories and provides both an inventory and planning process.

**regional plans:** The purpose of these is to assist regional councils and unitary authorities to carry out their functions. They are designed to address specific resource management issues for which regional councils and unitary authorities 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*)

**regional policy statements:** These set out the objectives for managing resources and are prepared by regional councils and unitary authorities in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. They provide the overall framework for achieving sustainable management in the region and are binding on regional and district plans. (*Resource Management Act 1991, Regional Policy Statements and Plans, Ministry for the Environment.*)

**relict (populations):** Surviving in an area isolated from the main (former) distribution area, owing to the intervention of environmental events.

**relictual substrates:** Small, isolated remnants of a previously common substrate type.

**review:** In relation to conservation management strategies and management plans means to reconsider objectives and policies and following a process of public comment to approve a new strategy or plan, having regard to increased knowledge or changed circumstances. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**roche moutonnés:** French meaning "sheep-like rocks", rounded mass of rock smoothed and striated by glacial ice that has flowed over it.

**rohe:** Boundary, tribal region. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**runanga:** Assembly, council. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**specially protected areas:** Any part of a national park set apart as a specially protected area under Section 12 of the National Parks Act 1980. (*National Parks Act 1980*)

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

**speleothems:** Cave formations, usually stalactites and stalagmites.

**sports fish:** Introduced fish sought by freshwater anglers, mostly trout or salmon.

**strategic:** Planned approach to a problem or issue.

**stronghold:** An area where a significant proportion of the total natural population of a species is found.

**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.

**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.

**Takiwa:** boundary, tribal region of Ngai Tahu (see also rohe). (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**tangata whenua:** 1. In relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu that holds mana whenua over that area. (*Resource Management Act 1991*) 2. People of a given place. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*)

**tapu:** Under restriction or sacred.

**territorial:** Relating to an area or territory.

**Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu:** the representative body of Ngai Tahu Whanui as created by the Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act 1996.

**threatened (species):** A term used to mean vulnerable or more loosely used to include rare, vulnerable and endangered species.

**tikanga/tikaka Māori:** Māori customary values and practices. (*Resource Management Act 1991*)

**trilobite:** Fossil marine arthropod of palaeolithic time, characterised by

a three lobed body.

**troglobites:** Animals which can only survive underground, in caves etc.

**ultramafic:** Rock types very high in base metals, magnesium, iron.

**vehicle:** A device that is powered by any propulsion system and moves on rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means; and includes any device referred to previously from which the propulsion system has been removed; or the rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means of movement have been removed; and does not include: (a) a pushchair or pram; (b) a child's toy; (c) a personal mobility device used by a disabled person. (*General Policy for National Parks 2005*) For the avoidance of doubt this includes a hovercraft or other similar vehicles.

**vulnerable:** A plant or animal believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue. (*Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981*)

**wahi tapu:** Place sacred to Māori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual, or mythological sense. (*Historic Places Act 1993*)

**waiata:** Song, chant.

**wairua:** Life principle, spirit.

**walkway:** An area of land that has been declared a walkway or an area of land over which a walkway has been established under the New Zealand Walkways Act. (*New Zealand Walkways Act 1990*)

**wetland:** Permanent or intermittently wet areas, shallow water and land-water margins. They include swamps, bogs, estuaries, braided rivers, and lake margins.

**whakapapa:** Chant recounting genealogical lineage.

**wild animal:** Deer, chamois, thar, wallaby and opossum; goats and pigs that are living in a wild state. Except for deer kept in captivity for farming, does not include animals kept in captivity or rats, mice, rabbits, stoats, ferrets or weasels. Refer to the Act for the legal definition. (*Wild Animal Control Act 1977*)

**Wilderness Area:** Any part of a national park set apart as a Wilderness Area under Section 14 of the National Parks Act 1980. (*National Parks Act 1980*)

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