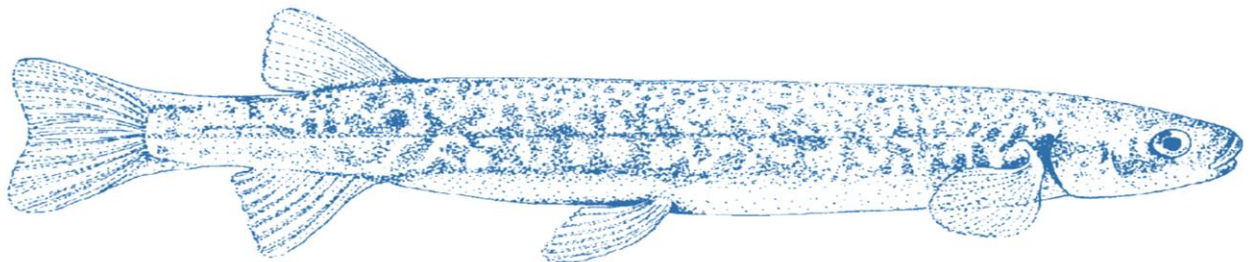
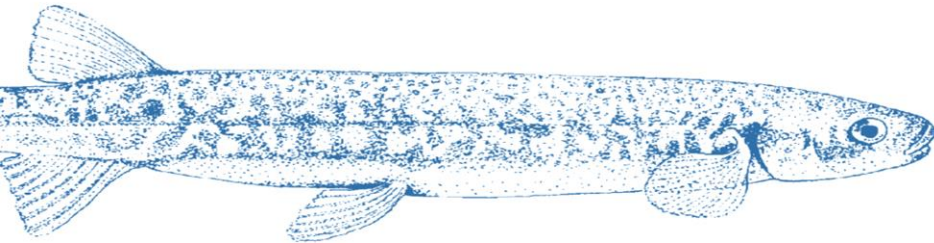
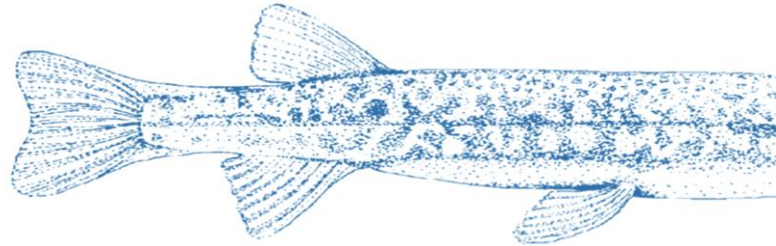




OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

Poari Papa Atawhai – ā-rohe ki Otago



Annual Report – Rīpoata ā-tau

1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings.

For more information about the Otago Conservation Board, please see conservationboards.org.nz.

Otago Conservation Board
C/O Board Support Officer
Department of Conservation Queenstown
027 583 0567
otagoconservationboard@doc.govt.nz

Published by

Otago Conservation Board
C/- Department of Conservation Whakatipu Wai Māori
PO Box 811
Queenstown 9348

ISBN 1176-6646 hard copy
ISBN 1179-2450 online

Cover photo: Inanga - Whitebait

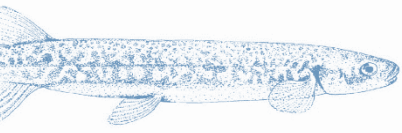
Photo credit: Department of Conservation image library: Stephen Moore

Contents

Contents

Contents	3
Chair’s Annual Report	5
Our Key Priorities	6
Introduction	7
Otago Conservation Board Region	9
Significant areas	10
Significant species	11
Statutory Functions	14
Land Classification	15
Biodiversity	16
Visitor Management	17
Climate Change	17
Board Liaison	18
Treaty Partnership	18
New Zealand Conservation Authority	18
Conservation Boards	19
Fish and Game	19
Local Government Authorities	19
Informing the Board	19
Community Engagement	19
Department of Conservation	21
Concessions and Submissions	21
Changes to Membership	21
Board Members	21
Tara Druce – Chair	21
Bruce Jefferies – Vice-chair (outgoing)	22
Dr Philippa Agnew	22
Kimberley Collins (outgoing)	22
Robyn Shanks	22

Ranui Ellison-Collins.....	22
Donald Lousley.....	23
Dean Fraser (incoming).....	23
Jen Rodgers (incoming).....	23
Taylor Davies-Colley (incoming)	23
Rob Wardle (incoming)	23
Board Committees	24
Liaison roles	25
Treaty Partnership.....	25
Neighbouring Conservation Boards.....	25
District and Regional Councils	25
Other.....	26
Board Meetings	27
Attendance.....	27
Field Trips	29
Appendices	30
Appendix 1:.....	30
Annual Work Plan.....	30
Mahere ā-tau - Annual Work Plan.....	33
Appendix 2	49



Chair's Annual Report

We have a committed and diverse membership on the Otago Conservation Board with every member having a regular job but also choosing to give their valuable time to advancing conservation outcomes for Otago. I am pleased and proud to report on the activities of this committed group for the 2020/21 year.

Like all Conservation Boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA), we continue to invest in thought and discussions around conservation partnerships with Māori and defining our role in supporting the Crown/Treaty partnership in a rapidly evolving context. As part of our commitment to supporting and advocating for proactive and productive conservation partnerships in Otago, we held a hui with rūnaka kaumatua in in Ōtepoti Dunedin in November 2020. As a Board, the Treaty partnerships are now considered and woven through discussions we have, and advice we develop as a Board, and we continue to invest time and energy advancing and promoting these partnerships.

Climate change is a key area of concern for our Board. We joined with the Southland Conservation Board for a hui and subsequently advocated to the NZCA for the Department to move swiftly to work with concessionaires on conservation land to reduce their emissions. We thank the NZCA for now taking up this advocacy with the minister.

On the statutory side, a key focus for the year was progressing a partial review of our Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for biking. Our existing CMS is highly prescriptive in its descriptions of where biking can occur. To be able to consider applications for new biking trails within the ten-year life of a CMS, a partial review was required. 1749 submissions were received, and the public hearings have been held. Four of our Board members formed a sub-committee to progress the review and a draft will come to the full board at our August 2021 meeting.

The public of Otago invest a huge amount of time and energy communicating their priorities for conservation when a CMS is written. It is our responsibility as a Board on behalf of the public of Otago to advocate for the delivery of the CMS milestones to be put at the heart of the Department's business planning. This advocacy is ongoing however we are buoyed by the changes that have occurred to the business planning process for the 2021/22 year and will follow with interest how this is reflected in Departmental budgets for the year.

You will see at the end of this document a more detailed summary of our year's work.

Mā tini mā mano, ka rapa te whai

Tara Druce

Otago Conservation Board Chair

Our Key Priorities

- ❖ **Enhance relationship with our Treaty Partner**
- ❖ **Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment**
- ❖ **Improve protection of land and conservation values and user experience in National Parks**
- ❖ **Growing advocacy and community engagement**





Introduction

The Otago Conservation Board (the Board) is an independent body established under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board's eleven members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation to provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and to Te Papa Atawhai, the Department of Conservation (DOC) on behalf of the public.

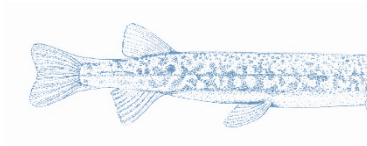
The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes by:

- Contributing a strategic perspective, informed by the community, to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making.
- Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management documents. In particular, the Otago Conservation Management Strategy and the Titirea/Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan.
- Advising on the implementation of statutory management planning documents.
- Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public forums and through statutory planning processes.

The statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are set out under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987:

- To recommend the approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactments.
- To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments.
- To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance.
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the

Board.



To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

In addition to the Conservation Act 1987, the following statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are included in the National Parks Act 1980:

- To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks.
- To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Otago Conservation Board submits this twentieth annual report.



Seals at Catlins - photo by Charlie Bennett, DOC

Otago Conservation Board Region

The Otago Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction spans 4,093,064 hectares of the Otago region, including 2,783,630 hectares of Public Conservation Land.



Otago Region

This area runs from the east coast, across the dry inland valleys of Central Otago, and over the Southern Alps to the west. It features a rich Ngāi Tahu history and a wide range of different landforms, ecosystems and species that are found nowhere else. This is, in part, due to the huge rainfall gradient — 10,000 mm annually on the western side of the Southern Alps and 400mm annually in Manuherikia, Alexandra, the driest part of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

It also offers many attractive opportunities for recreation and sightseeing, which is creating a huge increase in visitors to the region.

The public interest in recreation and conservation issues provides the basis for the Board's intervention and advice whether through its oversight of commercial activities on conservation land, the management of visitor activity, the control of weeds and pests, the enhancement of

biodiversity or the provision of its statutory advice.

The Board also recognises the special significance of Te Wāhipounamu — the Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area, a part of which lies within the Board's jurisdiction.

Significant areas

The Board's area features 2,793,630.24 ha of Public Conservation Land, including:

- 132 Scenic Reserves 33,513 ha total)
- 52 Historic Reserves (1,694 ha total)
- 459 Recreation Reserves (19,030 ha total)
- 5 Ecological Areas (16512.31 ha total)
- 646 Stewardship Areas (67,0640 ha total)



Tititea/Mount Aspiring National Park

Tititea/Mt Aspiring National Park covers 355,531 ha, straddling the boundary between the areas covered by both the Otago Conservation Board and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board. Its large glacier carved valleys, stunning mountain rangers and river valleys make it a popular destination for recreational users and international visitors alike.

Te Papanui Conservation Park

Te Papanui Conservation Park covers 20,591 ha. This remote area is an area of high ecological value, providing protection for a large area of intact native tussock grasslands, as well as a diversity of other ecosystems including wetlands, shrublands and silver beech forest remnants. It is considered a remote experience area and is used by the public for a range of recreational activities including hiking/walking, mountain biking, 4WD, horse trekking and cross-country skiing.

Hāwea Conservation Park

The Hāwea Conservation Park covers about 105,000 hectares of public conservation land around Lake Hāwea and the Hunter River, as well as areas on the McKerrow Range near Makarora. Large areas in the park are covered with native beech forest and shrublands.

Ōteake Conservation Park

About 65,000 hectares of public conservation land on the St Bathans, Hawkdun, Ida, Ewe and

St Mary's Ranges and parts of the upper Manuherikia Basin. The vegetation is dominated by tussock grasslands.

Kōpūwai Conservation Area

The Kōpūwai Conservation Area is around 20,000ha and stretches along the Old Man Range due west of Alexandra. It contains the upper catchments of the Pomahaka and Fraser Rivers and features distinctive rock tors bisected with fields of alpine herbs along the exposed summit.

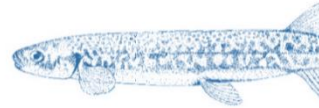
Otago Central Rail Trail

This very popular recreational facility for cyclists, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders follow the route of the former Otago Central Branch railway line for 150 kilometres between Mata-Au, Clyde and Middlemarch. It is now one of the official Aotearoa, New Zealand Cycle Trails.

Remarkables, Coronet Peak and Treble Cone

Parts of the public conservation land at these sites are occupied by commercial ski fields that are well-known for winter recreational activities but are also popular summer destinations.

Significant species



There are many significant and well-known indigenous species that can be found within the Board's area of jurisdiction, including:

Otago and grand skinks/mokomoko	Long-tailed bat/pekapeka-tou-ra
Jewelled gecko/moko kākārīki	Galaxiid/īnanga
Yellow-eyed Penguin/hoiho	Long-finned eel/tuna kuwharuwharu
Otago shag/kōua	Haast kiwi/tokoeka
New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka	New Zealand falcon/kārearea
Hectors dolphin/upokohue	Buff weka
New Zealand fur seal/kekeno	Yellowhead/mōhua
Southern right whale/tohorā	South Island robin/kakaruwai
New Zealand parakeet/kākārīki	Royal albatross/toroa



Hoiho patient. Wildlife Hospital Ōtepoti, Dunedin – photo credit



Otago Skink/Mokomoko - Sabine Bernert, DOC

Work Programme

At the beginning of each year, the Board prepares a work plan outlining its statutory responsibilities, expectations set by the Minister of Conservation and any priorities the Board wishes to address. This is a living document that is updated with progress reports prior to each meeting. A summary of the main work streams is listed below, and the full document can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Statutory roles

'Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision making.'

The Board provided advice to the Department on a number of concession applications and land status exchanges, including:

- 86317-ACC - DKDnz Lease renewal, Kelly Hut, Whakaari Conservation Area
- NZDA Waianakarua Hut proposal
- Consultation on enduring stewardship of Crown pastoral land
- Consultation re DOC's Tahr Control Operational Plan 2020/21
- Section 24 Marginal Strip process for the Gorge Creek Pastoral Lease renewal
- Craigs Flat Road Taking - Millers Flat
- Aspiring Guides Concession Application

The Board also submitted on several wider policy statements and position papers, including submissions on:

- November 2020: Dunstan Downs submission
- January 2021: Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill submission
- March 2021: Climate Change submission
- May 2021: Submission on the Otago Regional Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031
- August 2021: South East Marine Protection Submission





Rob Wardle ascending the Hawkdun Range – Ōteake Conservation Park

Statutory Functions

CMS Partial Review

With burgeoning interest in the development of new bike tracks in Otago, it became obvious last year, that the existing CMS framework was out of date. A comprehensive review of the relevant parts of the CMS has since been undertaken in response. The Board has been actively engaged with DOC in this process. This review has seen keen interest and engagement from the public, and especially local biking groups.

The current process is a two-step one that initially requires an approval for 'consideration' at a 'Place' in the CMS, before further approval of tracks, based on a subsequent approval criteria.

The initial stage for the Board involved reviewing whether the current process of a two-stage approval process is appropriate, given vigorous feedback from biking groups that it is not. The Board took the view that DOC is constrained by higher legislation to manage the process in this way.

The Board has subsequently recommended many new areas for consideration for assessment, whilst looking to strengthen the assessment criteria to ensure robust debate on the merits and impacts of track proposals. These consultations will be taking place over the upcoming summer, subject to the approval of the new CMS by the NZ Conservation Authority and reviewed by the Minister.

CMS Milestone Reporting

The Department is asked to report to the Board annually on progress towards achieving the various Milestones listed in the CMS. This year was year 4 of the Department's reporting against progress towards the Otago CMS 5-year Milestones. A comprehensive milestone progress report from the Department is included in Appendix 2.

In response to the report, the Board discussed where work was behind schedule or where the expectations contained within a Milestone were proving difficult to deliver. We resolved to write to the Department raising concerns that unless a significant focus was placed on many Milestones in the next year, they were unlikely to be met. The Board also agreed to hold a workshop with the Department, once the 5-year Milestone reporting is received in August 2021 to explore progress against these in detail. In some areas there are challenges in monitoring milestones, as the wording of some milestones is vague. We have agreed to work with the Department to add some agreed detail around these areas at this workshop.

The Board has ongoing concerns regarding the operational budget of the Department being adequate to continue to deliver across all milestone areas, especially in relation to Milestones that deliver on our Treaty partnership and as we face unprecedented biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. We are also advocating CMS delivery to be an input into the Department's annual work and budget planning process.



Land Classification

Remarkables/Kawarau reclassification gained momentum this year before being eclipsed by wider reclassification processes and Treaty partner discussions. The reclassification of these lands is a priority for the Otago Conservation Board and the whenua under consideration is of immense value to the people of Otago. Further, the reclassification of the Remarkables/Kawarau is a milestone in the 2016 Otago Conservation Management Strategy.

The OCB wrote to DOC Director General Lou Sanson urging the department to continue to progress the current process and avoid the loss of significant momentum and erosion of relationships that would be likely from a delay.

The process was slowed when the minister launched a wider reclassification process that does not at this stage include Kawarau. Our iwi representatives also indicated they would like to see Ngāi Tahu/Crown relationships improved at an iwi level before this reclassification is advanced.

The Board submitted on two processes relating to Land Classification:

- November 2020: Dunstan Downs submission
- January 2021: Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill submission

Biodiversity

The Board continues to advocate for biodiversity outcomes through concessions and the ongoing work of the Biodiversity Forum led by the Otago Regional Council. The government are still working on an implementation plan for Te Mana o Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and we await this with interest in order to further define our role in relation to it.

Our subcommittee attended meetings of the Biodiversity Forum before it was decided that the group is now working at an operational level and that the role of the Board is at a more governance level. The programme lead will report to the Board at future meetings and the Board will look to support the group once it looks to decide on a formal operating model.

During the year, our biodiversity subcommittee submitted on:

- May 2021: Submission on the Otago Regional Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031
- August 2021: SEMPA submission

We also urged the Department to ensure the reporting on taonga species is available and up to date to allow both the Department and the Board to monitor biodiversity trends. We were very pleased to receive a report on Tier 1 monitoring of sites within Tititea/Mt Aspiring National Park and are pleased that these will now come regularly to the Board.

While the Board received regular updates on Jobs for Nature decisions, it was unable to support or influence this work. We wrote to the Department urging them to take into account Section 4 and CMS Milestones when assessing proposals.

Sub-committee members attended Fish and Game Council meetings and we have a productive relationship with the Council. We shared advice on the Manuherehia minimum flow submissions and there is scope to do some good together on areas on joint interest.

Field Trip: 23 October 2020: Wildlife Hospital Dunedin

Wildlife Hospital Dunedin is based at Otago Polytechnic. They receive sick/injured wild animals and treat, hospitalise, and rehabilitate them before returning them to their environment. Manager Jordana Whyte showed members of the Board around, we were all very impressed with their set up and met gorgeous patients including Eggnog the Kiwi, an injured hawk fiercely protecting the remains of its lunch (rat guts and a tail) and a Hoiho with a sore foot.

Visitor Management

The Otago Conservation Board remains a strong advocate for a more sustainable approach to tourism in our conservation lands and waters. With the massive growth in tourism numbers in recent years we had started to see the adverse effects on public conservation lands in Otago and on visitors' experience of them. It has indeed been a significant focus for us as a Board as we considered the levers for managing a number of 'hot-spots' within Otago.

These pressures were evident through overcrowding at key sites, huts and tracks, the cumulative impacts of ski field trail development, the growing pressure of commercial concessions on the conservation estate and a marked decline in the social license to operate in our region.

Our July meeting was held over two days in Ōtepoti, Dunedin. In the wake of Covid-19 lockdown the board focused on the impact on decreased international tourism and its impact on the conservation estate. Is it an opportunity to push the reset button? We heard viewpoints from Professor James Higham and Dr Julia Albrecht from University of Otago.

Following this hui, the Otago Conservation Board has communicated to the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Tourism and New Zealand Conservation Authority its view that the current post COVID-19 re-set provides an important opportunity to think about what levers can be activated to allow for a more sustainable model for the future. Indeed, this last week, we released a media statement commenting on the latest Department Visitor Insights.

At a national level, the Tourism Taskforce delivered a report to government, but the recommendations from this have not been adopted by government. More recently, the Minister of Tourism indicated that a Tourism Industry Transformation Plan would be developed, but all has gone quiet on this since it was announced in May 2021.

On the positive side, the Board is buoyed to see that Regional Tourism Organisations have been funded by government to re-design the way tourism is planned and operated by creating a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for each RTO area.

In Otago, Destination Queenstown (DQ), Lake Wānaka Tourism (LWT) and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) are working together with our Treaty partner to develop the DMP for Queenstown Lakes District, with the vast majority of people engaged with, positively supporting a move to more sustainable tourism model.

The Board remains united in the view that Aotearoa, New Zealand needs a coordinated strategy to ensure the plans, initiatives and objectives of the visitor industry, our communities and the Department are aligned. The Board has identified a unique opportunity for the Department to capitalise on the momentum of work being done with DMP development to deliver positive outcomes for conservation in harmony with the visitor industry rather than in conflict as has sometimes been the case in the past.

Climate Change

The Otago Conservation Board held a joint hui with the Southland Conservation Board with a focus on understanding climate change impacts at the national and regional level and gaining

an oversight of current adaptation and mitigation work being done by Te Papa Atawhai staff both nationally and regionally.

The session included hearing from Judy Lawrence of the Climate Change Commission; Department of Conservation national and regional perspectives from Karl Beckert, Sam Parsons and Aaron Fleming; NZCA's overview of their climate change work delivered by Tony Lepper, and a view on climate change shared by the board's Ngāi Tahu rep Dean Fraser.

One of the outcomes of the hui was unanimous agreement to encourage Te Papa Atawhai to engage concession holders and applicants on climate change mitigation measures. Both the Otago and Southland Conservation Boards recommend introducing carbon reduction and climate change mitigation plans into both new and existing concession considerations.

While we recognise that the Department is pursuing its own internal climate mitigation work, we urge Te Papa Atawhai to concurrently engage concessionaires on this issue. We feel the issue is so important that the Department should not delay its efforts to engage with concessionaires, as such a process is bound to take some time.

Accordingly, we wrote to the NZCA seeking their support on the issue. The NZCA have subsequently advocated to the Minister of Conservation on this issue.

Board Liaison

Treaty Partnership

In November 2020 the Board held a Treaty partnership workshop in Ōtepoti, Dunedin, attended by local Rūnaka. Context was given by the Board, the Board's Ngāi Tahu reps, Department of Conservation (both regionally and nationally) and by Rūnaka members. The Board explored its responsibilities in relation to the Treaty partnership. The following day a board meeting was held which included a review of the workshop, and Annual Work Plan subcommittee and DOC updates on the Board's key priorities.

Our Ngāi Tahu representatives continue to liaise with local rūnaka as well as Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and effectively bring Treaty partner perspectives to our table.

New Zealand Conservation Authority

The Board has continued to maintain a positive and constructive relationship with the New Zealand Conservation Authority. This has included:

- Welcoming the Board's NZCA liaison (Tony Lepper) to attend meetings.
- Aligning its submissions with those made by the NZCA to ensure maximum impact (when possible).
- Our Chair, Tara Druce was invited to be part of the NZCA Visitor Management subcommittee and inputted into advocacy around the future of tourism in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Conservation Boards

The annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference provides an excellent forum for Chairs across Aotearoa, New Zealand to learn from each other and is highly valued. Relationships with the local neighbouring Conservation Boards are excellent with regular communication between the four Boards – Otago, Southland, Canterbury Aoraki and West Coast Tai Poutini with regular reciprocal attendance at meetings, particularly with Southland.

Fish and Game



The Board represented at Fish and Game Council meetings in Macraes, Ōtepoti, Dunedin and met with the Westland branch informally.

Local Government Authorities

Meeting attendances by Dunedin City Council – Mayor Aaron Hawkins and Richard Ewens DCC Biodiversity Advisor.

Informing the Board

The Board continues to receive reports from the Department at each meeting. These include an overview of important issues with a particular emphasis on the strategic issues arising in each area. This is intended to better align with the Board's role. Some highlights included:

- CMS Partial Review briefing
- Implementing NZ Biodiversity Strategy
- Jobs For Nature
- SEMP Briefing
- Climate Change
- Visitor Management Strategy
- Business Planning
- Treaty Partnership

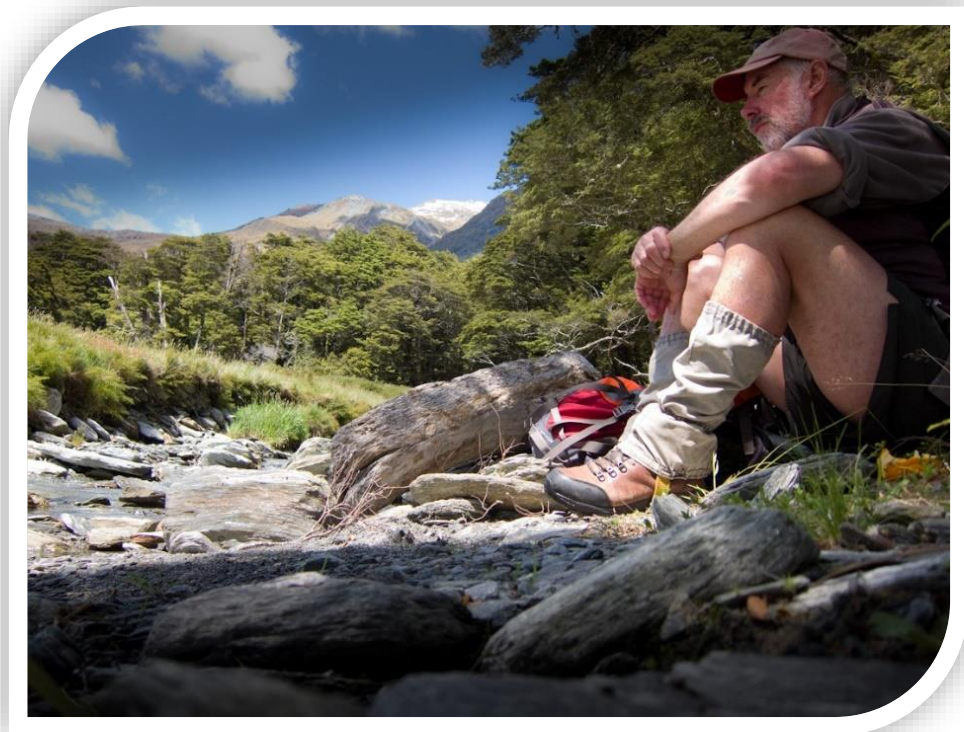
Community Engagement



A Public Forum session at each Board meeting is made available for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. In 2020-2021, presentations made by

community groups and members of the public at Board meetings included:

- **2 July 2020 Ōtepoti, Dunedin:** John Cocks from NZ Alpine Club gave an overview of the status of the Mt Aspiring Hut.
- **22 October 2020 Ōtepoti, Dunedin:** Peter Wilson from Federated Mountain Club gave an update on NZ Back Country Trust new projects, and their Jobs for Nature funding.
- **9 April 2021 Waihōpai, Invercargill:** Member of the public Geoff Dembo spoke to the Board about his carbon sequestration interests.



Donald Lousley relaxing during a trapping day in West Matukituki Valley, Mt Aspiring National Park

Governance



Department of Conservation

The Board enjoys a strong relationship with Te Papa Atawhai, the Department of Conservation in 2020-21, interacting with the Director Operations, SSI, Aaron Fleming, Statutory Manager John Roberts, and Operations Managers - Coastal Otago, Craig Wilson and Annie Wallace; - Central Otago, Mike Tubbs and Nikki Holmes; - Queenstown, Geoff Owen and David Butt. The Board is also ably supported and acknowledges the hard work of its Board Support Officer, Teresa Murphy.

Concessions and Submissions

Where an application for a concession is believed to have a particular public interest, it is not adequately covered within a Plan or Strategy, or it is to be publicly notified, the Department will seek advice from the Board.

Board Membership

There were eleven Board members for the reporting year. This included two appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Changes to Membership

The year began with a farewell to Bruce Jefferies in July 2020, the Board's Vice Chair, who moved to Taupō. Dave Vass was voted as the new Vice Chair.

We also bid farewell to Kimberley Collins who stepped down from the Board in September 2020 after two years of committed service.

Board Members

Tara Druce – Chair

Tara Druce is based in Central Otago. Her role as Chair of the Otago Conservation Board brings together her love of the outdoors, conservation, strategy and governance. With a background in tourism public policy and planning, she has also run her own business and tourism planning consultancy as well as worked in Parliament advising the Minister of Tourism. She currently oversees the Regional Business Partners Team for Otago, supporting businesses through the region to grow and innovate. She lives in Manuherikia, Alexandra with her husband and three teenage girls.

Bruce Jefferies – Vice-chair (outgoing)

Bruce was previously in a Samoa-based role as Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Advisor for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. He is an experienced international consultant and practitioner in protected area management and planning. He is a former Conservator (Tai Rawhiti) and conservation board member (Tongariro), and a current Member of Forest & Bird. Bruce's outdoor recreation interests are skiing, fishing, and using the backcountry.

Dr Philippa Agnew

Philippa is a research scientist with Tourism Waitaki at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony. She has a PhD in marine science, specialising in seabirds, and has extensive experience in environmental management, including maintenance, population management, spatial planning and conservation. She has detailed knowledge around protected species and Marine Protected Areas and was a member of the South East Marine Protection Forum.

Kimberley Collins (outgoing)

Kimberley is a science communicator and conservationist who specialises in using digital media to engage people with conservation and the environment. She runs a science communication consultancy in Ōtepoti, Dunedin and is an active volunteer with local conservation projects. This includes being a committee member on Forest & Bird's Dunedin branch, leading a campaign to protect penguins at Caroline Bay in Timaru, and connecting conservation communicators throughout Aotearoa, New Zealand. With experience working for a range of conservation organisations, she has a strong understanding of conservation issues at a local and national level.

Robyn Shanks

Robyn is a sheep and beef farmer in The Catlins and manages the Cathedral Caves tourist attraction for the Māori landowners. She is chairperson for Catlins Coast Inc. - a community charitable organisation set up to help manage tourism increase in The Catlins. Robyn's outdoor recreation interests are walking, gardening and sea-shore activities such as wildlife and bird watching.

Ranui Ellison-Collins

Ranui is the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointee on the Otago Conservation Board. Ranui grew up in Ōtepoti, Dunedin, attending Queens High School and graduated from Otago University with a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics, a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Development and a Diploma of Languages enforced in Mandarin. Ranui is a consultant, but

outside of mahi she enjoys exploring nature and broadening her understating of Kāi Tahu histories within te rohe o Ōtākou.

Dave Vass – newly elected vice chair

Dave has been an enthusiastic adventurer for over 30 years, especially as a mountaineer/climber mainly throughout the southern mountain areas of Ata Whenua, Fiordland and Otago. He is the co-founder of New Zealand's first canyoning company based in Wānaka and believes that smaller-scale tourism ventures can interact with nature in a meaningful and sustainable way.

Donald Lousley

Donald is self-employed in several roles, including landscape and wildlife photographer. He has extensive outdoor experience in Aotearoa, New Zealand with skills including, bush craft, avalanche control, mountaineering, and trap installation and monitoring. He was previously employed by the Department of Conservation over summer periods from 2014-2017, looking after huts, tracks and people in Titirea, Mt Aspiring National Park, and predator control and bird monitoring.

Dean Fraser (incoming)

Dean is a Ngāi Tahu representative. He is General Manager Transformation at Ngai Tahu Holdings. He has previously held a variety of roles both with Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation and as the Chair of Ōtākou Papatipu Rūnaka. He is skilled in strategic direction, operational delivery, and risk management.

Jen Rodgers (incoming)

Jen Rodgers works as a facilitator for the Enviroschools programme in Dunedin. She is active in working with communities to increase knowledge of biodiversity and climate issues. She has a Bachelor of Science and a Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice.

Taylor Davies-Colley (incoming)

Taylor is a Masters' student in science and is involved in various environmental research projects. He has experience working alongside local iwi on conservation projects in Ōtepoti, Dunedin and University of Otago's Science Wananga Programme.

Rob Wardle (incoming)

Rob is the Central Otago Regional Representative for the QEII National Trust and undertakes other work as a self-employed ecological contractor. His career has been focused on the South Island High Country having worked for Landcorp Property Ltd and the Department of Conservation. With his wife Kate he owns and manages a walnut orchard and processing

business at Galloway near Manuherikia, Alexandra. Rob is also a passionate backcountry adventurer enjoying, tramping, back country skiing, mountain biking, pack rafting and kayaking.



Otago Conservation Board Chair Tara Druce & daughters Lotte, Milla & Sophia at Glacier Burn Feb 2021

Board Committees

The Board may appoint committees when appropriate to address a particular issue within the region. During the reporting period, the following subcommittees were established:

Subcommittee	Board Members
CMS Partial Review	Dave (Lead); Tara, Rob, Ranui
Biodiversity/Jobs for Nature	Taylor (Lead); Donald, Philippa, Robyn, Rob
Climate Change	Jen (Lead); Kimberley, Philippa, Robyn
Visitor Management	Dave/Tara (Lead);
Land reclassification	Rob (Lead); Donald, Ranui, Tara, Dave
Self-Review/Communications	Tara (Lead); Kimberley, Donald

Strengthening understanding & delivery of Section 4	Ranui (Lead); All members
---	---------------------------

Liaison roles

Making connection with neighbouring Conservation Boards and relevant organisations is important in both a collaborative and collegial sense.

Treaty Partnership

Ngāi Tahu nominates two members of the Board. They are individually selected by their papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representative of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Otago Conservation Board's representatives during this annual report period were Dean Fraser and Ranui Ellison-Collins.

Board member	Role
Ranui Ellison-Collins	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Dean Fraser	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative

Neighbouring Conservation Boards

Board member	Role
Dr Philippa Agnew	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board liaison
Tara Druce (Chair)	New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison
Donald Lousley	West Coast Ta Poutini Conservation Board liaison
Robyn Shanks	Southland Conservation Board liaison
Dave Vass	West Coast Ta Poutini Conservation Board liaison

District and Regional Councils

The Board made a motion to invite district and regional councils to speak to the Board when meeting on their patch and/or when discussing issues relevant to that region.

District and Regional Councils related to Otago Conservation Board

Dunedin City Council
Central Otago District Council
Otago Regional Council
Fish and Game Council
Waitaki District Council
Clutha District Council
Queenstown Lakes District Council

Other

Board member	Role(s)
Robyn Shanks	New Zealand Sea Lion Forum liaison



Philippa Agnew on the Heyward Point track, North Dunedin

Board Meetings

The Otago Conservation Board held 7 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are normally varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board; however, Covid Alert levels greatly affected locations this year.

Date(s)	Location	Field Trip/Workshop
2-3 July 2020	Ōtepoti, Dunedin	-
27 August 2020	Online	-
22-23 October 2020	Ōtepoti, Dunedin	Field Trip: Wildlife Animal Hospital
26-27 November 2020	Ōtepoti, Dunedin	Workshop: Treaty Partnership
3 March 2021	Online	-
8-9 April 2021	Waihōpai, Invercargill	Workshop: Climate Change
17 June 2021	Online	-

Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the reporting period.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including sub-committee meetings and representative roles.

Board Member	Base	Meetings Attended
Tara Druce (Chair)	Manuherikia, Alexandra	7/7
Bruce Jefferies (outgoing vice chair)	Wānaka	1/7
Dave Vass (new vice chair)	Wānaka	7/7
Dr Philippa Agnew	Oamaru	7/7

Taylor Davies-Colley	Ōtepoti. Dunedin	6/7
Kimberley Collins	Timaru	2/7
Ranui Collins-Ellison	Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington	7/7
Jen Rodgers	Ōtepoti. Dunedin	5/7
Donald Lousley	Wānaka	6/7
Andrea Ludemann	Oamaru	1/7
Robyn Shanks	Ōwaka	7/7
Rob Wardle	Manuherikia, Alexandra	6/7
Dean Fraser	Ōtautahi, Christchurch	6/7



Kiwi patient. Wildlife Animal Hospital Dunedin - photo credit

Field Trips

Field trips often coincide with Board meetings. This is an opportunity for members to visit areas of significance to their work and to better understand local issues affecting the communities where they are holding a meeting. Unfortunately, changing Covid levels affected the board's ability to undertake field trips this year.

Date(s)	Location
23 October 2020	Wildlife Animal Hospital Dunedin

Appendices



Appendix 1:

Annual Work Plan

Otago Conservation Board

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

This Annual Work Programme outlines the responsibilities and priorities of the Otago Conservation Board for the 2020/21 year. It has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 5 September 2019, aligns with the statutory functions of the Board and the application of these powers to deliver conservation outcomes for Otago. The plan is structured in three parts:

A: Government and Ministerial Priorities

1. Enhance relationships between our Treaty partners
2. Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment
3. Improve protection of land with conservation values with focus on improving intrinsic values and appropriate user experiences in National Parks
4. Grow advocacy and community engagement

B: General expectations contained in the letter:

1. Statutory Responsibilities
2. Working with and providing advice to the Department of Conservation (the Department)
3. Working with adjoining conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority)
4. Monitoring and self-review

C: Risks/issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

BOARD FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 6M of the Conservation Act, are:

- a) to recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies (CMSs), and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments;
- b) to approve conservation management plans (CMPs), and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments;
- c) to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and

- conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- d) to advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General:
 - (i) on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - (ii) on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- e) to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board; and
- f) to exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 30 of the National Park Act 1980 are:

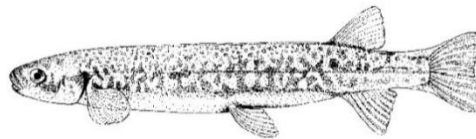
- (1) In addition to the functions specified elsewhere in this Act or in any other Act, the functions of each Board shall be—
 - (a) to recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47:
 - (b) to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
 - (c) to make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
 - (d) to review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board:
 - (e) *[Repealed]*
 - (f) to give advice to the Director-General or the Authority—
 - (i) on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
 - (ii) on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
 - (iii) on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the Otago Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer tmurphy@doc.govt.nz.

Mahere ā-tau - Annual Work Plan

Te Poari o Te Papa Atawhai ki Otago - *Otago Conservation Board*

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021



This Annual Work Programme ('work programme') outlines the strategic priorities of the Otago Conservation Board ('OCB') for the 2020/21 financial year ('FY2020/21'). This document also highlights our commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi ('the Treaty'), and responsibilities outlined in Section 4 of the Conservation Act ('Section 4') and partnerships with mana whenua which have been woven into the planned actions within each priority. Our priorities for FY2020/21 year are as follows:

1. Conservation Management Plan: Partial review, monitoring and advice to the Department
2. Biodiversity & Jobs for Nature
3. Visitor management
4. Climate mitigation and adaptation
5. Land re-categorisation
6. Reporting, communications and self-review
7. Strengthen our understanding of, and delivery on, our Section 4 commitments

These strategic priorities have been developed in response to:

1. The Otago Conservation Board protocol for giving effect to our Section 4 responsibilities and partnerships with mana whenua
2. The Board's statutory responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980 and the Reserves Act 1977 and the application of these statutory powers to deliver conservation outcomes for Otago
3. The Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 7 August 2020
4. The Department's 4-year plan priorities and stretch goals
5. The Strategic Priorities of the New Zealand Conservation Authority ('the Authority')
6. Other priorities we have identified within our rohe.

LETTER OF EXPECTATION

The Minister's Letter of Expectation outlines the priorities for the OCB for FY2020/21 is as follows:

Government and Ministerial Priorities

5. Ensure any review of a national park plan or conservation management strategy occurring in your Board areas is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes
6. Work with Te Papa Atawhai and mana whenua on developing and improving implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act

7. Advise the department on strengthening its climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives
8. Implement Te Mana o Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy in collaboration with iwi and hapū, community organisations, councils and the department
9. Advocate for conservation and engage and connect with mana whenua and their local communities on local conservations issues.

General expectations contained in the letter:

5. Our community – being active and visible and giving effect to Section 4 through partnerships with Paptipu Rūnaka within the Ōtākou region, as mana whenua
6. Working collaboratively with and providing advice to the Department of Conservation ('the Department')
7. Working with adjoining conservation boards and the
8. No surprises – keeping the Minister informed or material or significant matter
9. Monitoring and self-review – milestones and measures that demonstrate what success will look like.

This plan also identified risks and issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 6M of the Conservation Act, are:

- g) to recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies (CMSs), and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.
- h) to approve conservation management plans (CMPs), and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments.
- i) to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- j) to advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General:
 - (i) on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - (ii) on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- k) to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board; and
- l) to exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 30 of the National Park Act 1980 are:

(1) In addition to the functions specified elsewhere in this Act or in any other Act, the functions of each Board shall be—

- (a) to recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47:
- (b) to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
- (c) to make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
- (d) to review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- (e) *[Repealed]*
- (f) to give advice to the Director-General or the Authority—
 - (i) on the interpretation of any management plan for
 - a park; and

(ii) on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and

(iii) on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.

OCB SECTION 4 PROTOCOL

The Otago Conservation Board recognises the significance of Section 4, reflecting the strongest wording in statute relating to the Treaty. As such, the Board have adopted a set of Section 4 Protocols to guide our activities and interactions. Please see appendix.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATIONS 4 YEAR PLAN AND STRETCH GOALS

1. The diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored.
2. Our history is brought to life and protected.
3. New Zealanders and our visitors are enriched by outdoor experiences.
4. New Zealanders connect and contribute to conservation.

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the Otago Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer tmurphy@doc.govt.nz.

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
Green	Completed
Yellow	Started and is ongoing
Red	Not started yet

PART A: Strategic Priorities

1. CMS partial review, monitoring and advice to the Department

Lead: Dave

Support: Rob, Ranui

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action and Milestones	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Ensure all Board recommendations, and in turn decisions, have taken into account the perspectives and interests of mana whenua and align with our Section 4 Protocols.		<p>Like all Conservation Boards and the NZCA we continue to invest in thought and discussions around partnerships with Māori and defining our role in supporting the Crown / iwi partnership in a rapidly evolving context. In the statutory planning context, this has involved advising / supporting the Department with engagement with rūnaka as well as ensuring a Ngāi Tahu representative on the Board sub-committee progressing the partial review.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to supporting and advocating for proactive and productive conservation partnerships in Otago, we held a hui with rūnaka kaumatua ,Edward and Matapura Ellison from Otākou and Puketeraki in Ōtepoti Dunedin in November 2020.</p>
B	Effectively progress the CMS partial review (cycling) to ensure strong conservation outcomes.		The Board have supported the Department to progress this statutory review through a sub-committee. 1749 submissions were received on the draft and hearings were held mid-March where three board members sat on the hearing panel. The Board has been pleased with the progress of the review

			and is looking forward to receiving a draft for considerations at its August 2021 meeting.
C	Monitor DOC's implementation of the Otago CMS and advocate for CMS milestones to be embedded into annual work planning and budget.		The Board advocates for CMS milestones to be considered at the heart of DOC business planning. As part of this advocacy, a letter was sent to Southern area director (Aaron) around unresolved milestones and annual planning/budget issues, urging DOC's attention to these. We are buoyed by the increased focus the Department are putting on the Milestones and are planning a workshop in August 2021 to review those Milestones that are no longer fit for purpose.
D	Give advice to the Department on concession issues and other statutory processes as required. In addition, ensure advice takes into account the outcomes of the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Supreme Court Case.		Advice provided on several concession applications As a Board, the treaty partnerships are now considered and woven through discussions we have and advice we develop as a Board and Section 4 responsibilities considered.
E	Monitor the Department of Conservation's progress towards the notification of a MANPMP review noting it expires in 2021.		No discernible progress. Not currently a priority for the Department.

2. Biodiversity

Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment. Monitoring Jobs for Nature

Lead: Taylor

Support: Donald, Phillipa, Robyn, Jen

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action and Milestones	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Implement <u>Te Mana o Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy</u> in collaboration with Kāi Tahu, Papatipu Rūnaka within Ōtākou, community organisations, councils and the department.		The Board continues to advocate for biodiversity outcomes through concessions and the ongoing work of the biodiversity group led by the Otago Regional Council. The government are still working on an implementation plan for the strategy and we await this with interest in order to further define our role in relation to <u>Te Mana o Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy</u>
B	Submit on strategic documents regarding biodiversity, threatened and taonga species in our region.		Our biodiversity subcommittee submitted on South East Marine Protection. We also urged the Department to ensure the reporting on taonga species is available and up to date to allow both the Department and the Board to monitor biodiversity trends. We were very pleased to receive a report on Tier 1 monitoring of sites within Tititea/Mt Aspiring National Park and are pleased that these will now come regularly to the Board.
C	Jobs for Nature – monitor and engage in the programme to ensure good conservation outcomes for Otago consistent with our Section 4 Protocols.		While the Board received regular updates on Jobs for Nature decisions, it was unable to support or influence this work. We wrote to the Department urging them to take into account Section 4 and CMS Milestones when assessing proposals.
D	Provide strategic leadership for the interagency Biodiversity forum and advocate to and for this group. Meet with ORC Chair and attend biodiversity forum meetings.		Our subcommittee attended meetings of this group before it was decided that group is now working at an operational level and that the role of the Board is at a more governance level. The programme lead will report to the Board at future meetings and the Board will look to support the group once it looks to decide on a formal operating model.
E	Support the collaborative relationships with Fish & Game Councils in areas of mutual interest in the Otago region, identify areas of mutual interest, have a nominated board member attend F&G Council meetings and encourage		Sub-committee members attended meetings and we have a productive relationship with the Council. We shared advice on the Manuherekia minimum flow submissions and there is scope to do some good together on areas on joint interest.

	Otago Fish and Game staff and councillors to attend board meetings.		
--	---	--	--

3. Visitor Management

Lead: Dave

Support: Rob, Robyn

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action and Milestones	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Submit to the Tourism Futures Taskforce and advocate for a more sustainable and regenerative tourism model. Monitor the progress of the Taskforce towards a building regenerative tourism model.		Initial submission was completed and sent. Make sure we keep up to date with progress from the taskforce and submit when we can. Outcomes of the Taskforce were not adopted, and the Minister of Tourism has now directed that a Tourism Industry Transformation plan be written. Our Chair attended the Tourism Policy School conference where industry and conservation leaders spoke and debated the issues facing New Zealand.

B	Ensure the interests of Kāi Tahu, and Paptupu Rūnaka within Ōtākou in particular, are taken into consideration in alignment with our Section 4 Protocols.		We held a hui in Dunedin with Edward and Matapura Ellison from Ōtākou and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, and DOC personnel working on higher level S4 processes. Ongoing discussions from this. Consider a standardised protocol for ensuring we incorporate this thinking into our decision making and updates from dept on S4 issues (General Policy review etc..).
----------	---	--	--

4. Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Lead: Jen

Support: Taylor, Phillipa, Robyn

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action and Milestones	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Monitor and advise the department on strengthening its climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives		Operations managers and others (i.e. Meg from Visitor/Heritage) have started to provide reports that include climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives and OCB ask questions in this regard.
B	Grow our understanding of the impacts of climate change in the Otago region including how it is and will affect infrastructure, our Treaty Partner, public conservation land, biodiversity including species and their habitats.		A very productive hui with OCB and SCB 8 th April 2021. Boards gained good understanding of climate advice from Dr Judy Lawrence Climate change commission and Karl Beckert and Sam Parsons from Te Papa Atawhai. Some good discussion on how climate change effects Conservation operations and biodiversity. The Boards then write to the NZCA urging them to advocate for a greater focus on the emissions on concessionaires. The NZCA have now take this up with the Minister.

C	<p>Ensure the board considers the implications of climate change in all facets of its work, including statutory management planning documents, submissions, advocacy and when consulting on concession applications.</p> <p>Undertake carbon audit of board activities and produce event guide- (ie lead by example with events and low packaging. Local food etc).</p>		<p>Climate change implications will be covered in April 2021 meeting. Sam Parsons has shared climate change adaptation projections @ regional level https://niwa.co.nz/climate/national-and-regional-climate-maps/otago.</p> <p>As a Board we have had a number of online meetings to reduce our carbon footprint. We also carpool where possible.</p>
---	---	--	--

5. Land Re-categorisation

Lead: Rob

Support: Donald, Ranui

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action and Milestones	Status	Progress Commentary
A	<p>Ensure Kāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnaka are actively engaged in the process, afforded adequate time to provide mātauraka and have had recommendations acknowledged in all land re-classification activities.</p>		<p>The Board's work has not started on the Remarkables / Kawarau reclassification. In relation to tenure review there has been discussion as to the boards role in ensuring that cultural advice is built into outcomes. The Minister has announced that reclassification will be pursued for other South Island regions but not Kawarau at present. Our advice is also that wider discussions with iwi are required before this reclassification should progress.</p>
B	<p>Engage on Remarkables /Kawarau Reclassification if and when the process commences.</p>		<p>Process paused as above.</p>

C	Tenure Review - assess advertised proposals with a view to submitting. Consider submitting on Crown Pastoral Reform Bill.		Submitted on Dunstan Downs tenure review to LINZ. Made a further submission on Crown Pastoral Reform Bill.
----------	---	--	--

6. Reporting, collaboration, communications and self-review

Lead: Tara

Support: Vacant

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Actions and Milestones	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Report to the public and NZCA on the outcomes of our meetings and field trip activity through quarterly newsletter annual report.		Ongoing.
B	Maintain collaborate relationships with the department. Invite key department staff at Board meetings and other forums to contribute to discussions and decision-making processes.		SSI Director and Operations Managers invited to all meetings as well as specialists in other areas as required to support the work programme. Adapted format for reporting from the Department to mirror our priorities.

C	Continue to have nominated Board representatives to be liaison points with NZCA and neighbouring conservation boards. Representatives to review agendas, board papers minutes and ensure relevant connections with OCB work.		Ongoing.
D	OCB Chair to continue to liaise with neighbouring Board Chairs through the NZCA Conference for Board Chairpersons and to develop a constructive working relationship with adjoining Board Chairs.		Our Chair attended the Chairs Hui in Wellington in August 2020 and there are now ongoing bi-monthly Zui for Chairs.
E	Ensure NZCA representative is kept well informed of Board activities and is invited to all meetings and copied into board papers.		The Chair meets between meetings with Tony Lepper our NZCA representative and Tony is invited to all meetings.
F	Invite neighbouring boards to send representatives to attend our meetings and/or field trips.		John Whitehead, Chair of the Southland Conservation Board attended our November hui with Rūnaka and we held a joint meeting with SCB in April.
G	Work towards creating an inclusive board culture that welcomes diverse perspectives, identities, and life experiences to ensure all board members are equally engaged and invested.		Ongoing focus on welcoming diverse perspectives while speaking as one board.
H	Implement the recommendations of the Governance Review undertaken in June 2019.		Implemented the recommendations. A better understanding of our key functions and responsibilities with a corresponding subcommittee structure and reporting.
I	Continue to maintain a relationship with the Papatipu Rūnaka within the Ōtākou region as both the community we represent and our Treaty Partner.		A hui held in November 2020 and some good korero. Board to discuss next steps in building this relationship.

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

10 Risks from the Board's perspective

A	The ability of board members to allocate adequate time and resources to what is a significant voluntary commitment.
B	The ability to balance competing perspectives and values for conservation around the Board table.
C	The Board is too focused on operations and not strategy / governance.
D	The ability to monitor and understand ever-evolving Treaty related responsibilities and issues.

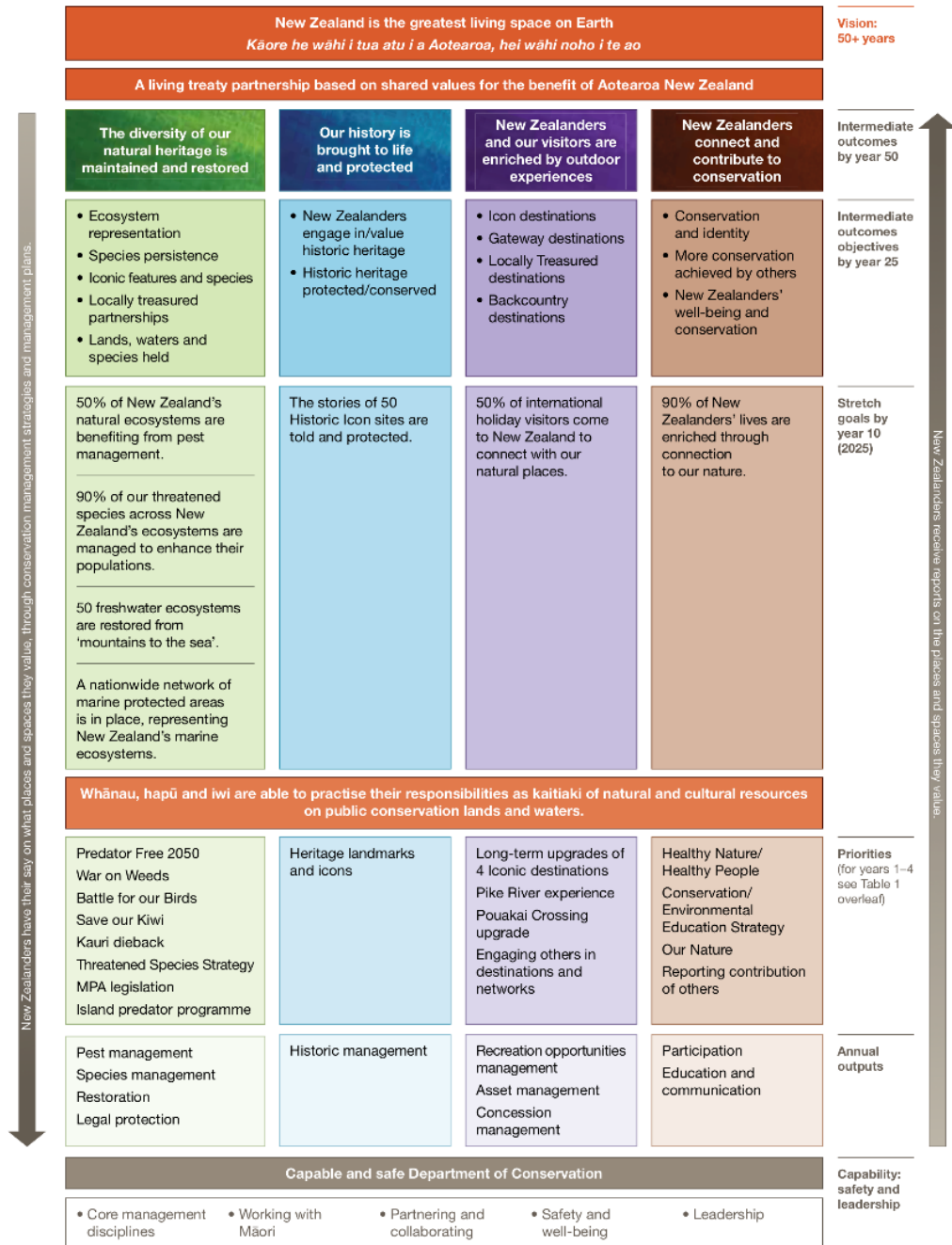


Figure 6: Conservation outcomes model.

Appendix 2

Otago Conservation Management Strategy Implementation Monitoring
Report August 2021

Otago Conservation Management Strategy Implementation Monitoring Report August 2021

NOTE - this is year 4 towards delivery of the 5 Year Milestones; and includes 3yr Milestones not achieved

Milestone:	From Otago Conservation Management Strategy 2016
Status:	Underway in current business plan and on track to achieve by target date.
Status:	Underway but either very complex or has issues that may affect achievement by target date if not managed well.
Status:	Will not meet target date as work has either stalled, or will take longer than expected, or where it is proposed to seek agreement with the Board to drop the milestone and not proceed with the work.
Status:	Not started and not yet programmed for work.
Progress:	Progress report on achievement of the milestone.
Changes to milestone target date: (Note any changes to the target date for a milestone, only where agreement has firstly been reached between the Board and the Department. The milestone reverts to status green, but with a tag to note the target year has been changed by agreement):	
Achievement of milestone	Where a milestone has been fully achieved it will be removed from the list at the end of the reporting year.
Removal of milestone	Where it has been agreed between the Board and the Department that the milestone will no longer be progressed, it will be removed from the list at the end of the reporting year.
Other achievements	If required, provide additional information to briefly describe any significant achievements advancing CMS outcomes and objectives that are not tied to a milestone.
DOC-2896630	

Milestone	Status	Progress	Responsible	Draft rewording of Milestone for period 2021-26
1.4 Treaty partnership with Ngāi Tahu – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
<p>An agreed ‘partnership framework’ has been developed with Ngāi Tahu to implement and monitor the Treaty partnership with respect to the management of conservation lands in Otago. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>The Te Ara Hononga DOC - Ngāi Tahu relationship engagement framework project was initiated by TRoNT and commenced in February 2017 and concluded in March 2018. The project succeeded in identifying the drivers of the relationship in both organisations and how joint work could occur towards a relationship framework.</p> <p>In August 2018 the DDG Operations (who at the time held accountability for the Ngāi Tahu relationship) issued a DOC - NT relationship improvement task to the newly appointed Ngāi Tahu Relationship Advisor (fixed term role). The task was completed in September 2019 and a report (including accountabilities and recommendations) provided to the DDG Operations for consideration. In late 2018 Ngāi Tahu and DOC established a Kahui Governance Group to oversee the DOC relationship however that group has since been disestablished and an alternative engagement has been established between DDG's KKA and Operations with senior Te Runanga officials. The group meets frequently to monitor the health of the relationship and progress commitments.</p> <p>During the last 18 months a series of wananga have occurred between the Operations Director for SSI and members of his leadership team with the three Arai Te Uru rūnanga representatives to progress a regional partnership engagement framework. The commitment in this task is that it is done in codesign, focusing on the development of a formal partnership agreement and creation of roles to support the implementation of the agreement as part of the partnership engagement framework.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	

<p>A process has been established between the Department and Ngāi Tahu to prioritise, review, develop and implement protocols and guidance documents addressing Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Conservation Protocols and section 4 Conservation Act 1987 matters. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>This was an outcome from Te Ara Hononga project which was concluded in March 2018. The emphasis in the Partnership has shifted to governance oversight as a mechanism to improve the relationship and treaty requirements. The NZ Supreme Court Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki decision is currently the priority in both organisations regarding how Sec.4 is interpreted and applied. There is work occurring on a systems approach to enhance the Treaty partnership at a national level and is a work in progress. At a local level the partnership agreement framework will address regional partnership protocols to respond to the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act provisions, and Conservation protocols.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	
<p>Measures to protect, encourage respect for, and provide for active involvement of Ngāi Tahu in the management of sites and species of significance to Ngāi Tahu have been formally put in place.</p>		<p>DOC works with individual Papatipu Runanga and Te Tai Arai te Uru Roopu to provide for active involvement. DOC and Ngāi Tahu have piloted a co-design approach to Hoiho Recovery which is has potential for other recovery groups. The development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this to be co-designed and implemented consistently.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	

<p>Guidelines on the use of taonga species and sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu within advertising and promotional material have been mutually formalised and implemented. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>No work has been done on this milestone however the development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this milestone to be co-designed and implemented consistently.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	
<p>A process has been mutually agreed to, and implemented, that will enable the Department to identify and support conservation-related projects of strategic priority to Ngāi Tahu. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>A process to systemise strategic work has not been implemented tribally with DOC and would need to be supported by shared strategic objectives. The development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this milestone to be co-designed and implemented consistently.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	

<p>Regular monitoring of the 'partnership framework', including relevant protocols and guidance documents, has been firmly implanted in the ongoing relationship between the Department and Ngāi Tahu and, when required, any changes are mutually agreed to and implemented.</p>		<p>Regular engagement continues to occur between DDG's Operations and KKA and senior Te Runanga officials. Work is currently underway to better define a partnership framework at this senior level. At a local level the development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this milestone to be co-designed and implemented consistently.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	
<p>Regular monitoring of the measures to protect, encourage respect for, and provide for active involvement of Ngāi Tahu in the management of sites and species of significance to Ngāi Tahu has become firmly implanted in the ongoing</p>		<p>Regular engagement continues to occur between DDG's Operations and KKA and senior Te Runanga officials. At a local level the development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this milestone to be co-designed and implemented consistently.</p>	<p>Aaron</p>	

relationship between the Department and Ngāi Tahu, and that any necessary changes are mutually agreed to and implemented.				
Success of advocacy undertaken to protect mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and other Ngāi Tahu cultural resources and values.		Regular engagement continues to occur between DDG's Operations and KKA and senior Te Runanga officials. At a local level the development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this milestone to be co-designed and implemented consistently.	Aaron	
Progress made on agreed projects of strategic priority to Ngāi Tahu.		Regular engagement continues to occur between DDG's Operations and KKA and senior Te Runanga officials. At a local level the development of the regional partnership agreement and engagement framework described above will enable this milestone to be co-designed and implemented consistently.	Aaron	
Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.1 Natural heritage – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
A baseline report on the condition of the priority ecosystem units in Otago, as listed in Appendix 4. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u>		There are 38 ecosystem management sites (known as Ecosystem Management Units or EMUs) that form the list in Appendix 4. Each individual ecosystem site represents one or more different types of ecosystems (e.g., silver beech forest or spinifex dune land). Overtime, new internal rankings on sites may change the emphasis that DOC places on management for the list in Appendix 4. All sites under management have 'prescriptions' describing the work that must be carried out to meet long term ecological condition and/or species persistence objectives. We use these prescriptions to estimate the site's condition. Records of pressures (e.g., climbing weeds, possums, water abstraction) present and management planned to relieve pressure at	Alex	This milestone needs further refining. We are unable to provide it without significant investment of resources.

		<p>each site is used to calculate predicted condition indices for each ecosystem type. These estimates were then averaged to give an estimated condition index for each site (Table 1). Table 1 shows the average ecological integrity for ecosystem management sites identified as priorities in the Otago Conservation Management Strategy (“Table 1 OtagoCMS_EMUS_EI.pdf”). Ecological integrity is estimated on a scale of 0 to 1, where 0 indicates a wholly modified ecosystem with no remaining natural character and 1 indicates an ecosystem of high health and function, which is only minimally impacted by pressures arising from invasive species or human use of land or water. Most ecosystem types in Otago are close to the national average. Frost flats (temperature inversion ecosystems), low altitude grass and shrubland (non-forest below the treeline), dune, braided river and conifer forests are in somewhat poorer condition than the national average. Differences may be due to a choice to focus on other ecosystem types but may also reflect the completeness of the information contained in management plans, either in Otago or elsewhere in NZ. DOC puts ongoing effort into “prescription review” to improve the quality of this information.</p> <p>At last year’s milestone reporting, it was thought possible to report on the condition of priority sites using field data from the National Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System and data about management from our work outputs at site (e.g., residual mammal tracking rates). we do not yet have a means to summarise the effectiveness of conservation activities by site using field data. At present, reporting is limited to discrete metrics (e.g., bird call index) at the landscape or national scale rather than individual sites.</p>		
Scheduled outputs identified in approved work programmes for priority ecosystem units in Otago.		As we have just completed the financial year, we will provide a summary to the next meeting.	Alex	
Scheduled outputs identified for threatened species outside		As we have just completed the financial year, we will provide a summary to the next meeting.	Alex	

<p>priority ecosystem units for which a work programme is underway.</p>				
<p>No increase in the range and population of pest animals and plants, and wild animals in Otago.</p>		<p>The Department is unable to report on this milestone as currently framed. The Department is able to report in detail with respect to annual outputs (eg. hectares of control for specific animal and plant pests) conducted in Otago but not in detail with respect to the outcomes of this work specifically for Otago. However, outcomes for Otago can be inferred through our ongoing monitoring programmes at specific sites spread across the South Island (Tier One monitoring). A report estimating increase/decrease from this data is able to be provided for the Year 6 reporting. For now, for your info, see annual reports for selected pests and fact sheets re- occupancy or indices of abundance at a sampling site or park level https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2018-2019/</p>	<p>Alex</p>	<p>This milestone needs further consideration. The Department is unable to report on it.</p>
<p>Collaborative partnerships for pest animal and plant control are established.</p>		<p>DOC is a signatory to Predator Free Dunedin and is on the Steering Group of City Sanctuary; a DCC-led project aiming to deliver predator control to the urban areas of Dunedin thereby joining the predator controlled-area to the north of the city (Halo Project) with the control undertaken on the Peninsula (led by Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group). Working with forestry companies to control wildling pines across the inland hills in the Waipori catchment. We are exploring with PF Dunedin the best way for us to support their proposed expansion of predator control into the Silverpeaks to the north-west of the city. Working with forestry companies to control wildling pines across the inland hills in the Waipori catchment. Collaborative approach to wilding conifer control with the Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group. Numerous partnerships with groups delivering plant and animal pest control on PCL, such as Lindis Pass Conservation Group, Matukituki Charitable Trust, Aspiring Biodiversity Trust, and Central Otago Ecological Trust.</p>	<p>Nikki TO CO-ORD</p>	

<p>Control and containment of wilding conifers in accordance with the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015–2030.</p>		<p>Doc works under a management agreements and strategic direction from the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control group, and the Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control group, to deliver the Wilding control program for the Whakatipu and Central Otago. This work is funded by the National Wilding conifer control program led by MPI and delivered to doc through contracts with ORC.</p> <p>The national program provided the Whakatipu with a 20/21 year operational budget of \$5,522,688 with which we achieved 53,718 ha of Conifer control.</p> <p>This funding was provided as year 1 of a 4 year national funding commitment from MPI.</p>	<p>David</p>	
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.2 Historic and cultural heritage – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)</p>				
<p>Progress heritage assessments for all actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10, including identification of Ngāi Tahu values.</p>		<p>There are 39 sites on the Otago CMS ACHP list. It appears that 35 have Heritage Assessments or Conservation Plans but are out of date. Work is already underway to produce new Conservation Plans with two being completed for Golden Point at Macraes and one for McMeekings Farmstead.</p>	<p>MATT</p>	
<p>Identification of new sites for inclusion in Appendix 10, including sites important to Ngāi Tahu.</p>		<p>In the Four-Year Heritage Plans for each of the Otago Districts, the list of ACHPs is still being reviewed. Although a national method to add new places to this list (as they are acquired or are recognised) and remove them (usually resulting from natural disaster) is not currently available, a new List will be developed for Otago in anticipation of this method. The new list will include sites of importance to Ngāi Tahu with input directly from local Runanga. This process has yet to start as understanding the nature and extent of Otago Ngāi Tahu heritage sites is taking some time.</p>	<p>MATT</p>	

<p>An increase in the number of actively conserved historic places in Appendix 10 that are stable and not deteriorating.</p>		<p>All but two historic places are 'stable'. In terms of stability of the heritage fabric itself for long term conservation, there are large gaps in this knowledge, particularly for structures. HAs do provide some indication of stability and deterioration of fabric, but full CPs or updated CPs which include heritage engineering reports and specialist assessments, such as by stone masons, are still required. No standardised Heritage Place assessment method has yet been developed nationally. Given this, using Four Year Heritage Plans as a guide, the commissioning and production of new Conservation Plans has started.</p>	<p>MATT</p>	
<p>Enhance existing and develop new partnerships to support the restoration, protection and management of historic places in Otago.</p>		<p>All Districts are working with a range of different groups to restore, protect and manage heritage sites such as the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust and Wakatipu Heritage Trust. Iwi heritage projects need to be developed with Runanga as most heritage partnerships are Pakeha/Chinese. Best practice heritage advise is being sourced by working closely with Heritage New Zealand specialists. Sites are also being protected through ensuring land covenants with conditions regarding heritage are followed. By working closely with groups/concessionaires, such as MTB Clubs, early on for projects, heritage places are protected and managed by ensuring heritage/archaeological assessments, CPs or heritage impact assessments are undertaken before DOC approves the activity.</p>	<p>MATT</p>	
<p>Additional sites identified, including those in Otago of significant historic events, actions, tracks, trails and routes, to connect people with historic and cultural heritage.</p>		<p>In the Four-Year Heritage Plans for the Otago Districts, additional places will be identified in the 20/21 & 21/22. One project to identify additional sites is a review of what recorded Iwi sites are on PCL so as future projects such as for new tracks and trails, can incorporate stories of pre-contact Māori life in the landscape. This is a complex project, but heritage rangers have been made aware that for any new track or trail proposal, what heritage sites are along this trail which tell stories must be considered.</p>	<p>MATT</p>	
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.3 Recreation – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)</p>				

<p>The number and/or quality of experiences of people recreating on public conservation lands and waters at Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations in Otago is enhanced.</p>	<p>The development of DOC's products to introduce more New Zealanders to our natural, historic, and cultural heritage; Short Walk, Day Hike and Tohu Whenua has progressed.</p> <p>The 'Short Walk'/'Day Hike' product focuses on providing exceptional experiences at the most outstanding walks on PCL and in National Parks. Roy's Peak and Blue Pools are sites within this national programme.</p> <p>Tohu Whenua includes the following Otago DOC sites: Bannockburn Sluicing, Otago Central Rail Trail, Kawarau Suspension Bridge, Arrowtown Chinese Settlement.</p> <p>DOC has created an additional short walk opportunity at Bennetts Bluff by constructing a new carpark and viewing platform in partnership with Queenstown Lakes District Council.</p> <p>DOC has, in conjunction with iwi, designed and delivered a Summer Interpretation Ranger (SIR) programme over the past two summer seasons. The purpose of the programme is to provide at selected sites enhanced visitor experiences through delivery of immersive, interactive interpretation by specially recruited and trained ranger staff hosting at place. SIR has been delivered at: Blue Pools, Diamond Lake; Glenorchy Lagoon; Curio Bay.</p> <p>Coastal Otago also runs a similar Ranger program in partnership with Dunedin City Council at coastal sites during the summer, the focus of this on PCL is advocacy and interpretation about coastal species.</p> <p>Coastal Otago has continued to prioritised work and investment with Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnaka to improve the recreational experience at Kai hinaki / Moeraki Boulders (Icon), Katiki Point (LT) and Matakaea/Shag Point. This has focussed on increasing the Mauri of the sites, visitor experience and safety and storytelling. Coastal Otago has identified priority Icon, Local Treasure and Gateway sites for investment to increase quality and begun works at all of these, in all cases as part of a multi-phase project, addressing visitor risk as a priority. These sites include Aramoana (LT), Orau/Sandfly Bay & Pikiwhara/ Sandymount (Gateway) and Tunnel Beach (LT) - significant investment in partnership with DCC and MBIE to deliver land acquisition, road safety improvements, new carpark, toilets and track re-alignment.</p>	<p>ANNIE</p>	<p>RECOMMEND REDRAFT TO CREATE SMART MILESTONE:</p> <p>The number of Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations meeting the DOC service standards has increased or been sustained.</p> <p>The number of Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations with storytelling on themes consistent with the outcomes for the place.</p> <p>The number of additional Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations with storytelling on themes consistent with the outcomes for the place established in the past 12 months</p> <p>The number of Short Walk products.</p> <p>The number of additional Short Walk products established during the last 12 months.</p> <p>The number of Day Hike products.</p> <p>The number of additional Day Hike products established during the last 12 months.</p> <p>The number of Tohu Whenua sites.</p> <p>The number of additional Tohu Whenua sites</p>
---	---	---------------------	--

	<p>The % of track (by distance) meeting the DOC service standards has increased from 48.8% to 57.4% in the past 12 months.</p>		<p>established during the last 12 months. The number of Great Walk products. The number of additional Great Walk products established during the last 12 months. (this looks like a lot, but should be able to be summarised in 1-2 lines. I recommend this format: "Short Walks: 6 up3")</p>
--	--	--	---

<p>Partnerships established to maintain and develop Local Treasure and Backcountry facilities in Otago. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>Central Otago District Input =Worked with Backcountry Trust to upgrade Top Forks Hut, Wilkikin Valley (MANP) 2019 and proposed work with Trust for upgrade to Aspiring Hut, West Matukituki Valley (MANP) in 2021- (Central Otago). Coastal Otago has prioritised work and investment with the Ngāi Tahu and papatipu rūnaka to improve the recreational experience at Kai hinaki / Moeraki Boulders (Icon), Katiki Point (LT) and Matakaea/Shag Point. This has focussed on increasing the Mauri of the sites, visitor experience and safety and storytelling. Coastal Otago has identified priority Icon, Local Treasure and Gateway sites for investment to increase quality and begun works at all of these, in all cases as part of a multi-phase project, addressing visitor risk as a priority. These sites include Aramoana (LT), Orau/Sandfly Bay & Pikiwhara/ Sandymount (Gateway) and Tunnel Beach(LT) - significant investment in partnership with DCC and MBIE to deliver land acquisition, road safety improvements, new carpark, toilets and track re-alignment.</p>	<p>David</p>	
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.4 Community engagement – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)</p>				
<p>An increase in the amount of conservation achieved with community partners in Otago.</p>		<p>The most robust way we quantify this is via our 'Non-Financial Performance Reporting' measure of how many Community Agreements (authorisations for groups to undertake conservation work on PCL&W) are active. There has been an increase in the number of agreements in the Otago CMS area from 61 to 66, comprised of Central Otago (31 up3), Coastal Otago (13 up2), Murihiku (2) and Wakatipu (20). We expect the delivery of the measure to increase over the next 3 years as Jobs for Nature projects are set up and obtain community agreements and report on outcomes, for example Wakatipu have 4 agreements in draft for such projects, Coastal Otago has 1 agreement.</p>	<p>ANNIE</p>	<p>RECOMMEND REDRAFT TO CREATE SMART MILESTONE: An increase in the number of Community Agreements which authorise conservation work on PCL; An increase in the amount of volunteer effort reported by partners to the Department; An increase in the number of site or species-based biodiversity, community, visitor, or historic prescriptions that involve volunteers. This could take an approach of the number followed by the number it has increased by e.g., 6 up 3</p>
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.5 Business partnerships – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)</p>				

<p>Evaluate the extent of, and outcomes aimed at increasing the amount of, conservation achieved with business partners in Otago. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>There are currently 8 formal business partnerships across Otago (Central Otago 0, Whakatipu 6, Coastal Otago 2 (docCM 5516475). These relationships are delivering across a range of outcomes and include business participation in Trusts, sponsorship and provision of facilities.</p> <p>The next step will be to look at the contributions in more detail and summarise them both in terms of financial (if possible) and qualitative assessments.</p>	<p>David</p>	<p>Keep the milestone the same</p>
<p>An increase in the amount of conservation achieved with business partners in Otago. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>This milestone is reliant on the above. Baseline measurements are required to understand the anecdotal increase in conservation outcomes achieved with business partners.</p>	<p>David</p>	<p>Keep the milestone the same</p>
<p>Part 2 Milestones: Mount Aspiring National Park/Tititea Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)</p>				
<p>Commence an investigation to add the Lower Dart Conservation Area and part of the Shotover Conservation Area, Snowy Creek to Mount Aspiring National Park. <u>Carry over from</u></p>		<p>Investigations not commenced and not yet programmed. This will now form a part of the nationally led reclassification of stewardship land programme</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>The Lower Dart Conservation Area, and part of the Shotover Conservation Area (Snowy Creek) have been added to Mount Aspiring National Park</p>

<u>2019 - not yet achieved</u>				
An assessment of activities in Mount Aspiring National Park in preparation for the national park plan review.		Targeted programme of social surveying of visitors conducted over the past two summer seasons captures data on a range of disturbances, including from aircraft and jetboats. Survey sites include Blue Pools; Siberia Valley; SH6 campsites; Roy's Peak; Diamond Lake; West Matukituki Valley/Cascade Saddle; Rob Roy Track; Mt Aspiring Climbing Region; Dart Valley; Routeburn Track; Glenorchy Lagoon; Curio Bay. Work will continue compiling this information in FY 2021/22 in preparation for the Mt Aspiring NP plan review	DAVID	
Report on the review of the Mount Aspiring National Park Management Plan.		MANP Management Plan expires 2021. Review not yet started and work not programmed	JR	Keep wording the same
Part 2 Milestones: Te Papanui, Oteake and Hāwea Conservation Parks Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Progress actively conserved historic site status and Ngāi Tahu historic interpretation for Manuhaea Conservation Area. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u>		A meeting with Manuhaea Trust took place in June 2021 to talk about and revisit facility aspirations for Manuhaea Conservation Area (and Bushy Point). There are dedicated staff hours to discuss this further in 2021/22. Any interp signage and other assets for the site would need to go through the capital process (unless externally funded). Ideally a restoration plan for the site would be commissioned (which would focus on restoration of the tuna heke area at Manuhaea CA and across the outlet at Bushy Point (near Kidds Bush).	Nikki	

Control and containment of tahr in the Hāwea Conservation Park and adjoining public conservation lands and waters.		Tahr control is the Hawea Conservation Park (Management Unit 7) is ongoing as part of the National Tahr Operational Plan. This work is currently delivered by DOC's national tahr team. Hawea Conservation Park has received control under this plan in both 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.	Nikki	
Adverse effects on the Hunter River braided river habitats from grazing animals, jet boats and vehicles are reduced		Actively working with LINZ and the Hunter Valley Station leaseholder on the challenges faced by fencing and grazing within the Hunter Valley River flats.	Nikki	
Part 2 Milestones: Western Lakes and Mountains/Ngā Puna Wai Karikari a Rākaihautū Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Control and containment of feral goats and tahr. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u>		Annual work is planned and funded via annual business plan and reported on in detail via Thirdly Reporting ; Current Wakatipu/Wanaka goat control work spread over approx 220,000 hectares and work subject to Operational Goat Control Plan for SSI Region (currently being updated); Current Wakatipu /Wanaka Tahr control covers approx 500,000ha. Tahr control work implemented subject to the departments Operational Plan for Tahr Control, SSI Region. Thar Abundance key points: 1. Aerial surveys of Himalayan thar were undertaken across the thar range during 2016 and 2017. The total abundance of thar on public conservation land was estimated to be 35,633. 2. Thar density in the Southern Exclusion Zone (south of the Haast Highway) averaged 0.06/km2. 3. The management threshold for thar density of <1 thar /km2 Management Unit 7 (Otago) was not exceeded. Refer Thar density report doccm 3233856. Work recommenced in the Southern Exclusion Zone (Mt Aspiring National Park) in May 2019.	Nikki	

<p>A programme established to manage wilding tree control within Macetown Historic Reserve while considering historic and amenity values. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>Further investigation into programme is planned for this year but will be complex due to the location and high heritage values on site. Aerial and ground control of Sycamores has taken place around the fringes of the reserve. We will continue this in the coming year.</p>	<p>David</p>	
<p>An evaluation of community management options for the Greenstone Recreational Hunting Area.</p>		<p>No formal evaluation of the community management options has yet been undertaken for the six Greenstone Recreational Hunting Area.</p>	<p>David</p>	<p>Leave milestone as written</p>
<p>Priorities identified for extensions to the cycleway network.</p>		<p>DOC priorities not identified or programmed to do so. Currently reactive to community bike group priorities, rather than DOC leading on them</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>Report on extent and use of bike trails in Otago</p>
<p>Commence an investigation to reclassify public conservation lands and waters in The Remarkables and surrounding public conservation lands and waters to better</p>		<p>Investigation commenced; a range of internal values papers prepared and initial public consultation on values completed. Now awaiting national stewardship reclassification programme priorities to proceed</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>Reclassify the Remarkables Conservation Areas (and associated lands as appropriate)</p>

reflect their value.				
Part 2 Milestones: Central Otago Uplands Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Investigations have commenced to determine the best way to create a 'tussock grassland park'. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u>		Not commenced or programmed. Awaiting national reclassification priorities and that work programme. Note scattered nature of PCL in this place from Pisa/Dunstons in the west to Manorburn and the Kakanui's in the east.	JR	Keep the same
Collaborative initiatives are encouraged and supported for conservation management and advocacy to progress the creation of a 'tussock grassland park'.		See above	JR	Delete - forms part of the previous milestone
Collaborative initiatives are established for the restoration and enhancement of historic sites.		Gold mining sites have been protected by pastoral farmers (Happy Valley & Morven Hills) and via tenure review outcomes	Nikki	

Priorities identified for extensions to the cycleway network.		DOC priorities not identified or programmed to do so. Currently reactive to community bike group priorities, rather than DOC leading on them	JR	Report on extent and use of bike trails in Otago
Part 2 Milestones: Old Man Range/Kopuwai, Old Woman Range, and Garvie Mountains Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Investigations have commenced to determine the best way to create a 'tussock grassland park'. Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved		2019 - These lands form part of the possible scope of the 2016 OCB/DOC reclassification proposal for the wider Remarkables. Note FMC national park proposal; and Glenaray Tenure Review across these lands. Suggest that 'investigation' has commenced under the scoping of 2016 Remarkables reclassification proposal, but any delivery of a wider 'grassland park' linking these lands likely to be complex - <u>2020 update</u> = these lands not in scope for Remarkable reclass, as TR still in progress and so Remarkables proceeding regardless <u>2021 Update</u> - Not yet programmed - this outcome remains subject in part to TR outcome plus now subject to national stewardship land reclassification priorities	JR	Keep the same
Collaborative initiatives are encouraged and supported for conservation management and advocacy to progress the creation of a 'tussock grassland park'.		as above	JR	Delete - forms part of the previous milestone
Collaborative initiatives are established for conservation management and advocacy of the threats to		Ongoing relationship with Central Otago Recreational Users Forum to engage with various 4WD groups. Signage encouraging users to stay on formed tracks. Regular track maintenance to ensure tracks are well maintained and dry to ensure they act as the preferred travel route. Control of broom in Upper Pomahaka and stoncrop around Obelisk. Relationships with adjoining landowners including on private land	Nikki	

wetlands and other habitats.		protected by covenant adjoining PCL. This work is ongoing BAU with no additional work planned.		
Part 2 Milestones: Central Otago Drylands/Manuherikia Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
The Otago Central Rail Trail remains successful.		Between 2016/17 and 2018/19 Rail Trail use had increased by 11%. Visitor numbers were down 34% in 2019/20 due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Almost half of Trail use is usually in March & April. The Otago Central Rail Trail Trust continues to work alongside DOC to ensure the Trail remains successful. Projects to support this milestone: interpretation upgrade along the Trail.	Nikki	
Part 2 Milestones: Eastern Otago and Lowlands/Maukaatua Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Initiation of the reclassification of Matakaea Recreation Reserve, Shag River Coal Reserve, Waipori Falls Conservation Area, Mill Creek Conservation Area and Silverpeaks Conservation Area to better reflect their values.		Not initiated or programmed - subject to priorities of national stewardship reclassification programme	JR	Keep the same
Part 2 Milestones: Catlins/Te Ākau Tai Toka Place - Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Progress the reclassification of public conservation lands and		Not initiated or programmed - subject to priorities of national stewardship reclassification programme	JR	Keep the same

waters adjoining the Catlins Conservation Park to better reflect their value.				
Integrated management initiatives are in place to control the growth and spread of pig populations.		To strategically identify those Yellow Eyed Penguin colonies where Pig sign has been observed. Then introduce pig trapping. This is currently at the identification and trial stage. Live pig trapping techniques and remote trap monitoring systems are being trialled at Waituna with some success, although further work to ensure reliability of remote monitoring is required. Due to the remoteness of sites and Animal Welfare Regs no pig trapping will occur until this reliability issue has been resolved. Forest and Bird Otago have been supported with their pig trapping within the MacLennan Range as part of their vision to restore the Tautuku Basin. Hunting contractors Trap and Trigger, hunted the Hinahina Reserve where Hoiho are known to breed and removed 14 pigs in July 2021.	JOHN McC	Keep the same
Part 2 Milestones: Marine/Te Tai o Arai te Uru Place – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				
Implement the outcomes resulting from the South-East Marine Protection Forum/Roopu Manaaki ki te Toka.		The DOC National Marine Protection Programme team is finalising advice to the Minister of Conservation on 6 marine reserves proposed as part of a network of 12 marine protected areas in the southeast South Island. Advice focuses on the submissions received during statutory public consultation and engagement with our Treaty partner, Kāi Tahu.	DONNA	
		ESI and SSI Operations are increasingly involved in this kaupapa to enable a transition to implementation of any approved marine reserves. Implementation is likely in FY 2022.		
Part 2 Milestones: Freshwater/Wai Māori Place – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)				

<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the Otago Regional Council's 'Water for Otago' (the Water Plan) on river conservation values. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>Statutory advocacy here relates to DOC engagement in a number of ORC Water Plan changes completed or in progress and the replacement of deemed mining permits consent programme. The Department is highly engaged in these via local operations teams, national freshwater and RMA teams and legal. We are currently engaged in a number of deemed mining permit applications setting residual flows, either as a submitter to lodged application or in development with applicant as an affected party, plus a number of minimum flow settings and appeals eg. Lindis Plan Change; Manuherikia; Arrow; Cardona Minimum Flow settings. Advocating in a coordinated way with other stakeholders and have resourced via internal steering group and project team. Success with protection at Bickerstaffe (Clutha flatheads) and Kyeburn (Roundheads) and Lindis Minimum Flow protection of Clutha Flatheads. Success with Kyeburn farmers for an indigenous fish management plan as a result of our advocacy in the RMA process along with a minimum flow and conditions. Success with Fish and Game and ORC for a species interaction management programme. Significant shift in ORC approach to management of freshwater</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>Delete - now completed to 2019</p>
<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the Otago Regional Council's 'Water for Otago' (the Water Plan) on river conservation values.</p>		<p>2021 Update to the previous milestone - we remain highly engaged in advocacy with the ORC and see an ongoing highly positive change to how the ORC implements its freshwater responsibilities. DOC advocacy increasingly effective in consent outcomes and development of new Plan, and regularly engaged with Ngāi Tahu and F&G. Ongoing engagement with deemed mining permit applications as they arise, while a new fit for purpose ORC Land and Water Plan is developed. Note ORC Plan Change 7 in train to provide short term consent pathway while the larger Plan is developed. DOC is engaged throughout these Plan Changes. Note also new MfE 2020 National Policy Statement, Te Mana o Te Wai, Freshwater and Manuherekia Exemplar Catchment Project. Note recent Environment Court advocacy and outcomes for Lindis consents being favourable for indigenous species. Hoping for of success with upcoming outcome of Plan Change 7 in the Environment Court regarding our interests with the PC7 short-term consenting regime. Success at advocating our interest with community-based ORC led Manuherekia Reference Group.</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>Delete - now completed to 2021</p>

<p>Progress the non-migratory galaxiid and tuna/longfin eel work programmes.</p>	<p>Work on non-migratory galaxias species and habitats has been delivered through Vote Conservation funded prescription work. Surveys, trout removal, barrier/culvert inspections, weed control and advocacy have been the priorities for sites visited. Advocating for protection has involved statutory consents, deemed mining permit process and working with landowners. Tuna/longfin eel habitat enhancement and restoration (fencing and riparian planting) has continued in the Waitahuna and lower Clutha/Mata-Au catchments funded by Contact Energy Ltd. Working with rūnanga, Aukaha, Fish and Game, Otago Regional Council, water users and landowners to improve habitats for non-migratory galaxias and longfin eels where there are opportunities.</p> <p>DOC has begun working with manawhenua to develop and co-design approaches to river restoration for the Taiari (Taieri) and Waikawa catchments as part of a Nga Awa/river restoration programme. Enhancement of fish habitat and protection of taonga species will form part of future programmes for these catchment programmes.</p>	<p>ANNIE</p>	<p>RECOMMEND REDRAFT TO CREATE SMART MILESTONE: "The number of sites where active management to ensure local security of nationally threatened non-migratory galaxias species and tuna/longfin eel is increasing".</p> <p>(NB: we only report against those galaxias species that are nationally critical, vulnerable or endangered. For tuna it should also be relate back to sites where there is performance measures for thirdly reporting or specific programmes that target LF eel eg Contact Energy). Generic work that supports these species such as RMA can be mentioned but would not be part of the counted figure).</p>
---	--	---------------------	--

<p>Progress the maintenance and restoration of indigenous-only fishery streams.</p>		<p>Maintenance and restoration of streams or stream sections dominated by indigenous fish has occurred at priority funded locations by assessing barriers, trout removal, fencing, weed control and landowner advocacy.</p>	<p>ANNIE</p>	<p>RECOMMEND REDRAFT TO CREATE SMART MILESTONE: "The number of indigenous-only fishery streams where active maintenance or restoration is underway is increasing." (Should decide what indigenous-only fishery streams are included for reporting; may require technical advice. Could probably start with a baseline number of sites that meet the criteria before working out if it is increasing. The milestone can be linked to performance reporting evidence if the OCB want more information.</p>
<p>Part 3 Milestones: Specific policy requirements – Achieved by the end of Year 5 (2021)</p>				
<p>Initiatives to remove or change the status of unauthorised private accommodation and related facilities on public conservation lands and waters in Otago. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>We do not have an Otago-wide pro-active initiative in operation, rather we address these on a case-by-case basis as existing authorisations expire, or we become aware of any additional unauthorised structures. No change to previous (Coastal & Central)</p>	<p>ANNIE</p>	<p>RECOMMEND REDRAFT and merge with below TO CREATE SMART MILESTONE: The number of unauthorised private accommodation facilities on PCL is decreasing. The number of unauthorised private accommodation facilities on PCL progressing toward removal or authorisation is.</p>

<p>An assessment undertaken of the effectiveness of aircraft management provisions within the CMS, including cumulative and adverse effects. <u>Carry over from 2019 - not yet achieved</u></p>		<p>Assessment of effectiveness of CMS provisions (e.g. zones; landings/day/year) not yet completed. Design & Evaluation Team are collecting aircraft flightpath information to inform FNP and MANP reviews regarding soundscape management, and to generate current-state tranquillity maps to report on the effectiveness of existing provisions (e.g. zones; landings/day/year) in managing soundscape quality. For this narrower Park Plan purpose, we have also undertaken a review of the extent and usefulness of the aircraft data we do hold, and what is still required, to address having information of which to base decisions for the upcoming provisions of the MANP Plan review (activity returns, GPS, field monitoring, social surveys, soundscape). All social surveying of visitors conducted over the past two summer seasons captures data on a range of disturbances, including from aircraft and jetboats. Survey sites include Blue Pools; Siberia Valley; SH6 campsites; Roy's Peak; Diamond Lake; West Matukituki Valley/Cascade Saddle; Rob Roy Track; Mt Aspiring Climbing Region; Dart Valley; Routeburn Track; Glenorchy Lagoon; Curio Bay.</p>	<p>DAVID</p>	
<p>Progress the status of unauthorised private accommodation and related facilities on public conservation lands and waters in Otago.</p>		<p>We have identified our preferred outcome with regard to three dwellings on the foreshore at Moeraki and are undertaking background work to progress this. Central Otago have identified our preferred outcome with regard to two dwellings on the foreshore of Lake Wanaka and are undertaking background work to progress this. One of the two private huts within Hāwea Conservation Park has been removed. Other unauthorised private accommodation facilities are in the process of removing or legitimising.</p>	<p>ANNIE</p>	<p>RECOMMEND REDRAFT and merge with above TO CREATE SMART MILESTONE: The number of unauthorised private accommodation facilities on PCL is decreasing. The number of unauthorised private accommodation facilities on PCL progressing toward removal or authorisation is.</p>
<p>Review the level of use and effects of aircraft activity, if evidence shows that unacceptable adverse effects are occurring.</p>		<p>This milestone will be dependent on results of assessing aircraft activity as described in milestone "An assessment undertaken of the effectiveness of aircraft management provisions within the CMS, including cumulative and adverse effects." Central Otago and Whakatipu will begin compiling this information this financial year in preparation for the Mt Aspiring NP plan review</p>	<p>DAVID</p>	

<p>An assessment undertaken on the level of use and effects of electric power-assisted pedal cycles on public conservation lands and waters in Otago, including cumulative effects.</p>		<p>This monitoring presents few technical challenges if restricted to formed and designated trails. It would not be affordable to do this across the entire network of bike trails – therefore monitoring would be undertaken on an agreed representative sample of trails – possibly the NZCT Great Rides? It will almost certainly involve field observations and remote sensing at locations on the sample trails that are subject to erosion – usually climbing sections where e-bikes spin their wheels. This programme could run across the 2021/22 season. D&E can staff the organisation and analysis of the research, but field staff, equipment and expenses would need to be funded.</p>	<p>NIKKI</p>	
<p>An assessment undertaken on the level of use and effects of motorised vehicles, mountain bikes, horses and pack animals on public conservation lands and waters in Otago, including cumulative effects, if evidence shows that unacceptable impacts are occurring.</p>		<p>This presents greater technical challenges than e-bikes. Monitoring can be undertaken on an agreed sample of designated trails; however, these uses, and associated impacts can occur independent of formed trails – especially vehicles & horses. Monitoring would therefore need be undertaken on both a representative sample of trails and a purposive sample of sites where off trail impacts from these uses are already identified. It will almost certainly involve remote sensing, field observations and possibly some user surveying either at high-use sites and/or on-line. This programme could run across the 2021/22 season. D&E can staff the organisation and analysis of the research, but field staff, equipment and expenses would need to be funded.</p>	<p>NIKKI</p>	

