

Appendix 1

A NEW ZEALAND WILDERNESS PHILOSOPHY

Section A **Wilderness: New Zealand's Heritage**

Each of us has our own concept of wilderness which is important to us.

What is wilderness?

Wilderness is part of New Zealand's heritage. As a land the New Zealand 'region' has been isolated from the other continents for 80 million years—at the close of the age of reptiles. During this long period a natural landscape that is distinctively New Zealand in character has evolved. Man has been an element in that landscape for only 1000 years or so. Yet, in that comparatively short period, man has changed the New Zealand landscape at a rate rarely exceeded in other parts of the world. Since the coming of the Polynesian the primeval forest cover has been reduced from approximately 80 percent of the land to only 23 percent—and most of that remaining forest is confined to the West Coast of the South Island and more mountainous areas.

Nature needs time for growing and sleeping, free from automobile fumes and massive tractors, away from the cacophony of snowmobiles and trail bikes. There are plenty of tamed wonders for all to goggle at through vehicle windows—we must also retain our wilderness areas where nature can develop in its own calm way and where only those humans who are prepared to walk and sweat a little qualify to go.

Sir Edmund Hillary: Nothing venture, nothing win.

What does the term wilderness mean to a New Zealander today?

Images of Daniel Boone? The icy wastes of Antarctica? The wanderings of St. John the Baptist? Or the uninhabited fiords and forests of Fiordland? Perhaps all of these, perhaps one. The point is, that each one of us visualises a wilderness area in a completely personal manner. Perhaps we see wilderness areas as those large tracts of land unaltered by the hand of man, remote from centres of population, and where man enters only on nature's terms. If this is so, the wilderness concept recognises the need for man to step aside from the day-to-day pressures of society and find solitude and peace in the great cathedrals of

Editors note: This appendix summarises the wilderness philosophy of advocates and management agencies in the 1970s and 80s in New Zealand. Section A is a reprint of the text from an influential poster published in 1980 by the then Department of Lands and Survey, National Parks Authority, and New Zealand Forest Service, elements of each department now comprising the current Department of Conservation. Section B is a reprint of the associated joint policy statement for wilderness between various government agencies, which was the forerunner of the 1985 Wilderness Policy developed by the Wilderness Advisory Group (presented in Appendix 2).

the mountains, in the vaulted halls of the forests, and the still spaces of the tussock lands; where isolated from the bustle of civilisation he may discover the truth that the natural world exists without recourse to man, and his duties are not those of an exploiter, but those of a caretaker.

Just as the Greek Parthenon and the Roman Coliseum are expressions of their country's heritage, New Zealand's virgin mountains and forests are an integral feature of our culture. The unspoiled regions are New Zealand as our forefathers experienced it—and as we in turn may experience it. The wilderness areas are a living, forever-evolving museum.

It may be argued that the present system of national parks, reserves, and forest parks adequately fulfils the requirements of the preservation of large areas of relatively unmodified land. This is partly true, for without doubt it is in these areas and other lands of the Crown that wilderness exists. However, there is a need to define specific regions as wilderness areas in order that they may be managed in a manner compatible with the wilderness-area philosophy.

This returns again to the problems associated with the public use of lands and its compatibility with preservation, National parks, reserves, and forest parks are generally open freely to the public. In fact many facilities have been provided in order that the public entering these areas may do so in comfort and safety. However, it is recognised that the provision of such amenities inevitably alters the unspoiled nature of the land, and in return encourages greater use of, and consequently greater damage to, the environment. While wilderness areas would be available for public use, no amenities would be provided, and every attempt would be made to prevent any human interference altering the naturalness of the region.

Although the majority of New Zealanders may probably never visit a wilderness area, it certainly does not mean that there will be no benefit for these people. First we must consider the pleasure that individuals may receive by approaching, or being near, such areas; of experiencing the sense of mystery of standing on the threshold of the unknown. Wilderness is just as much a cultural concept as a natural resource. Second, there is the enjoyment to be gained by armchair exploration, through the medium of films and books. And third, there is the possibility that scientific knowledge gained from such unmodified areas may enrich our lives. The wilderness area provides for the preservation of the natural environment; an historical model: land as it was. Besides conservation, the area allows for the observation of long- and short-term changes providing environmental base lines against which the surrounding "unprotected" areas can be compared. Further to this, wilderness areas are our gift to the future. By protecting wilderness areas we keep land-use options open for our children. So, although wilderness areas are primarily to fill a cultural and recreational need, their preservation also has conservation benefits.

The preservation of wilderness areas is not a new idea, at least not in other parts of the world. The USA has for at least 100 years been critically aware of the need to preserve areas of land in, as far as possible, their natural state. In New Zealand, because we mistakenly believed we had, and would always have, large tracts of relatively unspoiled land available for public recreational use, we were not so quick to act. As a consequence, the Government, responding to the growth of public concern, made provision for the protection of appropriate

areas with the Forest Act 1949 (1976 Amendment), the National Parks Act 1952, and the Reserves Act 1977. In 1955 as a consequence of the National Parks Act, Otehake, within Arthur's Pass National Park, was gazetted as a wilderness area. During the following years, four other areas within national parks were also gazetted (Table A1.1, section A.).

The New Zealand Forest Service has not yet gazetted any lands as wilderness areas, however, several tracts of land have been demarcated as 'wilderness zones' or 'remote experience zones' in management plans (Table A1.1, section C). A 'remote experience zone' was a recent inclusion within the zoning system that generally provided for smaller areas which may not have met the full wilderness-area criteria.

In July 1979, further impetus was given to the wilderness concept, when the Minister of Lands and Forests, Mr V.S. Young, announced that the New Zealand Forest Service, the Department of Lands and Survey, and the National Parks Authority had agreed to a joint policy on the management of wilderness areas after consultation with the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Joint Policy Statement: Wilderness Areas).

TABLE A1.1. EXISTING AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS IN NATIONAL PARKS AND STATE FORESTS (1980).

NAME	LOCALITY	AREA (ha)*
A. Existing wilderness areas		
Tongariro National Park	Te Tataua-pounamu	6,500
Tongariro National Park	Hauhangatahi	8,500
Arthur's Pass National Park	Otehake	12,000
Westland National Park	Callery	10,000
Westland National Park	Balfour	4,000
Fiordland National Park	Glaisnock	125,000
Fiordland National Park	Pembroke	18,000
B. Proposed wilderness areas in National Parks		
Urewera National Park	Ruakituri	18,000
Urewera National Park	Ikawhenua	7,000
Mount Aspiring National Park	Olivine	†
Fiordland National Park	Preservation	182,000
C. Existing zones and proposals in State Forests		
Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park	‡	4,000
Raukumara Forest Park	Motu	21,000
Kaimanawa Forest Park	Mangamire/Middle Range	13,500
Kaweka Forest Park	Makino	8,000
Rauhine Forest Park	Mangatera	13,500
North-west Nelson Forest Park	Tasman	83,000
Charleston-Paparoa Forests	Ohikanui/Otututu	24,000
Poerua Forest	Poerua/Adams	10,000
Waitutu Forest	West of Grant Burn	5,500

* All areas are expressed as rounded figures to the nearest 500 ha.

† Proposed size is presently under investigation.

‡ Two areas, zoned several years ago, perhaps more appropriate as remote experience zones.

What are the criteria for wilderness areas?

It is recognised that man, however careful, cannot enter the natural environment without causing some degree of damage. Consequently, any wilderness area needs to be sufficiently large to increase the points of entry and reduce the danger to the natural environment. Bearing this in mind, it has been suggested by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, that the major criteria for wilderness areas should be that they take a minimum of 2 full days to travel across, and should desirably be surrounded by a “buffer zone” of at least another day’s travel on foot. For this purpose it has been suggested that the area required should be no less than 20,000 hectares, except in difficult alpine areas where the area could be safely reduced.

Ideally wilderness areas should cover both a wide variety of geographic districts and landscapes of varying degrees of difficulty. Generally they would be areas comprising at least a single distinct catchment. In order to preserve the wild character of the land, the area would be without tracks, huts, bridges, or signs. People entering would have to be entirely self-supporting. Access by vehicle would be prohibited as would the provisioning of visitors by either fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter. Where necessary huts may be erected during a wild animal control programme, but these would be removed immediately upon the programme’s completion. To further protect the environment and avoid creating visual pollution, those people entering a wilderness area would be expected to subscribe to the *minimum impact code* (Anon. n.d.) both in act and in spirit.

Who will use the wilderness areas?

Although wilderness areas are open to everyone, it is obvious that if they are intensively used, the very features for which the area was reserved would be destroyed. Therefore, there is a need to reach a compromise, for it is not the intention to deny access to such areas.

How is this best achieved?

Hardin (1970) has suggested, that theoretically there are four sets of management criteria. They are:

- The market place (pay for the privilege)
- Queuing (first come first served)
- The lottery (ballot)
- Merit

Perhaps the most practical way of regulating use is to encourage those users prepared to make the physical effort and acquire the necessary bushcraft and/or mountaineering skills. This would appear the most practical long-term management proposition that would maintain the wilderness intact and allow free entry to those prepared to accept the challenge and the risks involved.

Such a (some may say unfairly restrictive) criterion, may prevent the majority of New Zealanders from visiting wilderness areas, but they are not to be denied the opportunity of enjoying the experience of quietness and relaxation in areas ranging from city parks to scenic reserves, forest parks, and national parks. The more easily accessible regions of the remote areas would ideally provide the

practical training and experience for entry into a wilderness area. Wilderness areas are just one small, but important, part of the spectrum of land for outdoor recreation.

How do we identify wilderness areas?

To designate a large tract of wild land as a wilderness area is a major land-use decision. While wilderness status would also promote the protection of indigenous flora and fauna and soil and water conservation values, it is also true that some land uses will become more difficult—for instance, hydro-electricity generation, production forestry, mining and tourism.

Naturally, wilderness area designation should have a broad measure of community support. To achieve this, government wishes to identify a number of suitable areas and then seek the attitudes of the community towards their protection. We cannot wait too long because gradually the area of our wild land is diminishing. Molloy (1979) estimates that a maximum area of only 6% of New Zealand is now suitable for wilderness area status (consisting of 14 areas, 3 in the North Island, 11 in the South Island and Stewart Island). Most of these areas (Table A1.2) meet the size, remoteness and pristine criteria suggested by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand.

TABLE A1.2. INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS RESOURCE* (1980).

NAME	REGION	AREA (ha) (approx.)	MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS
North Island			
Motu	Raukumara Range	50,000	Hydro; goats; tracks; huts; minerals
Ruakituri	Urewera National Park	25,000	
Kaimanawa -Kaweka	Headwaters Rangitikei & Ngaruroro Rivers	60,000	Airstrip; safari hunting; tourism
South Island			
Tasman	North-west Nelson	80,000	Minerals; hydro; tourist roading
Paparoa	Paparoa Range	35,000	Minerals; production forestry
Otehake+	Arthur's Pass National Park	12,000	Animal control; recreational development
Adams	Headwaters Rakaia, Rangitata, Wanganui & Whataroa Rivers	90,000	
Hooker	Hooker Range	60,000	Animal control; recreational development
Waiototo	Mount Aspiring National Park	50,000	Recreational hunting
Olivine	Mount Aspiring National Park/Cascade State Forest	70,000	Animal control
Fiordland	Fiordland National Park	c.1,000,000	
Waitutu	Waitutu State Forest (South Fiordland)	25,000	Minerals; animal control; tourist roads animal control; minerals
McLellan†	Catlins State Forest Park	12,000	Recreational development; hydro
Pegasus	South Stewart Island	85,000	Production forestry; limited buffer; fishing; hunting; communication bases for oil exploration

* The 'Wilderness Resource' is land currently having a wilderness character; not all of this land would ultimately be designated as wilderness areas. For instance, the majority of Fiordland is a vast wilderness resource (say approximately 1,000,000 ha), but the total area of the three existing or proposed wilderness areas in Fiordland National Park (Table A1.1, sections A and B) is much smaller (325,000 ha).

† Marginal because of small size.

This is only the beginning. Now is the time to reassess the situation and plan for the future protection of our wilderness heritage.

References

- Anon. n.d. Bush law: a minimum impact code. Published by the Nature Conservation Council, Wellington.
- Hardin, G. 1970. The economics of wilderness. In Johnson, C.E. (Ed.) *Eco-crisis*. Wiley, New York, NY.
- Molloy, L.F. 1979. The role of state forests in a New Zealand wilderness system. *NZ Journal of Forestry* 24(1): 101-107.

Section B Joint Policy Statement: Wilderness Areas

Preamble

1. Provision for setting apart wilderness areas in the National Parks Act 1952, Forests Act 1949, and the Reserves Act 1977 makes desirable the expression of a common policy on wilderness areas. Such a policy, proposing management objectives for a specific category of public land administered by various Government agencies, would provide the basis for public appreciation and use of that land, consistent with its preservation in perpetuity. It would provide also for comprehensive planning of a wilderness area system in New Zealand having regard to all tenures of publicly accessible lands of the Crown.

Wilderness

2. A wilderness is an area of land of primeval character which is protected and managed so as to perpetuate its natural condition and which:
- (1) Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with any imprint of man's interference substantially unnoticeable;
 - (2) Is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition and to give opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
3. Everyone has a personal concept of wilderness experience and that concept is important to the individual.

Management of Wilderness

4. Unlike many countries, New Zealand is fortunate in having a substantial proportion of its publicly accessible indigenous forest and mountain lands essentially wild and primeval.
5. Vestiges of human occupation or modification are not compatible with the wilderness experience. The formation or making of tracks, the construction of huts, shelters, or permanent camp sites, the taking of domestic animals into, and the use of horses, vehicles, power boats and aircraft within a wilderness area are therefore unacceptable. However, as the presence of introduced flora and fauna may place at risk the natural state of indigenous flora and fauna, or soil, water or other values associated with a defined wilderness area, it may be

necessary for the land administering authority to take positive action to preserve the natural state of the areas.

6. The taking or destruction of indigenous flora and fauna is prohibited.
7. For the security of the wilderness area from fire damage, such areas may be closed to public use and entry during periods of extreme fire danger. For the purpose of regulations the use of firearms, permits from the land administering authority are required for their use.
8. Users of the wilderness areas should be self sufficient, with dependence on the natural environment for shelter, fuel and food, though only to the extent that the use of such resources does not permanently detract from the values of the wilderness. To help ensure the safety of wilderness users and to facilitate search and rescue when necessary, the development of foot tracks or routes and the provision of shelters in adjoining natural environment or buffer areas may be desirable under some circumstances.

Establishment of Areas

9. Proposals for the setting apart, revocation or variation of wilderness area status will be made public and comments sought on them.

Policy

10. To facilitate public experience of the primeval character of areas of New Zealand, to attain a wilderness experience of solitude and self-reliance it shall be the joint policy of the Department of Lands and Survey, National Parks Authority and the New Zealand Forest Service that:

- (1) Proposals for setting apart, revocation or variation of wilderness areas will be made public through news media and management plans in accordance with relevant legislation.
- (2) Wilderness areas will be established and distinctly named where appropriate, in a manner complementary to recreational and other land uses within the region. They will be preserved in perpetuity as far as possible in a state unmodified by man and be accorded strict statutory and administrative protection.
- (3) Wilderness areas shall where possible cover a variety of geographic districts and landscapes of varying degrees of difficulty. Each proposal will be considered on its merits, but, in general, wilderness areas will be large comprising if possible at least a single distinct catchment and preferably remote from settled and developed localities.
- (4) The establishment of permanent tracks of any kind within a wilderness area will not be permitted. Temporary marking of tracks will be discouraged.
- (5) The placement of portable huts shall be permitted with the approval of the administering body only for essential wild animal control and research: such huts to be removed as soon as they cease to be essential.
- (6) Where appropriate to preserve wilderness qualities physical and visual buffer zones will be established to separate the wilderness area from developed areas.

- (7) Wilderness areas may be closed to public use and entry during periods of extreme fire danger.
- (8) In considering applications for mining privileges over wilderness areas the following policy will be applied:
 - To recommend that applications for consent to prospecting or mining in wilderness areas be declined in view of the exceptional features which led to their particular status
 - To seek exemption of these areas from the provisions of the Mining Act.
- (9) Aircraft will not be allowed to land or hover or make airdrops in wilderness areas except for essential management, control of introduced animals, scientific research, or for search and rescue purposes.
- (10) To ensure the preservation of the quiet enjoyment of wilderness areas endeavours will be made to have acceptable minimum flying altitudes and distances from peaks established. The reduction of all forms of noise and nuisance caused by aircraft activities in and over wilderness areas will be sought.
- (11) Where adjoining lands of differing tenure are set apart as wilderness they shall be managed and administered by the responsible land administering departments or authorities in a co-ordinated and complementary manner and always to enhance or protect the wilderness qualities of the total area.
- (12) The use of the term “wilderness area” shall relate only to areas established in conformity with this policy.
- (13) Any information published by controlling agencies shall be limited to basic mapping and scientific description.

Appendix 2

A NEW ZEALAND WILDERNESS POLICY

Wilderness Policy (1985)

The Wilderness Experience

(a) The idea of wilderness is very personal. It embodies remoteness and discovery, challenge, solitude, freedom, and romance. It fosters self-reliance and empathy with wild nature. Wilderness is therefore principally a recreational and cultural concept which is compatible with nature conservation.

(b) Wilderness recreation is available to everyone and is an important part of the wide range of recreational opportunities that exist and should remain in New Zealand. A wilderness experience can be gained in a variety of natural landscapes but for some people a large natural area is required. However, to retain the widest opportunities for outdoor recreation, management of some large remote areas as wilderness is necessary.

(c) The wild lands of the world are rapidly shrinking and will become rare in the near future. The opportunities New Zealand can offer for wilderness recreation are therefore of international significance.

Wilderness Areas

Wilderness areas are wild lands designated for their protection and managed to perpetuate their natural condition and which appear to have been affected only by the forces of nature, with any imprint of human interference substantially unnoticeable.

(a) Tracts of land chosen to be protected through appropriate management as wilderness areas should meet the following criteria:

- (i) They will be large enough to take at least 2 days' foot travel to traverse;
- (ii) They should have clearly defined topographic boundaries and be adequately buffered so as to be unaffected, except in minor ways, by human influences;
- (iii) They will not have developments such as huts, tracks, bridges, signs, nor mechanised access.

(b) A wilderness system should have a wide geographic distribution, and contain diversity in landscape and recreational opportunity.

(c) An area which has a wilderness character but does not meet some of the above criteria and is managed essentially in accordance with the Wilderness

Editors note: This interagency policy was developed by the government appointed Wilderness Advisory Group in 1985, concluding an extensive consultative process that followed the 1981 Wilderness Conference organised by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand. This policy was adopted by the then Department of Lands and Survey and New Zealand Forest Service, and its provisions are currently applied by the Department of Conservation, primarily through the 1996 Visitor Strategy. This is in accordance with the Conservation Act (1987), the National Parks Act (1980) and the Reserves Act (1977).

Policy may be called a “Remote Experience” area. For instance, such an area could be smaller than a Wilderness Area, or have a minor management incompatibility, such as infrequent air access or a maintained hut.

(d) Wilderness areas may be established under several statutes, or by zoning in management plans.

Legislative provisions:

(i) *State Forest Land*—Section 63E of the Forests Act 1949 as inserted by Section 19 of the Forests Amendment Act 1976

(ii) *National Parks*—Section 14 of the National Parks Act 1980

(iii) *Reserve Land*—Section 47 of the Reserves Act 1977

(iv) *Crown Land*—No legislative provision currently in the Land Act 1949 but areas may be zoned in management plans

(e) Wilderness designation preserves resources and thus options for future use of the land. Ideally wilderness areas will be managed in perpetuity but the designation is not necessarily permanent in terms of the relevant statutes, and can be revoked, if deemed necessary.

(f) Public comment on proposals for the setting apart, revocation or variation of wilderness areas will be sought through news media and management plans in accordance with relevant legislation.

Management of Wilderness Areas

(a) To retain natural wilderness qualities developments such as huts, tracks, route markers, and bridges are inappropriate, and in the few cases where such facilities exist they should be removed or no longer be maintained.

(b) Adjoining lands should be managed as buffers to assist in the protection of a wilderness area. Buffers may contain huts, tracks, and bridges but these should be few and vehicle access will be discouraged near the wilderness boundary.

(c) Wilderness is a fragile resource, susceptible to overuse. While wilderness areas are open to everyone, overuse will be minimised by selecting areas for their remoteness rather than regulating access by permit.

(d) To ensure the use of wilderness areas at levels compatible with the maintenance of wilderness values, commercial recreation activities may only be undertaken under licence or permit.

(e) Because wilderness areas are places for quiet enjoyment, free from obvious human impact, and require physical endeavour to achieve in full measure the wilderness experience, the use of powered vehicles, boats or aircraft will not be permitted. Horses may be allowed where strong historical links exist, and where legislation permits.

(f) Users of wilderness areas should be self sufficient and depend on the natural environment for shelter and fuel only if the use of such resources does not detract from the values of the wilderness.

(g) Logging, roading, hydro electric development, and all but hand-methods of mining are also incompatible.

(h) Exceptions to restrictions on facilities, vehicles, boats, and aircraft may apply temporarily to:

- (i) Search and rescue operations and emergency flights for fire fighting and medical reasons
- (ii) Control of introduced plants and animals
- (iii) Carefully controlled, minimal impact mineral exploration and prospecting¹
- (iv) Scientific research which cannot be conducted outside wilderness areas

Education and information

- (a) Wilderness users will be encouraged to minimise their impact on wilderness by applying the Minimum Impact Code. In addition, it is undesirable in wilderness areas to blaze trees or leave cairns.
- (b) Wilderness areas should have their designation identified in management plans but their use will not be promoted.
- (c) Wilderness areas will be distinctly named, and information on them may be obtained from the Department of Lands and Survey, or the New Zealand Forest Service.

Wilderness is a characteristic of the natural landscapes of New Zealand. Most of this wilderness is found on public lands managed by government agencies. Consequently, all New Zealanders have the right to enjoy the benefits of wilderness recreation. This policy attempts to increase public appreciation of the value of retaining some of these wild lands and encourage a co-ordinated approach to wilderness management.

Wilderness management is not new. It is an internationally recognised management concept and has been embodied in New Zealand legislation since the 1952 National Parks Act. This policy has built upon the relevant legislation, the joint wilderness policy (produced in 1980 by the Department of Lands and Survey, the NZ Forest Service and the National Parks Authority), the findings of the 1981 Wilderness Conference and the public and governmental responses to the draft wilderness policy prepared by the Wilderness Advisory Group. It is intended to be the basis for the comprehensive planning of a wilderness area system in New Zealand having regard to all tenures of publicly accessible lands of the Crown.

¹ Minimal impact exploration and prospecting will be ensured by strict supervision of the licence conditions applied by Mines Division, Ministry of Energy, in consultation with the land administering agencies. Activities may include geological mapping, geophysical surveys, geochemical sampling, and machine operated drilling programmes. Earthmoving machinery and road formation will not be permitted. Consequently all drilling equipment and temporary huts will normally be transported by helicopter, unless existing tracks can be used without disturbance to the environment.

Appendix 3

WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEW ZEALAND: CURRENT STATUS

WILDERNESS AREAS	GAZETTED	AREA (ha)	NOTES
Pembroke	1974	18,000	The more remote western—coastal edge of the extremely rugged Darrans Mountains in the north of Fiordland National Park, located between Milford Sound and Martins Bay, and buffered by a remote experience zone in the eastern Darrans.
Glaisnock	1974	124,800	The rugged Franklin and Stuart Mountains in the north of Fiordland National Park, between Lake Te Anau and the Fiordland coast (with Milford Track to the north).
Raukumara*	1988	39,650	Conservation land in a mountainous and rugged forested area including the catchment of the Motu River, which comprises the core of the Raukumara Conservation Park.
Tasman*	1988	86,950	A mountainous area south of the Heaphy Track, comprising the core area of Kahurangi National Park, and containing catchments for the Heaphy, Aorere and Karamea Rivers.
Hooker-Landsborough*	1990	41,000	Conservation land in mountainous area of Southern Alps immediately south of Mt Cook and Westland National Parks, includes the Landsborough River catchment.
Olivine*	1997	83,000	A mountainous area in the western end of Mt Aspiring National Park, including the Olivine ice plateau and catchments for the Pyke and Arawata Rivers.
<p>Areas gazetted as Wilderness Areas prior to the ‘Wilderness Policy’ of the Wilderness Policy Group (1985) which defined specific criteria for Wilderness Areas. These areas have been judged to not meet these criteria, but management response has varied in the different cases.</p>			
Otehake	1955	12,000	Under the Arthurs Pass National Park Management Plan (1995), considered too small and intruded by facilities to be considered a true ‘Wilderness Area’ under the criteria of the Wilderness Policy (1985). In this Plan, the status of this area will change to ‘Remote Experience’.
Te Tatau Pounamu	1962	6,500	Under the Tongariro National Park Management Plan (1990), these areas are considered too small to be true ‘Wilderness Areas’ under criteria of the Wilderness Policy (1985). However the Plan indicates that in the Central North Island context of limited undeveloped lands, these areas should be retained as Wilderness Areas.
Hauhungatahi	1966	8,500	
<p>Designation of these areas as Wilderness Areas is specified as an objective in the Department of Conservation Strategic Business Plan (1997).</p>			
Southern Fiordland* (Poteriteri)	Conservation land currently part of the Waitutu Conservation Park, parts of which may be soon added to Fiordland National Park. Part of a lowland forest and lake area of a type unlike any existing Wilderness Area in New Zealand.		
Tin Range-Pegasus*	Conservation land in the highly remote southern half of Stewart Island, including an extensive area of coastline, and buffered by an extensive remote zone.		
Adams*	Conservation land in rugged high alpine terrain in the Southern Alps north of Westland National Park. Also many glaciers and ice plateaux (Garden of Eden, Garden of Allah), and headwaters of Wanganui and Whataroa Rivers.		
Paparoa*	Conservation land in a rugged, remote and mountainous area north of Paparoa National Park.		

WILDERNESS AREAS	NOTES
Other areas of wilderness potential noted in the Wilderness Conference Proceedings (1985), but not given wilderness area status in subsequent Department of Conservation Management Plans or Conservation Management Strategies.	
The Garvies*	A high country tussock grassland , tor and cirque landscape south east of Lake Wakatipu. Unlike any other existing or proposed wilderness area in New Zealand. Particularly proposed as a 'winter wilderness' when motorised access by 4WD and motorbike was not possible (predates the current uses by snowmobiles). Recommended for wilderness status in the Proceedings of the Wilderness Conference (1985). No further action has been taken with this proposal.
Kaimanawa-Kaweka*	High forest and tussock lands between the Kaimanawa and Kaweka ranges and the respective Forest Parks. Subject to further land acquisitions and buffer development, recommended for wilderness status in the Proceedings of the Wilderness Conference (1985). No further action has been taken with this proposal.
Ruakituri-Ikawhenua	Two remote forested parts of Te Urewera National Park which had been suggested for wilderness status, but were not eventually recommended for wilderness status from the Wilderness Conference (1985).
Mangatera	A remote area of Ruahine Forest Park which had been suggested for wilderness status, but was not eventually recommended from the Wilderness Conference (1985)
Other areas suggested as possible resources for wilderness from the Wilderness Conference Proceedings (1985), and in subsequent related publications, although not currently being considered for wilderness status	
Callery	Mountainous area of around 10,000 ha in Westland National Park.
Balfour	Mountainous area of around 4,000 ha in Westland National Park.
Waiototo	Mountainous area of around 50,000 ha in Mt Aspiring National Park
McClellan	Lowland an coastal forest of around 12,000 ha in Catlins Forest Park.
Fiordland	The whole of Fiordland National Park (over 1,000,000 ha) has high wilderness values.

Editors note: This table summarises of the current status of New Zealand Wilderness Areas and related proposals in 2001.