

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park Management Plan

2001 - 2011

Amended 11 June 2008

Amended 4 April 2014

ISBN 0-478-21990-3

ISSN 0113-3926

West Coast Conservancy Management Plan Series No. 3

Published by
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy
Private Bag 701
Hokitika

Cover:
Franz Josef Glacier
Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere

Photograph:
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Preface

The management plan for Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park has been reviewed in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. This is a statutory document and provides for the management of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park in accordance with the General Policies for National Parks and the Act. This is the second review of the original plan published in accordance with the National Parks Act 1952.

A management plan contains detailed objectives and policies for the effective management of the park but does not override the provisions of primary legislation and general policy. The purpose of this plan is to express the Department's overall management intentions for Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park for the next 10 years. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources, strategic and business planning and level of community and concessionaire support.

This management plan has been prepared by the West Coast Conservancy of the Department of Conservation in consultation with the Canterbury Conservancy, representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board, the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and other interested groups and individuals.

The plan acknowledges mana whenua and tāngata whenua status of Ngāi Tahu over their ancestral lands and waters within the park. It acknowledges the Crown's relationship with and obligations to Ngāi Tahu under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997. Apart from complying with the provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997, the Department must also comply with section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987. This requires the Department to interpret and administer the Conservation Act 1987 so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to the extent that the provisions of the Conservation Act 1987 are not clearly inconsistent with those principles. Case law has established that section 4 applies to the Acts listed in the First Schedule to the Conservation Act 1987. The National Parks Act 1980 is one of listed Acts. The plan integrates these acknowledgements at all levels.

Public notice of the intention to review the plan was given on 5 December 1998 and the public were invited to make submissions on the management of the park. As a result 19 submissions were received within the required time-frame and were considered in preparation of the draft management plan.

The draft plan was then notified on 4 December 1999. Four months were allowed for public submissions. A total of 53 submissions were received and 11 submitters were heard in support of their submissions. These submissions were taken into account in the development of this plan.

The plan will be effective for 10 years from the date of approval but may be reviewed at any time as a result of increased knowledge or changes in circumstance.

This plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on this 21st day of December 2001.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Marshall', written over a horizontal line.

Kerry Marshall

Chairperson

New Zealand Conservation Authority

In 2008, the New Zealand Conservation Authority approved an amendment to the plan to enable the construction of shared cycling/walking pathways within the Franz Josef and Fox Glacier valleys. Changes in circumstance and general policy resulted in the need for sections 4.3.9, 4.4.17 and the glossary of the plan to be amended. Other sections of the plan (including maps 1-3) also needed to be updated to include several areas of land that have been added to the Park since this management plan was approved. The amendments (displayed as underlined text) were made following the standard consultation process set out in Section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980 and took effect on 11 June 2008. They will remain operative for the life of the plan.

In April 2014, the New Zealand Conservation Authority approved an amendment to the plan focusing on access to the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuauwe*. This change was required to ensure safe public access to these Icon Destinations due to the glaciers advancing and receding. When the plan was approved in 2001 the dramatic rate of glacier retreat and consequent problems of access to/or onto the glaciers was not anticipated. Changes in policy for *Aircraft Access*, *Road Access*, *Vehicle Use* and *Glacier Guiding* have been changed in the plan. Additionally *Maps 4* and *4A*, *Aircraft Landing Sites*, have been updated to reflect these changes. The amendments (each page displayed in underlined tracked changes) were made following the standard consultation process set out in section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980 and took effect on 9 April 2014. They will remain operative for the life of the plan.

How to use this plan

This management plan provides for the management of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. The plan provides a legislative context and background section for the park from which objectives, policies and methods have been developed.

Each park policy is numbered and has a corresponding explanation. Where a method is required to implement a policy, the number of the method matches the policy.

When using the management plan it is important to read and consider the plan and its provisions as a whole. Various objectives and policies may influence the interpretation of other parts of the plan.

The plan provides guidance to assist park managers in the day-to-day management of the park. Where additional information which may assist decision making is available, the references have been included at the end of each policy section. A full list of references is included in this document.

1 Introduction

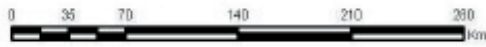


Mt Tasman forms the stunning
eastern boundary of Westland
Tai Poutini National Park

Photo by: Darren Rodd

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park

Map 1: Locality Map



Scale : 1:4,000,000



Westland *Tai Poutini*
National Park

Legend

-  Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park
-  Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park
-  West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy Boundary
-  South West New Zealand *Te Wahipounamu* World Heritage Area

1 Introduction

In New Zealand, national parks are areas of publicly-owned land that are preserved in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. They consist of areas that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park protects qualities and attractions that range from historic features of local interest, through ecosystems of national scientific importance, to major physical features of international significance. The park is valued nationally and internationally as an inspirational setting where a number of recreational opportunities can be enjoyed. The park is also included in the 2.6 million hectare South West New Zealand *Te Wābipounamu* World Heritage Area and is recognised by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as one of the world's outstanding natural areas.

This area is unique in the New Zealand context in that it contains a cross-section of landforms and vegetation that extends from the South Island's western coastline to the highest peaks of the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana*.

Public interest in the best-known features, the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe*, has been significant for many years. For this reason, accommodation and guiding ventures have a long-standing tradition in the locality, and in more recent times aircraft have allowed a wider range of people to access the glaciers and snowfields.

The challenge facing the managers of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park lies in preserving the park in perpetuity for future generations and, to the extent that the use of any natural or historic resources for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with this preservation, to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation and to allow their use for tourism.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park is administered by the West Coast Conservancy of the Department of Conservation. Day-to-day management activities are carried out by the Franz Josef *Waiaua* and South Westland *Weheka* area offices.

1.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The purpose of this management plan is to provide for the management of the park in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980 and the General Policy for National Parks 1983. The plan will guide the work of the Department in the park from 2001-2011. As a guide for the next 10 years, the plan seeks to give clear directions for management while remaining flexible enough to allow for changing circumstances within the 10-year time frame. Underlying all decisions must be the need to preserve the park as far as possible in its natural state.

Section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980 requires that a management plan shall be reviewed, and that the review shall be approved as a whole, at intervals of not more than 10 years.

The process for the reviewing of a management plan is set out in section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980 and is summarised as follows:

1. An initial notice is published asking for suggestions and comments (completed 5 December 1998).
2. A draft management plan is prepared in consultation with the conservation board.
3. The draft management plan is released for public submission for at least two months (completed 4 December 1999).
4. Those wishing to be heard in support of their submissions appear before representatives of the Department and the conservation board.
5. The draft plan is revised in light of submissions.
6. The conservation board considers the revised draft and the summary of submissions and may make further amendments.
7. When satisfied, the board recommends the revised draft to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval.
8. The NZCA then refers the revised draft to the Minister of Conservation for his/her comments.
9. When satisfied, the NZCA approves the management plan.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

1.2.1 *The National Parks Act 1980*

Section 4(1) of the National Parks Act 1980 reads: -

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

It is further stated in section 4(2) that:

- (a) They shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state;
- (b) Except where the Authority otherwise determines, the native plants and animals of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved and the introduced plants and animals shall as far as possible be exterminated;
- (c) Sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest shall as far as possible be preserved;
- (d) Their value as soil, water, and forest conservation areas shall be maintained;
- (e) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the imposition of such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the native plants and animals or for the welfare in general of the parks, the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the parks, so they may receive in full measure the inspiration, enjoyment, recreation, and other benefits that may be derived from mountains, forests, sounds, seacoasts, lakes, rivers, and other natural features.

This management plan must be in accordance with the Act.

1.2.1.1 National Park By-laws

Section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980 provides for the Minister of Conservation to make by-laws. By-laws allow for the enforcement of activities that cannot be enforced through policies. The Westland National Park By-laws 1981 include by-laws regulating pollution within the park, disposal of refuse, camping, use of park huts, fires, vehicles, aircraft, competitive sports, use of spotlights for hunting, portable generators and public address systems. This management plan cannot be inconsistent with park by-laws.

The by-laws for Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park came into force on the 1 April 1981.

1.2.2 *The General Policy for National Parks 1983*

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

This management plan must be in accordance with the General Policy for National Parks 1983.

1.2.3 *The Conservation Act 1987*

The Conservation Act 1987 established the Department of Conservation and directs the administration and management of all land and resources under the Department's control (other Acts also direct the management of lands administered by the Department). Refer to glossary for definition of conservation.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to interpret and administer that Act and the Acts listed in the First Schedule so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Case law has established

that where there are clear inconsistencies between the provisions of the Act and the principals, the provisions will take precedence.

Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of the Department. Of particular relevance to this plan are sections 6(ab) and (e) which state:

- (ab) To preserve so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater habitats;
- (e) To the extent that the use of any natural or historic resource for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with its conservation, to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and allow their use for tourism.

1.2.3.1 The Conservation Management Strategy

Under section 17D of the Conservation Act 1987 each conservancy must prepare a 10-year conservation management strategy which applies to all land administered by the Department in that conservancy.

The purpose of a conservation management strategy is to implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species, managed by the Department under the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, the National Parks Act 1980, the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990, or the Conservation Act 1987, or any of them, and for recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes. [the Conservation Act 1987, section 17D(1)].

The West Coast draft Conservation Management Strategy is the umbrella document which sets the general direction for the management of all land administered by the Department within the conservancy, including this national park. This management plan comes under and must be in accordance with policies contained within the conservation management strategy (once approved).

1.2.4 *The Resource Management Act 1991*

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 is:

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

- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
- (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating, any adverse effects of activities on the environment. (Section 5, Resource Management Act 1991).

The Resource Management Act 1991 is administered by the Ministry for the Environment and is implemented by local government through district and regional plans and statements prepared by councils. The activities of the Department are bound by the provisions of the Regional Policy Statement, district plans and regional plans and the Department must apply for resource consents for activities as required under those plans. However, section 4 of the Act provides a limited exemption to the Department for those land use activities within the park that are provided for in a management plan or a conservation management strategy and where they do not have significant adverse effects outside the boundary of the park.

Section 74(2)(b) of the Act states that:

A territorial authority shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under any other Act.

Councils will therefore have to have regard to the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (once approved) and to this management plan when preparing their plans, policies and/or in the context of resource consent applications.

1.2.5 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996

The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 established Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as a corporate body with the authority to act on behalf of all Ngāi Tahu whanui.

1.2.6 Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

The purpose of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 is:

- (a) To record the apology given by the Crown to Ngāi Tahu in the deed of settlement executed on 21 November 1997 by the Right Honourable James Brendan Bolger, for the Crown, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu; and
- (b) To give effect to certain provisions of that deed of settlement, being a deed that settles the Ngāi Tahu claims.

The Act binds the Crown. It is to be interpreted in a manner which best furthers the agreements expressed in the Deed of Settlement 1997, (section 7, Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998). This Deed prescribes a number of values and principles that are to be addressed by the Department of Conservation in the management of the lands which it administers within the Ngāi Tahu tākiwa/territory. These have been specifically addressed where relevant within this plan.

1.2.6.1 Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāi Tahu 1997

On 21 November 1997, the Crown and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu entered into the deed of settlement in which the Crown acknowledged that Ngāi Tahu suffered grave injustices which significantly impaired Ngāi Tahu's economic, social and cultural development and which recorded the matters required to give effect to a settlement of all of Ngāi Tahu's historical claims. (Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998).

The settlement resolved the long-standing grievances of the WAI 27 claim.

Mechanisms established in the Deed of Settlement 1997 and Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 place a number of specific obligations on the Department with respect to land which the Department administers including Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. These obligations are in addition to the obligations imposed by section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

Pursuant to section 282 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, the Minister of Conservation has issued Protocols in relation to the Department's relationship with Ngāi Tahu. Section 281 of the Act provides:

...the term protocol means a statement in writing, issued by the Crown through the Minister of Conservation to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, which sets out:

- (a) How the Department of Conservation will exercise its functions, powers, and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu claim area; and
- (b) How the Department of Conservation will, on a continuing basis, interact with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provide for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's input into its decision-making process.

The 'specified matters' dealt with in the Protocols are:

- cultural materials;
- freshwater fisheries;
- the culling of species of interest to Ngāi Tahu;
- historic resources;
- Resource Management Act 1991 involvement;
- visitor and public information.

The Protocols make general statements about how the Department should conduct work with Ngāi Tahu in these areas. The Protocols have been quoted where relevant within the plan and attached in appendix 2.

Another mechanism established in the Deed of Settlement 1997 which is of particular relevance to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park is the amendment to official place names. It should be noted that these official place names have been used within this plan with the exception of the plan maps. These are based on topographical maps which pre-date the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

1.2.7 *The Crown Minerals Act 1991*

The purpose of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 is *to*:

restate and reform the law relating to the management of Crown-owned minerals.

The Crown Minerals Amendment Act (No. 2) 1997 has restricted mining for Crown-owned minerals in national parks established as at 1 October 1991 or otherwise included in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Only limited and low impact mining activities may still be permitted in certain circumstances, as described in section 61(1A)(a-e) of the Act.

1.2.8 *Ngāi Tabu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997*

The purpose of the Ngāi Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997 is to grant the rights to the mineral pounamu to Ngāi Tahu. Section 3 of the Act reads:

Notwithstanding any other enactment, all pounamu occurring in its natural condition in-

(a) The Tākiwa of Ngāi Tabu Whānui; and...

that, immediately before the commencement of this Act, is the property of the Crown, ceases, on the commencement of this Act, to be the property of the Crown and vests in and becomes the property of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tabu.

Access arrangements are still required to remove pounamu from the park and may only be permitted in those circumstances described in section 61B of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

1.2.9 *Non-Statutory Planning*

The Department produces plans, strategies and reviews of particular issues both on a local and national basis. Important documents at the time of writing include the National Visitor Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, National Historic Heritage Strategy, Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy, recovery plans for threatened native species, local animal/plant pest control plans and the West Coast Facilities Review.

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

1.2.10 *Other Bodies With Administrative Responsibilities*

Several bodies have administrative responsibilities over the park.

The Westland District Council and the West Coast Regional Council are responsible for district and regional planning through district and regional plans, for civil defence, water and soil conservation and air pollution control.

The New Zealand Police are responsible for law and order; and some compliance and law enforcement measures (in conjunction with the Department's officers); together with search and rescue.

The Health Department is responsible for public health.

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

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

The West Coast Fish and Game Council is responsible for the issue of sports fish and game bird licences and for the setting of related restrictions for the sustainable management of sports fisheries. The Council's statutory role within the park also includes undertaking research, survey of species and habitat and other actions such as organised hunting of problem game birds. The Department also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the

New Zealand Fish and Game Council and with the Fish and Game Council for the West Coast Region. This memorandum acknowledges the close working relationship which the Department has with the Fish and Game Council as set out in the Conservation Act 1987.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is responsible for the ongoing relationships between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Department of Conservation, the Minister of Conservation, and the Conservation Board with respect to a series of statutory duties and functions pursuant to the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and the Deed of Settlement 1997. Te Rūnanga is also the owner of any pounamu that may be located within the park (refer to section 1.2.8).

1.3 BACKGROUND

1.3.1 *Ngāi Tahu Values Relating to Westland Tai Poutini National Park*

Ngāi Tahu are the people who hold the rangatiratanga (chieftainship) and manawhenua (customary rights) over lands administered by the Department of Conservation on the West Coast. The Crown has formally acknowledged this rangatiratanga through the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 and in the apology which is recorded in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Poutini Ngāi Tahu define themselves as those Ngāi Tahu who, by whakapapa (genealogical descent rights), derive their status as tāngata whenua (people of the land) from their ancestors who held the customary title and aboriginal rights within the lands of Westland at the time of signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

Ngāi Tahu are governed by a “tribal council”, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, which is made up of 18 Papatipu Rūnanga who hold the rights and responsibilities to defined areas of land and waters within the tākiwa (area) of Ngāi Tahu. These rights are founded on traditional occupations and whakapapa from ancient times to the present day. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, based in Christchurch, is the collective tribal voice, a function which, in relation to most local matters, is exercised through Papatipu Rūnanga.

The Papatipu Rūnanga of the West Coast section of Ngāi Tahu, known as Poutini Ngāi Tahu, are Te Runaka o Kati Waewae, centred at Arahura, and Te Rūnanga o Te Koeti Turanga (referred to as Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio throughout this plan), centred at Bruce Bay.

1.3.1.1 **Tōpuni - Aoraki/Mount Cook**

Although this management plan is for the management of a defined area of land and waters named Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park, it is recognised that the cultural values have wider ties beyond the park boundaries.

Westland *Tai Poutini* and Aoraki/Mount Cook national parks are separated by survey and are managed under two separate management plans. However, it is acknowledged that the mountain, Aoraki/Mount Cook, is of particular significance to Ngāi Tahu and is protected by a Tōpuni in accordance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. It is further recognised that these values could be adversely affected by the management of adjoining lands. Reviews of the management plans for both parks has therefore been co-ordinated as far as possible to ensure that objectives and policies for the parks are consistent.

1.3.1.2 **Cultural Heritage Links**

“Cultural values of iwi are derived from the relationship of a people with the times that have passed before, as well as their relationship with the environment and genealogy (whakapapa)” (statement provided by Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio). The cultural heritage of Ngāi Tahu follows a pathway from the time of the creation, the times of the spiritual beings known as atua through to today.

The responsibilities for Poutini Ngāi Tahu created through this strong cultural heritage are to ensure that the connections between themselves and these atua are recognised and maintained in perpetuity.

All the stages of time from the creation to the present day are known to the tāngata whenua and are part of the landscape that is now Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. The atua are closely associated with the waters, the air,

the forests, the coastal environment, the fauna of the area and the very rocks of the land itself. The current infrastructure that is visible on the landscape is built on these lands which are valued so highly by Poutini Ngāi Tahu. It is important to recognise that these relationships with atua are not degraded by the passage of time.

As the people who hold mana over the whenua (power associated with the possession of the lands) in a traditional cultural sense, Ngāi Tahu are seeking the protection, through the administration of the park, of all the cultural heritage that is paramount to them. Consistent with the philosophy of the National Parks Act 1980, Ngāi Tahu are looking for the protection of these natural and historic values in perpetuity.

The cultural beliefs of Ngāi Tahu are acknowledged by the Department. This management plan, through its policies and methods, seeks to ensure that the full extent of Ngāi Tahu's cultural associations with the park are actively incorporated and accorded respect in day-to-day management.

It is also acknowledged that Ngāi Tahu have traditionally collected plants and animals from the park and adjoining lands for food and use in traditional clothing or ceremonies. Cultural use is acknowledged and possible under the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and is managed by the Department through a permitting system. The taking of cultural materials from the park for traditional purposes has been addressed through the policy sections of this plan.

1.3.1.3 Waters Within the Park

From a cultural perspective the waters of Westland Tai Poutini National Park all flow from the beginning of time. They flow continuously from the source, the tupuna (ancestors) personified in the mountains, through to the sea. The essences of those ancestors are contained within the waters and add to the mauri (the life-force) which is found in all things. This concept does not alter whether it be in association with small droplets, tributary streams, creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, swamps and estuaries or frozen, still, meandering or fast-flowing water.

Management practices reflect and acknowledge these cultural values. Specific policies and methods to protect these values are included within the plan.

1.3.1.4 Coastal Values

Te Tai o Poutini (the tides of the West Coast) is the name given to the seas of the West Coast of the South Island. For Ngāi Tahu the coastal environment is of considerable significance, both spiritually and for the wealth of its natural resources. The coast provides a rich site for gathering food and other resources.

The western boundary of the park adjoins the mean high water springs of the Tasman Sea and provides important habitat for many of these significant resources.

1.3.1.5 Taonga Species

Schedule 97 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 lists those species of indigenous plants and animals that have been identified as taonga species in the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997. Those taonga species found within the park are listed in appendix 3.

Ngāi Tahu value taonga species as highly prized treasure and negotiated with the Crown to have these species identified as taonga species in the settlement. Provisions were also negotiated with the Crown to enable Ngāi Tahu to participate in the management of taonga species.

The Crown acknowledges the cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association of Ngāi Tahu with taonga species. These values have been addressed in the plan policies where relevant.

In addition to the taonga species included in the settlement, many other species of indigenous plants and animals are prized by Ngāi Tahu. These species are not addressed by the settlement legislation but their significance to Ngāi Tahu is addressed through the Department's obligation to interpret the Conservation Act 1987 so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. These values have been addressed in the plan policies where relevant.

1.3.2 The Park - Physical Character and Location

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park, an area of 127,165 hectares, is situated in South Westland, New Zealand. It stretches from the West Coast to the Main Divide of the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* and comprises dense forests, high mountains, spectacular glaciers and fast-flowing rivers (refer to maps 1 and 2).

In the east, the Main Divide forms a common boundary with Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. In the west the park extends to the Tasman Sea and encompasses the forest areas of South Ōkārito and Waikukupa. The state highway broadly divides the park into upland and lowland sectors. The northern boundary of the upland sector is the Tatare Stream. The road to Ōkārito defines the northern boundary of the lowland sector, except for a narrow arc which extends northwards to include Lake Wahapō and its skyline ridge. The southern boundary follows the ridge south of the Karangarua River with an indentation just north of this to the crest of the Copland Range.

Forest edges largely delineate the park boundaries between the Ōkārito and Waikukupa forests, either side of the Waiho River valley and also the southern boundary of the Waikukupa tract. There are small areas of forest on the Waiho Loop moraine, either side of the lower Tatare Stream and at Canavans Knob beside the Waiho River. Downstream of the road bridge, the Waiho valley is not included in the park.

Two small service townships are situated on the highway where it passes through the park. Franz Josef *Waiau* is 145 kilometres south of Hokitika and Fox Glacier is a further 22 kilometres south.

1.3.2.1 A Park of International Significance

The wonders of natural processes have made Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park one of New Zealand's most outstanding national parks as well as making it an area of international significance. The following descriptions have been paraphrased from the nomination of the South-West New Zealand Te Wahipounamu to the World Heritage List. (September 1989).

The break-up of the southern super-continent of Gondwanaland to form the modern continents of South America, Africa, India, Antarctica, Australia and New Zealand, was one of the most important events in the earth's evolutionary history. New Zealand's long isolation without marsupials has enabled the survival of ancient Gondwana plants and animals to a much greater degree than elsewhere. Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park is one of the strongholds for these primitive species.

The park is outstanding for its glaciers. The Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe*, with their large neves and steep narrow trunks are among the fastest flowing glaciers known.

The development of plant and animal communities is one of the most comprehensive examples in the world of ongoing biological evolution. Outstanding examples of plant succession and ecosystem development occur on the alluvial plains. Glacial lakes occur across a wide chronosequence and exhibit classic examples of the progressive development of fresh-water plant and animal communities. The alpine zone supports a remarkable range of alpine ecosystems with alpine flora still demonstrating rapid evolutionary development. In the heart of the lowland forests lives the Ōkārito brown kiwi *rowi*. This kiwi is morphological and behaviourally different from its close relations in Haast and Fiordland suggesting that geographical isolation may be of long standing.

On top of these outstanding values, the park also has a concentration of natural scenic splendour. The landscapes are world class for the sheer excellence of their scenic beauty. It is an area of magnificent primeval vistas: snow-capped mountains, glaciers, forests, tussock grasslands, coast, lakes, rivers and wetlands.

1.3.3 Park Heritage

The historical perspective of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park depicts the hardship, perseverance and energy of Māori and European exploration and settlement, survey and development.

Māori travelled throughout the coastal regions of South Westland in search of pounamu which they worked in winter after storing surplus food in summer. "The settlements comprised a fortified pa at Ōkārito, small villages at intervals along the coast and larger villages at Maitahi and Makāwhio. The Māori population was relatively transient, moving according to the seasons among their villages. Although few in numbers (approximately 100 Māori lived on the entire West Coast at the time of European settlement), censuses taken between 1851 and 1892

show they were evenly spread between north and south Westland” (statement provided by Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio). Ngāi Tahu were very adept at traversing the mountain passes and from their oral traditions and place names it is clear they were conversant with all the major landmarks within the boundaries of the park.

“The Bruce Bay chief, Te Koeti Turanga, who died in 1882 aged 106, was renowned as a skilled mountaineer, his son Tane Te Koeti was later a mountain guide for the explorer Edward Fitzgerald, and in 1912 grandson George Bannister became the first Māori to reach the top of Aoraki/Mount Cook. Another Bruce Bay Māori, Joe Puruti (Fluerty) followed in 1932 with the first recorded ascent of Horokoau (Mt Tasman)” (statement provided by Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio).

The south-west region was sighted from the ships of Tasman, Cook and other early navigators and then explored by early European explorers and geologists in association with Māori guides. Some of these pioneering explorers included Brunner and guide Kehu, Heaphy, Harper and guides Ihaia Tainui and Tarapuhi, accompanied by Kere Tutoko and Kinihi and Haast and MacKay. Douglas surveyed the coast for some 20 years mostly on his own but occasionally with other companions including his South Westland pack man and guide Ruera Te Naihi. “Such was the isolation of the South Westland Māori that MacKay was greeted with great curiosity at Bruce Bay, where the women had never before seen a white man” (statement provided by Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio).

Near Ōkārito in 1860 MacKay facilitated the purchase of the Poutini Coast from Ngāi Tahu. In 1864 the explorers and geologists were followed by prospectors responding to reports of coal and gold and a year later gold discoveries created a frenzy of activity. Numerous parts of the present-day park, both inland waterways and beaches, were mined. Gold found in the area was alluvial, carried down rivers such as the Waikukupa and the Cook *Webeke* and tossed back onto the black sand beaches. On these beaches townships sprang up - Gillespies Beach, Five Mile and Three Mile beaches and Ōkārito. By early 1866 the beaches supported about four thousand people, a quarter of the region’s entire population. Ōkārito became West Canterbury’s third largest port. Individual and co-operative ventures worked the area for about eighteen months, after which time the settlements became virtual ghost towns.

Gold proved to be the catalyst in West Coast development. Although the gold rush peaked and subsided in a single decade its influence continued. The ports, roads and service facilities from the gold era continued to benefit travellers and the settlers who continued mining or turned to milling and farming. As exploration and surveying continued, stories of the region’s scenic beauty and recreational potential soon attracted sightseers, some desiring no more than a glimpse of a glacier, others set on conquest of mountain peaks.

As access became easier, visitor numbers increased and the accommodation industry grew. Families who, in earlier times had shared their homes with guests, became owners of hotels. At both glaciers enterprising families like the Grahams at Franz Josef *Waiata* and the Sullivans at Fox Glacier saw a future in taking excursions onto the ice. These accommodation and guiding operations formed the basis of glacier tourism today.

Charlie Douglas (1840-1916), the shrewd and perceptive explorer, was one of the first coasters to realise that the most profitable exploitation of South Westland lay in the preservation of the land: “*The mines they intend to develop in future is the gold and silver from the pockets of tourists. No more roads for diggers but tracks to waterfalls and glaciers.*”(Langton 2000).

The legacy of early settlement and tourist activity has resulted in numerous archaeological and historic sites in or directly adjacent to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. All recorded sites are listed on the New Zealand Archaeological Association site files and West Coast Conservancy historic resource database. Fifteen sites are listed in the conservancy’s Actively Managed Historic Places Register. The actively managed historic places include Almer and Chancellor huts in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* neves respectively, both of which are still used by climbers, and Cape Defiance Hut, relocated off its mountain perch in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* to sit behind the Franz Josef *Waiata* Visitor Centre where it is now used as an interpretive display of an early climbing hut. In Franz Josef *Waiata* other historic sites on recreational tracks and walks include Hende’s Hut and Hende’s Gallery on the Roberts Point Track and the Gallery and Douglas bridges, both of which are used to provide access to Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* valley walks. Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* historic sites on recreational tracks include the Fox River footbridge in the Fox River valley.

The Gillespies cemetery is within the park boundaries. Associated sites adjoining the park include the Gillespies suction dredge and pack track at Gillespies Beach. At Ōkārito associated sites include the Ōkārito schoolhouse and Donovan's Store.

In its historic management the Department takes account of legislation and internal policy relating to artefacts and archaeological sites. Legislation includes the Conservation Act 1987, the Historic Places Act 1993, the Antiquities Act 1975 and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. At a national level Departmental policies include the national Historic Heritage Strategy and the national Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy. ICOMOS is used as a guiding framework. At a conservancy level policies include the Historic Resources Plan and the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (once approved).

Sites relating to pre-European history are significantly under-represented within these policies and strategies. These sites may be wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and, as such, their locations are not disclosed.

1.3.3.1 Establishment of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park

Scenic reserves were gazetted in 1911, giving protection to the glaciers and lakes Wahapō, Māpōurika and Matheson. Suggestions at the time that the snowfields and glaciers of the region should be added to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park united West Coast support for a national park in Westland. Representations from the Royal New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society, Federated Mountain Clubs and local people were favourably received by the Government. As a prelude to the Westland provincial celebrations, the Executive Council met at Greymouth and proclaimed Westland National Park by Order in Council on 29 March 1960. This proclamation, which included in the park the beds and waters of all internal lakes, rivers, and streams was published in the New Zealand Gazette 1960, page 416.

During the 1970's the focus of conservation concern shifted to the lowland forests of the West Coast. A highly significant and controversial proposal was promoted to include the southern part of Ōkārito State Forest and Waikukupa State Forest to the park. In early 1982 these areas were added to the park, incorporating a sizeable tract of lowland forest. The park became a cross-section of Westland, extending from the mountains to the sea and protecting significant lowland forest habitat. The justification for these additions was given impetus by the revision of the National Parks Act in 1980 to place more emphasis upon ecological representativeness and scientific importance as criteria, alongside the traditional criterion of scenic grandeur (Nomination of the South-West New Zealand Te Wahipounamu in the World Heritage List, September 1989). The presence of the Ōkārito brown kiwi *rowi* therefore added substantial weight in support of the lowland forest being added to the park.

The park was further extended in 1983 to incorporate the complete catchment of the Upper Karangarua Valley. This extension established more natural and easily managed boundaries and secured an area with distinctive ecological and scenic values.

The park name was amended on 1 October 1998 to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park in accordance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

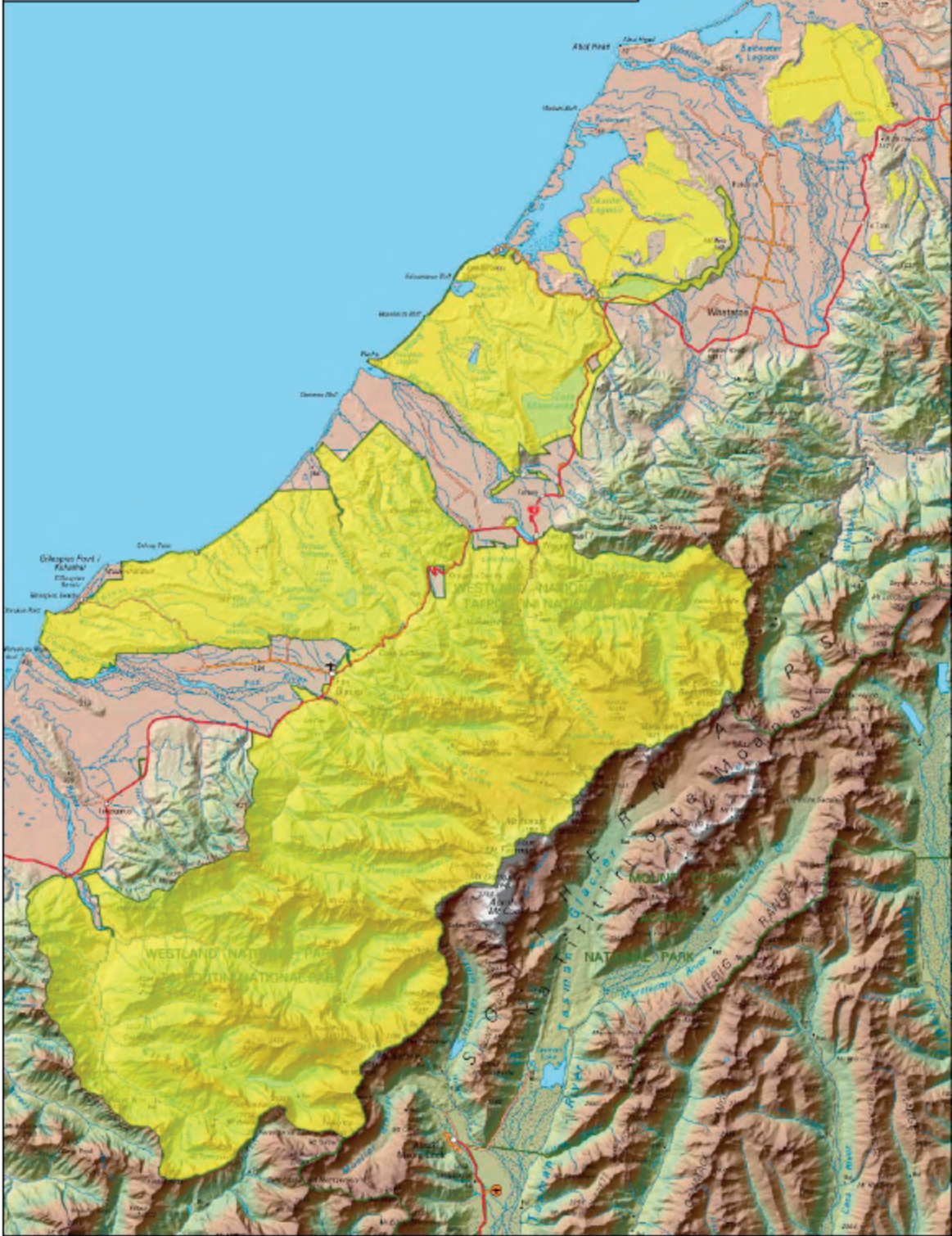
In April of 2002 further extensions were made to the park under the Forests (West Coast) Accord Act 2000. These added the northern part of Ōkārito State Forest and Saltwater State Forest to the park.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park

Map 2 : National Park Boundary



1:325,000



1.3.3.2*Te Wābipounamu* – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park forms a key part of the outstanding 2.6 million-hectare *Te Wābipounamu* – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. World heritage areas are designated under the World Heritage Convention for their “outstanding universal value” following an assessment of four criteria:

Sites nominated should be outstanding examples representing the major stages of the earth’s evolutionary history.

Sites nominated should be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man’s interaction with the natural environment, as distinct from periods of the earth’s development. This focuses on the ongoing processes in the development of communities of plants and animals, landforms and marine areas and freshwater bodies.

Sites nominated should contain superlative natural phenomena, formations or features, for instance, outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems, areas of exceptional beauty or exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements.

Sites nominated should contain the most important and significant natural habitats where threatened species of animals or plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation still survive.

The exceptional natural values of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park alone meet all four criteria. The park’s Gondwana heritage, ice age imprints, tectonic origins and biological evolution make it an internationally outstanding area.

The Department is obligated to manage the world heritage area in such a way that its integrity is preserved. To do this the Department informs visitors about the area’s heritage values and provides facilities to mitigate visitor impacts. The primary obligation, however, is to protect the area’s outstanding natural landscapes, biodiversity and ecological integrity, and this obligation is entirely consistent with the primary objective for managing Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park.

1.3.4 *Park Access*

The park is traversed by the only West Coast thoroughfare, State Highway 6. This highway forms an integral part of the South Island tourist circuit and is travelled by more than 400,000 visitors each year. It provides a direct link north to Hokitika and Greymouth and south to Haast. It is also linked to Canterbury via the Lewis Pass and Arthur’s Pass routes and to the tourist centres of Central Otago via the Haast Pass (refer to map 1).

The park is well served by road access. Side roads extend up the glacier valleys and out to the Coast at Ōkārito and Gillespies Beach.

Boats provide access on lakes and waterways within the park.

The backcountry sector of the park is well serviced by tracks and huts. The Copland Track leads to the Copland Pass, a transalpine route to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. Short walks are concentrated in the glacier valleys and around the townships. Historic coastal pack tracks and short walks have been upgraded since the addition of the lowland forests.

Roads and tracks, particularly those in the upper reaches of the glacier valleys, are often severely damaged by slips, rockfalls and erosion from swollen, fast-running rivers. In the glacier valleys the problems caused by severe weather acting on steep, unstable landforms have been compounded by the continual recession and advancement of the glaciers. In the last 25 years the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* access road has been severely damaged on several occasions. The Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuauwe* access road also requires frequent maintenance.

1.3.5 *Park Climate*

In Westland the climate is both vigorous and diverse and is responsible for the development of the glaciers and the rain forests, the main features of the park. South Westland lies in the path of prevailing westerly winds and experiences a succession of anticyclones and depressions. Airstreams laden with moisture collected from the Tasman Sea are interrupted by the high mountains and forced upwards, releasing rain. South-west winds and

clearing weather follow this rain giving reasonably high sunshine hours, especially near the coast which is also warmed by the northward-flowing Westland Oceanic Current. These moderating influences are responsible for the mild temperatures experienced in lowland areas of the park.

The rainfall increases sharply from the coast to the mountains. Along the coast the average yearly total is three metres; at the foot of the mountains this rises to five metres spread over about 190 rain days. In the mountains total precipitation can exceed 10 metres, much of it falling as snow. Seasonal differences in precipitation are not large as heavy falls occur at any time of the year. Wet weather is most likely to persist in the spring and early summer, brought about by closely-spaced frontal systems. Calm, stable weather is characteristic of midwinter and late summer.

The alpine weather can be severe. Wind, temperature and visibility may change very quickly. In winter and spring the snowline lies at 1200-1500 metres rising to 2000-2400 metres in summer.

Montane conditions can prevail at relatively low altitudes when dense cold air from the mountains drains and collects in the valley bottoms causing frequent winter ground frosts in shaded sites.

Frequent build-up of afternoon cloud may be accompanied by hill showers and strong winds. Little wind is experienced over the lowlands but strong to gale force winds may occur at high altitude. In the absence of wind, humidity levels become very high. The coastal area experiences sea breezes in fine weather.

At low altitudes the average yearly temperature is about 11°C with an average summer maximum of 20°C, an extreme high of 30.7°C and an extreme low of -10.5°C. Snowfalls are rare in the lowlands.

1.3.6 Park Landforms, Geology and Soils

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park straddles the Alpine Fault, the boundary between the Pacific and Indo-Australian continental plates, a feature of international significance. Here the Pacific plate is being forced up over the Indo-Australian plate, forming the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* with uplift rates in excess of 12 millimetres per year in places.

East of the fault, which runs along the foot of the Alps and through Franz Josef *Waiiau* township, the land rises steeply to ice-clad peaks culminating in Mount Tasman (3498 m). Extensive snowfields feed more than 60 glaciers, of which only two, the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe*, descend almost to sea level approximately 18 kilometres from the coast, a feature that is not repeated elsewhere in New Zealand.

In the south the snowfields are less extensive and the dominant landforms are the long narrow valleys of the Copland and Karangarua rivers. Much of the mountain terrain is unstable and exceedingly rugged, featuring deep gorges, sheer bluffs, icefalls and sharply-dissected ranges.

West of the fault lie the coastal lowlands largely consisting of glacial moraines and alluvial flood plains. Dividing this moraine country are the flat alluvial valleys of the Waiho and Cook *Webeke* rivers, though only the lowermost reaches of the Cook are included in the park. These are swift-running, braided rivers carrying high sediment loads. Deep lakes occupy glacial depressions in the lowlands, the largest being Māpōurika and Wahapō.

The coastline comprises moraine headlands linked by sweeping stretches of gravel beaches backed by sand dune belts. Impounded coastal lagoons occur at the mouths of all rivers.

The most ancient rocks occur west of the Alpine Fault. The old basement rock of intrusive granite and strong indurated greywacke and argillite outcrops form the Ōmoeroa Range (682 metres); these rocks are estimated to be 400-600 millions years old. Much younger are the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* which are composed of metamorphic schist, schist, quartzite, and greywacke. Although laid down about 150 million years ago it is only in the last five to ten million years that they have been uplifted to form the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana*. Traces of formerly more extensive deposits of tertiary mudstone and siltstone occur in the lower Ōmoeroa River. Formed by marine deposition these soft rocks were subsequently uplifted and then eroded by glacial and river action.

The uplift of the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* coincided with a cooling climate and the formation of large glaciers two million years ago. This uplift has been an ongoing process for the last 13-25 million years. Many times these glaciers have pushed downwards from the mountains and merged to produce vast ice sheets which covered the lowlands and often extended beyond the present coastline. The fluctuating shorelines of the early ice age are recorded in the occurrence of beach gravels and inland sea-cut cliffs along the Waikukupa coastline, now uplifted by tectonic movement far above sea level.

Nearly all the lowland landforms of the park are of recent origin, having been formed during the two major advances of the last glaciation. The earlier advance, which ended about 17,000 years ago, left behind huge deposits of moraine and till, as well as extensive outwash surfaces of fluvial-glacial gravels and sands. These deposits, known as the Ōkārito Formation, are the main landforms of Ōkārito and Waikukupa. Only the tough rocks of the Ōmoeroa Range stood out above the ice sheet. Melt waters from the receding glaciers cut wide open valleys across the deposited landforms. In the last major glaciation, between 14,000 and 17,000 years ago, piedmont ice occupied lowland areas. Since this time, alluvial soils have filled many of the glacier-formed valleys.

More recently there have been numerous minor fluctuations of the glaciers; evidence of the advances can be seen in gravel and moraine deposits in the glacier valleys. An advance about 11,000 years ago formed the Waiho Loop, a sharply defined arc-shaped ridge situated between the Waiho River and Lake Māpōurika. Since then the glaciers have been confined to their valleys east of the fault, ultimately receding to their present positions in the heads of the valleys. The retreat has been marked by periods of stagnation and minor short-lived advances.

Soils of the park are derived from schist, greywacke and granite parent materials and from the finer materials eroded from these rocks. They are rich in silica and not particularly fertile. Because of the warm wet climate soil formation is rapid and quickly followed by maturation and impoverishment from leaching. The most fertile alpine soils are those on the hill slopes where rejuvenation is constantly occurring; soil and stable ridges, outcrops and terraces are older and more impoverished. The most fertile lowland soils are those of the alluvial flood plains. Morainic soils, particularly those on flatter terrain, are very infertile. Poor drainage, compounded by the development of impervious iron pans, accelerates weathering and leaching; these influences result in the development of some of the most infertile soils in New Zealand.

Hot mineral seepages are common in most valleys adjacent to the Alpine Fault, the best known being the hot springs at Welcome Flat.

1.3.7 Park Flora

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park is exceptional amongst New Zealand's national parks in that it contains ecosystems from sea level to elevations over 3000 metres. Nowhere else in New Zealand can you move from extensive lowland rainforests, through montane forests and sub-alpine shrublands and grasslands to an alpine zone exceeding 3000 metres.

More than 600 species and varieties of native ferns, conifers and flowering plants are known in the park. A handful of these are at the limit of their distribution including species such as hinau *whināu*, toro and kawakawa. Other than one isolated population near Farewell Spit, the Waiho, Fox and Copland riverbeds are the only places where the threatened prostrate broom *Carmichaelia juncea* is found.

Nearly all the vegetation types have been affected by introduced herbivorous animals. Severe damage has occurred in the sensitive alpine communities in areas where thar, chamois and deer occur together. Successional vegetation on slip faces, low forests of the montane belt and the subalpine shrubs are other types noticeably modified by browsing. Possums have killed or badly damaged shrubs and mature trees. Since helicopter hunting began, thar, chamois and deer populations have declined and the condition of the alpine vegetation has noticeably improved.

1.3.7.1 Lowland Vegetation

Largely unmodified forest spreads across the landforms of the lowland areas dominated by extensive podocarp forests and punctuated by shrublands and wetlands. Soil fertility and drainage are the primary factors determining plant distribution in these areas. Impoverished wet soils on the oldest moraine surfaces, such as the Waikukupa

plateau, support stunted vegetation. Dense rimū forest grows on more recent outwash terraces. On the oldest surfaces rimū grows with silver pine and may be confined to terraces following streams whereas on a relatively fertile low post-glacial terrace behind the Five Mile Lagoon it forms a mixed forest with kahikateā.

Typical hillcountry rimū-mirō/kāmahi forest covers the steep and moderately steep lowland hillcountry, extending up to 400 metres above sea level on the flanks of the main ranges. A number of variants are recognised; mirō-dominant forest on the summit of Canavans Knob; a liane-dominant forest on north-facing slopes and forest with frequent hinau on the ridge above Lake Wahapō.

Contributing to the ecological diversity of the lowlands are a number of minor vegetation types. Patches of kahikateā forest and open wetland occur on small areas of post-glacial alluvium, the major examples being kahikateā forest at the head of Lake Wahapō and a kahikateā-wetland complex, the Meyer swamp, on the flood plain of the lower Cook River *Webeka*. Both these areas have been severely disrupted by river course changes.

Near the coast extensive saltmarshes occur around the coastal lagoons, and sand dune communities occur along the main beaches. The coastal vegetation reflects both the scarcity of suitable niches along the gravel beaches and bouldery headlands and the high rainfall which washes away salt deposits. The shore korimiko/kokomuka, *Hebe elliptica*, is the only common true coastal shrub. Dense flax and shrubland, often fire induced, clothes the coastal cliffs, dunes and headlands. Gorse extends right along the coast and is locally abundant. Pingao, an endemic sand-binding plant now rare in many places, is present on the dunes but so too is its major exotic competitor, marram grass. The coastal lagoons are backed by infertile coastal swamps with abrupt transitions to forested hills and swamp forest.

Aquatic vegetation is largely confined to the lakes, lagoons and smaller streams as the main rivers are too unstable. Owing to their infertility, the open water bodies are sparsely vegetated. One of the more abundant aquatic plants is the naturalised Canadian pond weed, which is well established in Lake Māpōurika and Lake Wahapō.

1.3.7.2 Upland Vegetation

In the steeply-rising area east of the Alpine Fault, altitudinal changes in temperature determine the basic vegetation pattern. Forest covers the valley floors and the sides of the ranges giving way at about 900 metres to dense cold-tolerant shrubs, and then to grassland and herbfields which extend up to 2000 metres. Above 2000 metres is bare rock, snow and ice.

In the glacier valleys the altitudinal sequence of vegetation types is continually disrupted by glacial and river activity. Successional plant communities prevail in the valley floors and they help to establish the approximate age of the underlying surface. Fresh deposits of glacial debris are colonised by lichens, mosses, scabweeds and other herbs. If undisturbed by glacial or river activity there is an orderly successional progression to scrub communities on sites 10 to 20 years old, high forest of kāmahi and rātā on 120-200-year-old sites, and ultimately to climax forest of rimū-rātā-kāmahi forest on surfaces older than 500 years. All stages are present, having developed as the glaciers retreated, and form a valuable unique record of vegetation and soil development over time which is concentrated in small and vulnerable areas.

In the Copland and Karangarua valleys recent glacial activity has been confined to the uppermost catchment permitting the development of mixed forest associations on narrow terraces in the valley floors. Some of the prominent species are kaikawaka, mountain toatoa, kāmahi, rātā, matai, kahikateā, rimū and Halls tōtara. Discrete stands of Westland tōtara and of silver beech are features found only in the Karangarua Valley.

On the mountainsides at altitudes above 400 to 500 metres, the forests lose their characteristic lowland components, namely rimū, mirō, tree-ferns *ponga* and abundant lianes and epiphytes. Montane forests dominated by rātā, kāmahi, Halls tōtara and at high altitudes by kaikawaka, form a broad belt up to 800 to 900 metres. Above that, dense subalpine scrub of leatherwood and other hardy shrubs extends to an extreme upper limit of 1150 to 1500 metres.

Tall grassland of snow tussock occupies a low alpine belt up to about 1400 metres with upward extensions on north-facing slopes as high as 1950 metres. Sheltering beneath the snow tussocks, which may grow up to one metre tall, are many alpine herbs. Mountain daisies, spear grasses, mountain lilies and buttercups, mountain

foxgloves and gentians add diversity and splashes of colour amongst the tawny tussocks. Turpentine shrub perches on rocky, steep north- and west-facing slopes at these high altitudes.

1.3.8 *Park Fauna*

The diversity of landforms and plant communities in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park results in a wide array of wildlife habitats for animal populations of variety and abundance. Animal life is most abundant in the lowland forests which are warmer, more productive and structurally more complex than the uplands. They have an important ecological function as winter habitat for many forest birds from the adjacent upland forests. Other lowland habitats, such as wetlands, shrublands and waterways, support richer fauna than the corresponding habitats in upland areas. Many species have more specialised requirements and are more locally distributed.

1.3.8.1 *Bird Life*

Most common forest birds representative of South Island forests have been recorded in the park. These include robin *kakaruai*, rifleman *tītīpounamu*, tomtit *mīromīro*, kererū *kūkupa*, grey warbler *rīrorīro*, fantail *piwakawaka*, bellbird *koparapara/kortmako*, tui and brown creeper *pipipi*. Robins *kakaruai* have a scattered distribution on the West Coast yet are relatively common in the lowland forests west of Lake Māpōurika. This is the largest southern population of robins *kakaruai* on the West Coast.

Some of the less common species in the national park include western weka, yellow-crowned parakeet *kākāriki*, whero, falcon *kāreārea*, blue duck *kōwhiowhio*, kaka and Ōkārīto brown kiwi *rowi*. All of these species are becoming rare nationally, yet are still found in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. The population of weka in the Copland Valley is the furthest south this species is recorded on the mainland West Coast and is probably a remnant of a much greater distribution from the past. Blue duck *kōwhiowhio* are present in the higher reaches of most waterways. Rock wren and kea are both present above the bushline; kea are also regularly recorded in the lowland forests.

Of greatest significance in the national park is the only population of Ōkārīto brown kiwi *rowi*. Its distribution is restricted to south Ōkārīto between the Ōkārīto and Waiho rivers, the Tasman Sea and Lake Māpōurika. It is genetically more closely related to brown kiwi in the North Island than other kiwi in the South Island and the population is estimated to be at least 160 individuals. Research has found that population growth is low and the main cause is predation of chicks by stoats.

Previous management has involved raising the chicks in captivity, releasing them on Motuara Island in Queen Charlotte Sound and reintroducing them to the national park when they are no longer vulnerable to stoat predation. These releases have been successful.

More recently South Ōkārīto Forest was identified as one of five kiwi sanctuaries in New Zealand. Increased funding has resulted in an intensive stoat control programme to be implemented covering the entire forest. This trapping has enabled the Department to leave the kiwi chicks in their nests to be reared naturally.

Black shag *koau*, little shag *koau*, white-faced heron, white heron *kōtuku*, Australasian bittern and mallard have been recorded in the coastal wetlands of Waikukupa Ōmoeroa and the nearby sandspits and riverbeds are used by Caspian tern *taranui*, white-fronted tern *tara*, black-billed gull, banded dotterel *tuturiwhatu* and variable oystercatcher *torea*.

Crested grebe *kāmāna*, another threatened species, are found on Lake Māpōurika, one of the few locations in the South Island. Other waterfowl species which can be found here include scaup *papango*, paradise shelducks *pūtakitaki* and grey ducks *pārera*.

1.3.8.2 *Native Marine and Freshwater Fauna*

A total of 15 species of indigenous freshwater fish have been found in park waters, being more numerous in rain-fed and lowland waters than in glacial rivers and upland waters. Of these the most familiar is a member of the galaxiid family, the inanga, which makes up most of the whitebait catch and whose upstream spring migration

also provides abundant food for predatory fish and water birds. Juveniles from four other galaxid species contribute to the whitebait run, including the rare short-jawed kōkopu.

Short-finned and long-finned eels *tuna* abound in many waters, their juveniles having migrated across vast distances from breeding grounds somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. This sequence is reversed in the eel-like lamprey *kanakana* which spawn in inland waters but spend most of their life cycle at sea. Turbulent stretches on rivers and streams are the habitat of torrent fish *piripiripobatu* which are not uncommon but are rarely seen. More obvious are several species of native bullies/*kōkopu/bawai*. The freshwater crayfish *koura* can also be found in some park creeks.

Freshwater mussels *kākabi/koaru* are present in the shallow reaches of some lakes and slow-flowing outlet streams. The limited mudflats of the coastal lagoons contain extensive cockle beds *tuaki*, an abundance of mud crabs and mud snails/*waikaka/pūpū* and occasional flounder, kawhai and yellow-eyed mullet. Of the introduced fish, brown trout are found in several lowland waters and quinnat salmon reside in Lake Māpōurika. The New Zealand fur seal *kekeno* has a permanent haul-out site on the Waikukupa coastline and several hundred seals congregate there during the winter.

1.3.8.3 Introduced Freshwater Fauna

Of the introduced fish, brown trout are found in several lowland waters and quinnat salmon reside in Lake Māpōurika. Further research is being undertaken to accurately identify those waterways that are free from introduced fish.

1.3.9 Other Fauna

Numerous species of insects, spiders, mites and other invertebrates are evident in all but the most inhospitable habitats. These animals are important components of the park ecosystems because of the essential roles they perform, including flower pollination, the decomposition of organic matter and the maintenance of equilibrium population levels through predation and parasitism. They also form some of the primary links in food chains that support many species of the vertebrate fauna. Notable invertebrate species include large crane flies, wetas, stick insects, alpine moths, black alpine cicadas and the mountain ringlet butterfly.

1.3.9.1 Animal and Plant Pests

Possums are widespread throughout most forest types and often venture into the subalpine shrubland causing severe damage to a number of palatable trees, most significantly southern rātā, kāmahī and fuchsia. Rātā and fuchsia are major nectar sources for birds.

Red deer are present in moderate numbers in the forests of the southern mountain valleys and of South Ōkārito but are elsewhere at low densities.

Chamois and thar inhabit mountainous areas of the park and are descended from liberations near Aoraki/Mount Cook early last century. Large populations were present in the remote heads of the mountain valleys up to the mid 1970s and widespread depletion of alpine herb-fields followed, along with systematic destruction by thar of snow tussock and turpentine shrub. Numbers were quickly reduced to low levels by helicopter hunting. Total thar numbers in the park are low but several small populations persist in areas of preferred habitat. Goats are locally distributed around the Ōmoeroa and Waikukupa valleys, having spread inland to State Highway 6 from coastal liberations. Goats will eat almost any indigenous plant species. Hares are common in alpine grasslands. Rabbits are present in low numbers. Stoats, rats and mice are widespread in the lowlands and pose significant threat to indigenous fauna.

Exotic plants are mainly restricted to disturbed sites and are rarely troublesome. Gorse prevails in modified areas along the coast where it hastens the re-establishment of coastal forest. The only exotic plants capable of permanently displacing indigenous vegetation are the introduced grasses and weeds of the dunes, moraine and river flats, the oxygen weed found in the major lakes and crack willow. This willow is capable of invading lowland waterways and swamplands but has yet to gain a firm foothold in the park. It is currently being eradicated on land adjoining Lake Wahapō.

Table 1 sets out major animal and plant pests in the park and identifies current control programmes underway.

TABLE 1: ANIMAL AND PLANT PEST MANAGEMENT IN WESTLAND *Tai Poutini* NATIONAL PARK

Animal Pest	Site	Action
Possum	South Ōkārito	Sustained control at 3-5 year frequencies
	Franz Josef Glacier <i>Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere</i> valley	Sustained control at 3-5 year frequencies
	Callery valley	Sustained control at 3-5 year frequencies
	Fox Glacier <i>Te Moeka o Tuauve</i> valley	Sustained control at 1-2 year frequencies
	Copland - Regina valleys	Sustained control at 3-5 year frequencies
Thar	All Westland <i>Tai Poutini</i> National Park	Sustained control to achieve and maintain zero densities
Chamois	All Westland <i>Tai Poutini</i> National Park	Control as encountered during thar control operations
Deer	Throughout the park up to sub-alpine areas	Active management through commercial operations and recreational hunting
Rabbits	South Ōkārito, Three and Five Mile Lagoons	Sustained control
Plant Pest	Site	Action
Crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	Margins of lakes Wahapo and Māpourika	Eradication - aerial and ground control
Crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	Waitangitaoana River above Lake Wahapo and Ōkārito river margins	Eradication - aerial and ground control
<i>Hypericum henryi</i> , <i>H.kouytcbense</i>	Franz Josef Glacier <i>Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere</i> and Fox Glacier <i>Te Moeka o Tuauve</i> valley	Sustained control/local eradication - ground control
<i>Hieracium praealtum and pilosella</i>	Known sites include the Copland Valley and Karangarua catchment	Suitable management techniques are being investigated
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Waiho, Tatare and Ōkārito rivers	Sustained control annually
Himalayan honeysuckle (<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>)	Hill country around Fox and Franz Josef <i>Waiāu</i> up to the glaciers	Sustained control annually to try to stop spread in South Westland
<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>	Lake Matheson	Eradication
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Hill country around Fox and Franz Josef <i>Waiāu</i> up to the glaciers and including the Waiho riverbed	Sustained control annually
Aluminium plant (<i>Galeobdolon luteum</i>)	Fox landfill	Eradication
Wandering Jew (<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>)	Fox township and Ōkārito delta	Eradication
Gorse <i>ulx europaeus</i>	Known sites include most public roads adjoining the park, coastal areas adjoining the park including Ōkārito township and Gillespies Beach and Lake Gault	Site specific control is being undertaken for all areas as required

1.3.10 Adjoining Land Use

It is important to view Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park in its context as part of Westland rather than in isolation. On a regional scale the park need not provide for all visitor demands.

To the east the park adjoins the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, the boundary being the Main Divide. Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is internationally recognised for its alpine scenery and recreational opportunities.

To the north and south of the alpine areas of the park lie large areas of remote conservation land. Much of the southern area adjoins the Hooker Landsborough Wilderness Area, gazetted in the New Zealand Gazette 1990.

In the lowlands the park adjoins land of many tenures and uses. On the whole the natural values of these adjoining lowlands are very high and may even be of national park quality. Near Lake Wahapō the park adjoins the Waitangi Forest Conservation Area which contains sequences of glacial terrace rimū.

South of the Cook River *Webeka*, the park adjoins the Cook River *Webeka* Conservation Area which is part of the South West New Zealand *Te Wābipounamu* World Heritage Area.

In the Cook, Waiho and Waitangitaona/Whataroa valleys the park adjoins pastoral farmland, open riverbed and forest remnants. Remnants of kahikatea are present on the Waiho River flats and there is high value matai and totara forest to the south of Canavans Knob. At the townships of Fox Glacier, Franz Josef *Waiaua* and Ōkārīto it adjoins residential and commercial land. To the north of the small settlement of Ōkārīto lies the Ōkārīto Lagoon, a large estuary rated as a wetland of international importance. The lagoons spit is gazetted as Government Purpose (Wildlife Management) Reserve. The lagoon is also an area of Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition in accordance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. At the northern end of the lagoon is the Waitangirotu Nature Reserve which harbours the only nesting colony of white herons *kōtuku* in New Zealand and supports colonies of royal spoonbills and little shags.

Around the perimeters of the lowland sector of the park are numerous small sections of freehold and conservation land which possess natural vegetation or features continuous with adjacent park areas. The largest of these are situated along the coast south of the Waiho River.

1.3.11 Visitor Use

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park offers an attractive and inspirational landscape for a variety of recreational activities. These activities include a range of both passive and active pursuits conducted in landscapes (settings) which range from high mountains to the coast. The outstanding mountains to the sea vista can be viewed from numerous vantage points within the park including the Ōkārīto trig, Alex Knob and Lake Matheson. The principal activities include walking, tramping, mountaineering, ski touring, hunting and fishing. Other water-based activities such as boating (power and sail), rafting and kayaking occur.

1.3.11.1 Visitor Management Settings

Providing for appropriate recreational use is one of the principal functions of the Department where that use is not inconsistent with the preservation of the park. The Department will seek to manage the park to provide for a range of different types of opportunities for visitors to experience its natural and historic character through the use of visitor management settings.

The West Coast draft Conservation Management Strategy identifies six visitor management settings for the conservancy. These are:

1. wilderness areas;
2. remote experience areas;
3. backcountry with facilities;
4. frontcountry with facilities;
5. highways, roadside opportunities and visitor service nodes;
6. intense interest sites.

Visitor management settings are a tool used to manage land administered by the Department to meet a wide range of visitor expectations. The use of visitor management settings enables recreational opportunities and facilities to be provided throughout the park to facilitate a range of visitor experiences. They enable recreation opportunities to be fostered while allowing for tourism and other activities and utilities where appropriate. Underpinning all

visitor management settings is the priority of preserving the park in perpetuity for its intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park presently provides for all but a wilderness setting. The visitor management settings for the park are shown in maps 3, 3a and 3b and the intent of each setting is described below.

1.3.11.1(a) Remote Experience

Remote experience areas are managed so as to maintain their natural values including remoteness, natural character and natural quiet. There is a high probability that visitors will experience isolation from the sights and sounds of humans and experience a closeness to nature. Visitors to remote experience areas need to be self-sufficient and well experienced in remote backcountry travel. Group sizes are usually small and generally do not exceed eight people. Visitors may expect limited interaction with other groups in this zone within any one day.

Facilities will not be provided unless they are required to aid the preservation of natural and historic resources.

It will be recommended to the Minister that recreation/tourism concessionaires seeking to operate within this visitor management setting should be restricted to a maximum of eight people, including the concessionaire guide(s).

Other concession activities will generally not be recommended to the Minister within this zone with the exception of research where it is considered to be acceptable by the Minister.

There are two remote experience zones in the park including the Callery and Balfour/La Perouse catchments.

1.3.11.1(b) Backcountry with Facilities

The backcountry with facilities setting covers the majority of the park (refer to Map 3). The setting primarily provides for two different types of visitor, the backcountry adventurer and the backcountry comfort seeker.

This setting may include facilities such as routes, tracks, huts, bridges, cableways and signs. Maximum hut sizes for any one hut site will be 20 bunks within the backcountry adventurer setting and 35 bunks within the backcountry comfort seeker setting. Visitors to this setting can expect a considerable degree of physical challenge, self-reliance and isolation from the sights and sounds of humans. Visitors may experience a closeness to nature but will generally have good access and shelter available. Group sizes will be variable but will generally not exceed 15 people. Interaction with other groups is likely to occur and may vary between 0-10 groups per day. [see glossary for definition of visitor encounter.]

All facilities are to meet the standards of the Department's Visitor Asset Management Programme and comply with all other legal requirements.

Recreation/tourism concessionaires seeking to operate within this visitor management setting should be restricted to party sizes which will not dominate the setting. It is important that they remain within the order of 1-15 people per group, including guide(s), and operate independently of other groups to avoid large groups forming.

It will be recommended to the Minister that recreation/tourism concessionaires seeking to use park huts within this visitor management setting should be restricted to group sizes not exceeding 12 people, including the concessionaire, or 50% of the hut/bunk occupancy, whichever is the lesser.

Within the backcountry with facilities setting in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park there are three areas managed in part for backcountry comfort seekers. These areas generally have a higher standard of visitor facilities than that provided for backcountry adventurers. Frequent guiding opportunities are also offered in these areas where the expertise and specialist equipment is provided. This allows for the higher level of use and provides these visitors with safe access to special natural features of the park. The three areas are:

1. Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* from the terminal face to the 900-metre contour line;
2. Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* from the terminal face to the 900-metre contour line.

3. Copland Valley from the road end to Welcome Flat. Note: this setting is Backcountry Comfort Seeker “Standard Hut” in accordance with the Department’s Visitor Asset Service Standards version 1 December 1998.

1.3.11.1(c) Frontcountry with Facilities

Frontcountry with facilities refers to settings within relatively easy reach of vehicle access. The setting may include such facilities as car parks, picnic and camping areas, toilets, water supplies, signs, interpretation panels, lookout points, wharves, boat ramps, shelters, bridges and high standard walking tracks. A large number of visitors to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park visit this setting.

The setting has many human influences including well-developed facilities, however, there is still reasonable opportunity for visitors to experience isolation from the sights and sounds of humans. The provision of facilities not only seeks to provide for the visitor experience but is also required to minimise physical and social visitor impacts. Group sizes are varied and may be as large as 60-70 people. Visitors may expect to encounter numerous other groups within this setting during a visit (refer to map 3).

1.3.11.1(d) Highways, Roadside Opportunities and Visitor Service Nodes

State Highway 6 (The Glacier Highway) bisects Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. The park provides travellers of this highway with continuous vistas of forest, snowy mountains, two large lakes and ice-fed rivers. This scenic corridor is, in itself, regarded as a visitor attraction.

Appropriate visitor facilities may be provided in association with key natural attractions such as at Lake Māpōurika where a rest area, toilets, picnic tables and boat launching ramp are provided.

Where facilities for the travelling public extend beyond such basic utilities as picnic areas, park roads, walking tracks and toilets, to include facilities like cafes, shops, company ticketing offices and overnight accommodation, visitor service ‘nodes’ begin to develop. Three service nodes exist adjacent to the park. They are the Franz Josef *Watai* township, the Fox Glacier township and Ōkārito township. No visitor service nodes will be permitted to develop within the park.

The major roads within or adjoining the park are:

- State Highway 6;
- Ōkārito Road;
- Gillespies Cook River *Webeka* Road;
- Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe Glacier* access roads.

Although the Department is not the roading authority for the state highway or other roads outside the park, it has a role to play in the provision of roadside recreation facilities within the park. These areas are to be generally provided for within the frontcountry visitor management setting, particularly where that setting adjoins the road corridors.

1.3.11.1(e) Intense Interest Sites

Intense interest sites are places where very high visitor use occurs within a relatively confined area. Within Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park there are three intense interest sites. They are the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys and Lake Matheson. These areas have the highest use in the park.

The intense interest site visitor management setting for both Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* ends at the terminal face of each glacier. This zone will vary from what is shown on maps 3a and 3b as the glaciers advance or recede.

Development within this visitor setting may require facilities to mitigate the physical and social impacts of high visitor numbers including very high standard tracks, shelters, toilets, park roads and car parks. Due to the intense interest within these sites particular attention needs to be given to minimising the effects on the physical and social setting. Visitors should expect numerous encounters with other groups during their visit within this setting.

Careful consideration needs to be given to concession applications which may dominate the setting such as that for an interpretive tour at the Sentinel Rock Lookout in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* valley where a group could block the flow of other visitors. Managing the movement of visitors through the setting will help to minimise social conflict and adverse impacts on other park values.

Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys are Icon Destinations in the Department's Destination Management Framework. Icon Destinations are high-profile, popular destinations that are managed to support the growth of domestic and international tourism, and provide memorable visitor experiences in New Zealand. Describing the glacier valleys as Icon Destinations is consistent with their categorisation as intense interest sites. While glacial advance and retreat can make access to the glaciers more difficult, it is a priority to continue to provide safe public access at these Icon Destinations.

It is important that commercial developments or activities such as cafeteria, vending machines or other such concessions requiring the occupation of a specified area are not permitted within this setting. Concessions where the opportunity to purchase the activity or service is offered within the park may be granted in circumstances where they help facilitate safe public access to the glaciers when normal walking access is not available. Other activities and services, e.g. roaming photographers and other vendors, are more appropriately provided for outside the park, and concessions for these activities should not be granted within this visitor management setting.

An intense interest site may also occur within the highways and roadside opportunities visitor management setting. This recognises that park roads may need to be constructed within the intense interest sites as is the case in the glacier valleys.

1.3.11.2 Visitor Groups

The Department's National Visitor Strategy (1996) identifies seven representative visitor groups. These are:

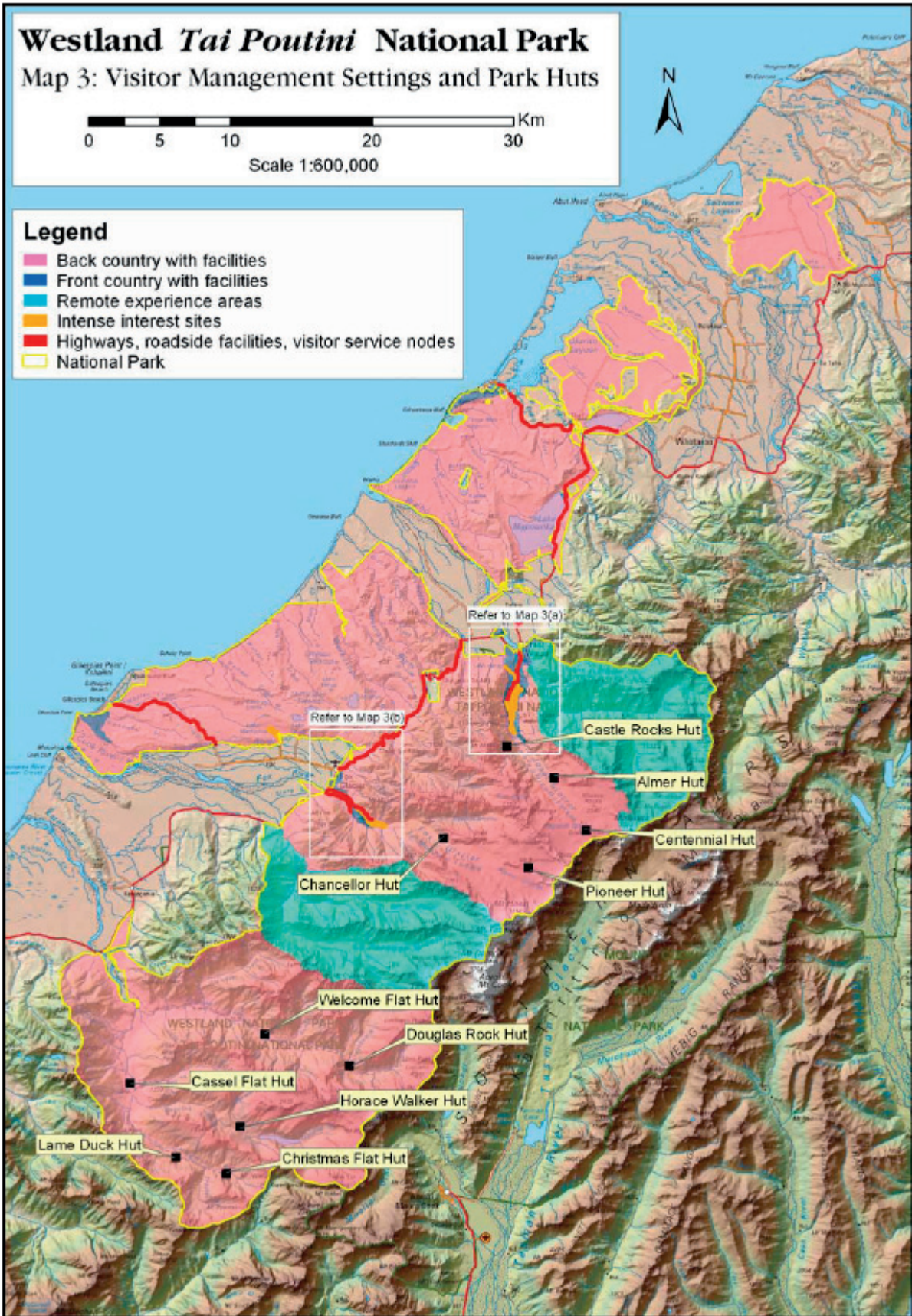
1. short stop travellers;
2. day visitors;
3. overnigheters;
4. backcountry comfort seekers;
5. backcountry adventurers;
6. remoteness seekers; and
7. thrill seekers.

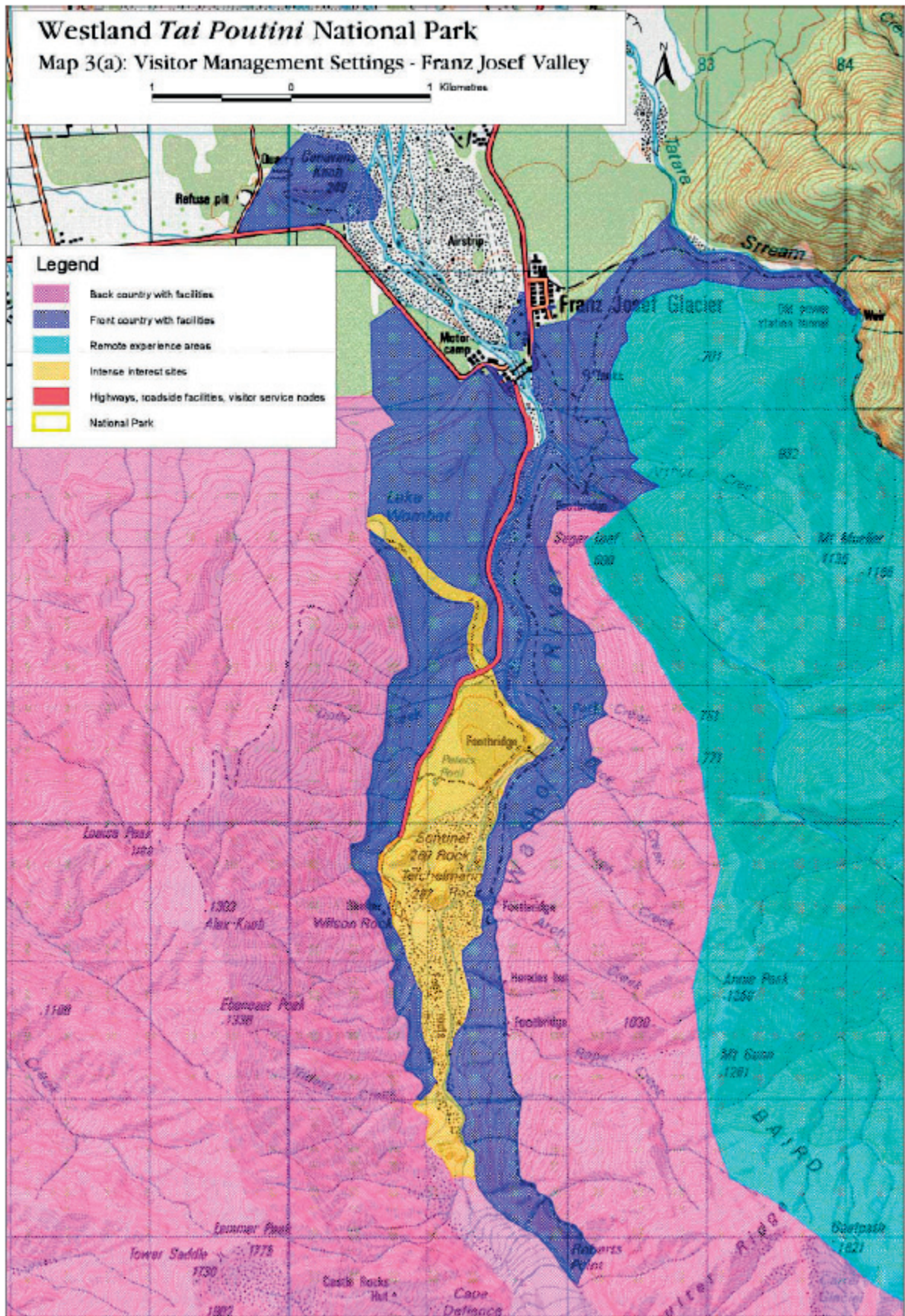
The West Coast Conservancy has focused largely on the different visitor management settings explained above rather than on visitor groups. The two frameworks, however, allow easy cross-referencing. Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park provides for all but thrill seekers who participate in activities such as downhill skiing, snowboarding, bungee jumping and trail bike riding. These activities are provided for outside the park. Activities such as mountaineering, ski touring and rafting may have elements of thrill seeking but often involve journeys through wild places and visitors are more appropriately classified as backcountry adventurers or remoteness seekers.

Management objectives and policies within this plan are based upon the five visitor management settings.

TABLE 2: VISITOR MANAGEMENT SETTINGS AND VISITOR GROUPS

VISITOR MANAGEMENT SETTING (WEST COAST DRAFT CMS)	VISITOR GROUP (NATIONAL VISITOR STRATEGY)
Remote experience	Remoteness seekers
Backcountry with facilities	Backcountry comfort seekers, Backcountry adventurers
Frontcountry with facilities	Day visitors, overnigheters
Highways, roadside opportunities, visitor service nodes	Short stop travellers, day visitors, overnigheters
Intense interest sites	Short stop travellers, day visitors





The Park in the Region

1.3.12.1 Biodiversity Significance

The park achieves an almost complete representation of the regional ecosystems from the lowland forests to the alpine areas. It covers the majority of two ecological districts (the Waiho and Glacier districts). The only local landscape not well represented is the alluvial flood plains with their forest and wetland communities.

The essentially unmodified state of natural areas contributes to overall ecological value. The park is an important reservoir of indigenous wildlife, especially several declining endemic bird species which depend on unmodified environments for their survival. The conservation prospects for these species within the park are very favourable because of the completeness of the ecosystems protected.

Tourism is also well established in the park. The tourism industry directly benefits from the high level of environmental quality and biodiversity. Tourism also contributes to an appreciation of environmental quality by creating an increased awareness of the values through environmental interpretation and sound environmental practices.

1.3.12.2 Economic Significance

The West Coast is a destination for international and domestic tourists with approximately 436,448 international visitors and 354,892 domestic visitors a year (Source: Statistics New Zealand Commercial Accommodation Monitor, May 2012 - West Coast). The total number of international visitors to New Zealand for the year ending May 2012 was 2.616 million (Tourism Industry Association New Zealand, Tourism Insights Quarterly, Issue 6).

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park with its internationally promoted glaciers, rainforests, mountains, lakes and coastal scenery is a tourist attraction on the West Coast attracting in the order of 600,000 visitors each year. Both glaciers have been international tourism destinations for over 100 years. They offer visitors to the area a unique opportunity to see glaciers descending into the realms of temperate rainforest within a few minutes of a main tourist highway.

Since the opening of the Haast Highway in 1965, tourism has steadily increased in South Westland and is one of the economic mainstays of the region. The establishment of the national park infrastructure and the development of tourist services in the townships outside the park boundaries have been significant factors contributing to the increase in popularity of South Westland as a tourist area. The townships of Fox Glacier and Franz Josef *Waiata* have become largely dependent on tourism expenditure which amounts to millions of dollars annually.

In addition there are regional and national economic benefits from Westland tourism, which generates income and employment from a number of related economic activities.

2 Park Management



Pioneer Hut, head of the Fox Neve

Photo by: Darren Rodd

2.1 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park is a large and complex area of great variety and diversity. The issues which arise in the management of such an area tend to be equally complex.

Some of the major issues known to be facing Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park over the next 10-years are outlined below.

2.1.1 Aircraft

Air access can create conflict between users in the park. While some people appreciate the opportunities that aircraft provide, others prefer to experience the park free from the noise of aircraft or the easy access that aircraft permit.

The main adverse effect of air access within the park is the effect it has on the quality of 'natural quiet'. Natural quiet is the natural ambient conditions in a natural area; the sounds of nature (General Policy for National Parks 2005).

The main place within the park where the disturbance of natural quiet and the potential for conflict may occur is in the glacier valleys. The frequency of aircraft movements, particularly helicopters, has reached levels where aircraft noise can be heard almost continually in the glacier valleys during peak times. The primary concern for departmental management is the adverse effects of aircraft noise on the experience of walkers in the valley floors, who account for the vast majority of total visitors to the glacier valleys.

Walking on the Fox *Te Moeka o Tuawe* and Franz Josef *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* glaciers has always been popular with visitors, and within the park heli-hike opportunities are available at lower altitudes on the glaciers. Since 2008, both glaciers have been in retreat. In April 2012 it was no longer safe to access the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* by foot and as a result access was only available via a short helicopter flight. A similar situation may occur at Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* in the future. The lack of snow in the upper neves has also affected how fixed-wing snow planes can use the park.

The Department undertakes monitoring to assess the levels of annoyance from aircraft over-flights on recreationists in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. Management intervention is recommended when 25% or greater of visitors report annoyance with aircraft. The 2000-2005 survey results showed that levels of visitor annoyance with aircraft at the glacier valley floor walks varied from 13-25% between years, and did not exceed the recommended management intervention threshold. Levels of annoyance with aircraft on the two longer side valley bush walks (Roberts Point and Chalet Lookout) were higher and showed greater variability between years, with mean scores between 43% and 26%.

Surveys were carried out in 2009 (when up to 25 aircraft landings per glacier per day were occurring at the heli-hike sites) and again in 2013 (when an additional 60 aircraft landings per day onto the lower Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* were permitted after it became unsafe to access the glacier on foot).

As a consequence of allowing additional aircraft landings onto the glacier there was a substantial increase in the number of over flights in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* valley. Monitoring in 2013 showed that 26.2% of visitors walking along that valley floor reported being 'annoyed by the level of aircraft activity' (up from 16.5% in 2009). This was the first time that the recommended 25% management intervention threshold had been exceeded for the valley floor. The result for Roberts Point was 54.3% (up from 33.1% in 2009)

The monitoring at the Fox Glacier in 2013 was carried out at a time when there were no additional aircraft landings on the Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe*. The result for the Fox Glacier valley floor walk was 16.8% (down from 20.8% in 2009), and Chalet Lookout was 38.3% (up from 31.7% in 2009).

These surveys indicate that the Department will need to work with concessionaires to review flight paths, flight methods, landing sites, types of aircraft, particularly helicopters and other methods to bring the level of aircraft

noise impacts on walkers in the Franz Josef glacier valley floor to below the 25% management intervention threshold. If these measures fail, the Department will need to reduce the number of additional aircraft landings onto the lower Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere*.

The level of aircraft activity continues to annoy a significant number of visitors undertaking the Roberts Point and Chalet Lookout walks. The higher percentage of people reporting annoyance with the level of aircraft activity on these longer side valley bush walks is likely due to these tracks being at a higher elevation than the valley floor tracks, people being in closer proximity to aircraft flight paths (particularly heli-hikes) and being exposed to aircraft activity for longer periods of time.

Monitoring in 2013 showed that, as a measure of overall satisfaction, 87.6% of visitors to Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* valley reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their experience (Espiner Consulting Limited 2013). However, visitors undertaking the longer side valley bush walks report annoyance with the level of aircraft activity even at relatively low flight frequencies. Rather than decreasing the level of aircraft activity to meet the 25% management intervention threshold for the longer side valley bush walks, the Department will ensure that information and signage informs visitors to expect the presence of aircraft during their walk. Information on other similar bush walks in the Park, where natural quiet would be more likely, will also be made available.

For further information on the monitoring and management of aircraft access refer to Section M4.4.3(c)(i) Aircraft Access.

2.1.2 *Glacier Guiding*

Glacier guiding at Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* below the 900 metre contour lines is a historical use of the park. Concessionaires provide visitors with the opportunity to walk on the glaciers and experience their beauty up close.

In more recent times, however, there has been increased interest in guiding on the lower glaciers. Local concessionaires have expressed concerns that if too many people are guided on to the glaciers then the visitor experience and safety will be adversely affected. The challenge for the Department is to achieve an appropriate balance of how many people can be guided on to the glacier without adversely impacting on the visitor experience or the natural appearance of the glaciers and the environment generally.

2.1.3 *Visitor Use and Crowding*

Research undertaken in 1995 indicates that approximately 60% of visitors to the glacier valleys are feeling crowded at peak times (Sutton, 1998). Sutton indicates that this level of crowding suggests that management concerns should be raised. Should crowding exceed this level then management action is required.

The implications of continued increases in international tourism mean that there will be increasing periods of time when the level of 'feeling crowding' rises above 65% (Sutton 1998).

The model used to determine when management action is required to address crowding is based on overseas research (Shelby et al. 1989 in Sutton 1998). It suggests that New Zealanders, and even overseas visitors to New Zealand, are unlikely to accept the same levels of crowding as have been tolerated in the overseas studies.

A similar situation prevails at Welcome Flat Hut in the Copland Valley during peak visitor periods. The Welcome Flat Hut capacity is frequently exceeded during the peak season; this can be exacerbated by the frequent use of the facility by guided groups.

Recreational use of the park's lakes is also considerable during the summer peak use period. Although there have been no indications of social conflict, water-skiing and the use of jet boats are known to disturb the grebes at Lake Māpōurika.

2.1.4 Monitoring of Visitor Use

The very visitors who travel to enjoy the natural and historic values that national parks have to offer can also adversely affect these values. National parks can be loved to death.

The Department must undertake monitoring to determine the extent of social and physical impacts caused from visitor use. Monitoring data can then be used to help the Department manage use. Monitoring will become increasingly important as visitor numbers continue to climb.

2.1.5 Dynamic Natural Processes

High rainfall, extremes in temperatures, and continual movement of glaciers, rock and fault lines place considerable pressure on management to ensure that park facilities remain accessible to the public. For example, in November 1997 a series of rockfalls occurred behind the car park and day shelter at Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* roadend. Some 40,000 cubic metres of rock fell into the car park and with further threat of rockfall the facility was closed. The Department had to rapidly undertake the necessary works to establish a new car park to accommodate the numerous visitors who continued to visit the site.

The management plan therefore needs to provide for the Department to manage unforeseen events, in a relatively short timeframe, while not compromising the preservation of the park's natural and historic values.

2.1.6 Glacier Access Roads

The Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valley is a dynamic environment, subject to a number of natural processes including rockfall, flooding and melting of underlying ice. These processes present ongoing challenges in terms of maintaining safe vehicle and pedestrian access to the glacier.

Demand for visitor access is high despite the difficulties of maintaining vehicle access. The management challenge is to ensure that vehicle access is maintained without compromising the park's natural and historic values.

The Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* access road is faced with management difficulties similar to those of the Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* road.

2.1.7 Mining

The removal of shingle and rock from areas within the park has proved controversial in the past. Although it is recognised that substantial quantities of shingle and rock may be removed from specific areas in the glacier valleys with minimal effect when appropriate extraction methods are used, the transportation of this material can have considerable adverse effects on the access roads. The activity can also be perceived as being against the general principle of non-extraction and protection in a natural state associated with national parks.

2.1.8 Plant and Animal Pests

There are infestations of introduced plants and animals that require specific attention; these are listed in section 1.3.9.1. Controlling the adverse effects of these pests is essential to the continued viability and preservation of the indigenous ecosystems.

2.1.9 Te Wābipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area

As can be seen from overseas examples such as the Grand Canyon in the USA or Stonehenge in Britain, World Heritage status brings with it increased international prestige and tourist focus as well as increased visitor numbers and visitor impacts. There is a real need to carefully manage visitor use and ensure that appropriate monitoring measures are put in place to identify visitor impacts. Careful management will be required to ensure that the natural landscapes, biodiversity and ecological integrity of the *Te Wābipounamu* - South West New Zealand World Heritage Area are preserved. These values are addressed through the relevant policies of this plan.

2.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management philosophy for all national park managers in New Zealand is set out in section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980 (refer to section 1.2.1).

2.2.1 *Primary Objectives*

Having regard to the National Parks Act 1980, the primary objectives of this management plan are:

Objective 1

To preserve in their natural state, as far as possible, the landscapes, indigenous ecosystems and natural features of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park.

Objective 2

To preserve the character of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park as a natural area of exceptional beauty, geological significance and biological diversity and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the general public to the extent that this is compatible with objective 1.

Objective 3

To give effect to the principles of the Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi to the extent that the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 are clearly not inconsistent with them.

Explanation

(1) - National parks are to be administered and maintained so as to preserve them in their natural state as far as possible. The achievement of the primary objective will see the park managed to protect its distinctive scenery, ecological systems, natural features and native plants and animals, the preservation of which is in the national interest.

(2) - Subject to any conditions or restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the native plants and animals or for the general welfare of the park or park visitors, the public shall have freedom of access to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. This enables the public to enjoy the splendour of the park while ensuring that the park's natural, historic and cultural values are protected.

(3) - Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to interpret and administer that Act so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that the provisions of the Conservation Act 1987 are not clearly inconsistent with those principles. Case law has established that section 4 applies to the Acts listed in the First Schedule to the Conservation Act 1987. The National Parks Act 1980 is one of the listed Acts. The Department is also implementing the provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement as it relates to the park and its management. This helps to ensure that the values of significance to Ngāi Tahu are protected in the day-to-day management of the park.

The following sub-objectives flow from the primary objectives. The Department seeks to achieve these objectives in so far as they are compatible with the primary objectives in 2.2.1:

2.2.1.1 To exterminate all introduced plant and animal pests in the park as far as possible;

2.2.1.2 To preserve the park's heritage of places, artefacts and archaeological sites;

2.2.1.3 To manage the park in such a way that its World Heritage status is preserved.

2.2.1.4 To ensure any commercial use within the park is compatible with the primary objectives in 2.2.1.

Explanation

Change is inevitable during the 10-year time frame of this plan. It is not possible to foresee all potential changes and pressures that the park may experience during this time. The purpose of these objectives is therefore general

and is to steer the future management of the park where policies may lack sufficient or up-to-date information. These objectives should therefore be used as a management guide together with policies where relevant.

References:

National Parks Act 1980 - section 4

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

3 Treaty of Waitangi



The many steep fast flowing rivers of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park provide ideal habitat for the Blue Duck *Kōwhiri* - a Ngāi Tahu Taonga species

Photo by: Alan Reith

3 Treaty of Waitangi

3.1 TREATY OF WAITANGI RELATIONSHIP

Policy

3.1.1

To manage Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park in a manner that gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that they are not clearly inconsistent with the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980, Deed of Settlement 1997 and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Explanation

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the National Parks Act 1980 to be interpreted and administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, at least to the extent that the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 are not clearly inconsistent with the principles. *Ngāi Tahu Māori Trust Board v Director-General of Conservation [1995] 3NZLR 553, 558, Lines 33-35.*

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are set out in appendix 1.

The Deed of Settlement 1997 and Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 also have obligations for the Department. These obligations have been incorporated throughout the plan policies where relevant.

The Department recognises the mana and tūngata whenua status of Ngāi Tahu whose rohe (tribal region) includes the park and ensures, where appropriate, that Ngāi Tahu are actively involved in the protection of their taonga within the park. Consultation from the early stages of proposed undertakings which will affect iwi interests is essential. It is important to establish and maintain a close relationship with Ngāi Tahu and ensure that their concerns are heard and taken into account.

Method

3.1.1

The Department will actively consult and work with Papatipu Rūnanga, and where required or appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, from the early stages of proposed undertakings which will affect Ngāi Tahu values.

Explanation

Consultation with Ngāi Tahu over those values which are of importance to iwi is considered to be the most appropriate way to help give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in the day-to-day management of the park. The Department seeks to achieve this through a range of mechanisms, examples of which include consultation with Ngāi Tahu on the Department's annual business plan and regular Kaitiaki Roopu meetings with Papatipu Rūnanga.

Consultation with Ngāi Tahu will be principally with the two rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio and Te Rūnanga o Kati Waewae. In addition, the Department is required to consult with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, the tribal body of Ngāi Tahu, over any Deed of Settlement related matters.

Significant values have been identified and have been addressed through specific policies and methods of this plan.

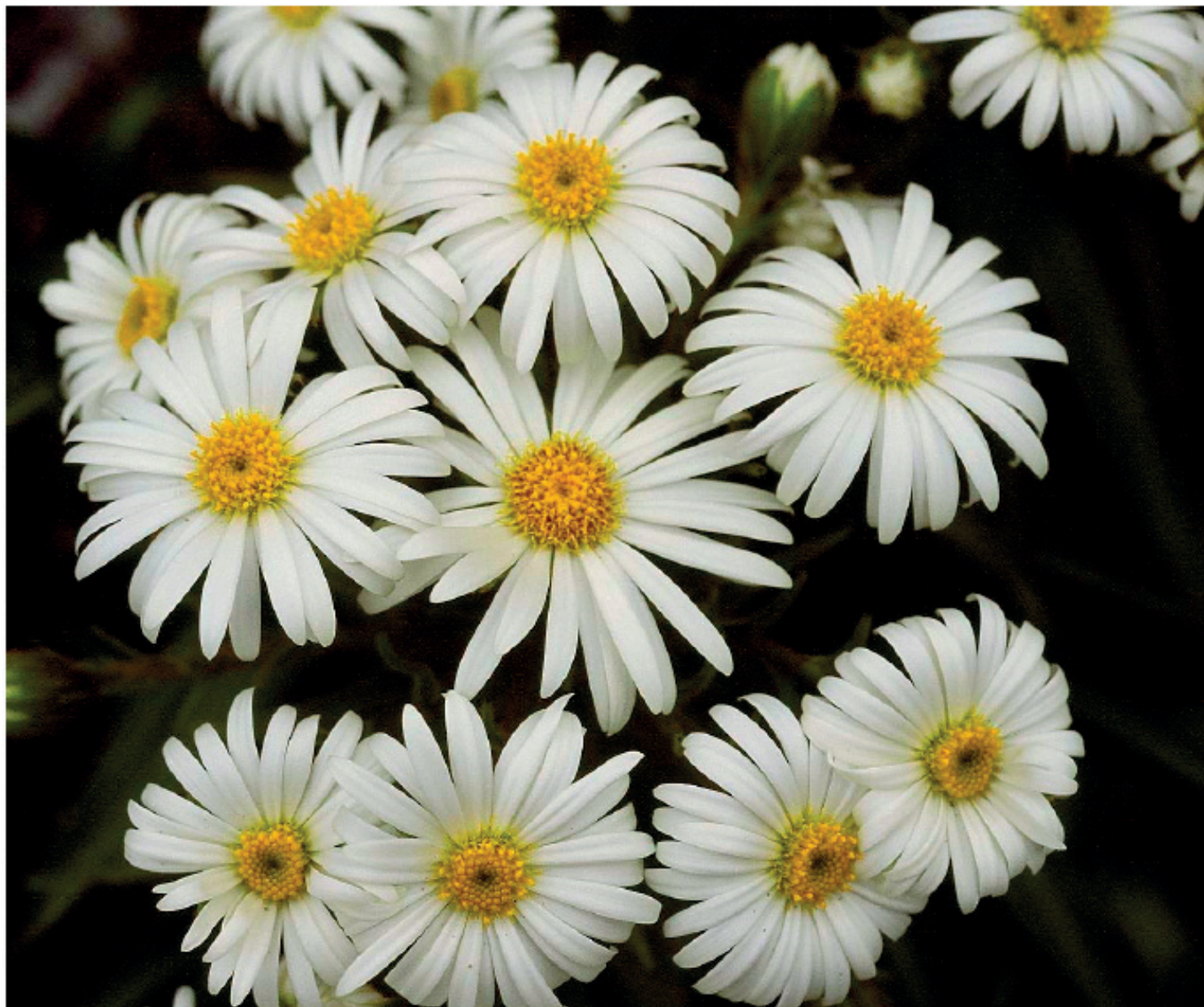
References:

National Parks Act 1980

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996

4 Park Policies



Snow marguerite *Dolichoglottis scorzoneroides*
Common in the park's alpine areas

Photo by: Phil Knightbridge

4 Park Policies

The policies that follow have been prepared in terms of the National Parks Act 1980, the General Policy for National Parks 1983, other legislation listed in section 1.2. The General Policy has been adopted and where necessary its application to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park has been specified, expanded or interpreted.

Whilst individual policies may be read in isolation, it is necessary to read them within the context of the plan as a whole to gain a comprehensive understanding.

4.1 NATURAL DIVERSITY

4.1.1 *Indigenous Plants and Animals*

Policies

4.1.1(a)

Preserve indigenous plants and animals, as far as possible, in their natural state.

4.1.1(b)

Undertake intensive management and implement predator control and similar measures, where required, to protect and enhance the survival of threatened species while ensuring that the park's natural and historic values are not undermined.

4.1.1(c)

Acknowledge the cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association of Ngāi Tahu with taonga species and when managing indigenous plants and animals have particular regard to the Department's Protocols with Ngāi Tahu for freshwater fisheries and culling of species.

Explanation

P4.1.1(a) - The National Parks Act 1980 states that the preservation of native plants and animals is a primary requirement. Habitat maintenance is an integral part of this requirement.

Particular care needs to be used when constructing or maintaining facilities within the park. Adverse effects on native plants and habitats must be avoided, remedied or mitigated wherever possible. Particular care should be used in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys where major works are frequently required in areas of unique flora regeneration. There is an orderly succession progression to scrub communities on sites 10 to 20 years old, to high forest of kamahi and rātā on 120-200-year-old sites, and to rimū-rātā-kamahi forest on surfaces older than 500 years. All stages are present, having developed as the glaciers retreated, and they form a valuable record of vegetation and soil development over time which is concentrated in small and vulnerable areas.

Customary use of indigenous plants and animals is specifically addressed in policy 4.4.1 of this plan.

P4.1.1(b) - The most critically threatened species may require intensive management such as predator control, captive rearing and release, and browser control. These species are frequently managed under national operating guidelines and may require special structures and access into areas of the park. These requirements may be considered as being for park management purposes and all efforts will be made to minimise any adverse effects on the park's natural and historic resources, as far as possible, when undertaking such works.

P4.1.1(c) - Through the Deed of Settlement 1997 and Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 the Crown acknowledged the cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association of Ngāi Tahu with taonga species. Those taonga species found within the park are listed in appendix 3. The Department also has a responsibility to interpret the Conservation Act 1987 so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. These principles are listed in appendix 1.

The Protocols deal, for example, with the management of freshwater fisheries, culling of species and various matters under the Resource Management Act 1991 which are likely to be relevant when managing indigenous plants and animals (refer to appendix 2 for these Protocols).

Methods

4.1.1(b)

Specially protected areas may be set aside in the park under section 12 of the National Parks Act 1980.

4.1.1(c)

Consult with Papatipu Rūnanga, and where required or appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, from the early stages of proposed undertakings which will affect Ngāi Tahu values in relation to indigenous plants and animals.

Explanation

M4.1.1(b) - section 12 of the National Parks Act 1980 enables specially protected areas to be set aside within national parks. Entry to these areas is by permit only and may be used where exclusion of public access is desirable to protect threatened habitat or species.

Modification to habitat necessary to enable the preservation of a threatened species may also be permitted in accordance with the primary objectives of this plan.

M4.1.1(c) - Ngāi Tahu has a cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association with indigenous plants and animals. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 recognises this relationship in sections 287 to 296 "Taonga Species". Schedules 97 and 98 of the Act list those indigenous plants and animals which were included in the settlement as taonga species.

Under section 293 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 the Minister of Conservation is required, with respect to taonga species (including those species subject to recovery plans or species recovery groups), to advise Ngāi Tahu in advance of any reviews or preparations of statutory management documents. The Minister is required to consult and have particular regard to Ngāi Tahu's views when making policy decisions concerning the protection, management or conservation of taonga species.

Under section 294 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 the Director-General of Conservation, in respect of any taonga species that is or becomes subject to a recovery plan or species recovery group, is required to provide Ngāi Tahu with copies of the proceedings and publications relating to the species. The Director-General is required to consult with and have particular regard to their views concerning the policy decisions relating to the protection, management and conservation of all taonga species subject to a species recovery group. He or she is also required to provide Ngāi Tahu with an opportunity to nominate a person to join a species recovery group for certain species.

Conservation (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations are also being developed as part of the Ngāi Tahu settlement. These regulations recognise and provide for the input of the appointed Tāngata Tiaki/Kaitiaki in the locality to the Department's management of freshwater species.

Section 304 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 states the specific obligations for consultation with Ngāi Tahu regarding taonga fish species, as set out in schedule 98 of the Act. The Freshwater Fisheries Protocol also applies (refer to appendix 2 for this Protocol).

In addition to these provisions, there are species that are of special significance to Ngāi Tahu which may not be included in schedule 97 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. The Department should, in accordance

with section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, where appropriate and to the fullest extent practicable, take active steps to protect Ngāi Tahu's interests in these other species (refer to principle 6 of the Treaty of Waitangi in appendix 1).

References:

National Parks Act 1980 - section 5

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy sections 8

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998: Taonga Species - sections 287-296

Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi: appendix 1

Protocols on the Department of Conservation's interaction with Ngāi Tahu on specified issues - appendix 2

4.1.2 *Introduced Plants and Animals*

Policies

4.1.2(a)

Exterminate or control all introduced plants likely to modify the natural vegetation or any natural feature of the park.

4.1.2(b)

Conduct regular weed surveillance within the park.

4.1.2(c)

Exterminate or control animal pests in and adjacent to the park in accordance with national plans, conservancy pest control strategies, policies, guidelines and acceptable principles of animal pest control, in so far as those methods are consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan.

4.1.2(d)

Exterminate within and actively control the adjoining Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park.

4.1.2(e)

Permit and actively encourage the extermination or control of animal pests in the park through the concessions process to the extent that the methods of control are consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan.

4.1.2(f)

Actively seek to prevent the introduction or further spread of plant and animal pests in the park.

Explanation

P4.1.2(a) - National parks are areas for the preservation of indigenous species. The National Parks Act 1980 requires that all introduced species shall, as far as possible, be exterminated.

Pests are controlled on a priority basis as determined by the Department's Biodiversity Action Plans. These plans are consistent with national strategies and policy statements and provide more specific detail where necessary. Pests will be controlled within the park in accordance with these plans, however, particular regard will be given to those pests likely to modify the natural vegetation or any natural feature of the park (refer to section 1.3.9.1 and Table 1).

Chemical means of plant control will be permitted where no other effective and efficient alternatives are available providing that any necessary discharge consents have been obtained from the consent authority.

Crack willow *Salix fragilis* occurs at the northern end of Lake Wahapō and is well established. This infestation is of some concern and is requiring considerable control to ensure that it does not spread further into the park.

The Department is currently implementing an eradication programme. Control methods may impact on the park in the short-term but should be permitted where the long-term benefits are best for the park. Such effects may include the total die-back of controlled willows. The programme will be ongoing to eradicate any surviving willows. Other willow species are under surveillance by the Franz Josef *Watau* Area Office. This will be an ongoing activity.

P4.1.2(b) - Weed surveillance is essential if weed species are to be effectively controlled. Particular sites for weed surveillance are adjacent to settlements, rubbish dumps and riverbeds. Particular weeds to look for in suitable habitat are *Selaginella kraussiana*, *Lagarosiphon major*, Asiatic knotweed, *Hieracium praealtum* and *pilosella*, gorse, Japanese honeysuckle, German ivy, Spanish heath, *Spiraea japonica*, barberry, wandering jew, crack willow and Himalayan honeysuckle (refer to Table 1, section 1.3.9.1).

P4.1.2(c) - Critical animal pests include possums, goats, deer, thar, chamois, pigs, stoats, dogs, cats and rats. Other potential pests include introduced freshwater fish, birds and invertebrates.

Policy 9.4 of the General Policy for National Parks 1983 reaffirms the New Zealand Conservation Authority's policy of total extermination of all introduced animals within the park. The policy recognises, however, that total extermination is not always technically possible and in these circumstances, the introduced species should be controlled to the level that the indigenous flora and fauna can tolerate.

Pests are controlled on a priority site basis as determined by the Department's Biodiversity Action Plans. These plans are consistent with national strategies and policy statements and provide more specific detail where necessary. Pests will be controlled within the park in accordance with these plans, however, particular regard will be given to those pests likely to impact on the indigenous plants and animals or any natural feature of the park. Consideration will also be given to areas where pest control could present a risk to public safety or detract from the enjoyment of other visitors and the necessary mitigation measures adopted.

Game birds occur within the park boundaries. The West Coast Fish and Game Council may undertake control measures to manage introduced species within the park where those measures do not have adverse effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values.

P4.1.2(d) - Himalayan thar were first released in New Zealand in 1904 near Aoraki Mount Cook. Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park is situated within the feral range of thar. The diet of thar consists of tussocks, herbs, and other alpine and subalpine vegetation; their browsing is known to modify tussock communities. The thar population is managed under a national control programme, the Himalayan Thar Control Plan 1993. For Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park the population density at which the Department will intervene and commence thar control is when it exceeds zero. This means that the Department will exterminate thar within the park as far as possible which is consistent with policy 9.4 of the General Policy for National Parks 1983. Because non-breeding bulls may move beyond their feral range and return during the breeding season, thar control is likely to be ongoing.

P4.1.2(e) - The Wild Animal Control Act 1977, as amended in 1997, provides for the granting of concessions to authorise wild animal recovery operations. The value of commercial hunting and trapping as an animal pest control measure is recognised. Commercial hunting may be approved through the concessions process subject to conditions as required to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the park and park visitors.

Recreational hunting in national parks is by permit issued under section 8(2) of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977. The granting of a permit is discretionary. Permits are not likely to be granted for areas where hunting could present a risk to public safety or detract from the enjoyment of other visitors during times of high use.

Due to the high recreational use within the following areas it is unlikely that hunting, trapping or poisoning permits will be issued covering the period from 1 January through to Easter each year:

- Copland Valley
- Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valley
- Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* valley

Other areas may also be excluded from time to time where the Department considers that such exclusion is necessary. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, high recreational use, research projects and protected or threatened species work.

P4.1.2(f) - Exterminating plant and animal pests within the park is a significant challenge faced by park managers. It is therefore essential that every effort be reasonably made to prevent the introduction or further spread of plant and animal pests in the first instance. Such efforts should include, but will not be limited to:

- The extermination of plant and animal pests as identified in policies 4.1.2(a) and (b);
- Placing appropriate signage at boat launching ramps advising of the necessary actions to prevent the introduction or spread of pest plants and animals within the park. Such actions would include ensuring boats and trailers are free of pests prior to launching.

- Ensuring all earthmoving machinery and/or equipment is free from plant and animal pests prior to entry into the park. Exceptions to this should only include emergency works as defined under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Ensuring the necessary conditions are placed on concessionaires to prevent the introduction or spread of plant and animal pests.

Method

4.1.2(d)

Recreational hunting of thar will be encouraged through permitting aircraft access into the Horace Walker and Christmas Flat huts.

Explanation

M4.1.2(d) - Although aircraft can adversely impact on the experience of park visitors, aircraft access into the Horace Walker and Christmas Flat huts will be permitted as these facilities are located within the thar's feral range. This method recognises the value which recreational hunting can have on the control of thar.

Chamois are also present at these sites. This method recognises that the facilitation of recreational hunting is consistent with the Department's target of zero thar within the national park.

References:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 9

Wild Animal Control Amendment Act 1997

Himalayan Thar Control Plan 1993

4.1.3 Domestic Animals

Policy

4.1.3

Exclude domestic animals from the park other than those authorised pursuant to relevant legislation.

Explanation

Domestic animals have the potential to adversely affect indigenous flora and fauna. A total exclusion is necessary to ensure that no animals are left uncontrolled. This does not include stock permitted under grazing licences in accordance with policy 4.4.10.

Where stray domestic animals are found within the park, a reasonable attempt will be made to identify the owner(s) and have them remove the animals. If animals are found persistently within the park, they may be dealt with in accordance with section 62 of the National Parks Act 1980.

This policy does not prevent the use of dogs authorised by permit in accordance with section 56B of the National Parks Act 1980. Such permits may include, for example, the authorisation of trained farm dogs used for essential stock management associated with licensed grazing areas or the removal of unauthorised stock from the park. It also does not preclude the use of specially trained dogs used for park management purposes including search and rescue or kiwi recovery. Nor does it preclude guide dogs used by the blind or companion dogs in accordance with section 56E of the National Parks Act 1980. However, given the significant impact that dogs can have on native wildlife, particularly ground dwelling birds, permits will only be issued where it can be demonstrated that a dog is essential for the proposed activity and that there will be no risk to wildlife or park users.

The use of horses within the park will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances such as for essential stock management because of their ability to pug tracks, damage vegetation, spread noxious weeds and create conflict with other park users.

Method

4.1.3

Dogs found within the park illegally will be managed in accordance with sections 56F and 56G of the National Parks Act 1980.

Explanation

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park provides significant habitat for the Ōkārīto brown kiwi/*rowi* as well as other significant bird species. Where there is good cause to suspect that any dog found within the park poses significant risk to these species, or any other protected species, the Department may seize that dog, or where impracticable to do so, destroy that dog in accordance with section 56F(4) of the National Parks Act 1980. These provisions recognise the seriousness of the risk that dogs can pose to wildlife and ensures that compliance will be treated with utmost priority. This includes any dog authorised under section 56B of the Act.

References:

National Parks Act 1980 - Parts V. and VII

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 10

4.2 HISTORIC RESOURCES

4.2.1 *Archaeological and Historic Sites*

Policies

4.2.1(a)

Preserve archaeological and historic objects and sites, and sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu located within the park.

4.2.1(b)

Give effect to the Department's Protocol with Ngāi Tahu for historic resources when managing the park.

Explanation

P4.2.1(a) - In managing sites including features of archaeological and historic interest within and adjacent to the park the provisions of the relevant legislation and policy will be observed. Legislation includes the Conservation Act 1987, the Historic Places Act 1993, the Antiquities Act 1975 and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

At a national level Department policies include the International Committee of Monuments and Sites New Zealand Charter, the National Historic Heritage Strategy and the National Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy. At a conservancy level policies include the Historic Resources Plan, the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (once approved) and the Department's Protocol with Ngāi Tahu.

P4.2.1(b) - The Department has an agreed Protocol with Ngāi Tahu for the management of historic resources (refer to appendix 2).

Ngāi Tahu also have policies for addressing certain processes of significance to them, such as the discovery of human bones. These policies are noted where relevant in appendix 2.

Methods

4.2.1(a)

Achieve the historic management objectives for specific sites in the park according to significance and threat as prescribed by the Historic Resources Plan 1998.

4.2.1(b)

Consult with Papatipu Rūnanga, and where required or appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, from the early stages of proposed undertakings which will affect their values in relation to historic resources.

Explanation

M4.2.1(a) - All recorded archaeological and historic sites are listed on the New Zealand Archaeological Association site files and the West Coast Conservancy historic resources database.

It is important that sites are identified before any work is undertaken in the park. If human bones are uncovered in the park, work must stop immediately and the Police, the Department and Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio must be notified. Ngāi Tahu have a koiwi policy which specifically addresses the discovery of human bones.

Authority to modify an archaeological site is currently (2001) required from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Fifteen historic sites receive specific management attention and are listed in the conservancy's Actively Managed Historic Places register for this purpose. These sites are listed in table 3. Eleven of the sites are within the park boundaries while the remaining four are closely associated sites. These associated sites include the Gillespies suction dredge and the pack track at Gillespies Beach and the schoolhouse and Donovan's Store in the Ōkārīto Village. Any works undertaken on these sites must be in accordance with the conservation plans prepared for the sites. Where a conservation plan has not been prepared, proposed works must be submitted to the conservancy historic resources officer for consideration. This does not apply where works are required for emergency purposes to protect life or property.

M4.2.1(b) - The Protocol for historic resources acknowledges the importance to Ngāi Tahu of their wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance. A summary of this Protocol is included in appendix 2 of this plan. Ngāi Tahu may choose not to disclose the location of wāhi tapu sites to preserve the sacredness of these sites. Consultation will provide Ngāi Tahu with the opportunity to address proposed actions which may affect these areas and advise the Department of Ngāi Tahu policies which the Department should have regard for.

TABLE 3: ACTIVELY MANAGED HISTORIC SITES

NO.	SITE NO.	NAME	LOCATION
1	402	Ōkārito School	Ōkārito
2	403	Donovan's Store	Ōkārito
3	405	Cape Defiance Hut	Franz Josef Visitor Centre
4	406	Hende's Gallery	Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere
5	407	Hende's Hut	Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere
6	408	Douglas Bridge	Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere
7	409	Callery Bridge	Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere
8	410	Almer Hut	Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere neve
9	501	Chancellor Hut	Fox Glacier/Te Moeka o Tuawe neve
10	502.01	Gillespies Beach Cemetery	Gillespies Beach, Fox Glacier
11	502.02	Gillespies Suction Dredge	Gillespies Beach, Fox Glacier
12	502.03	Gillespies Pack Track	Gillespies Beach, Fox Glacier
13	503	Fox River Footbridge	Fox Glacier/Te Moeka o Tuawe
14	504	Copland Track	Copland Valley
15	505	Welcome Flat Footbridge	Copland Valley

References:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 17

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

4.3 VISITORS

4.3.1 Access

Policy

4.3.1

To foster public access and use of the park consistent with:

1. the preservation and protection of the park's landscapes, natural features, biological processes and plant and animal life;
2. the visitor management setting (refer to sections 1.3.11.1 - 1.3.11.1(e));
3. minimising conflict between different visitor groups;
4. visitor safety.

Explanation

National parks are established to preserve natural values in perpetuity for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. Although the public have the right of access to all areas of the park, it may be necessary to control the method of access and use to a level which particular areas can withstand and to maintain a wide range of visitor experience opportunities. It may also be necessary to limit numbers to, or close specific areas of the park for certain periods as a method to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse visitor effects on park values or for safety reasons.

Use of an area for particular purposes may be controlled to protect the enjoyment, inspirational value, natural quiet or solitude of that area. At all times, the reasonable safety of visitors from known hazards will be considered.

Method

4.3.1

Assess proposals for the further development or upgrading of park access having particular regard to:

1. Any impacts on the park's natural, historic and cultural resources, including any potential impacts of increased visitor use as a result of the development or upgrade;
2. The existing natural character of the specific area in which the development or upgrade is proposed;
3. The appropriateness of the facility development for the visitor management setting within which it is proposed;
4. The existing use and history of recreation in the area.

Explanation

The visitor management settings provide a framework for managing a range of recreational visitor experiences. Access is one of the key factors which can be managed within each visitor management setting to help maintain the visitor experience. For example, the glacier access tracks are maintained to a level which enables large groups of visitors, who may be inexperienced in the outdoors, to walk up and view the glaciers.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the potential adverse impacts of development. The park's natural, historic and cultural resources should not be unacceptably compromised in order to develop or upgrade access.

Consideration of existing and historic recreational use is required to ensure that new development does not significantly erode the enjoyment of existing users or reduce the range of visitor experiences, or create conflict between visitor groups.

References:

Sections 1.3.11.1 - 1.3.11.1(e) for visitor management settings

National Parks Act 1980 - sections 4 and 55

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy sections 18, 19 and 20

4.3.2 Recreational Activities

This policy refers to non-commercial activities. For consideration of commercial activities (refer to policy 4.4.2 “Concessions General”).

Policy

4.3.2

Allow for recreational activities to the extent that they are consistent with the preservation of the park, the objectives and other policies of this plan, relevant legislation and park by-laws.

Explanation

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park offers an attractive setting for a wide range of recreational activities. When considering the appropriateness of an activity it is important to consider the plan as a whole. Activities will generally be acceptable where they will not permanently or significantly diminish the qualities of the park and will not significantly reduce the enjoyment of other users.

Activities that have an adverse impact on the park or its users will be constrained, controlled or prohibited as appropriate and necessary for the management of the park.

Method

4.3.2

Assess the likely cultural, physical and social adverse impacts of an activity having particular regard to:

1. the management objectives set out in section 2.2 of this plan;
2. the appropriateness of the activity for the visitor management setting(s) within which it is proposed to be undertaken;
3. any adverse effects on tāngata whenua values;
4. the extent of opportunities for the activity to be undertaken outside of the park;
5. any known impacts of the activity where it has previously been undertaken;
6. consistency with relevant legislation and park by-laws.

Explanation

Where it is considered necessary to regulate the conduct of the general public in order to protect the park's natural and history values, by-laws should be developed and recommended to the Minister.

It is possible that the potential adverse effects of an activity will not be known until some time after it is commenced. If adverse effects are not known and the activity appears to be consistent with the policies and objectives of this plan, and where no satisfactory information on the activity can be found from the users, applicant or other sources, then a precautionary approach should be taken. The activity may be able to be undertaken elsewhere and, if so, a monitoring programme should be established and the results recorded. If the adverse effects are found to be unacceptable and cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, the Department should then recommend to the Minister that the activity be controlled or prohibited through park by-laws.

Reference:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

4.3.3 Recreation Facility Development

Policies

4.3.3(a)

Provide a range of visitor facilities that enable visitors to experience and appreciate the natural and historic features and cultural values of the park.

4.3.3(b)

Consider recreational facility development proposals within the park where they are consistent with the visitor management setting(s) in which the facility is to be located, and with the objectives and policies of this plan.

Explanation

P4.3.3(a) - The development of facilities within the West Coast Conservancy is currently (2001) directed by the Department's facility review process, the West Coast draft Conservation Management Strategy and other Department strategies. This ensures that the Department focuses on the total provision of recreational facilities over which resources must be spread rather than simply focusing on one area.

Facilities may be provided, where they are consistent with the visitor management setting, to enhance the visitor experience and to protect the park's natural values. For example, the Sentinel Rock lookout upgrade has provided visitors with easy access to a spectacular vantage point for viewing the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere*. The high standard track and large viewing platform prevents visitors from trampling vegetation and wearing new tracks in an otherwise pristine environment.

P4.3.3(b) - The visitor management settings defined in section 1.3.11 provide a framework against which the appropriateness of proposed developments can be assessed. It is important that a development is not undertaken which is out of character with the setting(s).

The need for new development in the park must be clearly demonstrated. Consideration must be given to the possible adverse effects of the development on the park's natural, historic and archaeological values. Development should only be permitted where the adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated and where it is consistent with the primary objectives in section 2.2.1.

It is acknowledged that further development may be required within the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys to manage the high visitor use. Such development may include the development of loop track systems to help reduce visitor encounters and address crowding issues.

Method

4.3.3(b)

Assess proposals for recreation facility development within the park having particular regard to:

1. the impacts of the development on the park's natural, historic and cultural resources;
2. potential impacts of any increased visitor use as a result of the development;
3. the existing natural character of the specific area in which the facility development is proposed;
4. appropriateness of the facility development for the visitor management setting within which it is proposed;
5. the objectives and other policies of this plan.

Explanation

M4.3.3(b) - A proposed development should only be considered where it is consistent with the visitor management setting(s) within which it is proposed to be located. This will ensure that the development is generally not out of place in the park and not likely to impact on the experience of visitors to the setting(s).

A careful consideration of other relevant policies in this plan will enable an informed decision to be made as to the appropriateness of the development and whether specific conditions must be set to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects. For example, the location of a new alpine hut in the backcountry with facilities setting would generally be consistent with that setting, however, the development of an alpine hut in a remote experience zone would result in a modification of an otherwise unmodified environment and would therefore be inconsistent with the setting.

Reference:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 24

Visitor Strategy 1996

4.3.4 Sightseeing, Picnicking and Camping

Policies

4.3.4(a)

Allow for the development of picnic areas, car parks and short-stop lookouts within the frontcountry with facilities, roadside opportunities and intense interest site visitor management settings in the park to the extent that they are consistent with the preservation of the park and the other objectives and policies of this plan.

4.3.4(b)

Allow camping in the park, in accordance with park by-laws, except within areas where camping must be prohibited to avoid the deterioration of the park's natural, historic and cultural resources, or within intense interest sites.

Explanation

P4.3.4(a) - Sightseeing, picnicking and car park facilities at short-stop visitor attractions are appropriate developments within the frontcountry with facilities, roadside opportunities and intense interest site visitor management settings. It is important, however, that these developments are considered against the other policies and objectives of this plan to ensure that issues such as Ngāi Tahu values, archaeological sites and indigenous plants and animals are addressed where necessary.

Priority for these facilities is being managed through the Department's Recreation Facility Review.

P4.3.4(b) - Camping needs to be managed in order to avoid conflict with other park activities. Retiring or resting of certain camping areas may be required if natural and historic values are being compromised by visitor use.

No person may camp within 200 metres of any formed road, in accordance with the park by-laws, without the prior permission of the Department or unless the site is designated for camping. It is therefore important to acknowledge, with signs, where informal camping is appropriate within 200 metres of a formed road.

Camping is not permitted within 50 metres of Welcome Flat Hut. Camping is provided for at the bivvy rock or in designated camping areas between 50 metres and 400 metres from the hut. An overnight camping fee will apply.

Camping should not be permitted within any intense interest site.

Methods

4.3.4(b)

(i)

Designate camping areas in the park where necessary in accordance with the Westland National Park By-laws 1981 and signpost designated camping areas where appropriate.

(ii)

Retire or rest camping areas if required where natural and historic values are being affected.

Explanation

M4.3.4(b)(i) and *(ii)* - Camping can increase visitor impacts at high use backcountry sites such as Welcome Flat. The old airstrip is considered a suitable area for camping and may be designated for this purpose.

Other areas under pressure from camping are frontcountry areas close to roads. Where camping is causing unacceptable adverse impacts on the park which cannot be adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated, then it should be prohibited.

Where it is necessary to further control or prohibit camping beyond the provisions of the existing by-laws, the Department should recommend to the Minister that the appropriate changes to the by-laws be made.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - **policy sections 24**

Westland National Park By-laws 1981

Visitor Strategy 1996

4.3.5 Huts

Policies

4.3.5(a)

Ensure that all park huts will be available to the public on a first come first served basis unless pressure from high visitor use requires a booking system to be established.

4.3.5(b)

Additional huts will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances which may include, but not be limited to:

1. an existing hut site becoming unsafe for any reason; or
2. a temporary requirement for a hut for park management purposes, authorised by the Department;

In all cases, park huts will meet the Department's hut standards, not exceed the Department's fee structure and be consistent with the design principles for new and existing buildings.

4.3.5(c)

Except as provided by policy 4.3.5(b)(2), huts or shelters should not be located within the remote experience visitor management settings in the park.

4.3.5(d)

Investigate the amalgamation of the park's mountain hut radio service with Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park.

Explanation

P4.3.5(a) - It is important that all park huts continue to be accessible to the public on a first come first served basis where possible.

The Welcome Flat Hut capacity is exceeded on occasions during the peak season. Investigations into a full booking system or other suitable management techniques may be required if visitor experiences are continually diminished at this locality in the future. Any booking system or management techniques must take account of the different visitors using Welcome Flat. These groups may include visitors walking into Welcome Flat Hut to soak in the hot pools, visitors walking over the Copland Pass or visitors climbing in the area.

Section 1.3.11.1 and policy 4.4.2 of this plan set out guidelines for the use of park huts by concessionaires. By-law 6 of the Westland National Park By-laws 1981 states that, except in an emergency, no person shall use any one hut for more than two successive nights without prior consent of the Department. It is recognised that climbers or ski touring groups need to be able to base themselves at an alpine hut adjoining their chosen climbing/touring area until conditions are suitable for the climb(s) or tour(s). It is therefore accepted that such groups may stay for up to 10 consecutive nights per trip at any one hut, unless that hut is overcrowded, at which time restrictions on use may be imposed in accordance with policy 4.3.5(a) and park by-laws. The park's alpine huts are Castle Rocks, Almer, Chancellor, Centennial and Pioneer huts.

Where a concessionaire is seeking to use a hut, the concession policy 4.4.2 shall apply.

TABLE 4 WESTLAND *TAI POUTINI* NATIONAL PARK HUTS

HUT NAME	CURRENT OWNERSHIP (2000)
Castle Rocks	Department of Conservation
Almer	Department of Conservation
Chancellor	Department of Conservation
Pioneer	New Zealand Alpine Club
Centennial	New Zealand Alpine Club
Welcome Flat	Department of Conservation
Douglas Rock	Department of Conservation
Horse Walker	Department of Conservation
Christmas Flat	Department of Conservation
Cassel Flat	Department of Conservation
Lame Duck Flat	Department of Conservation

P4.3.5(b) - The majority of park huts are provided by the Department. The provision of these huts is guided through the Department's facilities review process. Park huts may also be owned and operated by clubs and organisations. In all cases park huts shall meet, and be consistent with, the Department's hut standards and hut fee structure.

Applications for the provision of new huts in the park will be considered on their merits.

Although it is recognised that huts play an important role in the provision of recreational opportunities and the safety of park visitors, they are an intrusion into an otherwise unmodified environment. In general, huts should not be located in visually or environmentally sensitive areas such as on lake margins. They should be restricted in size (refer to section 1.3.11.1(b) for maximum hut sizes) and be consistent with the experience characteristics of the visitor management setting.

P4.3.5(c) - A number of opportunities exist for overnight accommodation within the backcountry with facilities visitor management setting throughout the park. In order to maintain areas of the park free from modification, huts or shelters will not be established within the remote experience visitor management settings. The exception to this policy may be where a temporary shelter is required for park management purposes, as authorised by the Department, and which does not require any clearance of vegetation or permanent site preparation and will not be located on site for more than three months in any one year.

P4.3.5(d) - Aoraki/Mount Cook Area Office manages an alpine hut radio service each night to provide weather forecasts, record hut user numbers and generally keep track of users while they are in the park. This system is known to be highly valued by park users. Given technological advantages in radio communications it is possible for Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park to be connected into the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park radio system. Such a development is likely to require an additional repeater site to be installed but is one possible method of creating consistency for radio services between the parks. Any developments would need to be pursued in consultation with the Canterbury Conservancy.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 24

Westland National Park By-laws 1981

Visitor Strategy 1996

4.3.6 Waste Disposal

Policies

4.3.6(a)

Dispose of refuse at suitable sites outside the park boundaries.

4.3.6(b)

Provide toilet facilities at all huts and other appropriate sites as necessary.

4.3.6(c)

Take into account the values of Ngāi Tahu when managing waste within the park.

Explanation

P4.3.6(a) - By-law 4 of the Westland National Park Bylaws 1981 makes it an offence to wilfully dispose of refuse in the park. All refuse should be removed from the park and disposed of in approved landfills. Where a structure or facility is being constructed or dismantled, all materials should be removed from the park. Particular care should be taken with concrete or other permanent materials which cannot be reasonably removed from the park to ensure that any adverse effects of the materials are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

The Department will promote the "pack it in, pack it out" policy which requires all visitors to carry out their own refuse as part of a waste minimisation strategy for the park.

P4.3.6(b) - Toilet facilities will be provided in accordance with the Department's facilities review or otherwise as required through demand, particularly where there is overnight accommodation.

P4.3.6(c) - Section 1.3 of this plan identifies the specific values of Ngāi Tahu in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. For example, the waters within the park are considered by Ngāi Tahu to be tapu/sacred. It is therefore appropriate that applications for the disposal of waste into any waters of the park, whether frozen, still or flowing, be assessed in consultation with Ngāi Tahu. By-law 3 of the Westland National Park Bylaws 1981 makes it an offence to wilfully pollute in any manner the waters of the park.

Methods

4.3.6(a)

Liaise with the Westland District Council and West Coast Regional Council to ensure waste (including waste from campervans) is disposed of where it can be dealt with effectively, economically and with regard to the preservation of the environment.

4.3.6(c)

Consult with Papatipu Rūnanga, and where required or appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, to establish practices for waste management, particularly human waste management, within the park.

Explanation

M4.3.6(a) - The Westland District Council and West Coast Regional Council are the consent authorities for waste disposal sites. It is necessary to liaise closely with these authorities to ensure that any adverse effects of waste disposal on the park are avoided, remedied or mitigated and the necessary discharge consents, as required, for the management of wastes within the park are obtained.

M4.3.6(c) - Waste management has the potential to significantly impact on the values of Ngāi Tahu within the park. Consideration of by-law 4 of the Westland National Park Bylaws 1981, section 1.3 of this plan and any further views expressed by Ngāi Tahu through consultation will enable their values to be taken into account in any proposal for waste management within the park.

Reference:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policies 13.2. and 13.3

4.3.7 Surface Water Use

Policies

4.3.7(a)

Control navigation on the gazetted lakes and rivers within the park through park by-laws.

4.3.7(b)

Allow the use of boats on Lake Matheson for park management purposes only.

4.3.7(c)

Limit the use of motorised boats to lakes Wahapō and Māpōurika.

4.3.7(d)

Not allow the use of boats on park waters as living quarters other than during the course of normal cruising.

Explanation

P4.3.7(a) - On 29 March 1960, Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park was gazetted. The gazettal included the beds and waters of all internal lakes, rivers, and streams. The management of activities associated with the waters therefore needs to be in accordance with this management plan.

The intertidal zone adjacent to the park's western boundary is a continuation of the mountains to the sea sequence of ecosystems. It is important to the ecology of the park that this area is managed in such a way as to not adversely affect the sensitive coastal fringes of the park. The management of this zone is in accordance with the Regional Coastal Plan for the West Coast 2000 administered by the West Coast Regional Council. The policies of the Regional Coastal Plan recognise the significance of the landscape and areas of conservation, recreational and cultural importance adjoining the park.

P4.3.7(b) - Lake Matheson, historically known as "Mirror Lake", is well renowned for its outstanding reflections of the Main Divide. Thousands of visitors travel to the lake each year hoping to catch a view of the reflections. These reflections, however, can be disturbed by the slightest ripple. To ensure that the key visitor experience is maintained, it is necessary to prevent boats from using the lake. There are other opportunities in the park for boating.

P4.3.7(c) - Surface water use of lakes Māpōurika and Wahapō is considered to be acceptable where that use does not impact on the indigenous species within and adjoining the lakes. It is known that motorised boats impact on grebes at Lake Māpōurika. Steps may therefore need to be taken to control the speed of motorised boats near grebe nesting sites, particularly during breeding season for the long-term preservation of populations.

Lakes Māpōurika and Wahapō have existing launching ramps and jetty mooring facilities and have historically been used by motorised boats. High use of Lake Māpōurika requires the development of a new boat ramp at the northern end. This ramp should be developed to become the main boat launching facility as it will help to concentrate use away from the majority of grebe nesting areas. It is not considered that there is a need for further boat ramps or moorings at other sites or a need to provide for motorised boating opportunities elsewhere within the park.

P4.3.7(d) - the General Policy for National Parks does not permit the use of boats as living quarters on park waters except in the normal course of cruising. This ensures that park waters are not permanently occupied by boats and are generally freely available for the use and enjoyment of the public. Should this become an issue the Department will recommend to the Minister that a by-law be created to control the activity.

Methods

4.3.7(a)

Establish a park by-law controlling the navigation of boats on gazetted waters of the park.

4.3.7(b)

Establish a park by-law prohibiting the use of boats on Lake Matheson if required.

4.3.7(c)

(i)

Erect signs at the boat ramp(s) on Lake Māpourika to create an awareness of the grebe habitat and advise visitors that they are to keep their speed below 5 knots within 200 metres of the shore.

(ii)

Monitor the grebe population at Lake Māpourika to identify any adverse effects resulting from the use of motor boats on the lake.

Explanation

M4.3.7(a) - A park by-law controlling the navigation of boats on gazetted waters of the park will be required to enable the Department to manage the use of boats for the preservation of habitat and visitor experience.

As noted in the explanation to policy 4.3.7(c), motorised boats can impact on grebes. In addition the noise from motorised boats, particularly jet-propelled craft, can be unacceptable and impact on the experiences of other visitors. The Department will therefore recommend to the Minister that personal water craft (also known as jet skis and wave runners) be prohibited through a park by-law.

M4.3.7(b) - Should boating continue to occur on Lake Matheson and enforcement measures become necessary, a park by-law should be developed and recommended to the Minister.

M4.3.7(c)(i) and *(ii)* - Motor boat use can impact on grebes. The issue is within 200 metres of the shore which is subject to a 5 knot speed restriction. Through informing visitors of the grebe habitat and promoting the 5 knot speed restriction, the impact on grebes should be reduced. Should enforcement become necessary the Department will recommend to the Minister that a by-law be created to control the activity.

Reference:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 23

4.3.8 *Fisbery Management*

Policies

4.3.8(a)

Recognise fishing for sports fish as a recreational activity where it does not compromise park values or the objectives or other policies of this plan and relevant legislation.

4.3.8(b)

Allow sports fish to be released into park waters by the West Coast Fish and Game Council where the species are already present in those park waters and where there are no adverse effects on indigenous fish.

4.3.8(c)

Recommend that the Minister not permit commercial or recreational eel *tuna* fishing within the park.

Explanation

P4.3.8(a) - National parks provide for the preservation of indigenous species including fish. Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park provides important freshwater habitat for nationally threatened species including the short-jawed kōkopu, giant kōkopu and brown mudfish. The Department will preserve, so far as practicable, all indigenous freshwater fisheries and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater habitats.

Fishing for sports fish within the park is permitted with a licence. Licensing is administered by fish and game councils.

P4.3.8(b) - The release of sports fish into any new rivers or lakes where they have not been released before is considered in terms of section 26ZM(6) of the Conservation Act 1987. Because of the high ecological values of rivers and lakes free from introduced fish species, the Department will recommend that the Minister of Conservation exercise his/her discretion to prohibit the release of sports fish and other introduced aquatic life where not previously released or where they do not already exist.

The waters of the park are a breeding area for indigenous species of fish upon which introduced fish can have adverse effects. The Department uses three main tools to determine whether introduced fish have an adverse effect on indigenous fish. These are:

1. collaborative efforts with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council;
2. fish surveys;
3. research on the interaction between native and introduced fish.

This policy recognises the importance of managing a sustainable recreational fishery to the extent that it does not compromise the preservation of indigenous fish.

P4.3.8(c) - Section 5(2) of the National Parks Act 1980 prohibits any person from taking any animal indigenous to New Zealand from a national park without the consent of the Minister. This includes recreational fishing.

With respect to eel *tuna*, the Ministry of Fisheries administers commercial freshwater fishing under the Fisheries (Challenger Area Commercial Fishing) Regulations 1986. Six catchment-based eel management committees have been established under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Restructuring) Act 1995 as statutory advisers to the Ministry of Fisheries. The *Tai Poutini* Eel Management Committee No.5 has identified Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park as an area closed to commercial fishing. The park protects significant lowland areas in Westland where eel *tuna* are present.

Although claims to the commercial component of the customary authority of Māori to take eels *tuna* were settled by the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992, the customary authority of Māori to take eels *tuna* on a non-commercial basis remains, and any such authorisation may be made in accordance with policy 4.4.1 of this plan.

Methods

4.3.8(b)

(i)

Recommend to the Director-General that he/she exercise his/her discretion and require the Fish and Game Council to comply with section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987 prior to the release of any introduced fish (including sports fish) into park waters.

(ii)

Survey all waterways within the park to determine those waterways which are free from introduced fish species. Survey work should be completed prior to any introduced fish being released.

Explanation

M4.3.8(b) (i) - Indigenous fish can be highly vulnerable to predation and pressure on habitat from introduced fish and sports fish. Where the release of sports fish could pose a threat to indigenous fish, the Department may require the fish and game council to comply with section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987. The fish and game council should therefore notify the Department prior to releasing sports fish into park waters.

M4.3.8(b)(ii) - The Department recognises the importance of surveying park waterways to determine whether introduced fish species are present. This work will be undertaken during the term of this plan. Introduced fish will not be released into waterways within the park where it is not known whether the species is currently present in that waterway.

Grass carp is not a sports fish and should not be released into park waterways. It is particularly aggressive towards indigenous fish. Refer to the glossary for a definition of sports fish.

References:

Conservation Act 1987: Section 26ZM

Sportfish and Gamebird Management Plan for the West Coast Fish and Game Region

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Tai Poutini (West Coast) Tuna/Eel Management Plan

4.3.9 *Off-Road and Other Vehicles*

Policies

4.3.9(a)

Prohibit the use of vehicles in the park other than on formed and maintained roads.

4.3.9(b)

Non-motorised cycles will be the only vehicles permitted on the joint walking-cycling access paths within the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys.

4.3.9(c)

In circumstances where there is no safe walking access to the glaciers, suitable vehicles driven by authorised operators for the purposes of transporting the public or concessionaires and their clients should be the only vehicles permitted on any new formed and maintained route from the car parks to the glaciers.

Explanation

P4.3.9(a) The use of off-road vehicles other than on formed and maintained roads is not compatible with the general purposes of national parks and is not permitted by the park by-laws. They may adversely affect the park's natural and historic values as well as disturbing and endangering other park visitors. The definition of vehicle has the same meaning as in the Transport Act 1962, which includes mountain bikes and skidoos.

Vehicles may not be driven on any formed road within the park where that class of vehicle has been excluded by an official notice from that formed road.

Exceptions may be made to this policy by the Department where the vehicle is required for:

1. park management purposes;
2. search and rescue and regional or national emergencies;
3. servicing of concessionaire facilities or public utilities as provided for in a concession, or where associated with authorised highway maintenance or construction related activities;
4. exceptional circumstances where no other reasonable alternative exists.

The only exception currently approved within the park is for the purpose of boat launching at the northern end of Lake Māpōurika.

P4.3.9(b) An amendment to the plan was made on 11 June 2008 to allow for new joint walking-cycling access paths in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys. The paths, which where feasible will be separate from the existing access road, will link the State Highway with the respective glacier road end. This will allow cyclists, pedestrians and people using personal mobility devices to safely access the glacier road ends while avoiding conflict with motor vehicles.

P4.3.9(c) An amendment to the plan was made on 9 April 2014 to allow suitable vehicles driven by authorised operators for the purposes of transporting the public or concessionaires and their clients to be driven on any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers, in circumstances where there is no safe walking access to the glaciers. Walking access for the public is restricted when hazards are present and it is considered there is an imminent danger to people when walking in the valley (for example, if the river changes course making it unsafe for walkers or if rock fall threatens the walking access). At these times the construction of a route for suitable vehicles driven by authorised operators may be the only means to safely provide for public access along the valley floor to the glaciers. The use of suitable vehicles on any new route will only be permitted until safe walking access to the glaciers is available, either on the route or on an alternative walking track.

In order to maintain public safety, walkers will be restricted from using any new route until it is deemed safe to do so.

This policy restricts the type of vehicle used to suitable vehicles driven by authorised operators only, for the transport of the public and/or concessionaires and their clients. For safety reasons, the general public will not be able to take their vehicles, including mountain bikes, along any new route.

The reasons for this restriction include:

- The glacier valleys are a high natural hazard area and are subject to flooding and rock fall events. On occasion, walking access may be unsafe and the only alternative access to the glaciers may be through the use of suitable vehicles driven by skilled operators on formed and maintained routes.
- In order to maintain public safety, only vehicles suitable for the terrain that can safely navigate the routes and that are driven by authorised operators will be allowed to use the routes.
- Audited safety plans will be required.

Methods

4.3.9(b)

Implement designs and management techniques on the joint walking-cycling access paths to minimise conflict between users and optimise user safety. This will include ongoing monitoring of use and users. Where monitoring indicates that adverse effects are occurring as a result of cycle use on the joint walking-cycling access paths, appropriate management techniques will be implemented to address these effects, including if necessary the use of cycles on the paths no longer being permitted.

4.3.9(c)

(i)

Require vehicle operators to obtain authorisation from the Department before using a vehicle on any formed and maintained route to the glaciers. In deciding whether to grant authorisations, the Department will consider relevant criteria including:

- provisions of the safety plan
- suitability of the vehicle for the terrain e.g. high ground clearance
- experience and competence of the driver.

(ii)

Restrict walkers from using any new route until it is deemed safe to do so. If necessary, the Department will seek bylaws to implement Methods (i) and (ii).

(iii)

The Department will monitor the effects of vehicles, used on any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers, on visitor experiences and the park's natural features. Where monitoring indicates that adverse effects are occurring management techniques will be implemented, which may include managing vehicle numbers and movements or stopping the use of these vehicles.

Explanation

M4.3.9(b) Minimising conflict between users and optimising user safety will be important in ensuring the joint walking-cycling access paths provide for a quality visitor experience. Appropriate pathway design, monitoring and management should ensure that any adverse effects from the shared use of the pathways are minimised.

M4.3.9(c)(i) In accordance with section 4(2)(e) of the National Parks Act 1980 (the Act) the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the park, subject to the provisions of the Act. However, due to natural hazards it may be necessary to restrict walking access and the use of any new route formed and maintained to the glaciers to suitable vehicles driven by authorised operators. The most appropriate method to manage this is by requiring

authorisation from the Department, requiring operators to have audited safety plans, and considering vehicle suitability and driver experience and competence amongst other things.

M4.3.9(c)(ii) In order to maintain public safety, walkers will be restricted from using any new route until it is deemed safe to do so. The Department will make the decision as to when a route is deemed safe for walkers, in the same manner as it does at present for the walking tracks from the car parks to the glaciers.

M4.3.9(c)(iii) It is important that allowing vehicles on any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers does not adversely affect the visitor experience or the park's natural features.

Authorisations should include conditions that allow the Department to manage vehicle numbers and movements or stop the use of these vehicles if monitoring shows that adverse effects are occurring.

References:

General Policy for National Parks 2005, policy 8.6

Westland National Park By-laws 1981

Policy 4.4.17(d) for Roading policies

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

Glossary - Definition of 'Road'

4.3.10 Climbing

Policy

4.3.10

Discourage the use of permanent bolts as climbing aids in the park except for management purposes.

Explanation

Mountaineering involves the use of some form of 'protection' to safeguard a climber should he/she fall while climbing. Sometimes on extreme routes bolts are used as permanent anchors in rock. Bolting involves hammering or drilling a hole that will take an anchor point which climbers can pass their rope through or "tie off" to. Bolts have been used to tackle new routes on mountains such as Drake and Magellan at the head of the Balfour Glacier and Dilemma at the head of the Strauchon Glacier. This has raised philosophical and ethical questions amongst climbers about the use of bolts per se and about their use in the park.

The use of bolts should be discouraged in the park as they are not considered to be consistent with the primary objective of this plan, that is, they detract from the park's intrinsic worth.

Method

4.3.10

Develop a Code of Practice for bolting within the park in conjunction with the climbing fraternity.

Explanation

If bolting is to be carried out by climbers then the Department would rather this was carried out under a Code of Practice. Should the use of climbing bolts within the park become unacceptable to the preservation of the park's natural and historic values, a park by-law will be required to control the activity.

4.3.11 Interpretation

Policies

4.3.11(a)

Provide visitor information on the park and the South West New Zealand *Te Wābipounamu* World Heritage Area in a manner that promotes respect for park values.

4.3.11(b)

Interpret the park's natural, cultural and historic resources in a manner that promotes respect for park values and the conservation management activities undertaken by the Department to protect these values.

4.3.11(c)

Give effect to the Department's Protocols with Ngāi Tahu for visitor and public information and historic resources when managing interpretation projects in the park.

4.3.11(d)

Enhance the experience and awareness of visitors by providing high quality interpretation.

Explanation

P4.3.11(a) - Interpretation is a primary means of educating visitors about the park's values and its world heritage area status. Continued and increased awareness of the park's values can help to ensure that future generations recognise and protect these values.

The West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (once approved) will provide the overall framework for interpretation for the conservancy. Interpretation should be consistent with the conservation management strategy.

P4.3.11(b) - The relationship between the historic, natural and cultural heritage of the park provides an excellent interpretive opportunity. The conservancy's Interpretation Plan 1999 and Recreational Publications Plan 1998 prioritise the production of interpretive media and ensure that consistency is maintained throughout the conservancy.

The key interpretation themes for the park include:

Gondwana Heritage Theme (Biological Evolution) - New Zealand's separation before the appearance of marsupials and other mammals and its long isolation since then are factors that have enabled the survival of ancient Gondwana biota. Many of the best examples of these primitive taxa are found within the 2.6 million hectare South West New Zealand *Te Wābipounamu* World Heritage Area and specially Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park.

Ice Age Imprints Theme (Water) - this theme is based primarily on geological and climatic influences. Nowhere else in New Zealand is this more strikingly obvious than in the modern valleys of Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* and the outwash terraces of Ōkārīto and Waikukapa.

Tectonic Origins Theme (Fire) - this region contains one of the world's most outstanding examples of geological activity along a major plate boundary. The Alpine Fault boundary between the Pacific and Indo-Australia plates is one of three segments of the world's major plate boundaries on land. In the park, this fault dominates the landscape giving rise to its spectacular mountain peaks.

Biological Evolution Theme - the development of plant and animal communities in the region is one of the most comprehensive and outstanding examples of ongoing biological evolution in the world. Few other comparable temperate areas contain such diversity and a continuum of largely unmodified natural habitats.

Cultural Imprints Theme - this theme is the major "people" theme, comprising Māori occupation and European settlement.

P4.3.11(c) - The Department has agreed Protocols with Ngāi Tahu for the provision of visitor and public information and historic resources (refer to appendix 2).

As part of these Protocols the Department will ensure that, before using information pertaining to Ngāi Tahu cultural values, consultation will be undertaken with Papatipu Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to ensure that this information is provided accurately.

P4.3.11(d) - Interpretation contributes to the visitor experience as well as raising awareness of the significance of different sites. For example, signs are used in the glacier valleys to warn visitors of the hazards of standing too close to the glacier terminal faces. Many visitors may not otherwise know that large sections of ice can fall away from the terminal faces without warning.

Appropriate interpretation may also be used to inform visitors about what to expect in the park.

Interpretive facilities and services may consist of displays at the park visitor centres and on-site panels at key sites. In addition, recreational brochures and flat-sheets are prepared to inform visitors about the social, natural and historic aspects of the park.

Where signage is used, it is important that it does not dominate the site. Too many signs may detract from the visitor experience.

References:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 16

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Interpretation Plan 1999

Section 4.3.12 Promoting the Park

4.3.12 Promoting the Park

This policy addresses the Department's promotion of the park. Commercial promotional activities and filming are covered in policy 4.4.7.

Policy

4.3.12

The park may be promoted as a place for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public.

Explanation

The Department will continue to ensure that publications, brochures and park maps are available to promote the park's natural, historic and cultural values.

Method

4.3.12

Participate in promotional activities that encourage an increased awareness and appreciation of the park's natural and historic resources, except when such promotion could increase visitation in areas already experiencing considerable visitor pressure.

Explanation

The Department will work closely with regional and local authorities on promotions of mutual advantage. Such promotions should focus on providing an increased awareness and appreciation of the park's natural, historic and cultural values. It is important, however, that the Department encourage the promotion of the glaciers to focus on off-peak use. The glacier valleys are already experiencing over-crowding during peak times and further use at these times should not be encouraged through promotion (refer to section 2.1.3).

4.3.13 Visitor Safety

Policies

4.3.13(a)

Inform park visitors and concessionaires of potential natural hazards in the park to create an awareness and understanding of natural hazards while recognising that visitors will be primarily responsible for their own safety.

4.3.13(b)

Cooperate fully with the New Zealand Police in search and rescue and with the civil defence authorities where appropriate and necessary.

4.3.13(c)

Provide Department expertise as far as is practicable and necessary to assist with emergency operations involving visitor safety.

Explanation

P4.3.13(a) - There are many hazards in and adjoining Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. Whereas each individual must be responsible for their own safety, it is important that the Department inform visitors of these hazards particularly where the main user group is not likely to be aware of them. For example, visitors to the glacier valleys are warned of the changeable weather conditions, rockfall and the potential hazard of ice falling away from the terminal face of the glaciers. Users of alpine huts are warned of the potential for dangerous carbon monoxide gases to build up in huts when using stoves. Methods of notification may include, but are not limited to, warning signs, roped-off areas, brochures, visitor centre displays and provisions written into concession documents.

In 1996 the Department introduced "Quality Conservation Management" (QCM) systems to enable it to establish "best practices" for the way it manages issues such as safety. This has included the development of appropriate service standards which include, for example, structure standards and trade service standards.

Concessionaires are required to take responsibility for health and safety issues associated with their activity or service (refer to section 4.4.2).

P4.3.13(b) - The New Zealand Police have the authority and the responsibility for all search and rescue. Department staff will co-operate with and assist the police in the execution of their duties, as practical, when called upon to do so.

The Department is not responsible for civil defence or search and rescue. The Department may be requested to provide assistance by the regional or territory authorities or the New Zealand Police where the Department's skills and knowledge are required. For example, the Police may seek the involvement of the Department in a search and rescue operation as it is likely that staff will know the area being searched and have the necessary skills to assist.

P4.3.13(c) - Departmental staff shall give priority to assisting the police with search and rescue and/or civil defence emergencies as necessary.

4.4 PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES

4.4.1 *Customary Use and Accessibility*

Policy

4.4.1

Customary use or take of indigenous plants and animals may be permitted from the park by permit, with the consent of the Minister, where it is consistent with the objectives and other policies of this plan, National Parks Act 1980, other relevant legislation, and national policies.

Explanation

Ngāi Tahu has traditionally used indigenous species on the West Coast. These materials were essential to everyday life and a necessity for tāngata whenua. There is a present-day revival of former traditions and the use of natural materials. Traditional cultural materials include, but are not limited to, native plants used in weaving and for medicine and native birds and animals for their feathers and for food.

Section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980 allows for the cutting or taking of plant material and the trapping, killing, or taking of animals only with prior written consent of the Minister. The General Policy for National Parks 1983 provides for the traditional taking of indigenous plants and animals from a national park where the plants or animals are not protected under other legislation and demands are not excessive.

There are provisions in the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Conservation Act 1987 which provide for the non-commercial gathering and use of freshwater fish, plants and some animals for traditional use by Māori. The Conservation (South Island Customary Freshwater Fisheries) Regulations include provisions for these activities.

The status of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park provides a high degree of protection to plants and animals within the park. The use of plants and animals is not necessarily inconsistent with the preservation of the park. Nevertheless, Ngāi Tahu will be encouraged where possible to use traditional material from areas outside the park. Some use from within the park may be required for carrying out tikanga but should not be permitted where materials are to be sold for commercial gain.

This policy acknowledges the traditional and cultural use of the park and enables the Minister to give consent to the taking of indigenous species from the park in accordance with section 5(3) of the National Parks Act 1980.

Method

4.4.1

Consider applications for the customary use of indigenous plants and animals and other cultural materials by permit only in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980, the Ngāi Tahu Protocol for cultural materials and the other objectives and policies of this plan.

Explanation

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

The Department will ensure that the following criteria (and any other criteria considered relevant) will be taken into account when considering applications for customary use:

- an assessment of the degree to which the species is protected under the Wildlife Act 1953 and whether the intended customary use is consistent with the Act's provisions;

- the species must not be threatened or locally uncommon;
- no commercial gain is to be derived;
- there must be a justified need to use the resources from within the park;
- there must have been a traditional use of that species in the park;
- use must not be excessive and the protection and preservation of the species must be ensured;
- appropriate measures must be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of taking the species.

Where the customary use could adversely effect ecological values or the viability of a species, a precautionary approach should be used.

The Department's Protocol with Ngāi Tahu for managing cultural materials is set-out in appendix 2. This sets out the Department's obligations which are to be considered in conjunction with the above provisions.

The Department, in consultation with the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Minister, is in the process of preparing a policy on customary use on land administered by the Department. Consultation will need to be undertaken with tāngata whenua and other interested parties. This policy may result in legislative amendment. This management plan will need to implement the approved policy and any resultant changes in legislation.

References:

National Parks Act 1980 - section 5(3)

Conservation Act 1987 - sections 4 and 26ZH

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy 8.11

4.4.2 Concessions General

Policy

4.4.2

Consider all applications for concession proposals in accordance with relevant legislation and the objectives and policies of this plan.

Explanation

It is important that the Minister is able to consider all concession applications on their merits based on potential effects, the relevant statutory framework and this management plan.

Those exceptions where a concession is not required to undertake an activity within the park are set out in section 17O of the Conservation Act 1987.

Methods

4.4.2

(i)

Require information from applicants, and others as necessary, to enable the Department to adequately assess the potential adverse effects of concession proposals.

(ii)

Applications will be considered having regard, but not being limited, to the following provisions:

- this management plan;
- the General Policy for National Parks 1983;
- the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980, and other relevant legislation;
- the nature of the activity and the type of structure or facility (if any) proposed;
- the effects of the proposed activity, structure or facility including a consideration of the cumulative effect of activities. Note, the cumulative effect of impacting activities will have a direct bearing on the decision whether or not to approve further concessions that could add to these effects;
- the availability of alternative locations;
- the ability of the applicant to carry out the activity, including any industry qualifications/standards which may exist;
- measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values including, but not limited, to:
 - indigenous plants and animals and ecosystems;
 - archaeological and historic sites;
 - landscape, landforms and geological features;
 - natural quiet and natural darkness;
- the outcome of consultation with Ngāi Tahu interests as a result of section 4 obligations, and measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on Ngāi Tahu values. When the Department issues concessions that seek to use or promote Ngāi Tahu cultural information, the Department will request that the concessionaire consult with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu through Papatipu Rūnanga before using that information to ensure that it is provided accurately;
- any assessment of environmental effects;

- any relevant submission(s) made by the public;
- measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on recreational values including, but not limited to:
 - hut use and capacity. General provisions are included under the visitor management setting criteria in section 1.3.11.1. Refer to policy 4.4.6(b) for concession restrictions on Welcome Flat Hut. Where a concession application proposes to use a facility administered by the New Zealand Alpine Club, the club shall be notified of the concession proposal and provided sufficient time to comment;
 - track systems, both on and adjacent to affected track systems;
 - public access;
 - noise levels;
 - public use and enjoyment of the area concerned.

(iii)

Concessionaires will be monitored, in addition to other park users, throughout the term of this plan to monitor compliance with concession provisions and establish and/or maintain baseline data on visitors and their effects on natural, cultural and historic resources and recreation opportunities.

Explanation

M4.4.2(i) - There are a number of issues relating to concession applications. The first is ensuring that decision-makers receive adequate information to be able to consider applications.

Section 17S of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the information that must be included in a concession application. A number of matters must then be considered in accordance with section 17U of the Act when deciding whether or not to approve an application. It is important that the description identifies the places where the proposed activity would be carried out (including the location of any structures). The Department can then determine the visitor management setting(s) where the activity or structure will be located. The requirements of each visitor management setting will significantly influence what activities or structures may be appropriate.

Applicants must identify and provide information about the possible effects of their proposed activities. An appropriately detailed environmental impact assessment (EIA) may be required in accordance with section 17S(3). The Minister may, at the expense of the applicant, commission a report or review, seek advice from other persons or obtain relevant information from any source on matters relating to the application.

M4.4.2(ii) - Concession applications are considered on a case by case basis. Appropriate conditions will be imposed and enforced to avoid, remedy or mitigate any potential adverse effects of the activity, structure or facility on the park or park visitors. These may include the Minister's standard conditions, as well as, but not limited to:

- conditions on the activity, when and where it can be carried out, and the scale of activity consistent with the visitor management setting(s);
- the provision of bonds to cover costs of work required by the concession document;
- the restoration of the site and removal of structures or facilities at the expense of the concessionaire, or the vesting of such facilities in the Crown where appropriate, at the end of the concession term.

Concession opportunities may be publicly offered, in accordance with the Conservation Act 1987, by:

- tendering the right to make an application;
- inviting applications; or
- carrying out other actions that may encourage specific applications.

Concession conditions may be included where the concessionaire is required to carry out activities relating to the management of any area on behalf of the Minister.

M4.4.2(iii) - Monitoring of concessions within the park will become increasingly important as visitor use increases. The Department needs to be fully aware of the adverse effects of concessions, particularly cumulative effects, if it is to manage them effectively. For this reason, in addition to the monitoring provisions under policy 4.4.8, monitoring will be undertaken during the term of this plan to establish and/or maintain baseline data on visitors and their effects on the park's natural, cultural and historic resources.

It is therefore recommended to the Minister that all new concessions granted for the park include monitoring provisions, as appropriate, which enable the terms and conditions of the concession to be adjusted as necessary to ensure that any adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Approved monitoring programmes may be established to specifically address issues of concern and provide a consistency of approach to enable comparisons to be made with future monitoring.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

Conservation Act 1987 - Part IIIB

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

4.4.3 Aircraft Access

Policies

4.4.3(a)

Aircraft may be permitted to land anywhere within the park where that is essential for park management purposes.

4.4.3(b)

Except as provided by policy 4.4.3(a), and subject to policy 4.4.3(f), aircraft landing and taking off in the park shall require a concession. A recommendation will be made to the Minister that:

(i) aircraft landing may only occur within the approved landing sites set out in tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this plan.

(ii) for heli-hike trips on the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and the Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe*, a total of 25 aircraft landings, below the 900-metre contour line, be permitted per glacier per day.

(iii) additional aircraft landings per day for positioning glacier guiding concession clients below the 900 metre contour line may be allowed on either glacier when foot access onto that glacier is not available or is unsafe, provided that the increased aircraft activity does not result in 25% or greater proportion of visitors on the glacier valley floor walks reporting annoyance with aircraft.¹

4.4.3(c)

Concession opportunities for aircraft to land in the park may be publicly offered, through inviting applications when existing concessions terminate, where the adverse effects (including cumulative effects) can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

4.4.3(d)

Concessionaires shall be made aware of and required to adhere to the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group Environmental Policy and park operational procedures.

4.4.3(e)

Aircraft facilities and services shall be consistent with the visitor management setting and shall particularly respect the quality of natural quiet within the remote experience settings.

4.4.3(f)

Aircraft may be approved to land anywhere within the park or be excluded from specific parts of the park for the purpose of commercial wild animal recovery.

Explanation

P4.4.3(a) - Park management includes those works/activities necessary for the effective management of the park.

The use of aircraft for park management purposes is necessary to enable the efficient servicing of the park, search and rescue operations and other essential works. Aircraft undertaking authorised park management may be permitted to land outside of designated landing sites and may also hover over the park.

Special provision - parties can be faced with extreme avalanche risk when descending to Chancellor Hut. For the purposes of this plan, the Department may authorise one-off landing permits for flying parties out from Victoria Gap during times of high avalanche risk. There is no intention to provide for regular landings at this site as it is on the classic Chancellor - Pioneer hut route (refer to Method 4.4.3(a) for implementation).

¹ See Explanation M4.4.3(c)(i) for the methodology relating to the monitoring regime”

P4.4.3(b)(i) – Section 10 of the Westland National Park Bylaws 1981 prohibit aircraft from landing within the park except in an emergency, or as authorised through a wild animal control permit or concession. Section 17ZF(5) of the Conservation Act 1987 defines landing of an aircraft, for the purposes of that section, in the following terms:

...“landing” includes the hovering of any aircraft and the setting down and taking on of goods or persons from an aircraft.

This policy recognises that although aircraft landings can enhance the appreciation of visitors who would not otherwise be able to experience the glaciers and snowfields, aircraft can also detract from the park’s general amenity values of quietness and remoteness and the experiences of other visitors. The approved landing sites provide for aircraft access into spectacular areas of the park while keeping considerable areas free from aircraft landing.

The policy requires that all aircraft landing in the park, other than those permitted under policy 4.4.3(a), shall be authorised through a concession (refer to policy 4.4.2 for concessions). It enables the Department to place the necessary conditions on aircraft operators landing in the park to minimise adverse effects on other park visitors.

Section 17ZF of the Conservation Act 1987 requires that the concession shall be in the possession of the operator and shall have been sighted by the pilot in command of the aircraft prior to landing or taking-off. It is also important that the registrations of all aircraft licensed to land in the park are known by the Department and that any changes are authorised by the Department in writing.

Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this plan list the approved landing sites within the park and the permitted uses for each of the sites. These sites are also shown on maps 4 and 4(a). Examples of permitted uses include scenic flight landings, access for glacier guiding or to provide recreationists with access to alpine huts. These permitted uses have been established based on consideration of the activities carried out by other park users adjoining the landing sites.

The high altitude landing sites are near the Main Divide and popular climbing and ski touring areas. These landing areas have generally been established to provide recreationists with access to huts and to provide access for climbing, ski touring parties and alpine instruction. They are not for scenic flight landings, except for the Davis landing site, where fixed wing scenic landings may occur only when the Upper Giekie is inaccessible.

The scenic flight landing areas experience the highest frequency of use. The sites have been selected to provide the visitor with the opportunity to experience the glaciers and snowfields while being positioned as far away from the popular climbing/ski touring areas and valley walkers as possible. Although recreationists may also be landed at these sites it is expected that they will be used predominantly for scenic flight landings.

P4.4.3(b)(ii) The adverse effects of aircraft are considerable in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. Aircraft operators have introduced measures to mitigate the effects of their operations on ground users but heli-hike flights fly lower over and land near to the majority of park users. The main concern is aircraft noise impacts on walkers on tracks along the valley floors and on the glaciers themselves.

The effects of heli-hike flights significantly impact on the overall perception of wider aircraft operations within and over the park. The most effective method to manage aircraft noise impacts is to limit the number of low flying aircraft in the valley, and a limit on the number of aircraft landings on the lower glaciers will contribute to this. It is therefore considered appropriate to recommend to the Minister that the number of aircraft landings for heli-hike operations be limited to 25 per day on each glacier. Changes to these restrictions should only be made where supported by research. Further restrictions, such as restricted flight and landing times to allow for quiet periods, may need to be imposed should research suggest that the adverse effects of aircraft are unacceptable on walkers in the valley floors and on the glaciers themselves.

P4.4.3(b)(iii) Availability of foot access onto the glaciers is uncertain due to the dynamic nature of glacier retreat and advance. An increase in the number of landings may be allowed to service existing guiding operations when there is no longer access onto the lower glaciers by foot due to glacier changes. Monitoring should be continued to measure the effects of increased aircraft activity on other users. Additional landings were permitted on the lower Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* in 2013 after it became unsafe to access the glacier on foot; however monitoring has shown that the effects of increased aircraft activity on visitors on the glacier valley floor walk has exceeded the 25% management intervention threshold. Foot access onto the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā*

Roimata o Hine Hukatere may remain unavailable for the foreseeable future and additional aircraft landings will be required to meet demand from visitors wishing to be guided on the glacier. The Department is nonetheless committed to maintaining the 25% management intervention threshold and will apply suitable management provisions to ensure that the effects of increased aircraft activity does not result in 25% or greater of visitors on the glacier valley floor walks reporting annoyance with aircraft. These management provisions may include: reducing the number of landings allowed; increasing the flight altitude; changing flight paths; or restricting flight and landing times to allow for quiet periods. Additional landings will only be permitted until safe foot access onto the glaciers is reinstated.

P4.4.3(c) - Aircraft use of the park is a significant management issue. The number of aircraft authorised to land within the park will therefore be managed at a level consistent with visitor expectations and the preservation of the park's historic and natural values including natural quiet. Visitor expectations will be determined through monitoring as set out in methods 4.4.3(c)(i) and (ii).

P4.4.3(d) - Scenic and other aircraft traffic in both Westland *Tai Poutini* and Aoraki/Mount Cook national parks is considerable. It is recognised that the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group (consisting of local concessionaires and other commercial operators over-flying the parks) represents only part of the total aircraft use over-flying the parks. However, the user group has developed policy and procedures that not only seek to ensure the safety of aircraft through agreed flight paths and practices but also address issues of the social impacts on ground users caused by aircraft. The flight paths and practices as they relate to mitigating effects on ground users were developed in close consultation with the Department. They include revised flying heights and routes, adopting quieter flying techniques and avoiding climbers and other parties in the park where possible to minimise user conflict. These are addressed through the user group's environmental policy and have been adopted by each company within the user group. A copy of the policy is included in appendix 4.

Requiring all aircraft concessionaires operating within or immediately adjoining the park to adhere to the user group's environmental policy and the Aoraki Mount Cook and Westland *Tai Poutini* National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group Operators Handbook will ensure that they are made aware of the necessary flying procedures and safety practices.

The current policy (2012) addresses adverse impacts within the park. Should this policy be revised at any time and no longer be consistent with the objectives and policies of this management plan, then the user group should be notified as soon as possible and a decision must be made as to whether policy 4.4.3(d) should still apply. A plan change would be required in consultation with the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board to remove or change this plan policy.

P4.4.3(e) - Airfields are currently provided for outside the park. Where existing airstrips exist within the park, they will be allowed to revert back to their natural cover. The use of machinery such as snow groomers to maintain landing strips is not considered to be compatible with the backcountry with facilities visitor management setting.

Airdrops may only be permitted within the park for management purposes unless otherwise authorised by the Minister. This provides for the use of airdrops for search and rescue purposes but does not allow them for other purposes such as recreation.

P4.4.3(f) - The Wild Animal Control Act 1977, as amended in 1997, provides for the granting of concessions to authorise wild animal recovery operations. It is acknowledged that the extermination of introduced animals, as far as possible, within the park is consistent with section 4(2)(b) of the National Parks Act 1980, but conditions may be placed on these concessions to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on other park users. Unless otherwise stated in an approved concession document, aircraft authorised to undertake commercial wild animal control within the park shall not be limited to the approved landing sites set out in tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this plan.

Methods

4.4.3(a)

Authorise aircraft pick-ups from Victoria Gap through one-off landing permits in exceptional circumstances.

4.4.3(c)

(i)

Publicly notify aircraft landing opportunities as existing licences or permits terminate and invite applications in accordance with policy 4.4.3(c) and the other objectives and policies of this plan. Each concession will include:

- the permitted use(s) of each landing site;
- the maximum number, type and registration of aircraft;
- any restrictions on the time or season of specific landing sites;
- a specified term.

(ii)

Recommend, in addition to any other conditions which the Minister may consider necessary, a condition in any concession approved for aircraft landing in the park which requires the concessionaire to fund, or to contribute funding, and conduct, or contribute to conducting, an ongoing visitor monitoring programme to measure the adverse effects of aircraft in the park, using a survey design endorsed by the Department.

4.4.3(d)

(i)

Maintain a close working relationship with the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group and the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAA) to assist in the management of adverse aircraft effects in the park.

(ii)

Recommend (in addition to any other conditions which the Minister may consider necessary) a condition in any concession approved for landing aircraft within the park which requires the concessionaire to comply with the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft Users Group Environmental Policy and all other provisions of this plan.

(iii)

The Department will appoint a non-aircraft industry representative to be nominated to attend Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group meetings.

4.4.3(f)

Recommend (in addition to any other conditions which the Minister may consider necessary) a condition in any concession approved for commercial wild animal recovery which requires the concessionaire to notify the Department and Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft Users Group in writing of the approximate period which they will be operating within the park, and provide a description of and registration number of the aircraft(s) to be used.

Explanation

M4.4.3(a) - Where a group descending to Chancellor Hut is faced with high risk of avalanche, the Department may authorise a one-off landing to enable the group to be picked-up from Victoria Gap. The provision is intended to provide an escape route for parties descending to Chancellor Hut and is not to provide for a regular landing site. It should generally not be used where a group is undertaking a day trip as the conditions should be identified prior to going into the park.

M4.4.3(c)(i) - For the purpose of this plan, 1995 is the baseline against which aircraft effects will be measured. This reflects the results of research undertaken at that time. The total number of aircraft authorised to land within the park at any one time should therefore be limited to the 1995 level of 13. This included nine rotary-wing

aircraft and four fixed-wing ski planes. Three of the ski planes operated from Aoraki/Mount Cook and did not fly through the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* or Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuauwe* valleys.

It is recommended to the Minister that landing opportunities for additional aircraft (more than the 1995 level of 13 aircraft) should only be granted where:

- (a) the results of monitoring demonstrate that there is opportunity to increase the numbers of aircraft without 25% or greater of visitors on the glacier valley floor walks reporting annoyance with aircraft; and
- (b) the concession applicant or existing operator complies with all relevant legislation and the relevant objectives and policies of this plan;
- (c) the Minister authorises additional aircraft to land within the park in accordance with policies 4.4.3(a) or (f);
or
- (d) additional aircraft are required to service existing guiding concessionaires who can no longer access the lower glaciers on foot due to glacier changes.

Where a concession applicant proposes to operate a type of aircraft within the park which is different from existing authorised aircraft, the applicant will be required to demonstrate that that aircraft will not create a greater adverse effect than the existing aircraft types. This acknowledges the advances which existing operators have made to reduce the noise of their aircraft and seeks to ensure that these advances are not lost.

The monitoring of aircraft impacts within the park shall be in accordance with guidelines in *The Effects of Aircraft Overflights on Recreationists in Natural Settings* 1997 (K.L. Booth, N.C. Jones and P.J. Devlin, Lincoln University) or other guidelines approved in writing by the Minister.

Landing opportunity concessions may be publicly offered through inviting applications when existing concessions terminate or where the results of monitoring indicate that additional aircraft could be permitted to land within the park without creating an unacceptable adverse effect. Where the results of this monitoring indicate that the level of adverse effects is unacceptable, i.e. 25% or greater of visitors on the glacier valley floor walks reporting annoyance with aircraft, the Department will recommend to the Minister that new landing opportunity concessions should not be granted.

Where landing opportunity concessions are publicly offered through inviting applications, each concession application received will be assessed and scored against weighted attributes which will be advised at the time of notification and which include, but are not limited to:

1. qualifications and standards. The applicant meeting CAA rules including part 119 and 135 requirements of the CAA rules or other such standards as CAA may require.
2. measures which a concession applicant may undertake to reduce adverse effects of their aircraft on the park and park visitors. Such examples may include new technologies or CAA approved flying practices.
3. previous track record. Where a concession application is received from an operator who has previously operated within the park, particular regard shall be had to any efforts undertaken to mitigate the adverse effects of their aircraft on park visitors. Where a concession application is received from an operator who has not operated within the park previously, evidence should be sought from the applicant which demonstrates efforts undertaken to mitigate the adverse effects of their aircraft to ensure that they are at least as good as the best existing operator.

Landing opportunities may be traded between existing concessionaires with the written consent of the Department in accordance with legislative requirements.

Approved landing sites are those set out in tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this plan.

It is recommended that each landing opportunity concession be limited to a term not exceeding 10-years to enable the results of monitoring to be incorporated into concessions where necessary.

M4.4.3(c)(ii) - It is essential that the effects of aircraft are closely monitored on an ongoing basis. Where there is more than one concessionaire, operators should share the cost of the monitoring that reflects each concessionaire's level of aircraft activity.

M4.4.3(d)(i) - Following consultation with the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft Users Group during the review of this plan, the user group confirmed that if the Department indicated those areas of the park which it would prefer aircraft to avoid or to fly high over, it would seek to address these concerns. It was agreed during the preparation of this plan that, when safe to do so, aircraft would pursue a policy of high and wide flight over summits along the Main Divide, any climbers seen en route, and the remote experience zones in the park. Aircraft would also adhere to the user groups agreed flying procedures for the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys, when safe to do so.

To ensure that other areas of concern can be identified throughout the life of this plan, any complaints received by the Department regarding aircraft operating in or over the park shall be forwarded in writing to the chairperson of the user group and a copy put on the relevant file (the names and addresses of complainants should be deleted unless they agree otherwise). The user group has confirmed that it will treat all complaints seriously and will address concerns raised.

The Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft Users Group and CAA have invested considerable time and effort in the review of this plan and have viewed the Department's concerns professionally. This professional relationship will be fostered.

M4.4.3(d)(ii) - Concessionaires' compliance with the user group's environmental policy will ensure that all concessionaires authorised to land within the park will be aware of the user group and their procedures for flying within the park. These flight paths and heights have been established not only for safety but to mitigate the adverse effects of aircraft on park visitors.

M4.4.3(d)(iii) - A non-aircraft industry representative should be nominated to attend a minimum of two user group meetings per year. The representative should have a sound conservation awareness and the ability to take an open minded approach to the solving of conservation issues. The representative's primary role would be to voice public conservation concerns and assist in the resolution of these concerns where possible. The primary role of the user group is to address operational and safety issues. Conservation issues are addressed where safety is not compromised. The participation of the representative in the workings of the user group will require the agreement of the group. Nominations for the representative are to be considered by the Conservator.

M4.4.3(f) - Aircraft authorised to operate within the park for the purposes of commercial wild animal control are likely to hover or land in areas outside of approved landing sites. It is therefore important that the Department and the user group know when aircraft will be operating for wild animal control purposes within the park.

The concessionaire will be required to notify the Department and the user group of the aircraft to be used, the location where the flying will occur and the approximate times they will be operating within the park each month. The Department shall record the aircraft movements and aircraft registration and make this information available to the public through the Franz Josef *Watau* and Fox Glacier visitor centres.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

Section 2.1.1 Aircraft

Westland National Park By-laws 1981 - section 10

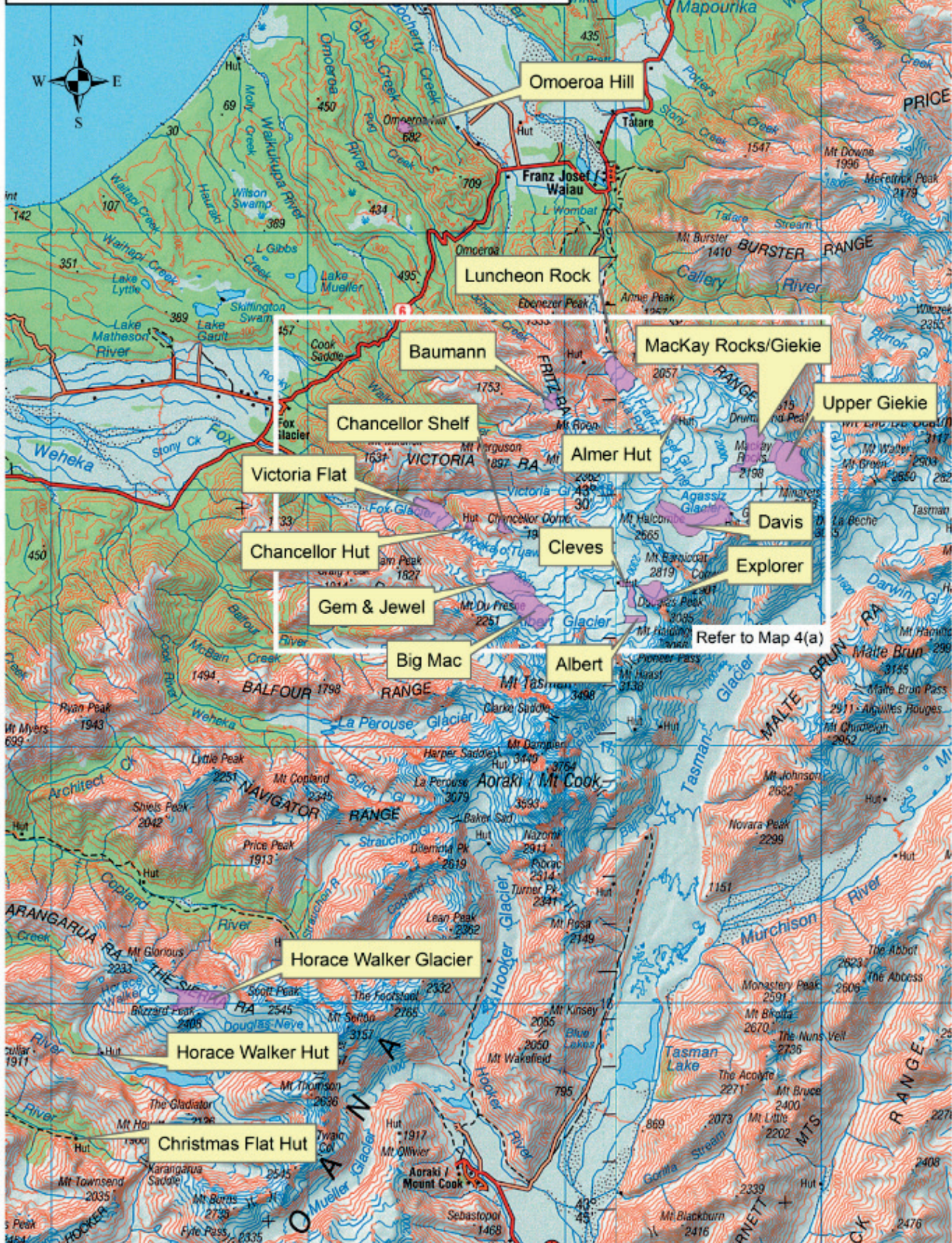
General Policy for National Parks 2005

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park

Map 4 : Approved Aircraft Landing Sites

5 2.5 0 5 Kilometers

Scale 1:200,000



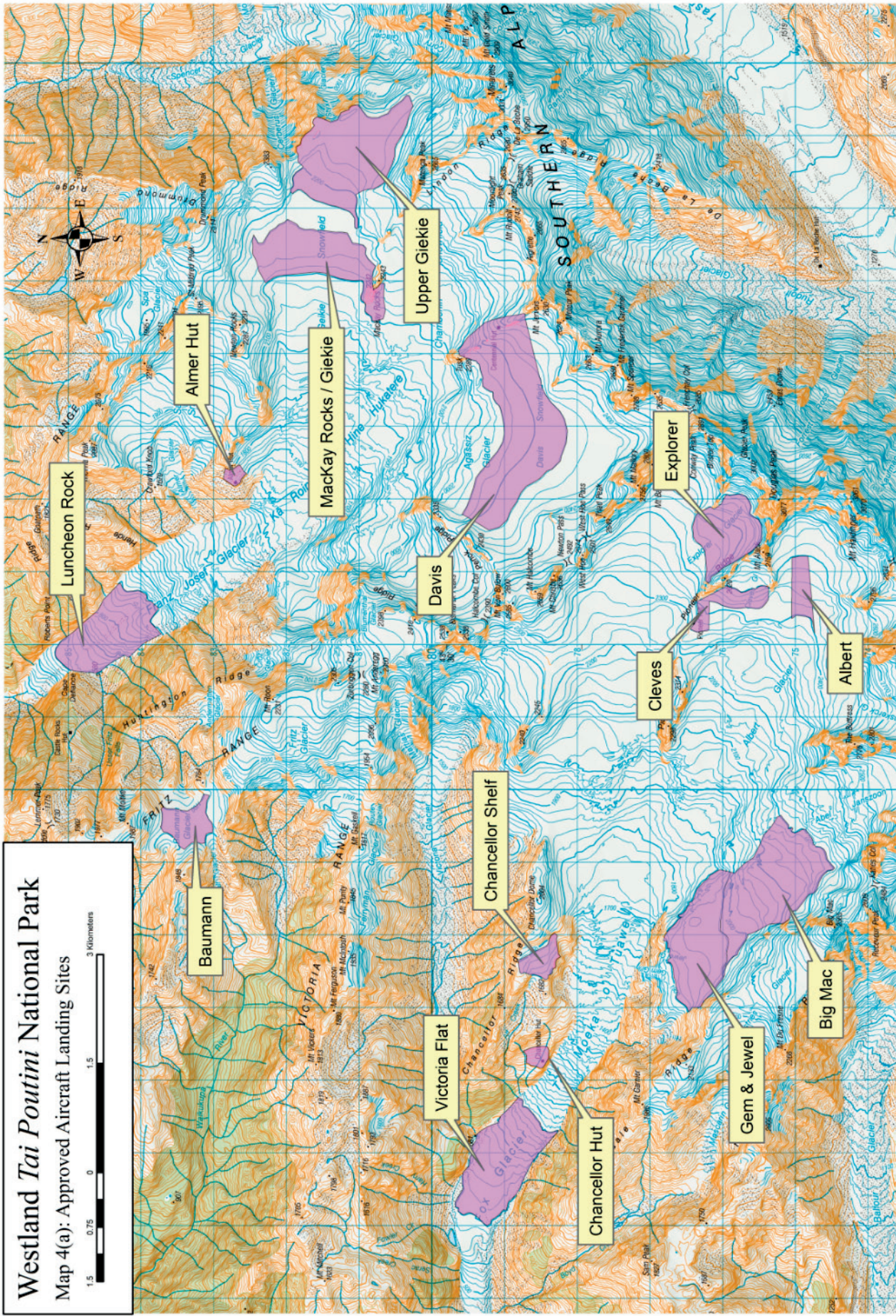


TABLE 5: FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER KA ROIMATA O HINE HUKATERE AIRCRAFT LANDING SITES

Refer to Map 4(a). Permitted uses are for regular landings only. Other one-off landings may be permitted at all landing sites in accordance with the policies of this plan.

LANDING SITE	UPPER GIEKIE	GIEKIE TO MACKAY ROCKS	DAVIS
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities		
Altitude	2200 metres	2100-2160 metres	2240-2400 metres
Description	Neve, peaks, permanent snow	Neve, peaks, crevasses, permanent snow	Neve, peaks, crevasses, permanent snow
Recreational Use	Mountaineering/ski touring, sight seeing	Mountaineering/ski touring, sight seeing	Mountaineering/ski touring, sight seeing
Purpose	To enable visitors to experience the park's alpine areas in natural quiet. Aircraft landing at this site will be required to shutdown on landing	To enable visitors to experience the park's alpine areas	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for climbing, ski touring activities, access to Centennial Hut and scenic flights

Permitted Uses	Scenic flights ² , positioning of recreationalists	Scenic flights, positioning of recreationalists	Positioning of recreationists, and only for scenic flight landings by fixed wing aircraft at times when the Upper Giekie is inaccessible (when fixed wing aircraft landing will be required to shut down on landing)
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² A scenic flight involves an aircraft landing on the upper glaciers, and passengers disembark and are accompanied by the pilot for a duration of approximately ten minutes.

LANDING SITE	ALMER HUT	BAUMANN	LUNCHEON ROCK
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities		
Altitude	1700-1800 metres	1700 metres	600-900 metres
Description	Shattered rock ridge, semi-permanent snow	Neve, permanent snow	Glacier
Recreational use	Mountaineering/ski touring	Mountaineering/ski touring, sight seeing	Ice climbing, mountain-craft instruction, hiking
Purpose	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for climbing, ski touring and access to Almer Hutt	To enable visitors to experience the park's alpine areas	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for helihiking ³ and alpine instruction
Permitted Uses	Positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)	Scenic flights, positioning of recreationists	Helihiking, positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)

TABLE 6: FOX GLACIER TE MOEKA O TUAWAE AIRCRAFT LANDING SITES

Refer to Map 4(A).

LANDING SITE	ALBERT	CLEVES	EXPLORER
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities		
Altitude	2400-2500 metres	2300-2500 metres	2440-2600 metres
Description	Neve, peaks, crevasses, permanent snow	Neve, peaks, crevasses, permanent snow	Neve, peaks, crevasses, permanent snow
Recreational use	Mountaineering/ski touring	Mountaineering/ski touring, access to Pioneer Hut	Mountaineering/ski touring
Purpose	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for climbing, ski touring and access to Pioneer Hut	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for climbing, ski touring and access to Pioneer Hut	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for climbing, ski touring and access to Pioneer Hut
Permitted Uses	Positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)	Positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)	Positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)

LANDING SITE	BIG MAC	GEM AND JEWEL	CHANCELLOR SHELF
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities		
Altitude	1900-2200 metres	1900-2000 metres	1700-1800 metres
Description	Neve, peaks, crevasses	Neve, peaks, crevasses	Permanent snowfield
Recreational use	Mountaineering/ski touring, sightseeing	Mountaineering/ski touring, sightseeing	Mountaineering/ski touring, sightseeing
Purpose	To enable visitors to experience the park's alpine areas	To enable visitors to experience the park's alpine areas in natural quiet. Aircraft landing at this site will be required to shutdown during the period from 1 August to 1 December each year	To enable visitors to experience the park's alpine areas
Permitted Uses	Scenic flights, positioning of recreationists	Scenic flights, positioning of recreationists	Scenic flights, positioning of recreationists

³ Helihiking is the use of a helicopter to transport visitors to an approved landing site on the lower glaciers (Luncheon Rock and Victoria Flat) where passengers disembark and the passengers complete a guided walk.

LANDING SITE	VICTORIA FLAT	CHANCELLOR HUT
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities	
Altitude	700-900 metres	1200-1300 metres
Description	Glacier	Alpine vegetation
Recreational use	Ice climbing, mountain-craft instruction, hiking, filming	Transit point for mountaineering/ski touring
Purpose	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for helihiking and alpine instruction	To enable visitors to be positioned within the park for climbing, ski touring and access to Chancellor Hut
Permitted Uses	Helihiking, positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)	Positioning of recreationists (excludes scenic flights)

TABLE 7: KARANGARUA VALLEY AIRCRAFT LANDING SITES

Refer to Map 4

LANDING SITE	HORACE WALKER GLACIER	HORACE WALKER HUT	CHRISTMAS FLAT HUT
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities		
Altitude	2100-2300 metres	914 metres	762 metres
Description	Neve, peaks, crevasses, permanent snow	Subalpine, glacial lake, terminal moraine	Subalpine
Recreational Use	Mountaineering/ski touring, sight seeing	Hunting, tramping	Hunting, tramping
Purpose	To enable visitors to be experience the park's alpine areas in natural quiet. Aircraft landing at this site will be required to shutdown on landing	To enable visitors to be positioned for hunting and tramping and access to Horace Walker Hut	To enable visitors to be positioned for hunting and tramping and access to Christmas Flat Hut
Permitted Uses	Scenic flights, positioning of recreationalists	Positioning of recreationalists	Positioning of recreationalists

Table 8: Utility Landing Sites.

<i>LANDING SITE</i>	<i>OMOEROA HILL</i>	<i>APPROVED UTILITIES</i>
Visitor setting	Back country with facilities	All visitor settings
Altitude	682 metres	
Description	Subalpine	
Recreational Use	Hunting, tramping	
Purpose	To enable access to the Omoeroa Hill utility site	To permit essential works to be undertaken on approved utilities (refer to policy 4.4.14)
Permitted uses	Servicing of utility	Servicing of utilities - One-off approved landings

4.4.4 Glacier Guiding

This policy relates specifically to guiding on the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* below the 900-metre contour lines. In particular, it relates to the assessment of new applications for concessions to conduct guiding activities on the glaciers or reviews or variations of existing concession conditions. It does not affect concessions or licences existing at the date of approval of this plan unless they are subject to review or variation.

Policies

4.4.4(a)

Recommend to the Minister that there be:

- (i) - no more than 450 clients permitted to access by foot and be guided on the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* below the 900-metre contour line per day;
- (ii) - no more than 450 clients permitted to access by foot and be guided on the Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* below the 900-metre contour line per day;

NOTE: The number of clients able to access the glaciers in accordance with Policy 4.4.3(b)(ii) is not included in the 450 guided clients permitted on any one glacier per day (see Policy 4.4.3(b)(ii)).

4.4.4(b)

Applications to carry out glacier guiding on the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* may be publicly invited, through a tender process, when existing concessions or licences terminate. Recommend to the Minister that the term of any glacier guiding concession granted should not exceed 10 years and not include rights of renewal.

Explanation

P4.4.4(a)(i) and (ii) - The Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* are continually changing as they advance and recede. At times ease of access to the glaciers and travel over them is excellent; at other times the glaciers can become inaccessible.

Current climatic conditions, including warmer temperatures and lean snow years, indicate that both glaciers are likely to recede during the term of this plan. Since 2008, the glaciers have receded and access has become increasingly difficult. When authorising concessionaires to operate glacier guiding the Department should consider cumulative effects, in particular congestion and crowding, and safety issues, should it be necessary for groups to descend rapidly off the glacier.

In addition to the above, research undertaken on the visitors accessing the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* below the 900-metre contour line in the 2009 summer season indicated that there is an emerging level of crowding. Results showed 43% of guided visitors reported some degree of crowding. This research was undertaken at a time when there could be up to 450 visitors being guided on the glaciers in any one day. It could not yet be said that a crowding problem exists on either glacier but this may change with any increase in social or physical impacts resulting from increasing numbers of visitors. The Department is therefore taking a precautionary approach by recommending to the Minister that:

- the two glaciers have a similar carrying capacity; and
- the number of guided visitors be limited to 450 per glacier per day (excluding heli-hike trips), until such time as further research suggests that a change to this number is justified and/or required, so that there is no increase in adverse impacts or reduction in safety standards.

The Department should also negotiate with existing concessionaires to establish per-trip limits to ensure that guided numbers are more evenly spread throughout the day. This will help to avoid the large morning guided groups and relatively small afternoon guided groups.

The Department does not wish to see crowding levels become as significant on the glaciers as it has in other areas of the park.

Given that the Department is not able to impose restrictions on existing concessions granted prior to Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987, the Department will recommend that the Minister ensures, when considering new applications, reviews or variations for glacier guiding concessions, that the limit of 450 clients per day per glacier is not exceeded.

P4.4.4(a) NOTE: The number of clients able to access the glaciers in accordance with Policy 4.4.3(b)(ii) is not included in the overall numbers of clients guided on the glaciers as these groups use different areas at different times, meaning effects can be managed separately and inter-group conflicts minimised.

P4.4.4(b) - To ensure that there are fair and reasonable opportunities for companies to undertake glacier guiding within the park, the Department may publicly tender concession opportunities as they become available. A term of 10 years with no renewal rights will be recommended to the Minister to allow companies the opportunity to access the park and ensure that the allocation of opportunities between companies is reviewed from time to time.

Method

4.4.4(a)

Process concession applications for glacier guiding in accordance with concession policy 4.4.2, the objectives and other policies of this plan, particularly policies 4.4.4(a) and (b), and the following criteria:

- (i) the backcountry with facilities visitor management setting criteria together with any relevant research findings;
- (ii) the minimisation of the visual effects of maintained glacier access routes on the terminal face of the glacier visible from the valley floor;
- (iii) the applicant's guide training programme must be endorsed by the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association or other appropriate body;
- (iv) the extent to which the applicant's policies and safety plans provide for the safe use of access tracks to and routes over the glacier, and provide a high quality customer experience.

Explanation

M4.4.4(a)(i) - As set out in section 1.3.11.1(b), it is important that concessionaires do not dominate the visitor management setting. Keeping group sizes to a maximum of 15 people, including guides, is important to prevent this. Note that this does not apply to the groups as they move through the intense interest sites in the glacier valleys.

M4.4.4(a)(ii) - Access routes can impact on the natural appearance of the terminal faces of the glaciers. To ensure that the park is maintained in its natural state for the appreciation, use and enjoyment of the public, the number of maintained glacier access routes visible on the terminal faces should be kept to a minimum. More than two maintained access routes visible on the terminal face of the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* or Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* is likely to have undesirable adverse effects on natural appearance.

M4.4.4(a)(iii) - The glaciers are acknowledged as hazardous places and the majority of visitors guided onto them will not have the skills to safely walk on the ice by themselves. It is necessary that the guides responsible for each group be appropriately trained. A concession applicant should have a training programme for its guides endorsed by the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association or other appropriate body.

M4.4.4(a)(iv) - Movement and change in the glaciers dictate the viability of access routes. It is expected that, at times, only one access route will be able to be maintained.

More than one glacier access track along the valley walls is likely to cause further adverse impacts on the park's natural values. This is of particular concern in the glacier valleys as the glaciers advance and recede given that the

succession of vegetation in the valleys is unique. For this reason, it is recommended to the Minister that only one access track should be permitted.

Where a tender process is to be used, the applications will be assessed on, but not limited to, the above four criteria. Concession fees will be set in accordance with the Department's standard operating procedure and will not be the primary consideration of tender.

Reference:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

4.4.5 Alpine Guiding

This policy refers to guiding above 900 metres. Alpine guiding applications are processed in accordance with the concessions general policy 4.4.2. of this plan.

Policy

4.4.5

Consider applications for alpine guiding concessions within the park subject, but not limited to:

at least one guide per guided group shall hold a relevant recognised industry qualification or relevant experience;
and

the applicant's ability to mitigate any adverse effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values.

Explanation

P4.4.5(i) - Professional alpine guides provide for a greater public use and enjoyment of the park than might otherwise be obtained. They provide the skills and experience necessary to guide clients through some of New Zealand's most challenging alpine terrain. In addition, clients gain an appreciation of park values and often learn the necessary skills to undertake alpine activities themselves. Due to the nature of the park's alpine conditions it is essential that alpine guides are appropriately qualified. The New Zealand Mountain Guides Association currently certifies guides and can advise of suitable standards. Where a concession applicant does not hold an industry qualification but has considerable alpine experience, the views of the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association or another suitably qualified body should be sought and considered in the processing of the application.

P4.4.5(ii) - The park's alpine areas are pristine and attract a significant number of visitors each year. In processing a concession application consideration needs to be given to minimising the effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values. This may include:

ensuring that no rubbish is left in the park;

setting group sizes which do not dominate the visitor management settings or facilities;

keeping use of aircraft to a minimum necessary to guide in the park;

using the correct settlement place names, where relevant, in promotional material, as set out in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

4.4.6 Guiding General

Policies

4.4.6(a)

Consider applications for guiding concessions within the park subject, but not limited to, the following criteria:

the proposed operation's consistency with the visitor management setting(s) within which the activity is to be undertaken;

where appropriate, at least one guide per guided group should hold a relevant recognised industry qualification or has relevant experience.

- the applicant's ability, where relevant, to provide accurate interpretation on park values.

4.4.6(b)

It is recommended to the Minister that concessionaires authorised to operate within the Copland Valley be administered on a booking system between 30 November and 1 May each year, and that only one concessionaire group be permitted to stay at Welcome Flat Hut or associated camping areas on any one night.

Explanation

P4.4.6(a)(i) - Guiding enables park visitors to experience new activities. For example, park visitors may participate in an interpretive walk of the park's lowland areas to learn about indigenous plants and animals as well as natural features and how those features were formed. This is a valuable opportunity but one which the Department is not likely to provide itself.

When assessing applications for guiding, consideration should be given to the visitor management setting(s) within which the activity is to occur. It is important that concession activities are consistent with and do not dominate this setting(s).

P4.4.6(a)(ii) - Industry qualifications/standards for concession activities are still being established. Where an industry standard has been set the Department should encourage this, or equivalent relevant experience, as a minimum standard for concessionaires operating in the park. Such standards may include an applicant putting guides through a training programme which is endorsed by the professional body or other appropriate organisation. This will help to ensure that visitors are purchasing a professional service when guided within the park.

Where no industry qualification exists, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that they have the necessary experience to competently undertake the activity. This may require an independent assessment.

P4.4.6(a)(iii) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu require, in accordance with the Protocol for historic resources, that where concessionaires are proposing to provide interpretive material on values of significance to Ngāi Tahu, they consult with Ngāi Tahu to ensure that this information is provided accurately.

P4.4.6(b) - This policy does not apply to existing alpine guiding concessionaires who typically guide climbers in the park and operate in groups of less than five people. The policy will apply at such time as these concessions are renewed.

Track and hut statistics for Welcome Flat identify an overcrowding issue. Welcome Flat Hut is receiving high use for the period from November through to May each year with overcrowding being experienced from December to February and again in April. A restriction on concessionaire use is recommended to help reduce crowding during this period.

Any one concessionaire may book two nights in any seven-day period, a maximum of eight nights in any one calendar month for the restricted season (November - May). Bookings will be accepted up to one year in advance.

This does not enable a concessionaire to book bunk space but simply ensures that only one concessionaire will be at Welcome Flat on any one night.

Changes to these restrictions should only be made where supported by research or as part of the introduction of a full booking system. For example, if the hut is upgraded and visitor numbers no longer exceed the capacity then the concessionaire restrictions could be relaxed. However, further restrictions may need to be imposed should overcrowding remain an issue.

Method

4.4.6(b)

Applications to guide into Welcome Flat may be publicly invited, through a tender process, as existing concessions terminate. The Department will recommend to the Minister that the term of the concessions should not exceed 5 years and not include rights of renewal.

Explanation

M4.4.6(b) - To ensure that there are fair and reasonable opportunities for companies to undertake guiding into Welcome Flat, the Department may publicly tender the concession opportunity when it becomes available. A term not exceeding 5 years, with no renewal rights, will be recommended to the Minister to allow companies the opportunity to tender for the concession opportunity. Conditions of tender will include but not be limited to:

Suitability of the applicant to undertake the activity;

Ability to mitigate against the effect of the activity.

Concession fees will be set in accordance with the Department's standard operating procedure and will not be the primary condition of tender.

Reference:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

4.4.7 Promotional Activities and Filming

All filming within the park for commercial purposes requires a concession (refer to policy 4.4.2. for general concession provisions).

Policies

4.4.7(a)

Consider commercial or promotional activities and filming in the park in accordance with relevant legislation where their adverse effects can be adequately be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

4.4.7(b)

Ensure that all filming permitted within the park is consistent with the visitor management setting and recommend to the Minister that it be restricted to existing access including the approved landing areas set out in tables 5-8 of this plan. All other policies and objectives shall apply where relevant.

Explanation

P4.4.7(a) - Applications for promotional activities and filming within the park may be considered where they:

- comply with relevant legislation;
- conform with all other policies of this plan;
- do not suggest that their products are endorsed by Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park.

The name of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park should not be used explicitly or by implication to promote goods or services other than those that are specifically related to the use and enjoyment of the park itself. It is considered acceptable, however, to use the features of the park to promote appropriate commercial activities that relate directly to the park and are not inconsistent with other uses of the park or the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980.

Any promotion of visitor use within the glacier valleys should encourage people to visit during off-peak times. Spreading visitor use throughout all four seasons of the year should help to reduce visitor pressure at peak times.

P4.4.7(b) - Filming within the park should be consistent with the visitor management setting(s) and restricted to existing access to minimise effects on other park users. Where an application is received to land aircraft outside of approved landing sites, the Department will recommend to the Minister that this should only be permitted if it is considered that the filming will benefit the preservation of the park. Where such landings are approved the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group is to be notified.

Reference:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

4.4.8 Research and Visitor Monitoring

All research undertaken within the park requires a concession other than that specifically for park management purposes (refer to policy 4.4.2. for general concession provisions).

Policies

4.4.8 (a)

Encourage and undertake research, in accordance with relevant legislation, for the benefit of park management and/or knowledge in general, provided that such research does not detract from the protection of the park's natural, historic and cultural values.

4.4.8 (b)

Monitor Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park for any social and/or physical impacts of visitor use throughout the term of this plan.

Explanation

P4.4.8(a) - Research can have far-reaching benefits for effective management of the park. Research that has little or no impact on the environment of the park may be carried out in accordance with the other policies and objectives of this plan. The Department shall request a copy of all research reports undertaken in the park.

Research projects that propose modification to natural features, erection of facilities or the removal of animals or vegetation from the park will be assessed in relation to the contribution they can make to the management of the park.

Priorities include further research into ecosystems, vegetation and the physical and social impacts caused by visitor use - e.g. research on users of the glaciers, including their expectations and perceptions of the level of use on the glaciers.

Applications to undertake research should be lodged with the Department at least one month prior to the proposed research commencing. This enables the proposal to be assessed to ensure that it can be undertaken in the park without causing an adverse effect on the park's natural, historic or cultural values or on park visitors.

Whereas researchers have the free right of access of the general public, prior approval is required to collect samples, erect structures and use aircraft access outside of approved landing areas.

Where a Government Department proposes to undertake questionnaire surveys of the general public, written prior approval is required from the Minister of Statistics in accordance with section 6 of the Statistics Act 1975.

P4.4.8(b) - The Department has a visitor monitoring plan which is updated annually. The plan prescribed the following social monitoring for Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park in 2000:

- (i) Monitoring of crowding and impacts of aircraft noise on visitors in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* valley;
- (ii) Monitoring of the impacts of aircraft noise on visitors in the Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valley;
- (iii) Recording of visitor use at the following sites:
 - Glacier access roads at Franz Josef *Waiau* and Fox Glacier;
 - Franz Josef *Waiau* and Fox Glacier visitor information centres;
 - Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valley tracks;
 - Lake Matheson and the Copland Valley.

This monitoring is critical to enable the park to be effectively managed and should therefore be carried out no less than annually for the term of this plan.

In addition to the above, monitoring will also be carried out in the Copland Valley to determine the visitor carrying capacity of the track and specifically Welcome Flat Hut, the hot pools and associated camping areas. The monitoring will focus on adverse effects to the natural and historic resources at the site as well as social issues such as crowding and user conflict.

It is important that any methodology used for monitoring purposes is well designed and tested prior to use, and that the methodology is strictly adhered to during monitoring to ensure that all survey results are reliable. These results can then be used confidently to assist in effective park management.

Methods

4.4.8(a)

(i)

Process applications for research in accordance with the concession provisions and all other relevant objectives and policies of this plan. Refer to policy 4.4.2.

(ii)

When assessing applications for collection permits, confirm with the relevant area office that the species/sample can be collected.

(iii)

If a taonga species is sought policy 4.1.1(c) shall apply.

Explanation

M4.4.8(a)(i) - The taking of samples for scientific purposes can have adverse effects on park values. Applications for collecting purposes are best assessed through the concessions process as this allows for an assessment to be made of possible adverse effects. It also allows conditions to be placed on the activity to avoid, remedy or mitigate any potential adverse effects.

If the effects of collecting samples become unacceptable in specific areas of the park then the Department will recommend to the Minister that any further request to collect samples from these areas be declined until such time as the Minister considers appropriate.

M4.4.8(a)(ii) - Specific collecting sites can be placed under considerable pressure, possibly degrading the sites and even significantly impacting on the well-being of a species. Where this is thought to be occurring within the park, collecting permits should not be issued for that site and/or species/sample. The site, species/sample should only be made available for collecting purposes again when it has been reassessed and has sufficiently recovered to allow the activity.

M4.4.8(a)(iii) - Where a species to be collected is a taonga species, policy 4.1.1(c) shall apply.

Reference:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policies 8.6, 8.7, 8.8 and policy section 15

4.4.9 Military Manoeuvres and Exercises

Policy

4.4.9

Allow military use of the park in accordance with the 1990 Defence Training Agreement.

Explanation

The Department and the New Zealand Defence Force are parties to a Defence Training Agreement signed 8 March 1990. The agreement provides for military training on state areas, as defined by the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and includes land administered by the Department subject to conditions to protect natural and historic values and the experience of visitors.

Military manoeuvres and exercises are generally considered to be incompatible with the natural values of the park. However, occasions may arise where it is important for the wider national interest that areas within the park are available for training in particular skills, such as climbing.

The military has provided valuable assistance to park management in the past - e.g. with the replacement of Pioneer Hut in 1999. These exercises are clearly of benefit to the park and park visitors.

Method

4.4.9

When assessing the appropriateness of a military exercise, have particular regard to the consistency of the exercise with the visitor management setting(s) in which it is to occur and any adverse effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values.

Explanation

This plan identifies values of importance to Ngāi Tahu and recommends when consultation should be undertaken. If there is any doubt as to whether a proposed military exercise will impact on Ngāi Tahu values, consultation should be undertaken with Papatipu Rūnanga and where appropriate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. In addition to considering effects on natural and historic values, it is important that particular regard is had to the experience characteristics of the visitor management setting(s) in which the military exercise is to occur. For example, the remote experience setting is managed to provide for a remote experience opportunity. Group sizes of concessionaires are restricted to a maximum of eight people and the landing of aircraft will generally not be permitted. A military exercise involving considerable personnel would be inconsistent with this setting and would be likely to adversely impact on other visitors to that setting.

A particular exercise could, however, be an exception if it were authorised by the Minister, in writing, as being for park management purposes or clearly for the wider national interest.

Where military exercises are likely to involve the use of park huts or facilities administered by the New Zealand Alpine Club, the club should be notified prior to the activity taking place.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy 32

Military Training Agreement 1990

4.4.10 Grazing and Stock Fencing

Policy

4.4.10

Protect the park's natural and historic resources from any adverse effects of grazing.

Explanation

Grazing has historically been undertaken in some parts of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. Many of the grazing areas have been professionally managed to minimise any adverse effects on park values.

The natural and historic resources which are at greatest risk from grazing include riparian margins, wetlands, forest understorey, forest margins and archaeological sites. Any adverse effects on these values should be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

The Department may require that grazing areas be fenced by the concessionaire. The Department may also enter into fencing agreements with adjoining landowners where it is necessary to prevent stock from entering the park.

Concessionaires moving stock will be required to maintain adequate control of the animals so that they do not stray while travelling to and from grazing areas. This may require the use of temporary fencing to guide stock where specific values are at risk.

Grazing concessions do not restrict the right of foot access through the park by the general public.

Section 51 of the National Parks Act 1980 applies to farming land and grazing within a national park that, in the public interest, should continue to be farmed or grazed. In accordance with this plan, the Minister may grant grazing concessions over land to which section 51 applies where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values. Grazing concessions should normally be for a term of 5 years as specified in policy 12.1(vii) of the General Policy for National Parks 1983.

Method

4.4.10

Include, at the Minister's discretion, a clause in grazing concessions requiring that monitoring be scheduled at set intervals throughout the term of the concession and that the concessionaire pay the monitoring costs.

Explanation

Grazing can prevent the natural succession of indigenous plants and can cause considerable damage to habitats, particularly wetlands and waterways. To ensure that there are no adverse effects on the park's natural and historic resources it may be necessary for the Department to undertake regular monitoring. The frequency of this monitoring may be set for each grazing area by the Department.

Where contribution towards the cost of monitoring is sought from a concessionaire, the amount should be fair and reasonable and be set in consultation with the concessionaire.

Where there are found to be adverse effects of grazing which cannot be adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated, the grazing area should be retired.

Reference:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 12

4.4.11 Mining Operations

Policy

4.4.11

Assess applications for access arrangements for mining operations in accordance with the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Explanation

Mining operations has the same meaning as that provided in the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Minerals are owned by the Crown (with the exception of pounamu, the ownership rights of which have been vested to Ngāi Tahu). The Minister of Energy is responsible for granting rights to minerals. The Minister of Conservation, as landowner, has the responsibility for granting access for the purpose of prospecting, exploration and mining before these activities can be undertaken within the park. Applicants seeking an access arrangement over the park need to notify the Minister in writing as set out in section 59 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with section 61 of that Act.

On receiving any notice for an access arrangement for a national park the Minister of Conservation is required to consult with the New Zealand Conservation Authority in accordance with section 18A of the National Parks Act 1980. The Department will also consult with Papatipu Rūnanga and where appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

As set out in section 1.2.7 of this plan, mining is only permitted in those limited circumstances defined in the Crown Minerals Act 1991 as amended by the Crown Minerals Amendment Act (no.2) 1997. These provisions list specific criteria which must be considered as part of the application including when access arrangements may be granted.

Gold fossicking is permitted by the Crown Minerals Act 1991 within gazetted gold fossicking areas, designated by notice in The New Zealand Gazette. At the time of publication of this management plan there was one designated gold fossicking area within Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park in accordance with section 98 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. The area is the Waiho gold fossicking area 11 and is published in the New Zealand Gazette 1996 page 3071. It is located in the bed of the Waiho River and runs from the confluence of the Callery and Waiho rivers down to the State Highway 6 bridge.

References:

Crown Minerals Act 1991

Ngāi Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997

National Parks Act 1980

4.4.12 Shingle and Rock Removal

Policies

4.4.12(a)

Permit shingle and rock removal from approved sites within the park for the essential construction and maintenance of State Highway 6 adjoining or within close proximity to the park where no other suitable sites are available.

4.4.12(b)

Permit shingle and rock removal from approved sites within the park for building, roading, river protection works and/or maintenance purposes on land administered by the Crown.

Explanation

P4.4.12(a) - The dynamic nature of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park with its high rainfall, active glaciers and frequent rockfall results in huge volumes of rock and shingle being swept down the river valleys towards the coast. In a number of areas it is possible to extract this dynamic rock and shingle from areas outside of active riverbeds without causing any adverse effects on the park. The Minister may permit the removal of rock and shingle from approved sites within the park for essential works on State Highway 6 either immediately adjoining or within close proximity to the park in the absence of any other suitable source. The process for considering applications for rock and shingle removal is set out in Method 4.4.12(a).

P4.4.12(b) - The provisions of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 enable the Department to remove shingle and rock for building and/or maintenance purposes on land administered by the Crown.

Shingle and gravel may be used for the construction and maintenance of park roads and other park facilities in accordance with the conditions set out in Method 4.4.12(a).

Method

4.4.12(a)

All rock and shingle removal shall be subject to the following process and conditions in addition to any other conditions that the Minister may require at the time.

- (a) Applications for the removal of shingle and rock from the park will be processed as a concession. The onus will be on the applicant to demonstrate to the Department that no other practical rock or shingle extraction site exists outside of the park.
- (b) An assessment of environmental effects shall be undertaken for each potential extraction site, in accordance with the Department's standard operating procedure, prior to any site(s) being approved for extraction, and appropriate conditions shall be established accordingly.
- (c) Consultation with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu through its Papatipu Rūnanga will be undertaken before extraction sites are determined.
- (d) Established access should be used. Where established access cannot be used, the Minister may authorise alternative access.
- (e) All rock and shingle should be removed from areas at least 20 metres away from surface water or the active bed of rivers. If works are undertaken within waterways, the appropriate consents must be obtained from the consent authority.
- (f) No machinery or fuel is to be stored in the riverbed.

- (g) The site is to be restored to its natural state, to the satisfaction of the Department, on completion of the approved works.

Explanation

M4.4.12(a) - Policy 4.4.2 sets out the process for the consideration of a concession. The use of this process will ensure that requests for the removal of shingle and rock will undergo the appropriate tests to ensure that the effects on the park are minimised.

The use of the Department's standard operating procedure for the assessment of environmental effects will ensure that park values at each possible extraction site will be clearly identified. This is particularly important for the glacier valleys as the indigenous vegetation is of high significance. Sites should only be approved for extraction if adverse effects on the park's natural, historic and cultural values can be avoided.

Consultation with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu through its Papatipu Rūnanga is to be undertaken before shingle and rock extraction sites are determined. This acknowledges the significance of shingle and rock to Ngāi Tahu.

A land use resource consent will not be required from the consent authority in accordance with section 4 of the Resource Management Act 1991 providing that the activity is a work required by the Crown and that it does not have any significant adverse effects beyond the boundary of lands administered by the Department. Where there is any doubt whether or not consent is required, the relevant consent authority should be contacted.

Locations of approved extraction sites will be held by the area offices based in Franz Josef *Waiiau* and Fox Glacier.

References:

Crown Minerals Act 1991

Crown Minerals Amendment Act (No. 2) 1997

4.4.13 Hydroelectric Power

Policy

4.4.13

Consider applications for small-scale hydroelectric power generation in accordance with relevant legislation.

Explanation

Applications for small-scale hydroelectric power generation may be considered, in accordance with relevant legislation, where the generating structures are located outside the park and water take is less than 5% of the five-year low flow of the stream/river from which the water is taken. Applications will be processed as a concession. Any other environmental impacts on the park's natural and historic values must be avoided, remedied or mitigated and provision should be made for fish passage if required.

New industrial development is incompatible with the natural state of national parks. The development of industrial hydroelectric facilities would therefore require the land to be removed from the park by Act of Parliament.

There are existing power stations on Lake Wahapō and Lake Gault. Any substantial development of these sites requiring further encroachment into the park would require the land to be removed from the park by Act of Parliament and subsequent compliance with Resource Management Act 1991 provisions.

Method

4.4.13

Consult with Papatipu Rūnanga, and where required or appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, from the early stages of proposed undertakings to develop hydroelectric power generation within the park.

Explanation

As set out in section 1.3.1.3 of this plan, waters of the park are of great significance to Ngāi Tahu. It is therefore appropriate that Ngāi Tahu be consulted with regard to the taking of park waters for the generation of hydroelectricity.

4.4.14 Utilities and Easements

Policy

4.4.14

- Recommend to the Minister that he/she allow utilities and easements in the park where:
- their purposes are essential for the public good and cannot reasonably be achieved outside the park;
- the use is not inconsistent with the park's visitor management setting(s) within or on which the utility or easement is to be located;
- their adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Explanation

- Utilities and easements include, but are not limited to:
- telecommunication sites;
- hydrological and weather stations;
- water supply and other pipelines;
- transmission lines and associated structures;
- dams, power generating facilities, storage lakes and associated roadways, structures and buildings;
- access ways (roads and tracks).

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park straddles South Westland from the Main Divide to the sea. As a result, the establishment of public utilities such as community water supply, telephone lines, transmission lines, radio and television transmitters and survey beacons have been unavoidable in the park.

The Department will recommend to the Minister that utilities or easements should only be permitted within the remote experience visitor management setting in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that the proposed activity will not have any adverse effects and where it is not possible to locate the utility elsewhere. The remote experience visitor management settings are managed as areas of minimal modification. The presence of utilities or other modifications are likely to have adverse effects on the park's natural values and on the visitor experience.

Roading to communication facilities is unlikely to be permitted; developments should be capable of construction and maintenance by helicopter. The Minister may approve one-off landings in the park for undertaking essential works to utilities in accordance with policy 4.4.3(b).

Solar power with standby batteries will be preferred for these facilities. Where electric supply is necessary it may be required to be placed underground.

The placement of survey monuments will be constrained to permanent ground marks. Beacons erected for particular projects should be removed when these projects are complete. Minimal clearing of vegetation will be permitted and should be carried out under the supervision of the Department.

Method

4.4.14

Process applications for utilities and easements in accordance with the general concession provisions in policy 4.4.2 and give effect to the following provisions:

Ensure that utilities are consistent with the relevant legislation, the visitor management setting criteria and the other policies and objectives of this plan.

New and existing telecommunication operators are to co-site on existing sites, where technically possible, and use designs that will minimise effects. This may require a concession provision requiring the operator to upgrade the site with improved technology as it becomes available.

Public access will be preserved except in exceptional circumstances where access conflicts with public safety.

The maintenance and construction of facilities will be carried out by whichever means has the least impact on the natural values of the park.

Removal of obsolete structures and buildings from the site as technology changes, and restoration of the sites if no longer used, will be required.

All sites will be kept in a clean, tidy and well-maintained state.

Sites subject to a concession will be kept to the minimum area necessary for the utility.

Explanation

Mountaintops, ridgelines and coastal lowland forests are prominent features of the park. The natural lines provide a sense of isolation for visitors. Visual impacts of proposed activities or developments require careful assessment to ensure that effects are minimised.

The utility provisions listed are to be considered in addition to the general concession provisions. They provide specific guidance to help minimise any potential adverse effects on the park's natural and historic values.

The policies and objectives of this plan will identify other key factors which need to be considered when assessing an application. Examples include design principles, archaeological sites and adverse effects on Ngāi Tahu values or the visitor experience.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 31

4.4.15 Monuments

Policy

4.4.15

Permit the erection of memorials and monuments in the park only where the historical association of the site, individual or event is of exceptional importance to the park.

Explanation

Although loss of a life is a tragedy and is of considerable significance, the placing of memorials and monuments is not considered to be consistent with the preservation of the park. An exception may be made by the Department where the site, individual or event is of exceptional importance to the park. In such a case, the views of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board will be sought.

Reference:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 17

4.4.16 New and Existing Buildings

Policies

4.4.16(a)

Ensure that, where buildings are necessary in the park, they are compatible with and appropriate to the landscape and visitor management setting in which they are to be located.

4.4.16(b)

Require new public buildings adjacent to park roads to provide access and basic facilities for the disabled. Other park facilities, including public buildings already existing, should cater for disabled persons where feasible.

Explanation

P4.4.16(a) - The national park is an area of predominantly natural values. It should not have any more buildings or permanent structures within it than are essential for the enjoyment of the outdoor environment or the safety of the visiting public or for management purposes.

The Department's Visitor Asset Management Programme defines the required design standards for all structures available for use by the public on land administered by the Department. Nothing in this plan allows for lesser standards to be used in the park.

It is important that the natural landscape is not compromised by development. All designs should be consistent with the relevant visitor management setting and developments should harmonise with the landscape and enhance people's experience of it. A general guide is that:

- materials which relate the structure to the site will, wherever possible, be selected; and that
- the design should recognise, where appropriate, historical and cultural elements which are present in the landscape.

These criteria also apply to renovations of existing buildings.

Proposals for the development of new facilities must be accompanied by a landscape analysis identifying the potential impact of the development on the park's natural landscape values.

Alpine huts are acknowledged as a traditional use of the park. Their design needs to reflect the snow and wind-loading requirements. Bright colours may be used so that the huts can be found in poor visibility.

P4.4.16(b) - The provision of access for the disabled to public buildings applies to both Crown and non-Crown buildings (Section 25 Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act 1975).

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act 1975

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy sections 24 and 25

Visitor Strategy 1996

4.4.17 Roding

Policies

4.4.17(a)

Acknowledge that State Highway 6 is the primary West Coast tourist highway and provides vital access to the West Coast and the park.

4.4.17(b)

Apply the General Policy for National Parks 2005 to roading proposals within the park. In particular it is important to minimise adverse effects on the natural features of the park.

4.4.17(c)

Recommend that the Minister approve roadworks and realignments within the park where the adverse effects are assessed to be minimal.

4.4.17(d)

Subject to policy 4.4.17(c) and with the exception of:

(i) the joint walking-cycling access paths in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe valleys*; and

(ii) any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers to provide for safe public access only in circumstances where there is no safe walking access to the glaciers, discourage the construction of any further roads within the park.

Explanation

P4.4.17(a) - It is acknowledged that State Highway 6 provides the only road access to the West Coast from the south and the only road access to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. In addition, the quality and naturalness of the scenery en route is a major component of the visitor experience to the West Coast. Because the highway is regarded as a visitor opportunity in itself the Department has a responsibility to ensure that an appropriate range of roadside facilities are provided and to acknowledge that these facilities may need to be located within the park.

P4.4.17(b) - The General Policy for National Parks 2005 states that upgrading roads should have minimal effect on natural features and those undertaking the construction should take measures to mitigate any adverse effects.

The roads to the car parks at Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* are managed as special purpose roads and are administered and maintained by the Department of Conservation and funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency. The roads can be realigned as required within the park providing that an assessment has been undertaken prior to any realignment works to ensure that the proposal will not have an unacceptable adverse affect on the park's natural features.

Gillespies Beach Road has scenic qualities worthy of retention and the co-operation of the Westland District Council will be sought in ensuring that these values are preserved. View Road, which leads up the south bank of the Fox River, is also within the park.

The vehicle access roads to the derelict Tatore Hydroelectric Station and to the reservoir were constructed within the park for the maintenance of these facilities. These roads are no longer available for vehicle use.

P4.4.17(c) - Due to the geological instability of the land on which State Highway 6 is aligned through the park, it may be necessary from time to time to undertake roadworks and realignments that encroach on park boundaries to maintain the road.

Roadworks may include direct works to the road surface but may also involve associated works including temporary stockpiling and storage of machinery.

The intent of this policy is to enable the Minister to approve roadworks within the park where the adverse effects of the works on the park's natural and historic resources have been assessed to be minimal. Any land to be removed from the park for such purposes would still need to be passed through a Reserves and Others Lands Disposal Act. The process simply provides the Department with the mechanism to approve local road proposals that may encroach on the park.

P4.4.17(d) - There is no present or foreseeable need for any further vehicular access within the park, with the exception of the joint walking-cycling access paths in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys; and any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers to provide for safe public access only in circumstances where there is no safe walking access to the glaciers. The plan was amended in 2008 to allow for the building of the joint walking-cycling access paths in the Franz Josef Glacier *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox Glacier *Te Moeka o Tuawe* valleys.

The plan was amended in April 2014 to allow for the construction of any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers to provide for safe public access only in circumstances where there is no safe walking access to the glaciers.

Franz Josef *Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere* and Fox *Te Moeka o Tuawe* glaciers have a history of dramatic advances and retreats. Since 2008 the glaciers have been in retreat. As they retreat the risk of natural hazards, including rock fall, ice fall and flood events increases. Providing for the construction of a route from the car parks to the glaciers will enable safe public access along the valley floors and will allow people to see the glacier when there is no safe walking access to the glaciers.

Routes will only be constructed in circumstances where there is no safe walking access to the glaciers (for example, if the river changes course making it unsafe for walkers or if rock fall threatens the walking access). Vehicles will only be allowed to use the routes until safe walking access is available to the glaciers, either on the route or on an alternative walking track.

Any route must be constructed in a way that maximises visitor safety while minimising the effects on the park's natural features.

Methods

4.4.17(a)

Work jointly with the Westland District Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency or other roading authority(ies) to identify key roadside facilities required by visitors and seek to provide and maintain appropriate roadside facilities within the park in accordance with the Department's facilities review process.

4.4.17(b)

(i) Consult with Papatipu Rūnanga, and where required or appropriate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, from the early stages of proposed undertakings to develop new roads or carry out major roadworks within the park.

(ii) Consult the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority before any recommendation is made to remove land from the park for roading purposes.

4.4.17(c)

Require any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to glaciers in circumstances where safe walking access to the glaciers is unavailable to:

- (i) meet the criteria set out in policy 10.3(i) in the General Policy for National Parks 2005;
- (ii) maximise visitor safety; and
- (iii) minimise the effects on the park's natural features.

Explanation

M4.4.17(a) - The Department recognises its role in providing roadside opportunities within the park. These opportunities should be co-ordinated with, and may be joint projects with, the roading authorities. Roadside opportunities may be developed within the highway and roadside opportunities and front country visitor management settings.

It is important that the Department liaise with the New Zealand Transport Agency to ensure that exotic species are not introduced through re-seeding during restoration of roadworks. It is also important that the Department and the New Zealand Transport Agency agree on “best-practice” for the maintenance of roadside vegetation.

M4.4.17(b)(ii) - Roadworks can significantly impact on the park's natural, historic and cultural values. Where new roads are to be developed or major roadworks are to be undertaken, the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority and Ngāi Tahu will be consulted to ensure that potential adverse effects on these values can be avoided or mitigated.

M4.4.17(c) - The construction of any new route formed and maintained from the car parks to the glaciers should be in accordance with General Policy for National Parks 2005 and the other criteria as listed in Method 4.4.17(c) above.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

National Parks Act 1980 - section 55

General Policy for National Parks 2005

Policy 10.3

Fox Glacier Future Access Strategy 1999

Glossary - Definition of “Road”

4.4.18 Management of Adverse Effects

Policy

4.4.18

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of activities and developments carried out within the park to ensure that the primary objectives in section 2.2.1 of this plan are achieved.

Explanation

National parks are established to preserve natural values in perpetuity for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. Preservation of these values is fundamental. The Department will manage effects within the park to ensure that the primary objectives in section 2.2.1 are achieved.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park has outstanding natural landscape values that compliment its rich biodiversity, historic and recreational values. Any proposed activity or development must be assessed for potential adverse effects on these values including intrusion into otherwise uninterrupted natural landscapes.

Methods

4.4.18

(i)

Require that an assessment of environmental effects be undertaken prior to any new activities or developments being considered, using the Department's standards for assessment.

(ii)

Assess existing and proposed activities and developments within the park for potential adverse effects on:

- the preservation of the park's natural, archaeological, cultural and historic values;
- the park's visitor management setting(s);
- park visitors.

Explanation

M4.4.18(i) - An assessment of environmental effects appropriate to the scale of the activity should be undertaken prior to any activities or developments commencing in the park which are likely to impact on natural and historic values. The Department's guidelines for these assessments should be used or other such assessments be endorsed by the Department.

M4.4.18(ii) - This method provides a general guide for where the activity or development is not covered by a specific policy or method in this plan. The intention of this method is to ensure that the park is always managed so as to achieve the primary objectives set out in section 2.2.1.

References:

Section 1.3.11.1 for visitor management settings

National Parks Act 1980 - section 4

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 8

4.5 OTHER MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

4.5.1 *Boundaries and Land Additions*

Policies

4.5.1 (a)

Ensure that park boundaries remain consistent with the requirements of the National Parks Act 1980 and the General Policy for National Parks 1983.

4.5.1 (b)

Recognise that other lands adjoining the park are of high conservation value and could be suitable national park additions.

Explanation

P4.5.1(a) - Additions to the park must comply with the criteria set out in the National Parks Act 1980. They must contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems or natural features so beautiful, unique or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.

Additions to the park may be recommended by the New Zealand Conservation Authority after consultation with the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board. Park additions are subject to a section 8 investigation in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980. Such additions may enhance ecosystem preservation, public use, or land management.

Areas of the park which do not conform to the criteria, and which could more appropriately be administered under another classification or authority, may be recommended for exclusion from the national park. Careful consideration must be given to any possible cross-boundary effects which may result if an area of the park is revoked and no longer administered by the Department. An Act of Parliament is required to remove any area from a national park.

P4.5.1(b) - One of the functions of the New Zealand Conservation Authority is to consider and make proposals to the Minister of Conservation for the addition of land to national parks. Before any land can be added to a national park generally, a thorough investigation is carried out in accordance with section 8 of the National Parks Act 1980. This investigation considers whether the values of the proposed additions are worthy of national park status and whether there could be any possible social and/or economic implications of adding the land to the park.

After having advised the Minister of Conservation, the Authority may request the Department to investigate and report to it on any proposal to declare land to be national park or added to a national park. The investigation is publicly notified with submissions being invited from interested parties and organisations.

The Authority reports on the findings of the investigation to the Minister of Conservation. The Minister may then recommend that the Governor-General sign the Order in Council to formally add the area to the park.

Considerable assessment of natural values on lands adjoining the park has been undertaken over a number of years. Based on this work, the following areas have been identified as areas of high conservation value. In addition, the General Policy for National Parks 1983 states that the foreshore adjoining coastal parks should be sought for addition to park boundaries because it is ecologically part of these parks.

Areas of high conservation value adjoining the park include:

- North Waikukupa coastline;
- Kahikatea forest remnants adjoining the Waiho River flats;

- Gillespies Point and Omoeroa River flats;
- The matai/totara forest to the south of Canavans Knob near Franz Josef *Waiiau*;
- Alpine Lake *Ata Puai* and 3 Mile Lagoon.
- Kahikatea forests of Ohinetamatea and Hunts Beach.

Should an investigation of lands for addition to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park be sought, these areas should be considered. Copies of research undertaken within these areas are held in the West Coast Conservancy Office.

References:

National Parks Act 1980 - section 7, 8 and 9

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 7

4.5.2 Park Classification

Policy

4.5.2

Manage the park classification under the general provisions of the National Parks Act 1980.

Explanation

The National Parks Act 1980 makes provision for the identification of three classifications of particular distinctive areas of park and provides mechanisms for their greater protection or utilisation.

No areas within the present park boundaries have been suggested for the highly protective status of specially protected area or wilderness area.

The development of amenities is appropriately concentrated in the villages of Franz Josef *Waiiau* and Fox Glacier adjacent to the park. Although the visitor centres and staff accommodation are located within the park it is not necessary to classify these as amenities areas as they have minimal impact and occupy quite small areas.

References:

National Parks Act 1980 - sections 12, 14 and 15

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 6

4.5.3 Fire Control and Prevention

Policies

4.5.3(a)

Make every effort to prevent or extinguish all fires within or threatening the park, other than those permitted by the national park by-laws.

4.5.3(b)

Prohibit the lighting of open fires in the park in accordance with the Westland National Park By-laws 1981.

Explanation

P4.5.3(a) - Fire can cause extensive damage to natural and historic values including the scenic and landscape qualities which are of considerable value in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. Every effort should be made to prevent or extinguish fires except where these are permitted in accordance with park by-laws.

P4.5.3(b) - The lighting of open fires within the park is controlled by the park by-laws which are enforced by the Department. "Open fires" does not include camp stoves.

In times of extreme fire danger the park may be closed to the public in accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1976 to reduce the risk of fire.

References:

Forest and Rural Fires Act 1976

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 14

Westland National Park By-laws 1981

4.5.4 Management Planning

Policies

4.5.4(a)

Consider management policies in terms of new information on a continuous basis and amend as necessary.

4.5.4(b)

Review this management plan not later than 10 years from its date of approval.

Explanation

P4.5.4(a) - The National Parks Act 1980 requires that management plans are kept under continuous review and amendments made as necessary. It is therefore necessary to monitor the implementation of this plan to determine whether the objectives and policies are still adequate to manage Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park effectively. The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board will assess the information provided to determine the effectiveness of this plan in addressing park management issues. Appropriate amendments may be made to the management plan as considered necessary in accordance with section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980.

P4.5.4(b) - The National Parks Act 1980 requires that management plans are reviewed every 10 years. Each review should be implemented in sufficient time to enable the reviewed plan to be approved prior to the expiry of the current plan.

Reviews should also be co-ordinated with the adjoining Canterbury Conservancy to ensure consistency in policies with Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park.

Methods

4.5.4(a)

(i)

Collect resource information relevant to the management of the park for consideration by the Department and the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board.

(ii)

Where the provisions of this plan fail to adequately address issues identified through monitoring, or otherwise, the plan should be reviewed or amended in accordance with section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980.

Explanation

M4.5.4(a)(i) and (ii) - For the effective management of Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park to continue, it is necessary to collect, collate and analyse the following:

- information about the natural and historic values of the park;
- information on how best to manage values of cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu;
- information on park users including visitor numbers, visitor expectations of the park, visitors' perceived experience of the park and how their experiences match up with their expectations;
- information on concessionaire views of the management of the park.

It is important that monitoring and research be undertaken on a regular basis using consistent research methods that will allow for a comparison of data to be made over time. This resource information will assist the Department to continue to actively manage the park to meet the objectives of this plan or amend the plan where required in accordance with section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980.

References:

Policy 4.4.8 Research and Monitoring

National Parks Act 1980 - sections 45-48

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 5 and Appendix A

4.6 WORKING WITH OTHERS

4.6.1 *Community Relationship*

Policy

4.6.1

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those organisations that have a statutory role and those organisations, local communities and the general public who are interested in:

the preservation and protection of natural, historic and landscape values within the park and/or;

the sustainable management of natural and physical resources adjoining the park on land not administered by the Department.

Explanation

Although the Department can appropriately manage the park and adjoining land which it has been charged to administer, there are many external influences which can impact on the park. Through establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with adjoining landowners, managers and key interest groups, the Department will be able learn new management practices and advocate for known management practices that will avoid, remedy or mitigate possible adverse effects on the park. In some circumstances this relationship has a clear statutory basis – e.g. with the West Coast Fish and Game Council. In other circumstances it may include interested parties where there are clear mutual benefits to be gained through working together. Examples include universities, neighbouring landowners, community groups and other associates in the public generally.

It is particularly important to notify interested parties of any proposed activities or works which are significant and not considered to be part of the day-to-day management of the park. These may include, for example, a new track or hut development.

Method

4.6.1

Use public relation tools including newsletters, public notices and area office open days to ensure that adjoining landowners and interest groups are kept well informed about the management of the park.

Explanation

In order to maintain effective working relationships it is necessary to keep interested parties informed about what is going on in the park. It is important to ensure that contact with these interest groups is regular and two-way to achieve the greatest benefit.

4.6.2 *Adjacent Uses*

Policy

4.6.2

To liaise with and seek the co-operation of adjoining landowners, the Westland District Council, West Coast Regional Council and other Government agencies to minimise the impact of activities that may be detrimental to the park.

Explanation

The Westland District Council and West Coast Regional Council have the primary responsibility for the control of land and waters adjoining the park except where the park adjoins Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. Input into planning development and resource consent processes provides a mechanism to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on the park.

For example, the townships of Franz Josef *Waiau* and Fox Glacier lie outside the park. They supply accommodation and services to park management, visitors and travellers. The development of these townships should be in a manner appropriate to the national park setting, particularly in terms of controls on noise and the location and management of landfills.

Methods

4.6.2

(i)

Assess all district and regional planning processes, including resource consent applications, under the Resource Management Act 1991 and advocate for the better protection of the park's natural and historic values.

(ii)

Oppose or seek appropriate resource consent conditions for those developments on adjoining lands that will have adverse effects on the park's natural and historic values.

(iii)

Use the district and regional planning processes to advocate for controls on potential plant pests and to promote appropriate cat and dog control adjacent to the park, promoting the benefits of such controls for indigenous species.

Explanation

M4.6.2(i) and (ii) - The district and regional plans set out the rules for uses on land, discharges to land, air or water and the management of waterways. The time to have the most effective input into these planning documents is when they are being prepared or are going through plan changes. These processes are publicly notified and need to be carefully participated in, giving consideration to possible implications for the park.

It is therefore essential that the Department is active in assessing and commenting on resource management plans and other planning policy and resource consents.

M4.6.2(iii) - Domestic cats and dogs can have significant effects on indigenous species. Kiwi have fallen prey to dogs. Because the park is the primary habitat for the Ōkārito brown kiwi *rowi*, strict control of dogs is essential. Exceptions to these controls are set out in policy 4.1.3 of this plan.

Reference:

General Policy for National Parks 1983 - policy section 3

Acknowledgements



Reflections - Lake Matheson

Photo by: DOC

Acknowledgements

This plan was reviewed by the Department of Conservation and the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board. Key groups and organisations involved in the review included:

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio
- Te Rūnaka o Kati Waewae
- Mount Cook and Westland National Park Resident Aircraft User Group
- New Zealand Fish and Game – West Coast Region
- Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)
- Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand Inc
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc
- Tourism Industry Association

A special acknowledgement is made to the *Mount Cook and Westland National Park Resident Aircraft User Group*. The management of the adverse effects of aircraft within the park was one of the major issues to be addressed in the plan. The user group invested considerable time and effort in working with the Department to address these issues. This commitment was greatly appreciated.

The countless hours that West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board member Alex Miller invested in this review process also needs to be commended. Alex's knowledge of the park and its users was invaluable.

The willingness of groups to participate in the review of these management plans clearly demonstrates the value of our national parks.

Thank you to all those involved.

Martin Rodd

Estate Planner

West Coast Conservancy

Glossary



Southern rata *Metrosideros umbellata*
a common forest canopy tree.

Photo by: Phil Knightbridge

Glossary

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

Amend: in relation to conservation management strategies, conservation management plans, freshwater fisheries management plans and sports fish and game management plans, means any change that does not affect the objectives of the strategy or plan. Such a change may not require a full public process.

Conservation Act 1987

Animal: means any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish (including shellfish) or related organism, insect, crustacean, or organism of any kind, but does not include a human being. *National Parks Act 1980*

Archaeological Site: any place in New Zealand, including shipwrecks, associated with human activity before 1900 and which through investigation by archaeological methods provides scientific, cultural, or historical evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. *Historic Places Act 1993*

Atua: supernatural being; children of Ranginui & Papatuanuku; immortals.

Biodiversity/Biological Diversity: the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992

CAA: Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand.

Coastal Environment: an environment in which the coast is a significant part or element. The extent of the coastal environment will vary from place to place depending upon how much it affects or is (directly) affected by coastal processes and the management issue concerned. It includes at least three distinct but interrelated parts: the coastal marine area, the active coastal zone, and the land backdrop.

Coastal Marine Area: the area of foreshore and seabed between the outer limit of the territorial sea and mean high water springs. At river mouths the landward boundary is the lesser of one kilometre upstream or five times the width of the river mouth. *Resource Management Act 1991*

Concession: a lease, licence, permit, or easement granted under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987.

Conservation Act 1987

Concessionaire: a lessee, a licensee, a permit holder or the grantee of an easement operating on land administered by the Department (also see recreation/tourism concessionaire).

Conservation Act 1987

Conservancy: the Department of Conservation has 13 offices in different parts of the country. Each office and all the land it is responsible for is called a conservancy.

Conservation: for the purposes of this plan means the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations.

Conservation Act 1987

Under the Historic Places Act 1993 conservation includes the processes of preserving, maintaining and restoring historic places. In the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter it means the process of caring for a place to safeguard its cultural heritage value.

Conservation Boards: There are 14 conservation boards, each comprising up to 12 members appointed by the Minister. Their functions include overseeing the preparation of and recommending approval of the conservation management strategy and conservation management plans for their areas, and advising the New Zealand Conservation Authority and Director-General on conservation matters of importance in their areas.

Conservation Management Strategy or CMS: a strategy which implements General Policies and establishes objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. The strategy is reviewed every 10 years. *Conservation Act 1987 s17D*

Consultation: a genuine invitation to give advice and genuine consideration of that advice. To achieve consultation, sufficient information must be supplied and sufficient time allowed by the consulting party to the consulted to enable it to tender helpful advice. It involves an ongoing dialogue.

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

Crowding (hut): The Department's service standard for backcountry huts states overcrowding as "more than 10% over the capacity of the hut. During the peak period, if hut capacity is exceeded by 10% over 10% of the season, management must take action to prevent this happening next season.

Department of Conservation

Department, the, DOC: the Department of Conservation.

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

Resource Management Act 1991

Ecology: the study of organisms in relation to one another and to their surroundings.

NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary

Ecological District: one of the major levels used for the ecological classification of land. New Zealand has been divided into 268 ecological districts according to geological, topographic, climatic and biological features and processes, which interrelate to produce characteristic landscapes and ranges of biological communities.

The New Zealand Protected Natural Areas Programme, DSIR

Ecosystem: a biological system comprising a community of living organisms and their environment involved together in the process of living.

There is a continuous flow of energy and matter through the system. The concept implies process and interaction. Ecosystems range in size from small freshwater ponds or pools to the earth itself.

Effect: has the same meaning as in the Resource Management Act 1991.

EIA: environmental impact assessment. An assessment undertaken to determine the potential effects of an activity on the park's natural and historic values.

Endangered: a plant or animal in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the adverse causal factors continue.

Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981

Endemic: refers to species of plants or animals which are unique to an area or animals which may migrate but only breed in the area.

Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981

Epiphytes: a plant that uses another plant for physical support but not nourishment.

Concise Oxford Dictionary of Ecology

Exploration: means any activity undertaken for the purpose of identifying mineral deposits or occurrences and evaluating the feasibility of mining particular deposits or occurrences of one or more minerals; and includes any drilling, dredging, or excavations (whether surface or sub-surface) that are reasonably necessary to determine the nature and size of a mineral deposit or occurrence.

Crown Minerals Act 1991

Fauna: animal life of a place or time.

Collins Concise Dictionary

Fishery: one or more stocks or species of freshwater fish or aquatic life that can be treated as a unit for the purposes of conservation or management.

Conservation Act 1987

Flora: plant life of a given place or time.

Collins Concise Dictionary

Freshwater fish: species of finfish (classes Agnatha and Osteichthyes) and shellfish (classes Mollusca and Crustacea) that spend all or part of their life histories in freshwater.

Conservation Act 1987

Game: means all animals [and game birds] for the time being specified in the First Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953

Wildlife Act 1953

General Policy: for the purposes of this plan refers to the General Policy for National Parks 1983.

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

Historic Area: an area of land that- a) contains an interrelated group of historic places, some or all of which are registered and b) forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and c) lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand.

Historic Places Act 1993

Historic Place: any land (including an archaeological site), or any building or structure, or any combination of land and a building or structure, that forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand. Includes anything that is in or fixed to such land.

Historic Places Act 1993

Historic Resource: a historic place within the meaning of the Historic Places Act 1993, and includes any interest in a historic place. *Conservation Act 1987*

Icon Destinations: A high-profile, popular destination that underpins national and international tourism, and provides memorable visitor experiences in New Zealand.

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

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

Indigenous: Refers to plants or animals which were established in New Zealand before the arrival of human beings and includes species which are unique to New Zealand (endemic) as well as those which are also found elsewhere in the world.

ICOMOS: International Committee on Monuments and Sites.

Iwi: tribe, people. *Wairangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*

Iwi Authority: the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so (*Resource Management Act 1991*). The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 established the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as a body corporate with the authority to act on behalf of all Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Kaitiaki: guardian.

Kaitiaki Roopu: a committee comprising representatives of the Papatipu Rūnanga recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 and with which the West Coast Conservancy consults on a regular basis.

Karakia: prayer, charm, spell, incantation.

Kaupapa: an abstract word with many meanings. Within the Department it is generally used in the sense of vision, philosophy, cause, idea or theme. *Resource Management Act 1991*

Kawa: Protocols of the tāngata whenua/mana whenua expected to be adhered to in actions within the affected rohe.

Koiwi: Bones, skeletal remains.

Landforms: natural features in the landscape formed by physical processes, e.g., mountain ranges, glacial moraines, rock outcrops.

Land managed by the Department: all land held, managed or administered under the Conservation Act 1987 and other acts administered by the Department of Conservation. *refer First Schedule of the Conservation Act 1987*

Lease: a grant of interest in land that gives exclusive possession of that land and makes provision for any activity on the land that the lessee is permitted to carry out. *Conservation Act 1987*

Lianes: wiry or woody free-hanging or climbing plants. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Ecology*

Licence: a profit a prendre or any other grant that gives a non-exclusive interest in land or a grant of permission to undertake an activity on the land. *Conservation Act 1987*

Lowland Forest: forest up to the upper altitudinal limit of rimū. *Department of Conservation*

Mahinga kai: customary gathering of food and natural materials and the places where those resources are gathered. *Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998*

Mana: authority, control, influence, prestige, power. *Wairangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*

Mana whenua: customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu or individual in an identified area. *Conservation Act 1987*

Mana whenuatanga: the exercise of the right to control the lands in one's care by your inherited mana. Manawhenua must be established by right of conquest, inheritance or by gift from one who has the authority (rangatiratanga) to bestow this control on another.

Management plan: in relation to any park, means a management plan prepared and approved for that park in accordance with sections 45 to 48 of the National Parks Act 1980.

Mauri: life principle, special character. *The Revised Dictionary of Māori, PM Ryan*

Mean High Water Spring: the average line of spring high tides.

Methods: specific statements on how policies are to be implemented which may include criteria for assessment or monitoring.

Minister: the Minister of Conservation or duly authorised delegate.

Minor Effect: - for the purpose of this plan, minor effects are effects that are localised and do not involve damage or destruction to flora and fauna or the natural or historic features of the park.

Mining: means to take, win, or extract, by whatever means, a mineral existing in its natural state in land, or a chemical substance from that mineral, for the purpose of obtaining the mineral or chemical substance but does not include prospecting or exploration. *Crown Minerals Act 1991*

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

Natural hazard: has the same meaning as it has in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Natural quiet: the natural ambient conditions or the sound of nature. *Visitor Strategy (1996)*

Natural Resources: plants and animals, their habitats, landscapes, landforms, geological features, systems of interacting living organisms, and their environments. *Conservation Act 1987*

New Zealand Conservation Authority, (NZCA): a national body of 13 appointed members established under Section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987. Amongst other functions, has the statutory responsibility for approving General Policy, conservation management strategies, plans and national park management plans. *Conservation Act 1987*

Objectives: statements of intended results. These can be broad or narrow in scope, and should be accompanied by implementation provisions. *Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*

Papatipu Rūnanga: The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 identified Te Rūnaka o Kati Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio as the Papatipu Rūnanga on the West Coast.

Permit: a grant of rights to undertake an activity which does not require an interest in the land. *Conservation Act 1987*

Personal mobility device: means a device designed to transport one person; is propelled by hand or a propulsion system at a maximum speed of 15km/hr; and is ridden by a disabled person. *General Policy for National Parks 2005*

Personal WaterCraft: include jet skis, wave runners and other ride-on jet-propelled recreational water craft.

Podocarps: a predominantly southern hemisphere family of coniferous plants which include the kahikatea or white pine, tōtara, Hall's tōtara, matai, mirō, rimū, tanekaha or celery pine, and mountain pine.

Poutini-Ngāi Tahu: Derive their status as tāngata whenua of the *Tai Poutini* by whakapapa (genealogy) from their ancestors who held customary title and rights to the land of the *Tai Poutini* at the time of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

Precautionary Principle: This principle recognises that one of the major challenges of environmental management is to make good decisions under uncertainty or inadequate information. This recognises that people have varied perceptions. It also acknowledges the difficulties of precise definition of sustainable ecological limits. Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that, in order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach should be widely applied. "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation." *Environment 2010 Strategy*

Prospecting: means any activity undertaken for the purpose of identifying land likely to contain exploitable mineral deposits or occurrences. *Crown Minerals Act 1991*

Preservation: in relation to a resource under the Conservation Act 1987, means the maintenance, so far as is practicable, of its intrinsic values. *Conservation Act 1987*

Protection: in relation to a resource under the Conservation Act 1987, means its maintenance, so far as is practicable, in its current state but includes restoration to some former state and augmentation, enhancement or expansion. *Conservation Act 1987*

Protocol: a statement in writing, issued by the Crown through the Minister of Conservation to Te Rūnanga, which sets out how the Department of Conservation will exercise its functions, powers and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu Claim Area, and how the Department of Conservation

will, on a continuing basis, interact with Te Rūnanga and provide for Te Rūnanga's input into its decision-making process. *Deed of Settlement 1997: Attachment 12.147*

Rangatiratanga: chieftainship, decision-making rights.

Rare: species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS): the ROS is a system for classifying outdoor experiences. It identifies opportunities along a continuum from urban to wilderness. It has eight main categories and provides both an inventory and planning process. *Department of Conservation*

Recreation/tourism concessionaire: a lessee, a licensee, and/or permit holder offering commercial recreation opportunities on land administered by the Department. Examples include high alpine guides, glacier guides and aircraft authorised to land in the park.

Regional Council: a locally elected council which has primary responsibility for management of water, soil, geothermal resources and pollution control. They are also responsible for regional aspects of hazard mitigation, soil conservation and hazardous substances.

Regional Plan: a plan which assists the regional councils to carry out its functions. Regional plans are designed to address specific resource management issues for which regional councils are responsible. Councils must decide what regional plans they will prepare. Plans may cover matters such as water management, soil conservation, natural hazard mitigation and air pollution. *Resource Management Act 1991*

Regional Policy Statement: a statement which sets out the objectives for managing resources and is prepared by a regional council in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. A Regional policy Statement provides the overall framework for achieving sustainable management in a region and is binding on regional and district plans.

Resource Management Act 1991, Regional Policy Statements and Plans, Ministry for the Environment

Restoration: returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state by reassembly, reinstatement and/or the removal of extraneous additions. Refers to historic rather than ecological resources. *ICOMOS 1993*

Review: in relation to conservation management plan means to reconsider objectives and policies and, following a process of public comment, to approve a new strategy or plan, having regard to increased knowledge or changed circumstances. *Conservation Act 1987*

Road: means:

- (a) a road that is formed and maintained for vehicle use by the public;
- (b) a route that is marked by the Department for vehicle use by the public or identified in a conservation management strategy or national park management plan for use by vehicles generally or for a particular type of vehicle (for example a bicycle) or as a vehicle parking area. *General Policy for National Parks 2005*

Rohe: boundary, tribal region. *Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*

Rūnanga: assembly, council. *Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*

Special Protected Areas: conservation parks, wilderness areas, ecological areas, sanctuary areas, watercourse areas as detailed in Part IV of the Conservation Act 1987. *Conservation Act 1987*

Species Recovery Plan: a plan of action intended to halt the decline of a threatened species and increase its population.

Sports fish: every species of freshwater fish that the Governor-General may declare, by Order in Council, to be sports fish for the purposes of the Conservation Act 1987; and any such Order in Council may be expressed to apply to freshwater fish in any specified freshwater or other waters.

Conservation Act 1987

Sustainability, Ecological: means the use of the components of an ecosystem in ways that allow for the perpetuation of the character and natural processes of that ecosystem.

Swamp: Wetlands which are periodically or permanently flooded from through-flowing streams, containing varying amounts of organic matter, mixed with silt, minerals and other materials carried in by the floodwaters. Swamp soils are richer and less acidic than bog soils, and decomposition occurs more rapidly in them. There is generally a wide seasonal fluctuation in water levels.

Sustainable Management: managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way or at a rate which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems, and (c) avoiding, remedying, or

mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment. This definition is specific to the Resource Management Act 1991. *Resource Management Act 1991*

Taking: in relation to plants this includes breaking, cutting, destroying, digging up, gathering, plucking, pulling up and removing of the plant. In relation to fish it means fishing. *Conservation Act 1987*

Tāngata whenua: people of a given place (Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991) in relation to a particular area; the iwi or hapu that holds mana whenua over that area. *Resource Management Act 1991*

Taonga species: any birds, plants, and animals described in Schedule 97 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 found within the claim area. *Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998*

The schedules include those species that were negotiated through the settlement to be acknowledged as taonga species. There are also a number of other species of significance to Ngāi Tahu. The settlement provisions do not apply to these other species but their specific values to Ngāi Tahu can be identified through appropriate consultation as identified in this plan.

Te Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Poutini: Department of Conservation, West Coast Conservancy.

Territorial Authority: district or city council which is a locally elected body responsible, amongst other things, for land use planning under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Mount Cook and Westland National Parks Resident Aircraft User Group: the local network of aircraft operators, with a special interest in Aoraki/Mount Cook and Westland *Tai Poutini* National Parks, who have the purpose of assisting the development and co-ordination of safety procedures in these areas. The user group has also undertaken to address areas of environmental concern relating directly to the use of aircraft within these areas.

Threatened (species): a term used loosely to include rare, vulnerable, endangered and indeterminate species.

Tikanga Māori: Māori customary values and practices. *Resource Management Act 1991*

Tōpuni. has a number of meanings for Ngāi Tahu, including references to both a type of dogskin cloak and the associated custom of placing such a cloak over an object or individual so as to confer the rangatiratanga of the cloak's owner upon those things. Ngāi Tahu has adopted an additional meaning for the word "Tōpuni": that of confirming and placing an "overlay" of Ngāi Tahu values upon a piece of land owned and/or managed by the Crown, while not overriding the powers of land owned and/or managed by the Crown, to manage that land for the purpose for which it is held from time to time.

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991

Vehicle: means any device that is powered by any propulsion system and moves on rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means; and includes any device referred to previously from which the propulsion system has been removed; or the rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means of movement have been removed; and does not include:

- (a) a pushchair or pram;
- (b) a child's toy;
- (c) a personal mobility device used by a disabled person.

General Policy for National Parks 2005

Visitor encounter: for the purposes of this plan, meeting or seeing another visitor or visitor group that is considered to be close enough to interact with. May include verbal or visual contact i.e. talking or waving.

Vulnerable: a plant or animal believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue. *Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981*

Wāhi tapu, waahi tapu: sacred place. *Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*

WAI 27: the iwi Ngāi Tahu claim lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal against the Crown.

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board: one of 14 conservation boards. Functions include overseeing the preparation of the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), recommending approval of conservation management plans (CMP), advising the NZCA or Director-General of Conservation on conservation matters, advising on new walkways in the region and liaising with the Fish and Game Council.

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

Whakapapa: Te Rūnanga o Makāwhio has sought that whakapapa be defined as genealogy.

Wild Animal: deer, chamois, thar, wallaby and possum, goats and pigs that are living in a wild state. Except for deer kept in captivity for farming, does not include animals kept in captivity or rats, mice, rabbits, stoats, ferrets or weasels. Refer to the act for the legal definition. *Wild Animal Control Act 1977*

Wildlife: any animal that is living in a wild state; and includes any animal or egg or offspring of any such animal held or hatched or born in captivity, whether pursuant to an authority granted under this Act or otherwise; but does not include any animals of any species specified in the Sixth Schedule to this Act (being animals that are wild animals subject to the Wild Animal Control Act 1977). *Wildlife Act 1953*

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Approaching the Douglas
Glacier with Mt Sefton and Mt
Thompson in the background

Photo by: Martin Rodd

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Appendices



The actively managed historic structure, Hende's Gallery, Franz Josef Glacier Valley
Photo by: Martin Ridd

Appendices

1 - PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

The Privy Council has characterised the principles as dynamic: “They reflect the intent of the Treaty as a whole and include, but are not confined to, the express terms of the Treaty...with the passage of time the principles which underlie the Treaty have become much more important than its precise terms”. The principles are still evolving through the pronouncement of the Courts and the Waitangi Tribunal. In general terms, the principles are as follows (Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy 1996):

The Essential Bargain

Principle 1 - Kawangatanga

To recognise the Crown’s authority to make laws for the good order and security of the country.

Principle 2 - Rangatiratanga

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

Principle 3 - Oritetanga

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

Co-operation

Principle 4 - Whakawhanaungatanga

To act reasonably and in good faith.

Duty To Be Informed

Principle 5 – He here kia mohio

To make informed decisions.

Active Protection

Principle 6 – Tautiaki ngangabau

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

Avoid Prejudicial Actions

Principle 7 – Whakatia i te mea he

To avoid action which would create new Treaty grievances.

Principle 8 – Whakatia i te mea he

To avoid actions which would prevent redress of claims.

2 – FORM OF PROTOCOLS (CLAUSE 12.12)

PROTOCOLS ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION'S INTERACTION WITH NGĀI TAHU ON SPECIFIED ISSUES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of the Conservation Act 1987 is to manage natural and historic resources under that Act and the Acts in the First Schedule of the Conservation Act. Section 4 of the Conservation Act requires that the Act be so interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 1.2 The Director-General has certain management responsibilities in terms of legislation and can only delegate or share responsibility for decisions he/she makes within the limits of his/her legislation. However, in making such decisions, the Director-General will provide Te Rūnanga the opportunity for input, consistent with section 4, in its policy, planning and decision-making processes on the matters set out in these Protocols.
- 1.3 These Protocols apply across the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā, which spans five conservancies, and the Southern and Central Regional Offices of the Department.
- 1.4 Both the Department and Te Rūnanga are seeking a relationship consistent with the Treaty principle of partnership that achieves over time the conservation policies, actions and outcomes sought by both Te Rūnanga and the Department, as set out in this document.

2 PURPOSE OF PROTOCOLS

- 2.1 These Protocols are issued pursuant to the Settlement Legislation and section 12.12 of the 1997 Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāi Tahu, which specifies the following:

2.1.1 Definitions

Protocol means a statement in writing, issued by the Crown through the Minister of Conservation to Te Rūnanga, which sets out how the Department of Conservation will exercise its functions, powers and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu Claim Area, and how the Department of Conservation will, on a continuing basis, interact with Te Rūnanga and provide for Te Rūnanga's input into its decision-making process.

2.1.2 Authority to Issue, Amend or Cancel Protocols

The Minister of Conservation has the power to issue, amend and cancel Protocols.

2.1.3 Issue of Protocols

On the Settlement Date (as defined in the Settlement Legislation) the Crown has agreed through the Minister of Conservation to issue Protocols in this form on the following matters:

- (a) cultural materials;
- (b) freshwater fisheries;
- (c) culling of species of interest to Ngāi Tahu;
- (d) historic resources;
- (e) Resource Management Act 1991 involvement; and
- (f) visitor and public information.

2.1.4 Protocols subject to Crown Obligations

The Protocols shall be issued and amended subject to, and without restriction upon, the obligations of the Minister and the Department of Conservation to discharge their respective functions, powers and duties in accordance with existing law and government policy from time to time and the Crown's powers to amend policy and introduce legislation amending existing law. This clause is not intended to indicate, and should not be interpreted as indicating, any agreement by Te Rūnanga to any amendment to policy which would adversely affect the redress provided by the Crown pursuant to the Settlement Deed or the ability of either party to fulfil its obligations expressed in the Settlement Deed.

2.1.5 Noting of Protocols on CMS

- (a) The existence of the Protocols, once issued, and as amended from time to time, and including a definition of the Protocols as set out above and a summary of the terms of issue of the Protocols, shall be noted in conservation management strategies, conservation management plans and national park management plans from time to time affecting the Ngāi Tahu Claim Area.
- (b) Such noting of the Protocols shall be for the purpose of public notice only and shall not be amendments to the relevant strategies or plans for the purposes of section 171 of the Conservation Act 1987 or section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980.

2.1.6 Enforceability of Protocols

- (a) Subject to the Crown's right to amend or cancel the Protocols, as set out in clause 10.1, the Minister of Conservation must comply with the Protocols as long as they remain in force.
- (b) If the Minister of Conservation fails unreasonably to comply with the Protocols Te Rūnanga may, subject to the Crown Proceedings Act 1950, enforce the Protocols by way of public law action against the Minister of Conservation, except that damages shall not be available as a remedy.
- (c) Any guidelines which are to be developed pursuant to the Protocols will not give rise to any enforceable obligations under the Protocols.

2.1.7 Limitation of Rights

Pursuant to section 286 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, unless expressly provided in the Settlement Deed, the Settlement Legislation or in the Protocols, the Protocols will not of themselves have the effect of granting, creating or providing evidence of any estate or interest in, or any rights of any kind whatsoever relating to, land held, managed or administered under the Conservation Act 1987 or the statutes listed in the First Schedule to that Act.

3 IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The Department will seek to establish and maintain communication with Te Rūnanga and its Papatipu Rūnanga on a continuing basis by:
 - (a) maintaining at the conservancy level, with the assistance of Te Rūnanga, information provided on Papatipu Rūnanga, their office holders and addresses;
 - (b) providing reasonable opportunities for Te Rūnanga and Papatipu Rūnanga to meet with Department managers and staff.
- 3.2 The Protocols provide for ongoing implementation of a range of matters, as well as Specific Projects which will require resourcing. It is not intended that all of the Specific Projects listed in these Protocols will be implemented in any one year. Implementation will be over time. Where these Protocols refer to Specific Projects that require resourcing, their implementation will be subject to provision being made in the relevant conservancy business plan. The process for the Department implementing any particular Specific Project in a business year will be as follows:

- The Department will meet with Te Rūnanga in each conservancy and at regional level annually to identify priorities for undertaking Specific Projects as listed in these protocols for the upcoming business year.
- The identified priorities will be taken forward by the Department into its business planning process at the conservancy and regional levels and considered along with other priorities.
- The decision on whether any Specific Projects will be funded in any business year will be made by the Conservator and the Regional General Manager.
- The Department will advise Te Rūnanga of the outcome of this process.
- Te Rūnanga and the Department will then meet again, if required, to finalise a work plan for implementation of the Specific Projects in that business year, in accordance with the resources which have been allocated in the business plan. The Department will apply the allocated resources to give effect to that work plan, subject to unforeseen management requirements which may arise from time to time, such as emergencies, adverse weather, staff shortages or reallocation of resources directed by the Minister.

3.3 The Department will:

- (a) Meet with Te Rūnanga to review implementation of these Protocols and to deal with the matters in section 3.2 four times per annum, unless otherwise agreed, in each conservancy, twice per annum at regional level, and at least once per annum at Chief Executive level;
- (b) As far as reasonably practicable, train relevant staff on these Protocols and provide ongoing training as required;
- (c) As far as reasonably practicable, brief Conservation Board and NZCA members on these Protocols and the Ngāi Tahu Settlement, and provide ongoing information as required.

4 CULTURAL MATERIALS

4.1 For the purpose of these Protocols, cultural materials are defined as:

- (i) plants, plant materials;
- (ii) materials derived from animals, marine mammals or birds to the extent to which the Department holds and is responsible for them, and which are important to Ngāi Tahu in maintaining their culture.

4.2 Current legislation means that generally some form of concession or permit is required for any gathering of cultural materials.

4.3 The Department will:

- (a) Have particular regard to Te Rūnanga's cultural use policy (Kawa Hua Taiao) as it relates to the Department's activities, and other relevant Te Rūnanga statements of policy produced from time to time.
- (b) Consider requests from members of Ngāi Tahu Whānui for the customary use of cultural materials in accordance with the appropriate legislation.
- (c) Agree, where reasonably practicable, for Ngāi Tahu to have access to cultural materials which become available as a result of Departmental operations such as track maintenance or clearance or culling of species.
- (d) Consult with Te Rūnanga in circumstances where there are competing requests from non-Ngāi Tahu persons or entities for the use of cultural materials, for example for scientific research purposes, to see if the cultural and scientific or other needs can be reconciled before the Department makes a decision in respect of those requests.

4.4 *Specific projects*

The Department will, subject to 3.2 above, work with Te Rūnanga to:

- (a) Develop and implement guidelines for each conservancy within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā that help define levels of customary use of cultural materials, and set conditions, after consideration of tikanga, to be met for gathering.
- (b) Identify local sources of plants and provide advice to Te Rūnanga with respect to the establishment by Te Rūnanga of cultivation sites.
- (c) Establish Departmental cultural materials banks for cultural materials which have come into the Department's possession, and guidelines for their use.

5 **FRESHWATER FISHERIES**

5.1 The Department has a statutory role in advocating the conservation of aquatic life and freshwater fisheries generally. Its advocacy for freshwater biota, aquatic habitats and fish passage in all areas is primarily taken via statutory planning processes provided by the Resource Management Act 1991.

5.2 The Settlement Legislation provides the power to promulgate regulations with respect to customary freshwater fisheries in the South Island administered under the Conservation Act 1987, with such regulations to be promulgated as soon as practicable, and in any event within two years of the Settlement Date. Besides generally consulting with Te Rūnanga and providing for its participation in the conservation and management of customary freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats, the Department will consult and have particular regard to the advice of Te Rūnanga as an Advisory Committee appointed under section 56 of the Conservation Act on all matters concerning the management and conservation by the Department of Conservation of Taonga Fish Species (as defined in the Settlement Legislation) within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā.

5.3 *Advisory Committee*

The Department will, in relation to the Taonga Fish Species and as far as reasonably practicable, provide the Advisory Committee with all relevant information to enable it to give informed advice, and will meet with the Advisory Committee at conservancy level as necessary to give effect to the Deed of Settlement and Settlement Legislation.

5.4 *Customary freshwater fisheries regulations*

The Department will work with Te Rūnanga at Regional and conservancy levels to:

- (a) Provide for Te Rūnanga participation in the development and promulgation of customary freshwater fishing regulations by (this was achieved in 2000):
 - Establishing a joint working group;
 - Setting terms of reference for that working group;
 - Setting timelines for progress;
 - Providing information to Te Rūnanga in a timely manner and allowing Te Rūnanga an opportunity to comment.

5.5 *Specific Projects*

The Department will, subject to 3.2 above, work with Te Rūnanga to:

- (a) Develop and implement guidelines for the Department with respect to the promotion of compliance with customary freshwater fisheries regulations.

- (b) Develop and implement guidelines for the Department with respect to monitoring the efficacy of the customary freshwater fisheries regulations at regular intervals.
- (c) Develop and implement guidelines for the Department with respect to sharing accumulated management information and research data on customary freshwater fisheries with Te Rūnanga.

5.6 *Other matters*

The Department will work with Te Rūnanga at Regional and conservancy levels to provide for active participation by Te Rūnanga in the conservation, management and research of customary freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats by:

- (a) Seeking to identify areas for co-operation in advocacy, consistent with 9 below, focusing on fish passage, minimum flows, protection of riparian vegetation and habitats, water quality improvement and in the restoration, rehabilitation or enhancement of customary freshwater fisheries and their freshwater habitats.
- (b) Consulting with Te Rūnanga in developing or contributing to research programmes that aim to improve the understanding of the biology of customary freshwater fisheries and their environmental and habitat requirements. The Department confirms that it regards Te Rūnanga as a possible science provider or collaborator for research projects funded or promoted by the Department in the same manner as other potential providers or collaborators.

5.7 *Specific Projects*

The Department will, subject to 3.2 above, work with Te Rūnanga to:

- (a) Conduct research to establish and address ecosystem threats to specified customary freshwater fisheries including barriers to migration, habitat loss and exotic species interaction.
- (b) Contribute to the resolution of eel management issues, in particular, the administration of the fish passage regulations in the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations, and the promotion of the installation of effective fish passes where necessary and monitoring of their effects, by participating in discussions with Te Rūnanga and Te Waka a Māui me ona Toka Mahi Tuna.
- (c) Identify the need for, and where necessary prepare, management plans for freshwater fisheries management.

6 **CULLING OF SPECIES OF INTEREST TO NGĀI TAHU**

6.1 As part of an integrated management regime, or because a species population has risen to become an ecological pest, it may from time to time be necessary for the Department to carry out a cull of a protected species under the Wildlife Act 1953. The Department recognises that Te Rūnanga is interested in such operations in the following ways:

- (i) the carrying out of such a cull where the species to be culled is causing or is likely to cause ecological damage to species or habitats of particular significance to Ngāi Tahu;
- (ii) the methods to be used in such culls; and
- (iii) cultural materials arising from the cull.

6.2 The Department will:

- (a) Have regard to any requests initiated by Te Rūnanga for the carrying out of culling operations.
- (b) Consult with, and have particular regard to the views of, Te Rūnanga before deciding to carry out a cull of protected species on land administered by the Department, in respect of the reasons for the cull and the method proposed to be used.

- (c) In situations where either a Fish and Game Council or a Regional Council intend to carry out a cull of protected species or game birds and the Department has a statutory role in the process, request the relevant body to consult with Te Rūnanga before carrying out any such cull.

7 HISTORIC RESOURCES

- 7.1 The Minister acknowledges the importance to Ngāi Tahu of their wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance to them. Liaison with Te Rūnanga is important in the management of those places containing sites of historic and cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu, including places of settlement, horticulture, natural resource use, warfare, communication, and places of cultural and spiritual connection.
- 7.2 The Department notes that non-disclosure of locations of places known to Ngāi Tahu is a practice used by Ngāi Tahu to preserve the sanctity of a place. Respecting the principle of confidentiality brings management difficulties of a particular kind. Where information is not available, management practices which (unintentionally) contravene the cultural purpose associated with a specific site, may be put in place. Where reasonably practicable, the Department will respect the principle of confidentiality that applies to wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu. The primary responsibility for identifying and assessing Ngāi Tahu heritage values rests with Te Rūnanga.
- 7.3 The Department will work with Te Rūnanga at Regional and conservancy levels to:
 - (a) Ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that Ngāi Tahu values attaching to identified wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu managed by the Department are respected by the Department, for example, by the Department giving consideration to impacts from visitor numbers, facilities and services.
 - (b) Manage, as far as reasonably practicable, wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu according to the standards of conservation practice outlined in the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter 1993.
 - (c) Ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that when issuing concessions giving authority for other parties to manage land administered by the Department, those parties manage the land according to the standards of conservation practice outlined in the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter 1993.
 - (d) Have particular regard to relevant Te Rūnanga policies, including those relating to Koiwi Tangata (unidentified human remains) and Archaeological and Rock Art Sites.
 - (e) Ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that it uses Ngāi Tahu's cultural information only with the consent of Te Rūnanga.
 - (f) When issuing concessions to carry out activities on the land administered by the Department, request that the concessionaire consult with Te Rūnanga before using Ngāi Tahu's cultural information.

7.4 *Specific Projects*

The Department will, subject to 3.2 above, work with Te Rūnanga at regional and conservancy levels to:

- (a) Develop and implement guidelines for the identification, inventory and management of wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu by the Department that take into consideration the traditional uses and practices of Ngāi Tahu and are, where reasonably practicable, consistent with Ngāi Tahu tikanga.
- (b) Identify and actively protect specified wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga or other places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu on land administered by the Department.
- (c) Develop and implement guidelines for the active protection of wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu.
- (d) Identify co-operative projects covering a range of options for the protection and management of wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance to Ngāi Tahu.

- (e) Develop and implement guidelines relating to the use of Ngāi Tahu's knowledge of wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance of Ngāi Tahu, including the use of this information by the Department.
- (f) Consult with and seek participation from Te Rūnanga with respect to research, survey or inventory projects that relate specifically to wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic significance to them.

8 VISITOR AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

8.1 In providing public information and interpretation services and facilities for visitors on the land it manages, the Department recognises the importance to Ngāi Tahu of their cultural, spiritual, traditional and historic values.

8.2 The Department will work with Te Rūnanga at regional and conservancy levels to encourage respect for Ngāi Tahu values by:

- (a) As far as reasonably practicable seeking to raise public awareness of positive conservation partnerships developed between Te Rūnanga, the Department and other stakeholders, for example, by way of publications, presentations and seminars.
- (b) Consulting on the provisions of interpretation and visitor facilities (if any) at wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and other places of historic or cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu.
- (c) Ensuring, as far as reasonably practicable, that Department information on new panels, signs, and visitor publications includes Te Rūnanga perspectives and references to the significance of the sites to Ngāi Tahu where appropriate, including the use of traditional Ngāi Tahu place names.
- (d) Encouraging Te Rūnanga participation in the Department's volunteer and conservation events programmes.

8.3 *Specific Projects*

The Department will, subject to 3.2 above, work with Te Rūnanga at regional and conservancy levels to:

- (a) Develop and implement guidelines on the provision of information and interpretation facilities and services for visitors, so as to identify and consider issues of concern to Te Rūnanga.
- (b) Consider possibilities for Te Rūnanga to contribute to visitor appreciation of the cultural value of sites of cultural and historic significance to Ngāi Tahu managed by the Department.
- (c) Provide information to education providers, including kohanga reo and kura kaupapa Māori, for the development of educational resources on conservation issues and associated Ngāi Tahu values.

9 Resource Management Act 1991

9.1 Te Rūnanga and the Department both have concerns with the effects of activities controlled and managed under the Resource Management Act. These include effects on:

- wetlands;
- riparian management;
- freshwater fish habitat;
- water quality management;
- protection of historic resources;
- protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats.

9.2 From time to time, Te Rūnanga and the Department will seek to identify further issues of mutual interest for discussion. It is recognised that their concerns in any particular resource management issue may diverge and that each of them will continue to make separate submissions.

- 9.3 The Department will work with Te Rūnanga at regional and conservancy levels to discuss the general approach that will be taken by each of Te Rūnanga and the Department in respect of advocacy under the Resource Management Act, and seek to identify their respective priorities and issues of mutual concern.
- 9.4 The Department will;
- (a) Have regard to the priorities and issues of mutual concern identified in 9.3(a) above in making decisions in respect of advocacy under the Resource Management Act.
 - (b) Make non-confidential resource information available to Te Rūnanga to assist in improving their effectiveness in Resource Management Act advocacy work at the Papatipu Rūnanga level.

10 AMENDMENT AND REVIEW PROVISIONS FROM THE DEED

10.1 Amendment and Cancellation of Protocols

Protocols may be amended or cancelled at any time by the Crown through the Minister of Conservation, at the initiative of either the Crown or Te Rūnanga, and after consultation with Te Rūnanga and having particular regard to its views.

3 - TAONGA SPECIES - SCHEDULE 97 AND 98 NGĀI TAHU CLAIMS
SETTLEMENT ACT 1998

Taonga species found in Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park

BIRDS

NAME IN MĀORI	NAME IN ENGLISH	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Kāhu	Australasian harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Kākā	South Island kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i>
Kākāriki	New Zealand parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus</i> spp.
Kakaruai	South Island robin	<i>Petroica australis australis</i>
Kāmana	Crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Kāreārea	New Zealand falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>
Karoro	Black-backed gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Kea	Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>
Kōau	Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
	Little Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>
Koekoeā	Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>
Kōparapara <i>or</i> Korimako	Bellbird	<i>Anthornis melanura melanura</i>
Kōtare	Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>

NAME IN MĀORI	NAME IN ENGLISH	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Kōwhiowhio	Blue duck	Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos
Kūkupa/ Kererū	New Zealand wood pigeon	Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae
Kuruwhengu/Kuruwahengi	New Zealand shoveler	Anas rhynchotis
Mātā	Fernbird	Bowdleria punctata punctata
Miromiro	South Island tomtit	Petroica macrocephala macrocephala
Pākura/ Pūkeko	Swamp hen pukeko	Porphyrio porphyrio
Pārera	Grey duck	Anas superciliosa
Pihoihoi	New Zealand pipit	Anthus novaeseelandiae
Pipīwharau	Shining cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus
Piwakawaka	South Island fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa
Pūtakitaki	Paradise shelduck	Tadorna variegata
Riroriro	Grey warbler	Gerygone igata
Rowi	Ōkārito brown kiwi	Apteryx mantelli
Ruru koukou	Morepork	Ninox novaeseelandiae
Tara	Tern	Sterna spp.
Tete	Grey teal	Anas gracilis
Titipounamu	South Island rifleman	Acanthisitta chloris chloris
NAME IN MĀORI	NAME IN ENGLISH	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Tūi	Tui	Prothemadera novaeseelandiae
Weka	Western weka	Gallirallus australis australis

PLANTS

Akatorotoro	White rata	Metrosideros perforata
Aruhe	Fernroot (bracken)	Pteridium aquilinum var. esculentum
Harakeke	Flax	Phormium tenax
Horoeka	Lancewood	Pseudopanax crassifolium
Houhi	Mountain ribbonwood	Hoheria glabrata
Kahikatea	Kahikatea/white pine	Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Kāmahi	Kāmahi	Weinmannia racemosa
Kāpuka	Broadleaf	Griselinia littoralis
Karaeopirita	Supplejack	Ripogonum scandens
Karamū	Coprosma	Coprosma robusta, coprosma lucida, coprosma foetidissima
Kātote	Tree fern	Cyathea smithii
Kiekie	Kiekie	Freycinetia baueriana subsp.

Koromiko/Kōrōmuka	Koromiko	banksii Hebe salicifolia
NAME IN MĀORI	NAME IN ENGLISH	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Kōtukutuku	Tree fuchsia	Fuchsia excorticata
Kōwhai/Kōhai	Kowhai	Sophora microphylla
Mamaku	Tree fern	Cyathea medullaris
Mānia	Sedge	Carex lucida
Mānuka/Kahikātoa	Tea-tree	Leptospermum scoparium
Māpou	Red matipo	Myrsine australis
Matai	Matai black pine	Prumnopitys taxifolia
Miro	Miro brown pine	Podocarpus ferrugineus
Pānako	(Species of fern)	Asplenium obtusatum
Pātōtara	Dwarf mingimingi	Leucopogon fraseri
Pingao	Pingao	Desmoschoenus spiralis
Pōkākā	Pokaka	Elaeocarpus hookerianus
Rātā	Southern rata	Metrosideros umbellata
Raupō	Bulrush	Typha angustifolia
Rautāwhiri/Kōhūtū	Black matipo/ mapou	Pittosporum tenuifolium
Rimu	Rimu red pine	Dacrydium cypressinum
Taramea	Speargrass, spaniard	Aciphylla spp.
Tawai	Silver beech	Nothofagus menziesii.
Ti rākau/Te Kōuka	Cabbage tree	Cordyline australis
Tikumu	Mountain daisy	Celmisia semicordata
NAME IN MĀORI	NAME IN ENGLISH	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Toatoa	Mountain toatoa, celery pine	Phyllocladus alpinus
Toetoe	Toetoe	Cortaderia richardii
Tōtara	Totara	Podocarpus totara
Tutu	Tutu	Coriaria spp.
Wharariki	Mountain flax	Phormium cookianum
Whinau	Hinau	Elaeocarpus dentatus
Wiwi	Rushes	Juncus all indigenous Juncus spp. and J. maritimus

MARINE MAMMALS

Kekeno

New Zealand fur seals

Arctocephalus forsteri

Schedule 98

Customary Fisheries

Part A-Taonga Fish Species

NAME IN MĀORI	NAME IN ENGLISH	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Koeke	Common shrimp	<i>Palaemon affinis</i>
Kōkopu/Hawai	Giant bully	<i>Gobiomorbus gobioides</i>
Paraki/Ngaiore	Common smelt	<i>Retropinna retropinna</i>
Piripiripōhatu	Torrentfish	<i>Cheimarrichthys fosteri</i>
Taiwharu	Giant kōkopu	<i>Galaxias argenteus</i>

4 - MOUNT COOK AND WESTLAND NATIONAL PARKS RESIDENT AIRCRAFT USER GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Environmental Policy

Mission Statement

Aviation allows large numbers of people of all ages and physical ability, who in most cases would never otherwise have the opportunity, to experience our remoter alpine regions without leaving any lasting trace and without requiring any infrastructure such as huts, tracks, toilets.

The Group's policy is to actively foster aviation, and to cultivate and maintain an environmentally aware culture, in particular awareness and consideration of potential disturbance to values of ground based users.

Code of Practice

1. To develop and maintain an environmentally aware culture, in particular an awareness and consideration, at all times, of potential disturbance to ground based users.
 2. To consider environmental effects when selecting aircraft types, in particular noise emission and aircraft capacity.
 3. To develop and regularly review aircraft operating procedures that minimises noise emission, particularly in sensitive localities.
 4. When safe and practicable, to follow flight paths that minimises impact on the environment.
 5. Pursue a policy of high and wide flight clear of sensitive areas and in particular strict observance of minimum vertical and horizontal clearances in the vicinity of identified ground user sensitive areas.
 6. No flying shall take place in close proximity to the summit of Aoraki/Mount Cook.
 7. Each resident operator is to elaborate in their exposition how they specifically embody this code of practice in their operation
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