PREFACE

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

A Management Plan is generally a statement of intent and does not override the provisions of legislation, general policy and agreements. The objectives of this plan express the Department's overall management intentions for Kahurangi National Park over the next ten years. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources and level of community support. The plan does not establish a promised level of funding. Nonetheless, the stated objectives are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding and support.

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

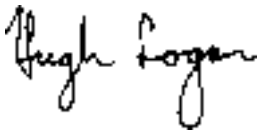
This management plan recognises the mana and tangata whenua status of Ngai Tahu, Ngati Apa, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama and Te Atiawa over their ancestral lands and waters within the Park and its significance to them. The recognition of mana and tangata whenua status is present through all sections and policies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

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

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

The draft plan was then notified for public submission on 1 November 1997. A total of 317 submissions were received and 60 submittors 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 ten years from the date of approval (13 June 2001), but may be reviewed at any time as a result of changes in circumstance.



Hugh Logan
Director-General Department of Conservation

HE WHAKATAUAKI TUPUNA
(A PROVERB)

Kia au mai nga tatai nga whetu ta tu atu ki te kaupapa
Kia au ki te mana, ihi, wehi, o nga mea katoa
Kia tapu te mara o Papatuanuku. He karakia mo tera mara mo tiki kai me mahi kai
Kia whakatu tika te Tai Ao me Te Tai Ao tiaki te Tai Ao
Kia mohio tika te tangata nga korero me nga tikanga o Te Tai Ao.

Hold fast to the genealogy lines from the stars to oneself and all things
Hold strong to the sacredness, prestige and awe of all things created
Keep the garden of mother earth sacred and open through appropriate incantations for all things and when planting or gathering food
If the environment is kept well and strong it will look after itself
The one who teaches about the environment must understand the structure, lore and rituals pertaining to it.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Management Planning

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

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

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

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

1. An initial notice is published asking for suggestions and comments. (July 1996).
2. A draft management plan is prepared in consultation with the Conservation Board.
3. The draft management plan is released for public submission for at least 2 months. (November 1997).
4. Those wishing to be heard in support of their submissions appear before representatives of the Department and the Conservation Board.
5. The draft plan is revised in light of submissions.
6. The Conservation Board considers the revised draft and the summary of submissions and may make further amendments. (December 1998)
7. When satisfied the Board recommends the revised draft to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval (August 1999).
8. The NZCA considers the amended draft and refers the draft to the Minister of Conservation for comment (March 2000).
9. When satisfied, the NZCA approves the management plan (June 2001).

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

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

1.2 Legislative Context

1.2.1 THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

National Parks Act, Section 4: "(1) The provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest"

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

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

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

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

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

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

This draft management plan is prepared under Section 45 of the Act and will provide for the management of the park in accordance with the Act.

Bylaws

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

1.2.2 THE GENERAL POLICY FOR NATIONAL PARKS 1983

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

1.2.3 THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

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

The Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)

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

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

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

1.2.4 THE CONSERVATION AMENDMENT ACT 1996

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

1.2.5 NGAI TAHU ACTS

Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act 1996

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

Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

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

Ngai Tahu (Pounamu Vesting) Act 1997

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

1.2.6 THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

The purpose of this Act is -

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

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

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

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

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

Section 74(2)(b) of the Act states that “A territorial authority shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under any other Act”. Councils will therefore have to have regard to the Conservation Management Strategies for Nelson/ Marlborough and the West Coast (once approved) and this management plan when preparing their plans and policies.

1.2.7 THE CROWN MINERALS ACT 1991

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

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

1.2.8 OTHER STRATEGIES AND PLANS

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

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

1.2.9 OTHER BODIES WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

Ministry of Health - responsible for public health.

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

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

The Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast Fish and Game Councils - responsible for the issue of sports fish and game bird licences and for the setting of related restrictions for the sustainable management of sports fisheries.

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

Locality Map 1

1.3 Background

TE TAPUAE O TE KAHU O TE RANGI

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

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

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

1.3.1 PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Te tinana o Te Whea Tapu

Understanding the geology of the park is an important key to understanding the landforms, landscapes and biodiversity of the park. The Kahurangi area is geologically one of the most complex in New Zealand. There is a basic pattern of five geological bands orientated in a north-south direction. From west to east the bands are firstly, a wide band of western Karamea granites followed by a western sedimentary belt of sandstones and quartzites, a complex central sedimentary belt about the Anatoki Thrust, an eastern sedimentary belt with much marble and, just on the edge of the park, Separation Point granites. Overlying this in various places are younger rocks dominated by limestones and in the north, along the Wakamarama Range, there are conglomerates, siltstone and coal measures.

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

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

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

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

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

Glaciated landscapes are an important part of Kahurangi. The most spectacular are in the Island Lake-Cobb area where there are fine examples of cirque lakes, U-shaped valleys, horn peaks, moraines and polished roches moutonnés. The Cobb is the longest glaciated valley in Kahurangi and is associated with the Lake Sylvester cirque field.

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

Caves and Karst

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

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

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

Māori Cultural Values

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

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

Caves and karst areas are also burial places. These burial sites are not just convenient holes or spaces for putting deceased people in, they are instead special areas because of the maternal relationship with Papatuanuku.

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

1.3.2 WATERS

Nga wai tapu o Tangaroa te toto heke o nga tuupuna

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

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

Māori Cultural Values

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

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

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

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

1.3.3 ECOSYSTEMS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS

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

Ecosystems

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

Alpine Communities

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

Limestone and Marble Communities

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

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

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

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

Ultramafic Communities

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

Lowland Forest Communities

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

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

Coastal Communities

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

Granite Communities

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

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

Pakihi Communities

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

Native Plants

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Native Animals

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

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

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

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

The Park has a high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates which exhibit a high level of endemism, for example the Northwest Nelson giant weta. This arises because of complex biogeographic processes, including the area’s role as an important refuge during the Pleistocene ice ages, and also because of the many specialised habitats present. For instance, the Park is an important centre for obligate cave dwelling species (troglobites) because of the large areas of karst and numerous cave systems. Of particular note is a cave spider (*Spelungula cavernicola*) which is found in limestone fissures and caves of the Oparara and lower Heaphy valleys.

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

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

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

1.3.4 INTRODUCED ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Nga kararehe nga rakau me nga otaota tau hou

Introduced Animals

Deer

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

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

Goats

Wild goats originated from herds abandoned by early settlers, gold diggers and graziers. More recently, animals have escaped from herds used for scrub clearing and domestic purposes along the eastern boundary. Problems in some areas, including the Lower Wangapeka, have also been created by the release of goats from collapsed commercial ventures. Goats are among the most damaging of introduced animals. The main population extends from Mt Patriarch to the head of the Riwaka River.

Scattered colonies occur in the Leslie and Crow catchments and on the Wakamarama Range in Golden Bay. Goats also occur in the Cobb, Stanley and Waingaro Catchments. Heaviest concentrations are in the Waingaro River environs, as well as in the northern Arthur Range where the vegetation shows significant damage.

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

Chamois

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

Possums

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

Pigs

From the early days of European settlement pigs escaped into the forests and shrublands to form wild populations. Pigs are scattered throughout the Wakamarama Range and along the eastern fringe of the area from Parapara to Wangapeka Rivers. They also occur locally in the Karamea area. Pigs seldom inhabit alpine areas and only the occasional pig occurs as far west as the Roaring Lion River. Pigs rarely occur in sufficient numbers to cause significant damage to vegetation. Their main impact is on populations of native land snails of the genus *Powelliphanta* and where pig numbers are locally concentrated, usually in areas bordering farmland. Pigs also feed on a wide range of small animals and the eggs of ground nesting birds.

Rabbits and Hares

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

Other Predators

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

Birds

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

Fish

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

Introduced Plants

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

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

Gorse is widespread in peripheral areas such as the Aorere area and has spread via machinery into largely pristine places such as Gouland Downs and the Cobb valley. In these latter areas, major attempts have been made to remove it. Gorse has also invaded the Heaphy valley and the coast from Kohaihai to north of the Heaphy River. Scattered wilding pine trees occur on the eastern margins of the Park near Uruwhenua, the Takaka Valley and in the Little Onahau granite area. Hakea is present in the

Onekaka area and the Aorere valley, but in the absence of fire it will be eliminated in the long term by the reversion of scrub to forest. Marram grass is a problem on the coastline north of the Heaphy and is being controlled, along with gorse in that area. Horsetail is widespread in the Mokihinui River catchment and is becoming a problem in the Karamea River area. Wild ginger is becoming firmly established around Kohaihai in forest and scrub areas where it is beginning to spread.

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

1.3.5 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Koorero tuuturu o nga taonga tuku iho

Māori History

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

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

The pattern of Māori settlement is overwhelmingly coastal, with middens and general occupation clustered around the larger river mouths and estuaries, which provided both shelter and abundant food resources. The most notable of these are the Kohaihai, Heaphy, Whanganui, Pakawau, Ruataniwha and Parapara inlets. Defensive Pa and kumera storage pits were also established on coastal ridges and terraces around Golden Bay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Post-European Settlement

Settlement

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

Exploration

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

Mining

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

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

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

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

Logging

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

Water and Power

Many streams were dammed last century to supply water to alluvial goldfields. Early hydroelectric generation schemes supplied power to the Onekaka Ironworks, and a dam in Campbell's Creek supplied power to Takaka. Although the latter was abandoned by the 1970s, the Pupu Hydro Society recently reopened the Pupu Scheme and there is also a proposal to redevelop the Onekaka Scheme. The first dam and reservoir in the Cobb valley were built in 1944. The present dam was completed and the reservoir filled in 1955. The reservoir and the surrounding strip of land cover about 317 hectares and the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (ECNZ) retains freehold about 8.5 hectares for part of the dam, penstocks and generating plant. All hydroelectric schemes were excluded from the national park when it was formed, as case law prohibits such power schemes in national parks, although transmission lines transferring energy from these schemes still exist within the park in very limited locations.

Recreational Hunting and Fishing

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

Recent Times

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

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

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

1.3.6 USE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Nga painga me nga putangatia

Access

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

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

Recreational Use

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

Access Map 2

At the time of writing there are over 570 km of walks, tracks and routes, 60 public huts and four shelters within the Park (Map 2). Only a small proportion of these facilities, mostly those on the Heaphy and in the Tablelands, experience a high level of use. Most of the Park's facilities have a medium level of use and about a third are used infrequently, which makes them attractive to trampers seeking a remote experience. The Tablelands Track network is the most popular in the park and receives over 12000 visitors each year. The Heaphy Track draws about 4000 visitors per annum, and the Wangapeka Track is used by about 1200 visitors each year. About 800 people annually use the Leslie-Karamea Track. Elsewhere, there is a range of low to moderate use by locals, domestic and overseas visitors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Off-road vehicles, including mountain bikes, are allowed only on formed roads in the National Park, except for management or search and rescue purposes. When most of Kahurangi was still a forest park, mountain biking was not prohibited and the Department actively encouraged it on some tracks. Biking on the Heaphy Track was discouraged, but it was still used extensively by mountain bikers until the national park was formed.

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

Scientific Study

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

Customary Harvest and Use

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

Non-Recreational Commercial Use

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

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

Mining and prospecting were historically widespread in the Park but all areas being actively mined or with mining or prospecting rights over them were excluded from the Park at its formation. Since the Park's formation, the Crown Minerals Amendment Act (No. 2) 1997 was introduced to restrict mining in National Parks. However, Kahurangi National Park is not covered by this amendment (being gazetted after 1 October 1991). In considering applications for access arrangements to undertake mining activities, the Minister of Conservation is required to have regard to the matters set out in Section 61(2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

1.4 Vision

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

Diversity ~ Sanctuary ~ Wilderness

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

1.5 Primary Objectives

- To preserve in their natural state in perpetuity the landscape, natural ecological systems, wilderness and natural and historic features of Kahurangi National Park and as far as possible eradicate introduced plants and animals.

- To retain the essential character of Kahurangi National Park as a remote, undeveloped, natural area of great beauty, natural quiet and diversity, and of value for whakapapa, recreation, appreciation and study.
- To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, at least to the extent that the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 are not inconsistent with those principles.
- To give the public the opportunity to gain benefit, enjoyment, inspiration and opportunities for recreation from the Park to the extent compatible with the Objectives above.

2. TREATY OF WAITANGI

2. TREATY OF WAITANGI

Policy

To actively protect and provide for the interests of iwi.

Background

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

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

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

Settlement Mechanisms

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

Topuni

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

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

A Topuni involves three levels of information:

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

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

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

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

Protocols

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

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

(a) how the Department of Conservation will exercise its functions, powers and duties in relation to specific matters within the Ngai Tahu claim area; and

(b) how the Department of Conservation will, on a continuing basis, interact with Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and provide for Te Runanga o Ngai 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 Ngai Tahu;
- historic resources;
- Resource Management Act involvement;
- visitor and public information.

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

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

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

***Footnote:** Hearings began in August 2000.

Implementation

1. ***Actively consult and work with nga iwi throughout the term of this plan regarding its implementation.***

2. ***Recognise that this management plan is being developed and will be implemented in an environment of evolving legislation and policy.***

3. ***Recognise that certain provisions of the Ngai Tahu Settlement Act 1998 will affect management of the Park land which is in the Takiwa/area of Ngai Tahu and that other Treaty settlements may affect the implementation of this plan.***

References:

Nelson/Marlborough CMS
Treaty Obligations, p111-112

West Coast draft CMS
Giving Effect to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, p20-26
Treaty of Waitangi