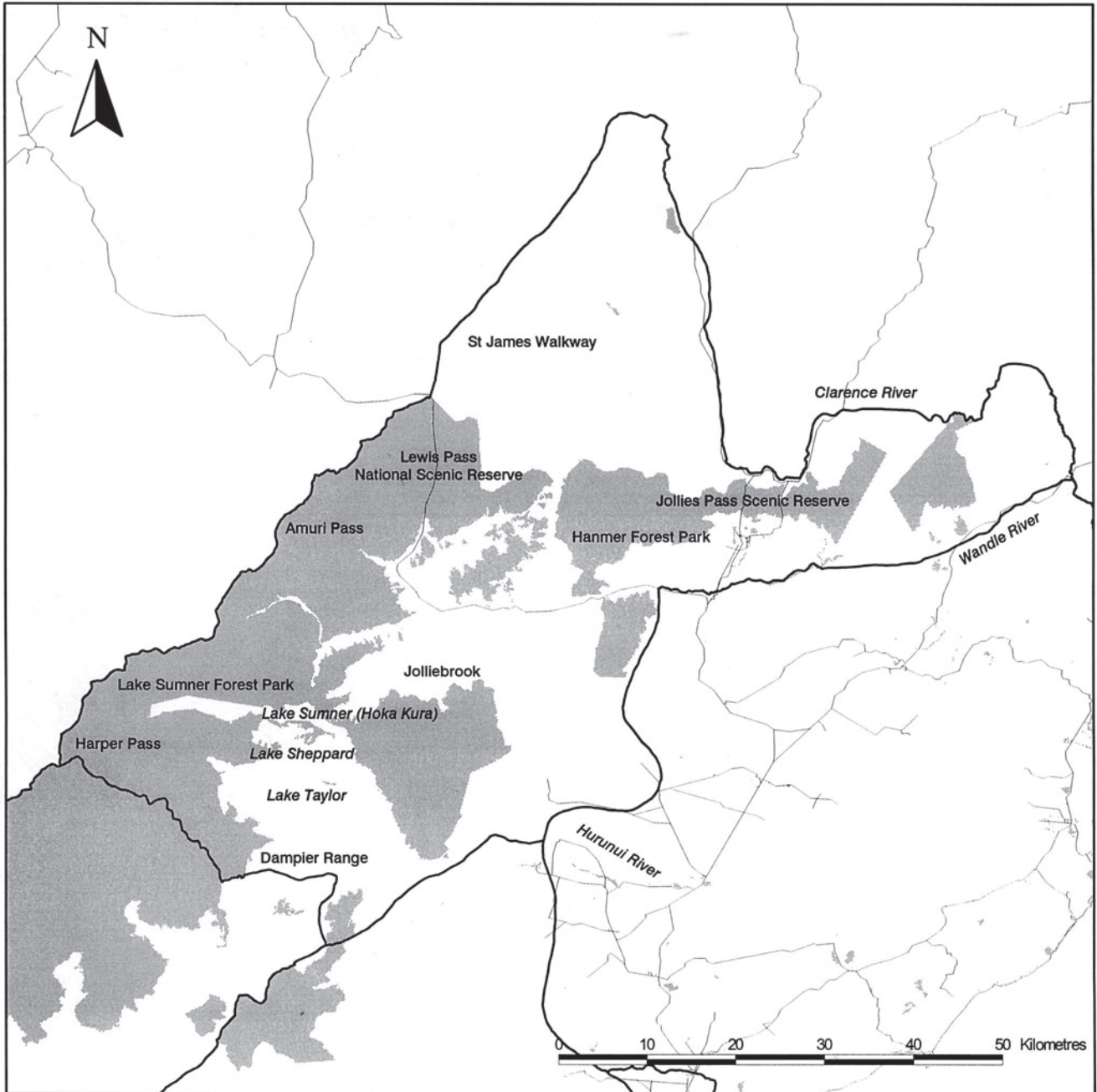




Map 3 Hurunui



- CMS Place Unit Boundaries
- Main roads
- Land managed by the Department



4.2 Hurunui

Introduction

The Hurunui unit includes the Hanmer Forest Park, the Lake Sumner Forest Park and the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve.

Features and Issues

People Partnership

The area is sparsely populated and contains only a few small towns, most notably the tourism centre of Hanmer Springs where the Hurunui Visitor Information Centre is run by the Hurunui District Council. Kaikōura and Ngāi Tuahuriri are the Papatipu Rūnanga.

Extensive pastoralism and exotic forestry are important to the area and it is important that the Department and landholders establish and retain a positive working relationship (e.g. for wilding tree control work).

The Hurunui Lakes Working Party, with representation from runholders, the Department, Ngāi Tahu, Canterbury Regional Council, Hurunui District Council, the North Canterbury Conservation Board and recreation and conservation groups, has worked on recommendations on the integrated management of natural resources in the Upper Hurunui/Lake Sumner catchment.

Heritage Conservation

The Hurunui unit is a moderately glaciated western mountain and valley system. It is dominated by beech forest associations in the west, grading eastward to rolling hill country with remnant forest and tussock and shrubland cover. The area features Lake Sumner and surrounding lakes, and geothermal springs that are of ecological and recreational interest. The Department manages most of the area west and north of Lake Sumner as far as Lewis Pass.

The forest bird life is the most diverse in the Conservancy. Great-spotted kiwi/roora are found in good numbers, and yellowhead/mohua are present in some areas. Further survey, monitoring and management work is necessary to safeguard this important bird community.

Weeds, particularly broom and wilding pines, are major problems for agriculture and indigenous ecosystems in the area. Plant pest control will be undertaken as required (e.g. nassella tussock and broom), according to programmes agreed between the Department, landholders and the Canterbury Regional Council.

No comprehensive ecological survey has been completed for the area. Although highly modified in the east, there remains a high degree of naturalness, particularly in the more northern and western parts of the unit.

Human History

This area contains the easiest passes to the West Coast (Te Tai Poutini) from Canterbury. The passes were utilised by Māori for travel and trade, particularly in the precious pounamu (greenstone). The Hurunui lakes were extensively used for mahinga kai, particularly for waterfowl and eels/tuna, and remain an important site.

Early European pastoral settlement in the mid-1800s has left some fine examples of buildings dating from this era, such as Dozy Stream hut (mud and stud), Eskhead station homestead (cob construction), Glens of Tekoa (sod homestead) and the Acheron accommodation house (cob construction). Remnants of benched tracks dating from this period exist near the head of the Harper and Amuri passes.

Recreation and Use

The Hanmer Springs area is a popular resort, based on the local alpine scenery, hot springs and the recreational value of the exotic forests planted in the early 1900s. Canterbury people regularly make weekend trips to the area. Hanmer Forest Park is extremely popular over the summer holiday period, attracting more than 200,000 visitors a year. The hot springs attract 340,000 visitors per year.

The Upper Hurunui Lakes, Lewis Pass area, and Lake Sumner Forest Park is a highly significant outdoor adventure playground, particularly for water-based recreation. The St James Walkway has the potential to become more significant for local and international visitors. The Outdoor Education Centre at Boyle River is probably the best-known centre of its type in Canterbury. The Hurunui River has a national-grade kayak slalom course.



The Upper Hurunui Lakes area, in particular, is popular for angling and gamebird hunting, and also for off-road vehicle use. This last usage is having adverse effects on local roads and adjacent indigenous ecosystems in the Lake Sumner vicinity. An unlicensed holiday settlement of caravans and huts exists on the shores of Loch Katrine.

Mountain-biking is popular in the Hanmer Springs area with access over Jacks and Jollies Pass to Lake Tennyson and beyond. The vehicle routes through Molesworth Station, via the Acheron or the Rainbow Rivers, are becoming increasingly popular. The multi-day canoe trip down the Clarence River attracts canoeists and rafters from throughout the country.

Areas Managed by the Department

The following areas managed by the Department are described in more detail in Volume 2, Schedule 2:

Name	Unit
Hanmer Forest Park	N32007
Hossack Conservation Area	N31001 includes N31002
Jollies Pass Scenic Reserve	N32001
Lake Guyon Scenic Reserve	M31003
Lake Sumner Conservation Area, lakehead marginal strips	L32007
Lake Sumner Forest Park	L32001
Lake Taylor marginal strip	L33020, includes L33003
Lake Tennyson Scenic Reserve	M31002
Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve, national reserve	M31004, includes M31005, M31009
Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve	L32008
Lower Doubtful and Boyle River Conservation Area	M32014
Nina -Doubtful Rivers Conservation Areas	M3200
Pāhau Conservation Area	L32011
Part of Woodbank run	M32012
Raupó Pond	L33002
Seaward Forest Conservation Area	M33025
Terako Downs Scenic Reserve	N32113
Wairangi Scenic Reserve and adjacent conservation area	N32033, includes N32034

Key Priorities

4.2.1 Hurunui Ecosystems and Species

Issues

The unit consists of seven ecological districts, none of which have been formally surveyed under the PNA programmes (see 5.5.4 Survey and Monitoring). Five of these have significant areas managed by the Department. Large areas of land managed by the Department, the two exceptions being Miromiro and Leslie.

There is a need to gather more information on the natural values of the areas. While progress has been made in adding to the network of protected areas, the full range of types of vegetation and natural landscape types is not yet covered. Many areas outside land managed by the Department need greater recognition and protection.

The Lake Sumner Forest Park has the richest forest bird diversity in Canterbury. Great-spotted kiwi/roroa, yellowhead/mohua (threatened), kākā, kea, orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki-wheno (endangered), and blue duck/whio (threatened) are present. Bats/pekapeka may exist in the area. Some, or all, of these species are at risk, principally from predation by introduced mammalian predators. (See Volume 2, Schedule 2, Lake Sumner Forest Park unit).

The Conservancy has instigated a 'mainland island restoration programme' in the upper catchment of the Hurunui River. This programme aims to enhance a suite of species such as beech forest birds and plant species. These include what is thought to be the only population of orange-fronted parakeets in New Zealand, the largest population of mohua in Canterbury, and other forest species such as kaka, great-spotted kiwi and robins.

Tenure review of pastoral leases is an active process in this unit, providing opportunities for natural values protection.



Objectives

- To identify the significant indigenous vegetation and threatened plant and animal species of the Hurunui unit.
- To use a range of effective methods to protect the indigenous biodiversity of the Hurunui unit.
- To protect and enhance the viability of priority threatened species' populations and their habitat(s) in the Hurunui unit.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Survey the ecological values of the Miromiro and Leslie ecological districts.
2. Negotiate with landholders to protect significant areas of indigenous vegetation/wildlife habitat (see 5.2.3 Land Ecosystems), including through the tenure review process.
3. Undertake research/survey to clarify the distribution, status, habitat preferences and threats of the following species:
 - Reptiles
 - scree skink
 - striped skink
 - Birds
 - yellow-crowned parakeet/kākāriki-whereo
 - southern crested grebe/kāmana
 - mohua/yellowhead
 - great-spotted kiwi/roroa
 - New Zealand falcon/kārearea
 - blue duck/kowhiowhio
 - kākā
 - Plants
 - any relevant species under 'All places' in Appendix 2: Indigenous Species Priorities.
 - Fish
 - short-jawed kōkopu
4. Advocate effective means to avoid adverse effects to the habitat of blue duck and long-jawed kōkopu in Canterbury Regional Council and Hurunui District Council plans.
5. Advocate for the protection of indigenous biodiversity, including the habitat of threatened species and the healthy functioning of ecosystems.
6. Undertake animal pest control to reduce their threat to: yellow-crowned parakeet, yellowhead, and kākā.
7. Establish and maintain a Hurunui mainland island habitat consistent with approved operations plans.
8. Seek formal habitat protection for the short-jawed kōkopu.
9. Utilise media, publications, interpretive material and personal contact to outline the management issues associated with kea.

4.2.2 Wilding Tree/Broom Control

Issues

Wilding pines are spreading into land managed by the Department and displacing indigenous vegetation. The open tussock/grassland cover of the Hurunui unit makes this a serious problem. The spread of broom on the hillsides and river beds also threatens natural and historic values in many places. Priorities for control that are sustainable into the future need to be established, so that the long-term benefits in protecting indigenous plant communities can be maximised.

Objective

- To set and implement priorities for wilding pine and broom control and maximise benefits for indigenous biodiversity.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Develop an operation plan for wilding pine and broom control in the area.
2. Focus wilding control in Hanmer Forest Park, the Jolliebrook catchment of Lake Sumner Forest Park, Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and Jollies Pass Scenic Reserve.



3. Focus broom control in the Jolliebrook catchment of Lake Sumner Forest Park, and Jollies Pass Scenic Reserve.
4. Encourage suitably qualified volunteer and community participation in plant pest control operations.

4.2.3 Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and St James Walkway

Issues

The St James Walkway and the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve provide recreation opportunities that are regionally significant, and they are also areas of high ecological value. There is a need to provide easily accessible roadside recreation facilities that will enhance enjoyment of the area (see 4.2.5 SH7 Scenic Corridor Protection, Interpretation and Recreation Facilities). The current boundaries of the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and surrounding land are based on old administrative boundaries and could be rationalised, taking into account any land management changes arising from tenure review. Fencing on the southern boundary of the reserve must be maintained in a stock-proof condition to prevent animals entering the reserve or the adjacent SH7. (See also Volume 2, Schedule 1 M31 004, 005 and 009, Lewis Pass National Reserve.)

Objectives

- To provide recreation facilities appropriate to identified recreation needs and in keeping with the high landscape values of the area and its remote experience qualities.
- To rationalise the boundaries of the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and adjacent land managed by the Department.
- To prevent unauthorised stock intrusion into the reserve.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Investigate the upgrading or construction of short walks and picnic areas in the Lewis Pass area.
2. Maintain a network of public recreation facilities, including tracks, huts and bridges.
3. Gazette the St James Walkway over land not managed by the Department.
4. Investigate and, if necessary, rationalise Lake Sumner Forest Park and Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve boundaries.
5. Ensure the margins of the reserve are adequately fenced to prevent unlicensed stock intrusion.
6. Control aircraft landings in the reserve to maintain natural quiet and to avoid visitor disturbance.

4.2.4 Lake Sumner Forest Park and Hurunui Lakes Management

Issues

The Lake Sumner Forest Park includes the upper catchments of the South and North Hurunui, Hope, Doubtful and Nina rivers. In the Hurunui and Hope valleys there is a complex relationship between land managed by the Department and pastoral leasehold land that occupies part of the valley floors. This requires careful management and advocacy by the Department. It is important to maintain present opportunities for recreational use, including access.

The Lake Sumner Recreation Hunting Area is popular for deer and chamois hunting.

Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura), Loch Katrine, Lake Taylor and Lake Sheppard are among a group of remote high country lakes. The beds of the lakes are Crown land. The lack of permanent settlements in the vicinity is a feature of this area. This makes the Upper Hurunui and lakes distinctly different from other parts of Canterbury.

A vehicle track exists to Loch Katrine, and boats can use a connecting stream for access to Lake Sumner. Some modification of the stream has occurred and boat access increases potential aquatic plant pest spread. However, use of this stream reduces the desire for vehicle access to Lake Sumner.

The location of private huts, the extent of vehicle access and the types of recreational use are ongoing issues. The lakes and other wetlands also have important ecological values, which will be dealt with in the Department's ongoing advocacy role with the regional and district councils. The Conservancy is preparing a management plan for the Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve. (See also Volume 2, Schedule 2, Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve unit.)



Objectives

- To manage the natural and historic resources and recreation values of Lake Sumner Forest Park.
- To advocate to avoid adverse effects on the remote character and ecological values of the Hurunui lakes area.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Support the findings of the Hurunui Lakes Working Party, which recognise the area's semi-wilderness and high ecological values.
 2. Investigate the development of appropriate shelters at Loch Katrine and Lake Taylor; and plantings for informal camping at Loch Katrine.
 3. Maintain a network of public recreation facilities, including tracks, huts, toilets and bridges.
 4. Advocate to the Hurunui District Council for methods that avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of off-road vehicles on natural and historic resources and recreation values.
 5. Rationalise the status of land managed by the Department in the vicinity of Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve.
 6. Complete, obtain approval and implement the Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve Management Plan to resolve ongoing bach issues.
 7. Liaise with Lakes, Lake Taylor, Esk Head and Poplars stations over management issues in the area.
 8. Support investigations and applications for a water conservation order for the upper Hurunui River and catchment.
 9. Manage aircraft landing concessions to protect the remote character of the area.
- (See also 4.2.2 Wilding Tree/Broom Control and 4.2.3 Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and St James Walkway.)

4.2.5 SH7 Scenic Corridor Protection, Interpretation and Recreation Facilities

Issues

The Lewis Pass Highway (State Highway 7) is a major entry and exit route for visitors to Canterbury. An opportunity exists to both protect its natural resources and develop an integrated package of interpretive and recreational developments that can enhance visitors' experiences and increase conservation awareness (see 5.3.3 Recreation Facilities).

Objectives

- To protect the natural and historic resources adjacent to the Lewis Pass Highway.
- To upgrade State Highway 7 roadside recreation and interpretation facilities.

Implementation

The Conservancy will:

1. Liaise with Hurunui District Council to promote and seek protection for the natural and historic resources along State Highway 7 to Lewis Pass.
2. Develop and implement an interpretation programme for State Highway 7, in conjunction with other agencies.
3. Liaise with Transit New Zealand, Canterbury Regional Council, and Hurunui District Council over planning, design and funding issues.
4. Upgrade and maintain key departmental recreation facilities alongside State Highway 7.

Less Achievable Tasks

Tasks the Conservancy may not be able to undertake or complete include:

- extensive broom control
- possum control for the purpose of protecting beech forest ecosystems.
- extensive wilding pine control
- maintenance of low-priority tracks and huts
- bird management
- invertebrate management
- control of cherries and rowan



Table 4: Key Priorities for Hurunui Unit

Name	Issue	Method	Result Sought	CMS Activity
4.2.1 Ecosystems and Species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The area has not been fully surveyed for its remaining ecological values Many threatened forest bird species dwell in the area 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological survey Reservation Covenant RMA advocacy Landholder liaison Predator control Mainland island restoration programme Tenure review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Full ecological survey coverage completed and significant sites and species protected Self-sustaining species populations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1.4 Communication & Liaison 5.2.3 Land Ecosystems 5.2.4 Freshwater Ecosystems 5.2.6 Indigenous Species
4.2.2 Wilding Tree/Broom Control	Wilding pines and broom are impacting on native plant communities	Physical, chemical and biological control	Wilding tree and broom control priorities developed and control implemented	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1.3 Community Participation 5.2.9 Plant Pests and Exotic Plants
4.2.3 Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and St James Walkway	The St James Walkway and Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve have recreation and ecological values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public facility Rationalise boundaries Fencing Manage aircraft landing concessions 	Greater visitor numbers catered for without significant affects on nature conservation values	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.3.3 Recreation Facilities 5.3.4 Visitor Impacts and Safety 5.4.2 Concessions General 5.5.2 Statutory Land Management
4.2.4 Lake Sumner Forest Park and Hurunui Lakes Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> High semi-wilderness and ecological values Extent of road access and recreational facilities Private structures on recreation reserve at Loch Katrine 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Loch Katrine Management Plan Agreement with Hurunui District Council on road access extent and settlement Support Hurunui water conservation order Control aircraft access 	The area's semi-wilderness and ecological values are recognised and activities are compatible with its status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.2.4 Freshwater Ecosystems 5.3.2 Recreation Opportunities 5.3.3 Recreation Facilities 5.4.2 Concessions General 5.5.2 Statutory Land Management 6.1 Plans and Functional Strategies
4.2.5 Scenic Corridor Protection, Interpretation and Recreation Facilities	Lewis Pass highway is a major entry route to Canterbury for tourists. The opportunity exists to enhance their experience and conservation understanding	Development of an integrated package of interpretation and facility upgrades	The public are more informed of the area's natural and historic values	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.3.3 Recreation Facilities 5.3.6 Interpretation