

Part One Management Objectives and Policies

1.1 TREATY OF WAITANGI RESPONSIBILITIES



Building relationships with tangata whenua is fundamental to understanding their interests and involving them in relevant decision-making processes. Effective partnerships with tangata whenua help to achieve conservation of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage.

The Conservation Act 1987 and all the Acts listed in its First Schedule must be interpreted and administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (section 4, Conservation Act 1987). The Department of Conservation also has specific responsibilities under Treaty settlement legislation.

About 700 years ago, canoe voyagers arrived from Eastern Polynesia and landed Arawa, Mataatua, Takitimu and Tainui waka in the Bay of Plenty. The descendants of those waka are tangata whenua. The Bay of Plenty is the homeland of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāi Tai, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāi Tuhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP), Ngāti Te Rangi, Ngāti Whare, Ngāti Manawa and tribes of the Te Arawa confederation.

Physical characteristics of many ancient pā sites, battlegrounds, kumara gardens and pits, urupā and midden sites are clearly visible on offshore islands and in the Bay of Plenty's forests and volcanic areas.

These special places are the legacies of tangata whenua, a reminder of their whakapapa (genealogy), imbued with spiritual and historical values of systematic process codified into tikanga (protocols). These high values and customary practices, to which iwi and hapū hold fast, are the foundation for their role in the protection and preservation of the region's biodiversity values.

The department recognises the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki (guardians) and acknowledges their mana whenua - the special relationship that they have with the land and its resources. The department will continue to develop meaningful and effective working relationships with tangata whenua as Treaty partners. Tangata whenua aspirations and cultural and historical values should be supported by management decisions which achieve outcomes to benefit both Māori and the many other cultures that have made the Bay of Plenty region their home, and which help to ensure balance and sustainability for future generations.

The Crown's Treaty settlement process is creating new relationships with Maori. The special and traditional relationships of claimant groups with the natural environment are often explicitly recognised, and claimant groups are better able to participate in decision-making processes.

In the Bay of Plenty, the Crown has achieved settlements with Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP), and over the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes. Each of these settlements establishes new relationship instruments, including protocols to create a framework for a healthy and constructive working relationship between tangata whenua and the department - one which will achieve the conservation outcomes sought by both parties.

1.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

The Department of Conservation manages places and species on behalf of the people of New Zealand. The conservation task is large: sustaining effective conservation both on and off public conservation lands and waters depends on the support and understanding of New Zealanders. The department interacts with people through conservation work to build this support and understanding and to extend the capacity for conservation. The volunteer efforts of the many communities in the Bay of Plenty are important in achieving conservation outcomes.

The Bay of Plenty Conservancy, located in one of the fastest growing regions in the country, is characterised by intensive urbanisation, coastal and lifestyle property development, farming, horticulture, extensive forestry, geothermal energy extraction and, recently, major land use changes.

The conservancy has four broad population areas:

- Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty
- Rotorua and the surrounding lakes
- Te Aroha, Paeroa and Waihi in the north and west
- Eastern Bay of Plenty, which includes the towns of Whakatane and Kawerau and the rural hinterland surrounding Murupara and the Whirinaki Forest.

There are distinct differences between Bay of Plenty communities. Values and needs vary significantly. The socio-economic range in the conservancy is very broad: eastern areas record much higher levels of socio-economic deprivation than the generally older, rapidly growing communities of the central and northern Bay of Plenty. More than twenty-six per cent of the region's population identifies as Maori.

Much of the remaining indigenous landscape in the Bay of Plenty, with the exception of Whirinaki, is highly fragmented. The remnants are threatened by pest plants and animals and are under pressure from a rapidly increasing population. Marine habitats and ecosystems are diverse and also vulnerable to change. Successful conservation management

depends on working with surrounding neighbours and communities, and actively recognising the connection of people with the special places that the department manages.

The department is placing more emphasis on work programmes which not only provide conservation gains, but which also connect people to their special places and provide opportunities for them to benefit from those places.

Significant scope exists for more collaborative working arrangements, particularly in priority areas.

Management Objective - Public Participation in Conservation Management

1. To focus relationship building and sustaining efforts in those areas where co-operative relationships are most needed to support priority conservation outcomes, by
 - creating ecological corridors with councils and private landowners and reducing the impact of fragmentation on biodiversity
 - implementing projects which realise biodiversity and/or recreation gains with advantages (economic, social or cultural), particularly for tangata whenua partners
 - developing support for and appreciation of marine protected areas with communities of interest.

Refer
2.2 Kaimai-Mamaku Forest
Park, objective 5,
2.6 Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes
objective 3.

Refer
2.5 Marine Reserves,
outcomes 2/3,
objectives 4/5,
policy 2.

1.3 CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

New Zealand's unique biodiversity is internationally important. Many of the country's indigenous species are endemic. Numerous special places on land and in marine areas are valued and enjoyed for their intrinsic values, for what they offer to future generations and for their contribution towards our identity as New Zealanders. The Department of Conservation has a role in preserving and protecting these resources, both on and off public conservation lands and waters.

Climate change is one of the most significant contemporary threats to natural and historical resources, with potential effects on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in particular. As the manager of a considerable area of New Zealand's land mass, the department must manage for the impacts of climate change. In Bay of Plenty, the major threats from climate change are considered to be sea level rise and new pest incursion.

1.3.1 Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, habitats and species

The Department of Conservation aims to restore and maintain ecological integrity across the full range of New Zealand's ecosystems. To do this it must prioritise effort and resources. Prioritising efforts and resources will result in securing the most rapidly retreating ecosystems, habitats and species.

Terrestrial ecosystems and habitats

The highest priority ecosystems and habitats managed by the department in the Bay of Plenty include:

- indigenous forests and shrublands
- freshwater wetlands
- islands
- volcanic and geothermal environments
- rivers and lakes
- harbours and estuaries
- dunelands.

Of these, indigenous forests and shrublands (represented by Whirinaki and Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park), freshwater wetlands, offshore and lake islands, and volcanic and geothermal environments are “places”: part two describes specific provisions for their management. The department does not have primary management responsibility for rivers and lakes, harbours and estuaries or dunelands.

Indigenous forests and shrublands

Whirinaki Forest Park is significant for its superb mixed podocarp forests, species richness (including the North Island brown kiwi, kaka, kakariki, blue duck, long- and short-tailed bats, beech mistletoe and *Dactylanthus*), cultural importance and for recreational opportunities.

Many of the few remaining lowland podocarp forests in the country are found in the Bay of Plenty. Important indigenous forests include those on the Kaimai Range (the southern limit of kauri), Mamaku Plateau, Rotoehu, Kaharoa and Mokaihaha. Rotoehu, Kaharoa and Mokaihaha are nationally significant habitats for the threatened North Island kokako.

The upper Rangitaiki River catchment has significant areas of indigenous shrublands and associated monoao-dominated frost flats which are unique to the central North Island. These provide habitat for threatened species such as Turner’s kohuhu (*Melicytus flexuous*), North Island fernbird and northern pimelea cutworm moth.

Coastal pohutukawa forests form impressive backdrops at Ohope Scenic Reserve, Orokawa Bay, Homunga Bay and Tuhua (Mayor Island).

Indigenous forests and shrublands in Bay of Plenty are primarily threatened by the effects of fragmentation (through subdivision and ongoing land development), logging (both legal and illegal) and pressure from pest plant and animal species. Rats, cats and mustelids predate on threatened species. Possums, goats and deer impact forest health. Significant pest plant threats include species that establish from dumped garden waste: climbers, vines and ground cover species are of major concern. Roads and rail corridors provide pathways for pest plant invasion.

Freshwater wetlands

Approximately 45 000 hectares of indigenous wetlands remain in New Zealand - less than ten per cent of what was here before human settlement. After Europeans arrived, extensive land clearance, reclamation and drainage schemes rapidly exacerbated wetland loss. More wetland extent was lost in Bay of Plenty than anywhere else in the country: ninety-nine per cent of this region's indigenous wetland area is gone. This makes remaining wetland areas rare and valuable, both regionally and nationally.

Very few large wetlands remain in the conservancy and many of them are now perched, requiring active water level management. Some of the most notable are the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve, Awaitei Wildlife Management Reserve, Matata Wildlife Refuge Reserve, Kapenga Wildlife Management Reserve and the Tumurau Lagoon conservation covenant.

The wetlands are important ecosystems for indigenous flora and fauna including threatened species such as the Australasian bittern, North Island fernbird, rail, ferns and orchids. They are also important habitats for introduced waterfowl, which are a valued recreational hunting resource.

Threats to wetland ecosystems include poor water quality, drainage, water reticulation and supply, pest plant encroachment (particularly grey willow invasion), grazing, development and predators.

Islands

Significant offshore islands for conservation in Bay of Plenty include Tuhua (Mayor), Karewa, Motunau (Plate), Rurima and Moutohora (Whale), each of which is either nationally or internationally important. Islands are significant habitats for populations of seabirds such as the grey-faced petrel, fluttering shearwater and Australasian gannet, and for threatened species such as tuatara, skinks, geckos and Cook's scurvy grass. The nationally significant dunelands of Matakana Island are very important for coastal sand-binding plants, katipo spiders and recovery programmes for the northern New Zealand dotterel and variable oystercatcher.

Mokoia Island in Lake Rotorua is a notable ecological restoration site.

All of the conservancy's islands have high cultural and historical significance.

Major threats to the island ecosystems include invasion by pest animals, especially predators, wind- and bird-dispersed pest plant species, and fire.

Volcanic and geothermal environments

Bay of Plenty Conservancy comprises a major part of the Taupo Volcanic Zone which extends from beyond Whakaari (White Island) to the central North Island volcanoes. The entire landscape of the conservancy has been moulded by active tectonic processes. It is characterised by extension

faulting, thinned crust, volcanism and geothermal activity.

Many of the conservancy's geothermal systems are internationally significant as natural features. They are culturally important and are major domestic and international tourist attractions.

The volcanic landscape supports a huge range of biodiversity. Major threats to the volcanic and geothermal ecosystems include geothermal power development and pest plants, particularly wilding conifers.



Rivers and lakes

Bay of Plenty has six main river catchments - the Wairoa, Kaituna, Mangorewa, Tarawera, Rangitaiki and Whakatane, all of which have high natural values. Other significant catchments include the Whirinaki River, Nguturu/Rereatukahia streams, and the Tuapiro Stream. The headwaters of the regionally significant Waihou river system are in the conservancy.

The conservancy's rivers and lakes provide habitat and pathways for indigenous fish such as the galaxiid family, eels, bullies and introduced sports fish, primarily brown and rainbow trout. In some catchments within Otawa Forest and in the Kaimai Range, the endemic Hochstetter's frog (*Leiopelma hochstetteri*) is present. In the Whirinaki and Kaituna river catchments, blue duck and other waterbird species are present. Several of the largest rivers, including the Wairoa, Mangapapa, Rangitaiki and Wheao, have been developed for hydroelectric power schemes.

The Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes have high scenic, recreational, cultural and natural values. There are 14 key lakes in the area: Rotorua, Rotamā, Rotoehu, Rotoiti, Rotomahana, Tikitapu, Tarawera, Tutaeinanga, Ngāhewa, Ōkaro (also known as Ngākaro), Ōkareka, Rerewhakaaitu, Ōkātina, Ngāpouri (also known as Ōpourī). Due to past and current land use in adjoining catchments, several lakes have very poor water quality. All

are vulnerable to pest incursion due to their high recreational use. The lakes meet the Ramsar criteria of international importance for vegetation, cultural, waterfowl and fisheries.

Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) is the only pest fish species in the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes. Threats from neighbouring regions and other parts of the Bay of Plenty include koi carp, rudd, tench, perch and catfish. Of these, the department considers koi carp and catfish likely to have the greatest impact on the lakes' ecology: preventing introduction of these species is a high priority. Rudd, tench and perch would have a lesser impact and are considered medium priority.

There is potential for invasive plant species and algae species such as didymo to establish in rivers and in the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes. The lakes do not all support the same aquatic pest plant species, which creates potential for the spread of pest plants between lakes.

The Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes are important for their vegetation, waterfowl and trout fishery values. They provide strongholds for notable populations of banded dotterel, scaup, shag, pied stilt and Caspian tern. One-third of the total population of the threatened New Zealand dabchick breeds at Lake Rotorua. At Motutara Wildlife Refuge in Lake Rotorua, shallow warm water creates a well-utilised 'bird spa'. The Sulphur Point Wildlife Sanctuary is an outstanding habitat for waterbirds: small silica inlets support one of few North Island inland breeding colonies of southern red-billed and black-billed gulls.

The Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006 sees the return of 14 lakes. Title to 13 of these lakebeds is held by Te Arawa (Lake Okaro owned by Rotorua District Council) and public access is protected.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust manages the lake beds and co-manages the lakes themselves with Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council under the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group.

The Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group is established under the settlement act "to contribute to the promotion of sustainable management of the Rotorua Lakes and their catchments, for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes". The settlement entered into by the Crown and Te Arawa recognises the association of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes and provides for ownership of the lakebeds to Te Arawa and for the involvement of Te Arawa in management decisions that affect the Te Arawa Lakes.

Through the settlement the department and Te Arawa Lakes Trust have a formal protocol establishing the basis for their relationship.

Harbours and estuaries

The Bay of Plenty's main harbours and estuaries include Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Maketu estuary/Kaituna River mouth, Little Waihi estuary/Pukehina spit and the Whakatane River estuary. Although the department does not manage harbours and estuaries, it does manage a number of

estuarine wetlands on the margins of these areas, and is responsible for the protection of indigenous bird species residing in these habitats.

Most of the conservancy's harbours and estuaries are outstanding shorebird (wader) and estuarine bird habitats. Tauranga and Ohiwa harbours are nationally and internationally significant sites for shorebirds, meeting the Ramsar criteria for wetlands of international importance.

The Bay of Plenty's harbours and estuaries nurture many important fish species, including commercially valuable kahawai, trevally, gurnard, flounder, whitebait and eels.

The harbours and estuaries are highly valued for recreational activities including boating, swimming, windsurfing, fishing and kayaking.

Major threats to the harbours and estuaries are inappropriate recreational activities, illegal harvesting (including mangrove removal), encroachment, grazing and catchment land use.

Dunelands

Significant dynamic coastal dune systems, characterised by young dunes with pingao and spinifex and associated low hills with coastal forest, occur at Papamoa, Waihi Beach, Otamaraku/Matata/Thornton, Ohope and Ohiwa spit. Most of these are not administered by the department.

The coastal dune systems contain a range of threatened flora and fauna, including the northern New Zealand dotterel, variable oystercatcher, black katipo spider, moco skink, sand pimelea, pingao and sand tussock. The endemic nationally vulnerable Thornton kanuka occurs along the Whakatane coast, near Thornton.

Major threats to the coastal dune systems include inappropriate vehicle use, encroachment, grazing, land use (including coastal subdivision) pest animals (including predators, rabbits and hares) and pest plants (including pampas, boxthorn and marram).

Indigenous species

Two hundred and thirty-four Bay of Plenty species are listed as threatened. Of these, 56 are acutely threatened, 88 are chronically threatened and 90 are at risk. Thirty-seven additional species are listed as "data deficient".

Significant indigenous fauna in the Bay of Plenty includes:

- five of the 24 nationally significant North Island kokako populations (at Kaharoa, Mokaihaha, Rotoehu, Opuiaki and Manawahe forests)
- the largest New Zealand bush falcon population in New Zealand, with over 25 breeding pairs (in the Kaingaroa pine plantations)
- the North Island brown kiwi (eastern taxa)
- North Island kaka and yellow-crowned parakeet populations (the Whirinaki forests are one of two national strongholds for these species)
- the blue duck (the population on the Whirinaki River is one of four significant North Island populations)

- the northern New Zealand dotterel (Matakana Island is one of six nationally significant sites for the species and supports more breeding pairs than any other site)
- the New Zealand dabchick (Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes are home to around twenty-five per cent of New Zealand's dabchick population)
- black-billed and red-billed gulls (Sulphur Bay and Ohiwa Harbour support some of the few mainland breeding colonies in the North Island)
- numerous breeding colonies of the northern little blue penguin
- the North Island weka (the population on Mokoia Island is one of the country's few sustainable populations)
- the flesh-footed shearwater (Karewa Island is one of five New Zealand islands which support significant breeding colonies)
- the northern tuatara (on five islands)
- the long-tailed bat and the eastern central short-tailed bat (present in low numbers in the better quality indigenous forests)
- black katipo spiders (resident in good numbers in dunes on Matakana Island and at some western mainland coastal sites)
- the speckled skink (Moutohora has one of the largest populations in the country)
- the striped skink (Mount Te Aroha is one of very few known locations for this rare North Island skink)
- the small-scaled skink (the headwaters of the Mokomokonui River in the southern Urewera is one of few known locations for this rare North Island skink)
- the moco skink (the southern limit of the known range is near Papamoa)
- the taxonomically indeterminate Whirinaki skink (only known in the southern Whirinaki Forest)
- the Te Aroha stag beetle (at its southern limit in the northern Kaimai Range)
- a distinct variety of Hochstetter's frog (found in the Otawa Forest, this variety differs from other North Island Hochstetter's frog populations, including that in nearby Kaimai Range.)
- five threatened indigenous freshwater fish species: giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*), dwarf galaxias, long-finned eels, short-jawed kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis*) and lamprey (*Geotria australis*). The Rangitaiki River contains the largest population of giant kokopu in north-eastern New Zealand and the upper reaches of the Waihou River support the country's most northern dwarf galaxias population.

The 123 threatened indigenous vascular plant species in the Bay of Plenty include:

- Thornton kanuka (*Kunzea aff. ericoides*) (the only plant species known to be endemic to the Bay of Plenty)

- the swamp leek orchid (*Prasophyllum hectorii*)
- nationally significant populations of wetland species including the indigenous grass water broome (*Amphibromus fluitans*) and *Carex cirrhosa*
- swamp nettle (*Urtica linearifolia*) (present at its northern limit)
- King fern (*Marattia salicina*)
- several nationally threatened fern species including soft fern (*Christella aff. dentata* (b) (AK 126902; “thermal”) and *Cyclosorus interruptus*
- *Pimelea tomentosa*
- indigenous ox tongue (*Picris burbridgeae*)
- New Zealand cress (*Rorippa divaricata*) (found on the margins of several Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes).

Recreational freshwater fisheries

The department’s function is to preserve as far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and to protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats. Although waters are to be kept as free as possible from introduced species, the waters on public conservation lands are often recognised as a valuable recreational asset for anglers. The traditional and customary Maori fisheries for tuna (eel), kokopu, lamprey, inanga (whitebait), koura (freshwater crayfish) and kakahi (freshwater mussels) hold special significance for Maori as taonga.

The Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes trout fishery, managed by the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council, is internationally significant. Every recreational angler who intends to fish for sports fish must hold a valid licence issued by a fish and game council. Every fishing guide wishing to operate on public conservation lands and waters must hold a guiding concession from the department.

Long-finned eel and two of the five species of whitebait (giant and short-jawed kokopu) are threatened species. Commercial fishing for whitebait and eels may be authorised only where:

- it is consistent with all relevant Acts and regulations (including fisheries regulations)
- it is consistent with the purposes for which the lands and waters are held
- preservation of the indigenous freshwater fisheries and maintenance of the range and stocks are not affected.

Recreational take of eels and koura is managed by the Ministry of Fisheries in accordance with the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986. The whitebait fishery is managed by the department and is controlled under the Whitebait Fishing Regulations 1994. Whitebaiting is prohibited within closed areas.

The Te Arawa Lakes Settlement (Fisheries) Regulation Act 2000 provides for the management of customary food gathering of the five native fish species: tuna, inanga, kokopu, kakahi and koura.

The department considers introduced non-sports fish such as koi carp, goldfish, gambusia, brown bullhead catfish, golden orfe and rudd to be pest fish.

Game birds and their habitats

Canada geese numbers have climbed over the last decade, especially on the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes where they have increased by approximately twenty per cent. Black swan numbers on the Tauranga Harbour may have increased slightly but other species, such as the grey duck and New Zealand shoveler, have declined. The department lists the grey duck as nationally endangered, mainly because it freely hybridises with the mallard duck: pure grey ducks are rarely seen.

Key habitats for upland game birds (Californian quail and pheasant) are the extensive exotic plantation forests of the Kaingaroa Plateau and at Rotoehu, the dunes and shrublands of coastal areas, and the margins of inland forests, farmland and shrubland throughout the Bay of Plenty.

Several freshwater wetlands have been enhanced recently through managing water levels to benefit water birds, both game birds and protected species. Habitat enhancement work for game birds often benefits threatened species as well. For example, the creation of open water areas within the Lower Kaituna River Wildlife Management Reserve has provided excellent habitat for the nationally endangered Australasian bittern. There can, however, be conflict between managing habitat for indigenous species and for game birds. Creating too much open water in a wetland can deplete the indigenous vegetation which provides habitat for specialist wetland-dwelling endemic threatened species such as fernbird, crakes and rails.

Game bird species that can be hunted, subject to the Wildlife Act 1953, during the open season in the Bay of Plenty are:

- black swan
- Canada goose
- grey duck and mallard ducks
- paradise shelduck
- Australasian shoveler
- pukeko
- pheasant
- brown quail
- Californian quail
- red-legged partridge.

Management Objectives - Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, habitats and species

1. To progressively improve the quality and functioning of the ecosystems and habitats of Whirinaki, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, freshwater wetlands, offshore and lake islands, and volcanic and geothermal environments.

Refer
Part Two: Places for
objectives and policies
relating to places.

2. To work with tangata whenua, other organisations and communities of interest to progressively improve the quality and functioning of river, lake, harbour, estuary and duneland ecosystems and habitats.
3. To protect significant shorebird feeding areas and roosting and nesting sites from development and disturbance.
4. To ensure the survival and recovery of threatened priority species at species and site levels.
5. To work with neighbours, landowners and organisations to reduce the effects of fragmentation, to maintain and restore ecological integrity through a range of ecosystems and habitats.
6. To work with the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council to maintain a balance between the management of indigenous freshwater species and sports fisheries.

Management Policies

1. Will work with Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Trust and local authorities to enhance the water quality and ecological functioning of Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes ecosystems.
2. Will work with Environment Bay of Plenty to undertake surveillance in the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes to monitor for aquatic pest incursions.
3. Will develop a strategy for the control of pest fish and aquatic weeds for the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes.
4. Will work with tangata whenua, local authorities and community care groups to protect and restore rivers, duneland, harbours and estuaries.
5. Will work with other organisations and landowners to protect the pathways of indigenous migratory freshwater fish (primarily whitebait and eels).

Refer
2.6 Te Arawa /Rotorua
Lakes Indigenous Forests;
objectives 1/2

Refer
2.6 Te Arawa /Rotorua
Lakes Indigenous Forests;
policies 1/2

1.3.2 Biosecurity and management of threats to indigenous ecosystems, habitats and species

The Department of Conservation's primary method of protecting ecosystems and threatened species is to control pest plants and animals. Pest control programmes need to concentrate on locations and species where they will best achieve national objectives for the protection of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, habitats and species.

The department's activities include pest plant programmes, programmes to contain the feral range of pest animals such as deer, eradication programmes and surveillance.

Local authorities develop regional pest management strategies to identify priorities for strategic regional pest control and to control pest spread between neighbouring lands and waters.

The department identifies, with local authorities and agencies such as the Animal Health Board, where alignment between its own pest control programmes and theirs would better achieve mutual goals. Surveillance,

public awareness and research activities are co-ordinated with local authorities and other agencies, and information and expertise are shared. Where appropriate and required, the department contributes to pest incursion responses under the direction of the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand and to national pest management strategies and other national programmes.

Animal and invertebrate pests in the Bay of Plenty include:

- red, sika, fallow and samba deer
- goats and pigs
- wallabies (the conservancy contains the North Island's only population of dama wallabies. The department is working with Environment Bay of Plenty and Environment Waikato on a long-term multi-agency management plan to contain, reduce and eventually eradicate this pest.)
- possums
- mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels)
- cats
- rodents (rats, mice)
- Argentine ants (found in a few small geothermal areas near the coast at Tauranga, but with the potential to spread through geothermal habitats)
- wasps
- spiders
- koi carp, catfish and rudd.

The department carries out pest control to protect the species, habitats and ecosystems at highest risk of loss. Particularly vulnerable ecosystems and habitats include:

- geothermal areas
- wetlands
- frost flats
- islands
- dunelands.

Particularly vulnerable species in the conservancy include:

- North Island kokako
- northern New Zealand dotterel
- North Island brown kiwi
- blue duck, kaka and kereru
- mistletoe and *Dactylanthus*
- northern rata.

No ecosystem in the Bay of Plenty is considered to be free from pest plants. The fragmented forest reserve network in the Bay of Plenty is vulnerable to pest plant invasion. Pest plants associated with garden dumpings include wild ginger, tradescantia, periwinkle and jasmine.

The department undertakes pest animal-led programmes on all public conservation lands and waters, particularly in Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and southern Whirinaki. Site-led possum control will be carried out to protect significant vegetation vulnerable to browser impacts.

Recreational and commercial hunting are New Zealand traditions and can help to achieve the department's pest control objectives. Every hunter requires a permit from the department to hunt on public conservation lands. Commercial hunters require concessions.

Management Objectives - Biosecurity and management of threats to indigenous ecosystems, habitats and species

1. To undertake ongoing pest control to progressively improve the quality and functioning of the ecosystems and habitats of Whirinaki, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, freshwater wetlands, islands, and volcanic and geothermal environments.
2. To undertake ongoing pest control with tangata whenua, other organisations and communities of interest to progressively improve the quality and functioning of river, lake, harbour, estuary and duneland ecosystems and habitats.
3. To undertake pest control to protect significant populations of indigenous plant and animal species at highest risk of loss.
4. To control early pest plant infestations that pose a significant threat to areas with high natural values.

Management Policies

1. Will encourage recreational and commercial hunting on public conservation lands while minimising adverse effects.
2. Will work with other agencies to educate the community about pest plants and to involve them in pest plant control.
3. Will undertake surveillance of pest species considered to be potential ecological threats to priority sites.

1.3.3 Fire Management

Under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, the Minister of Conservation is a rural fire authority for all state areas, which generally include all public conservation lands, and for a one-kilometre safety margin around those state areas. Fire is a significant threat to natural, cultural, historical and recreational values. Fire can also be used as a means of ecological management.

Based on fire statistics since 1987, the Bay of Plenty has moderate vegetation fire risk, hazard (potential extreme fire behaviour) and

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historical incidence of fires. Predicted weather patterns suggest that this status will not change in the foreseeable future.

The areas with the highest potential for vegetation fires are those at the rural/urban interface, where human population and activity are high. From a conservation perspective, the areas of greatest hazard are in scrub (like kanuka and gorse) and grass fuels adjoining coastal areas, wetlands, geothermal areas, forests and reserves. There is also significant hazard in the large areas of commercial forest adjoining public conservation lands.

Values potentially threatened by vegetation fire include human life, property, buildings, conservation values and adjoining commercial forests, pasture and crops.

Management Objective - Fire Management

1. To protect natural, cultural, historical and recreational values from fire, and to control and manage the risk of fire.

1.3.4 Marine ecosystems, habitats and species

The New Zealand maritime region is internationally important. Its diverse marine habitats provide homes to over 15 000 known species. Scientists estimate that there may be as many as 65 000 marine species in New Zealand waters. Our isolation means that many of these species are not found anywhere else in the world.

Scientists estimate that as much as eighty per cent of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity may be found in the sea. Yet less than one per cent of our marine environment has been surveyed. On average, seven new marine species are identified every fortnight.

The Department of Conservation administers the Marine Reserves Act 1971 and is responsible for the conservation of marine mammals through the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, and for the conservation of other marine species protected under the Wildlife Act 1953. The Conservation Act 1987 gives the department a broad mandate for advocacy on marine conservation issues, as well as responsibilities for public awareness. The Biosecurity Act 1993 requires surveillance and actions to mitigate biosecurity threats such as invasive species.

The Ministry of Fisheries administers controls on fishing and fishing methods, which can be used to protect marine habitats and species. The department liaises closely with the ministry and advocates for protective measures against threats to marine species and habitat conservation, especially threats to marine mammals and seabirds through by-catch in fishing operations.

Marine ecosystems and habitats

The department protects marine biodiversity using a number of tools, including a national network of marine protected areas which is representative of New Zealand's marine ecosystems and habitats. The



department and the Ministry of Fisheries work together to administer and implement the Marine Protected Area Policy and Implementation Plan 2005.

Identifying outstanding, rare, distinctive, and nationally or internationally important sites is particularly important: such sites will be priorities for marine reserve status. The department seeks to secure as marine reserves at least one example of each of the full range of identified marine communities and ecosystems.

The Bay of Plenty Conservancy will focus on managing existing marine reserves and marine protected areas and on identifying outstanding, rare, distinctive, and nationally or internationally important sites to be secured as marine reserves.

The Bay of Plenty's coastal and marine environment is part of the north-eastern marine bioregion. This area is influenced by the warm nutrient-rich East Auckland current which flows down the east coast of the North Island from Cape Reinga to East Cape. The East Auckland current influences the region's subtropical marine fauna and flora and its coastal reefs and rock stacks. These features represent the southernmost tip of the influence of the East Auckland current in the bioregion, and some of the associations are unique. The sessile invertebrate community at Te Paepae o Aotea (Volkner Rocks) Marine Reserve is listed in the top ten per cent of the most highly diverse marine communities in the world.

Marine habitats and ecosystems within the Bay of Plenty are diverse and vulnerable to change through human activity. Coastal areas comprise an extensive sandy shoreline indented with estuaries and harbours of regional and national wildlife significance, and isolated rocky headlands at Homunga/Orokawa, Bowentown Heads, Mount Maunganui, Maketu and Kohi Point (adjacent to Whakatane township).

Reefs are associated with several offshore islands (for example, Tuhua, Motiti, Moutohora and Whakaari). Rock stacks are a feature of the Bay of Plenty coastal environment. Little is yet known about the distribution of sea mounts within the conservancy.

The structural diversity of the Bay of Plenty's marine environment provides foraging, breeding and roosting opportunities for coastal seabirds and waders and haul-out, nursing and feeding areas for marine mammals (resident and migrant), reef fish and invertebrates.

Marine species

The department works to actively protect marine mammal species and populations and to allow the recovery of those that are threatened with extinction, or that have been depleted or otherwise adversely affected by human activities, invasive species or pests, or unusual natural events.

The Bay of Plenty marine environment is home to a wide variety of marine mammal species. Fur seals and the common dolphin breed here. Several whale species - notably the southern right, humpback, minke and orca - nurse, feed and migrate through these waters. Other marine protected species present include sea turtles, sea snakes (as occasional stragglers) and seabirds (such as the grey-faced petrel, grey turnlet and Australasian gannet). The white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*, also known as the white pointer or great white) was made a protected species under the Wildlife Act 1953 in 2007.

The islands of the Bay of Plenty provide haul-out, nursing and breeding areas for New Zealand fur seals. As seal numbers grow, the potential for human/seal interaction increases.

Primary threats to marine ecosystems, habitats and species include:

- illegal fishing and by-catch
- invasive species - competition, displacement, predation and browsing
- habitat modification - trawling, development, marine energy sources, climate change, aquaculture
- habitat destruction - trawling and dredging
- pollution and litter - poisoning, bio-accumulation of toxins, plastics, discharge of contaminated ballast water
- acoustic disturbance - shipping, dredging, military use, oil and gas
- harassment, tourism, scientific disturbance and intentional harm.

The department's main operational role in relation to marine pests is to effectively manage the marine areas which it administers. For the broader management of marine pests and the protection of other marine areas, the department supports and co-ordinates with the marine biosecurity efforts of other agencies.

Marine Protected Areas

The Bay of Plenty Conservancy has two marine reserves - Tuhua (Mayor) Island and Te Paepae o Aotea (Volkner Rocks) - with rohe moana containing

mataitai and taiapure (areas subject to tangata whenua control) which provide limited protection to the marine environment. Limited knowledge of the marine environment has, until now, inhibited the department's ability to identify an appropriate range of sites for protection.

It is highly likely that the addition of near-shore intertidal marine reserves which include estuarine and sandy ecosystems will be necessary. Any outstanding, rare, distinctive, and nationally or internationally important sites, including sites for the management of marine mammal species and seabird populations, will be specifically included in the marine protected area network.

Management Objectives - Marine ecosystems, habitats and species

1. To contribute to the identification and establishment of a comprehensive and representative marine protected area network within New Zealand for ecosystems, habitats and species requiring protection.
2. To protect the marine species and populations for which the department is responsible, and to allow the recovery of those that are threatened or that have been depleted or otherwise adversely affected by human activities, invasive species or pests, or unusual natural events.

Management Policies

1. Will work with central government agencies, local authorities, tangata whenua and other key stakeholders in identifying and protecting marine species, habitats and ecosystems under greatest threat.
2. Will adopt a multi-conservancy approach where marine bio-geographic regions do not conform to conservancy boundaries.
3. Will undertake a gaps analysis to identify the habitat types that are not represented or are under-represented in the existing marine protected areas network.
4. Will concentrate monitoring and threat control activities, including invasive species management, on marine reserves.

1.3.5 Geological Features, Landforms and Landscapes

At a national level the Department of Conservation aims to identify geological features, landforms and landscapes of regional, national or international significance, or of significance to tangata whenua, where they occur on public conservation lands, and to protect them from activities that may reduce their intrinsic values.

Bay of Plenty Conservancy can be subdivided into eight broad geomorphic domains from west to east: the Kaimai Range, Mamaku Volcanic Plateau, Taupo Volcanic Zone, Rangitaiki-Kaingaroa Volcanic Plateau, Tauranga coastal lowlands, islands, the Rangitaiki Plains and the Whakatane hills and basins.

The conservancy's significant geological features, landforms and landscapes

are associated with the Taupo Volcanic Zone and include volcanoes, lakes, ranges, plateaus and basins.

The conservancy has a number of volcanoes in various forms. Domes of the Okataina Volcanic Centre include the Haroharo, Makatiti and Tarawera volcanic complexes. The 1886 eruption of Tarawera destroyed the Pink and White Terraces. Putauaki (Mount Edgecumbe) and Ngongotaha stand on the margins of the Taupo Volcanic Zone. The Rotorua, Atiamuri, Mangakino and Reporoa basins mark the sites of calderas, explosive volcanic centres. The Okataina caldera is buried beneath the Haroharo and Tarawera volcanic complexes. The history of Tuhua includes a range of eruption styles and sizes. Tuhua is known for its unique sodium-rich composition, silica-rich lava flows and fire obsidian.

The Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes owe their existence to volcanism, being impounded variously by caldera depressions and drainage-blocking lava domes. The Mamaku Plateau is a remnant of the plain of ignimbrite that extended out in all directions from the Rotorua caldera as a result of its climactic eruption 140000 years ago.

Beyond the Bay of Plenty shoreline, the young volcanoes of Moutohora and Whakaari (White Island) mark the offshore extension of the Taupo Volcanic Zone to the north-east.

Geothermal systems and faulting are prominent geological features of the conservancy. Significant geothermal fields exist at Rotorua, Waiotapu, Waimangu, Whakaari and Whakarewarewa. The pools, steam vents, mudpools and geysers are international tourist attractions, are culturally important, and are worthy of consideration for World Heritage status.

The department's priorities include protecting significant landscapes dominated by indigenous ecosystems, or where there are important natural, cultural or historical values. In the Bay of Plenty, significant landscapes include the volcanic domes of the Okataina Volcanic Centre (particularly the Tarawera Linear Vent Zone) and other volcanic features such as Ngongotaha, Mokoia Island, Maungakakamea (Rainbow Mountain) and Putauaki (Mount Edgecumbe).

Management Objective - Geological Features, Landforms and Landscapes

1. To protect, on public conservation lands, sites recognised as regionally, nationally or internationally important landscapes, landforms and geological features.

Management Policy

1. Will advocate for the protection of geothermal and volcanic landscapes that are vulnerable to human activity.



1.3.6 Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are a wide range of conditions and processes through which natural ecosystems, and the species that are part of them, help sustain and fulfill life.

Ecosystem services were, in fact, the reason for setting aside most of the current public conservation lands and waters, although different terms were used - terms like water and soil conservation, scenery preservation, and growth and preservation of timber.

Although conservation has tended to become synonymous with biodiversity in recent years, ecosystem service values remain critical to the value of conservation and the public's perception of that value. There is growing interest in the potential contribution of public conservation lands and waters to national strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as required under the Kyoto Protocol.

Public conservation lands and waters within the Bay of Plenty provide a range of ecosystem services. For instance, the large catchments of Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, Whirinaki, and the Tarawera Scenic Reserve support important rivers such as the Wairoa, Rangitaiki, Kaituna, Tarawera and Waihou. These catchments sustain groundwater reservoirs which are the source of the majority of the region's horticultural, agricultural and municipal drinking water supplies. Indigenous ecosystems on public conservation lands intercept rainfall and prevent the exacerbated run-off of erosion-prone soils into watercourses. They also contribute to carbon sequestration.

Ecosystems managed by the department can buffer the effects of events such as landslides, debris flows, tsunamis, floods and storms. For instance, remnant wetlands on the Rangitaiki flood plain can significantly mitigate the effects of floods in the area and sand dunes and alluvial fans can assist in protecting lives and property.

Refer
2.2 Kaimai-Mamaku:
outcome 1, objective 1
2.3 Freshwater wetlands:
objective 1

Management Objectives - Ecosystem Services

1. To protect the quality of ecosystem services.
2. To raise New Zealanders' awareness and understanding of ecosystem services and the value of conservation.

Management Policy

1. Will support research into ecosystem services provided by public conservation lands and waters, to better understand and quantify these services and their benefits.

1.4 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

New Zealand's distinctive culture is maintained by engagement with our history, heritage and environment. Public conservation lands and waters contain a rich historical and cultural heritage for all New Zealanders – places of exploration, settlement, natural resource use and protection, communication and ongoing spiritual and cultural associations. Such places link the present to the past, to the culture of those who came before.

The Department of Conservation seeks to connect New Zealanders with their heritage through improved management of key sites. The aim is to provide memorable visitor experiences, to increase awareness of opportunities and to increase participation.

The Arawa, Tainui, Takitimu and Mataatua waka, bringing the Eastern Polynesian ancestors of present-day Maori, landed at sites in the Bay of Plenty.

Evidence from pollen core samples suggests that clearing of vegetation began at, or just before, the time of the Kaharoa eruption of Tarawera, from which the distinctive ash is accurately dated at about AD 1300. There is no direct archaeological evidence that Maori occupied the Bay of Plenty region before this date. Few early (archaic) occupation sites are known but one, inside the Ohiwa harbour, dates to shortly after the Kaharoa ashfall. Other early sites are known at Waihi Beach, Bowentown, Mauao (Mount Maunganui), Whakatane and Ohiwa. As elsewhere in New Zealand, favoured sites were close to the sea, near deep water just within the shelter of the mouths of harbours and estuaries. Artefacts from these sites are typical of those from archaic sites elsewhere.

Occupation flourished around the harbours, along the coast, on the off-shore islands and around the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes. Sea and freshwater resources were important, but food production from horticulture played a greater part, with the widespread volcanic ash soils being favoured for gardening. The land was occupied by many descent groups who contested the resources of the area with each other and outside rivals. A number of rock art sites, often featuring canoes, record inland journeys. Two notable sites are at Kaingaroa and Tarawera. From about AD 1500 large

fortified pa were built, implying social tensions and the mobilisation of large groups.

Initial European settlement in the Bay of Plenty was not based, as in many other places, on the economic opportunities provided by whaling, sealing and timber. The lack of good harbours, except for Tauranga, and the lack of accessible timber - the result of land clearance by the large Maori population - were significant disincentives. The turbulence of the western Bay of Plenty in the musket wars, with raids by Ngapuhi, Marutuahu and others between 1818 and 1845, may also have discouraged settlers.

The growth of European settlement was slow. The region lacked gold, except around Waihi, and soils needed draining or fertilising to give a good yield. Rotorua developed as a centre of tourism from the 1880s and with the spread of railways from the 1890s, the region grew steadily, until the second half of the 20th century. (This account of the historic and cultural heritage of the Bay of Plenty Conservancy is based on an account by Garry Law, *Archaeology of the Bay of Plenty*, Department of Conservation, Wellington (in press)).

More than 8000 archaeological sites have been recorded in the Bay of Plenty. About ninety-six per cent of these represent Maori settlement from before about 1830. Most of the sites are coastal but inland settlement was also significant. Sites representing European settlement are less well documented, with only a few hundred post-1830 sites recorded. Most of these, from the gold-mining period, are located in the north-western part of the conservancy.

Few large-scale or systematic archaeological surveys have been carried out on public conservation lands. The 580 known archaeological sites are not representative of the Bay of Plenty region: the gold-mining and timber industries account for nearly half of them. More than half the recorded historic sites managed by the department are in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and Whirinaki, with many also around Whakatane and the Ohiwa harbour.

The conservancy has a range of significant sites, some of which are actively managed. Other sites, such as Mauao and Kauri Point historic reserves, are managed by local authorities. These sites encompass the themes of Maori and European settlement, gold-mining and the timber industry. Preventing the loss of historical values from priority sites and increasing the profile of historical heritage are priorities.

Management Objectives - Historical and Cultural Heritage

1. To protect, interpret and restore a representative range of historical and cultural heritage.
2. To identify and actively manage significant historical and cultural heritage on public conservation lands.
3. To increase public awareness of and connection to historical and cultural heritage.
4. To work with tangata whenua and communities of interest to encourage their increased involvement in historic site management.

Refer
 2.1 Whirinaki: outcome 3, objective 4
 2.2 Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park: outcome 3, objective 4, policies 3/4
 2.3 Freshwater wetlands: outcome 5, objective 3, policy 3
 2.4 Islands: objective 3
 2.6 Volcanic and geothermal environments: outcome 3
 Geothermal sites: objective 3
 Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes
 Indigenous Forests: objective 4

Management Policies

1. Will focus on the management of historic and cultural heritage relating to Maori and European settlement, gold-mining and the timber industry.
2. Will undertake research to increase knowledge about historical and cultural heritage on public conservation lands.
3. Will review the actively managed sites in the conservancy.
4. Will identify conservation outcomes for significant historic and cultural heritage on public conservation lands.

1.5 PEOPLE'S BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT

1.5.1 Planning and management for people's benefit and enjoyment

Public conservation lands and waters provide many opportunities for people to benefit from the outdoors, whether they are enjoying the sights and sounds of nature, picnicking, tramping, exercising, horse-riding, boating, biking, connecting with their heritage or just getting away from it all.

The Department of Conservation aims to provide a range of quality recreation opportunities throughout New Zealand.

The Bay of Plenty's unique mix of volcanic, geothermal and coastal landscapes, cultural heritage and natural resources offers visitors an impressive choice of attractions. As a result, the region hosts more than six million international and domestic visitors each year, with industry forecasts projecting an increase to 6.85 million by 2012. The Bay of Plenty is within a two-hour drive of more than half of New Zealand's population and has a rapidly growing residential population of more than a quarter of a million people, concentrated in Tauranga, Rotorua and Whakatane.

The Bay of Plenty Conservancy is bordered by Waikato, Tongariro/Taupo and East Coast/Hawkes Bay conservancies which provide complementary outdoor recreation opportunities, notably in Tongariro and Te Urewera national parks, both just two hours drive from Rotorua. Sharing a footprint in the North Island's tourist diamond provides a strong driver for these neighbouring conservancies to join in co-operatively developing exciting new visitor-focused attractions and facilities.

The Bay of Plenty's wide range of recreational opportunities and experiences attracts a diverse group of visitors. Factors such as ease of access and close proximity to large urban populations give the region potential to provide inviting experiences for families and those new to the outdoors. The current visitor infrastructure is capable of sustaining the higher levels of visitation this would entail.

Although most attractions are in accessible frontcountry locations, Whirinaki takes visitors back to a more primitive New Zealand within

its majestic Gondwanaland rainforest and network of walking tracks, huts and other facilities, including a purpose-built mountain bike track. At the other extreme, the well-beaten tracks to the world-famous geothermal sites and lakes which underpin a vibrant regional tourism industry are accessible to even the least able-bodied visitors.

Fascinating insights into the industrial past, contact with the rich biodiversity of lowland forest and wetlands, and the wonder of an eruptive landscape reward day visitors and short stop travellers experiencing the easy walks spread across the conservancy. Well-appointed huts and tracks in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and Whirinaki cater for overnight and multi-day visitors who want backcountry experiences with an element of comfort. The needs of backcountry adventurers and remoteness seekers are met deeper in the same forests.

Future initiatives to encourage more people to use public conservation lands and waters will focus on improving and developing existing facilities while providing an expanded range of experiences. Drawing on the skills and connection of tangata whenua and other communities of interest will flavour new developments and assure visitors of fresh and authentic experiences. Working closely with other organisations will ensure that the Bay of Plenty offers an integrated range of appropriate recreation opportunities and services, both on and off public conservation lands and waters.

Initiatives which will open new windows on public conservation lands include the proposed Lake Tarawera Trail, which gives life to the cultural and geological stories of the 1886 Tarawera eruption; rediscovering the past of our pioneering ancestors and their quest for gold on the Kaimai Heritage Trail; and treading in the footsteps of the first arrivals on an upgraded Whirinaki Track.

Opportunities to while away the hours camping beside the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes and in coastal and backcountry settings are already provided. The department will increase these opportunities in association with other organisations and communities of interest.

There are a number of outdoor education camps on the fringes of Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and Whirinaki. These are expected to assume an increasingly important role by providing accommodation and introducing school and other groups to public conservation land and waters.

Although increased visitation and enjoyment are primary goals, the quality of the visitor experience will be monitored to ensure it is not unreasonably compromised. In some areas this may mean limiting certain types of activities or managing visitor levels to reduce conflict or degradation of sites.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council manages game bird hunting. The department, however, has a responsibility to provide for game bird hunting on public conservation lands and waters, where such hunting is consistent with the purposes for which lands and waters are held and does not have adverse effects on protected or indigenous species.

Refer
Part Two: Places for
recreation objectives and
policies relating to places.

Management Objectives - Planning and management for people's benefit and enjoyment

1. To provide and manage a range of quality recreation opportunities while ensuring the protection of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage.
2. To avoid or otherwise minimise adverse effects on the qualities of peace and natural quiet, solitude, remoteness and wilderness, where present.
3. To work co-operatively with tangata whenua and communities of interest to ensure appropriate management of recreational opportunities on public conservation lands and waters.
4. To enhance understanding and appreciation of natural, historical and cultural heritage by providing information and interpretation.
5. To implement the New Zealand Walkways Policy 1995.

1.5.2 Vehicles (including aircraft)

Vehicle use is part of the range of recreational opportunities allowed for on public conservation lands and waters, consistent with protecting the values for which those lands and waters are held.

Bay of Plenty Conservancy has limited opportunities for the use of motorised four-wheel drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes on public conservation lands.

Where these opportunities exist, the Department of Conservation may introduce a variety of management strategies to ensure that values are not compromised and that potential conflict between users is minimized.

Mountain biking has become an established recreational activity on public conservation lands. Improved track designs, management techniques and user education have allayed early concerns about potential user conflict and impacts on values. In 2006, the department built a mountain bike track at Whirinaki.

Aircraft can facilitate use and enjoyment of public conservation lands and waters by providing access to difficult-to-reach places and allowing quick access for people with limited time. They are an important tool for managing public conservation lands and waters and for search and rescue.

Aircraft activity - even scenic flights which do not involve landings - can have adverse effects on users of public conservation lands and waters, impacting on values like natural quiet and remoteness. Effects most often relate to the presence, behaviour and noise characteristics of aircraft and to the frequency of activity.

Section 17ZF of the Conservation Act 1987 requires every aircraft operator (private or commercial) taking off from, landing on or hovering above public conservation lands and waters to have a concession.

Appropriate use of helicopters can extend the range of available recreational opportunities. Helicopter use will be considered in the

Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and at Whirinaki. Other use may be permitted and will be considered on a site by site basis.

Management Objective - Vehicles (including aircraft)

1. To manage vehicles on public conservation lands and waters in a way that facilitates public use and enjoyment but does not have unacceptable adverse effects on natural, historical, cultural or recreational values, including natural quiet and remoteness.

Management Policies

1. Will investigate, in consultation with tangata whenua and communities of interest, ways to provide designated sites for motorised all-terrain vehicles, with conditions.
2. Will discourage motorised all-terrain vehicles (including four-wheel drive vehicles, quad bikes and trail bikes) except at designated sites.
3. Will formalise agreements with four-wheel drive clubs to develop opportunities to reduce the adverse environmental and social impacts of motorised all-terrain vehicles.
4. Should encourage the use of mountain bikes on tracks, using a range of management strategies which may include restrictions by regulation or bylaw, seasonal usage of tracks, signage and education.
5. Will consider adverse effects, including effects on neighbouring landowners, when assessing applications for aircraft landings and take-offs.
6. Will undertake monitoring and research to determine aircraft impacts on the environment and on visitor experience, to inform the development of any mitigation measures required for aircraft activity.

Refer
2.1 Whirinaki: objective 5,
policy 9
2.2 Kaimai-Mamaku forest
Park: policy 7
2.6 Te Arawa/Rotorua
Lakes Indigenous forest:
objective 5, policy 6

1.5.3 Dogs

To protect both New Zealand's indigenous wildlife and people's right to use and enjoy public conservation lands and waters, the Department of Conservation controls the use of dogs for recreational activities.

Dogs can assist hunters and conservation staff to control populations of pests such as deer and pigs. These pests damage public conservation lands and waters by modifying habitats, preying on ground-dwelling fauna and threatening forest sustainability. A dog used for pest control must be properly trained, under the control of its handler and authorised by hunting or other valid permit.

The use of properly trained and controlled dogs is well established by hunters for locating and retrieving game birds and may be authorised on public conservation lands and waters by permit. A dog may be walked and exercised on public conservation lands only in permitted areas and when under a person's control. The only dogs which do not require

permits are those used for police, customs, management and search and rescue purposes, and guide or companion dogs.

Management Objective - Dogs

1. To establish appropriate controlled dog areas and open dog areas on public conservation lands and waters.

Management Policies

1. Will identify areas of public conservation lands and waters where dogs may be taken without compromising the values of those areas.
2. Will inform the public of the location of controlled and open dog areas on public conservation lands and waters.
3. Will ensure that permits to take dogs onto public conservation lands contain conditions that protect the values for which those lands are held.

1.5.4 Animals (including pets)

Domestic animals and pets can have adverse effects on the natural, historical and cultural values of public conservation lands and waters and can detract from visitor appreciation and enjoyment. Effects include the introduction of pest plants, indigenous vegetation browsing, increased erosion and conflict with other user groups.

In some cases, the use of animals such as horses can enhance the recreational experience of visitors. In Bay of Plenty Conservancy some horse use occurs in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park at Thompson Track (legal road) and on the Taieri logging roads in the northern Kaimai Range.

Widespread use of horses in Whirinaki is now limited to existing formed roads and tracks. Authorisation by permit is required to take horses and other pack animals into public conservation lands and waters.

Management Objective - Animals (including pets)

1. To ensure that the use of domestic animals and pets does not have unacceptable adverse effects on the natural, historical and cultural values of public conservation lands and waters.

Management Policies

1. Will undertake monitoring and research to determine the impacts of horses on public conservation lands and waters and on visitor experience.
2. Will apply mitigation measures for horse activity on public conservation lands and waters.
3. Will ensure that minimal impacts occur where access for horses is permitted.

1.5.5 Marine mammal viewing

The Department of Conservation is responsible for the protection, conservation and management of marine mammals in accordance with the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 and the Marine Mammal Protection Regulations 1992. Marine mammals are protected under legislation and commercial activities involving them must be authorised by the Director-General.

There are many commercial activities involving marine mammals in the Bay of Plenty. Commercial operators are required to provide a high standard of education and interpretation, and this enhances visitors' experiences by building awareness and understanding of marine mammals and their conservation value.

Human interaction with marine mammals can provide a unique experience, but if not managed properly it can also have adverse effects, including altering the mammals' behaviour patterns. In this conservancy, human interaction with marine mammals is a recent activity: the long-term effects are unclear.

Management Objective - Marine mammal viewing

1. To improve knowledge of the impacts of human interactions with marine mammals, to assist with their protection, conservation and management.

Management Policies

1. Will undertake research into and monitoring of the impacts of human interactions with marine mammals.
2. Will take a precautionary approach to the number of commercial operators involved in marine mammal operations.
3. Will require commercial operators to provide a high standard of education and interpretation.

1.6 PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Existing structures on public conservation lands and waters include some private accommodation which is not available to the general public. Some of these structures have been properly authorised, but many are unlawful because no approvals were obtained to erect, use or occupy them.

It is not generally appropriate for individuals to have and maintain private accommodation and related facilities on public conservation lands and waters, which are for the benefit of the people of New Zealand. Private accommodation is to be phased out.

Management Objectives - Private accommodation

1. To ensure that no new private accommodation and related facilities are established on public conservation lands and waters.

2. To phase out existing private accommodation and related facilities on public conservation lands and waters.
3. To remove unauthorised buildings and other structures from public conservation lands and waters.

Management Policies

1. Should not authorise new private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters.
2. Should only grant the renewal of authorisations for private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters if:
 - (i) the existing authorisation contains a right of renewal and
 - (ii) the person holding the authorisation has complied with all of the terms and conditions of the authorisation.
3. Should phase out existing authorised private accommodation on the death of the person named on the authorisation, or within twenty years, whichever occurs first.

1.7 ACTIVITIES REQUIRING SPECIFIC AUTHORISATION (NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE)

1.7.1 Concessions

Various activities on public conservation lands and waters require authorisation. The most common authorisation is given as a concession under part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987. The Conservation General Policy 2005 and the General Policy for National Parks 2005 provide detailed policies and criteria for managing activities that require authorisation.

Anyone wishing to carry out a trade, occupation or business on public conservation lands and waters requires a concession. The Department of Conservation aims to allow for a range of concessions that are consistent with relevant legislation and policy, the protection of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage, and with the recreational settings and planned outcomes for specific places.

Where concession activity is beginning to reach, or has already reached, the carrying capacity of a place, the department may limit the amount of commercial activity that can occur in that place.

In the Bay of Plenty, recreation concessions have been granted for a variety of activities. These add value to visitors' experiences by connecting them with natural, historical and cultural heritage which may not otherwise have been easily accessible.

New recreational opportunities in northern Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, Whirinaki and the reserves fringing the Te Arawa/Rotorua lakes will provide increased scope for commercial concessions.

Collection of materials from public conservation lands and waters

At times, requests are made to collect materials from public conservation lands and waters. Materials may include indigenous species, fossils, soil, rocks and other natural materials. The Department of Conservation considers requests on a case by case basis. The Conservation General Policy 2005 and the General Policy for National Parks 2005 establish criteria to aid decision making.

Management Objectives - Concessions

1. To apply the policies in Conservation General Policy 2005 when considering applications for concessions on public conservation lands and waters.
2. To manage concessions on public conservation lands and waters in a way that facilitates public use and enjoyment but does not have unacceptable adverse effects on natural, historical, cultural or recreational values, including natural quiet and remoteness.
3. To encourage concessions which promote the public access to and protection, recreational use and appreciation of public conservation lands and waters.

Refer
Part Two: Places for
specific objectives
and policies relating to
concessions at places.

Management Policies

1. Will monitor authorised activities and their effects, including cumulative effects, on a regular and ongoing basis.
2. Will establish limits for concession opportunities where demand approaches or exceeds the environmental or social carrying capacity of a place and/or cumulative effects are becoming unacceptable.
3. Should not grant concessions which are inconsistent with the values set out for the places described in part two: Places.
4. Should not grant concessions which may adversely affect public conservation lands and waters, or adversely affect access to or recreational use or appreciation of public conservation lands and waters.

1.7.2 Sand and shingle extraction

Under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 the Minister of Conservation has the consenting role for all land administered by the Crown that is either administered by the Department of Conservation or vested in another body, such as a local authority, under the Reserves Act 1977.

Sand and shingle extraction from riverbeds and beaches does not come under the control of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Regional councils are responsible for managing and allocating sand and shingle resources from these sources under the Resource Management Act 1991. On public conservation lands and waters, however, these activities require concessions.

Management Objective - Sand and shingle extraction

1. To protect the natural, cultural and landscape values of riverbeds and beaches and public conservation lands and waters.

Management Policy

1. Will only authorise sand and/or shingle extraction from public conservation lands and waters where adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

1.7.3 Commercial eeling

The Ministry of Fisheries manages recreational eeling. Although the sustainability of the eel fishery is administered under the Fisheries Act 1996 and the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001, permits issued by the Ministry of Fisheries do not give eel fishers a legal right to commercially fish within public conservation lands and waters.

The Department of Conservation manages commercial eeling on public conservation lands and waters and a concession is required. Commercial take of eels cannot be authorised within reserves except in limited circumstances.

Management Objective - Commercial eeling

1. To maintain healthy populations of indigenous eel species.

Management Policy

1. Should not allow commercial eeling on public conservation lands or waters.