

# **HUNTING ON CONSERVATION LANDS IN OTAGO**

**Prepared by Bruce Kyle and Janet Gregory with assistance from:**

**Paul Hondelink and Annette Smith (Wanaka Area)**

**John Pearce and Karen Davidson (Coastal Otago Area)**

**Mike Tubbs, Bill Johnsen and Tania Nome (Central Otago Area)**

**Brin Barron, Dave Girling, Sue Scott and Anne Hayes (Wakatipu Area)**

**Otago Conservancy**

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Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Hunting in Otago

A total area of approximately 347,000 hectares of conservation estate is currently available for open hunting in Otago, and many other areas are available for restricted hunting. In addition, more conservation areas will become available as new conservation lands are gazetted through the ongoing Pastoral Lease Tenure Review process.

Wild animal populations in Otago are generally at low to moderate levels. This is largely the result of extensive commercial helicopter hunting for deer, chamois and thar, particularly in the western mountains. In addition, the Department has undertaken sustained goat control in all areas since 1990 and maintains a thar buffer zone between the Haast Highway and the Fiordland National Park. Regardless of overall levels, however, good localised hunting opportunities exist among many diverse landscapes.

To hunt on public conservation land you require a permit issued by the Department of Conservation (DOC). This is required under Section 38 of the Conservation Act 1987. Hunting permits in Otago are issued under an **open** system. This means that permits are valid for all open hunting areas in Otago Conservancy for a period of 12 months, **excluding the 'Roar' (20 March-20 April)**. During the Roar, block hunting permits are required in some areas, while others will remain open. It is therefore very important that you confirm the status of a hunting area with the relevant Area Office or Field Centre well in advance of any trips during the Roar. For example, in the Wanaka Area Roar block applications will be accepted at the Area office from 1 November and issued in early February each year.

Some areas have **restricted** access because of public safety, the size of the area or some other reason. A short term block permit is available for each restricted area from the local DOC office. Examples of hunting areas that have restricted access are the Bendigo Scenic Reserve, small reserves in the Catlins, Mt Aurum Recreation Reserve (Skippers), Twelve Mile (Mt Crichton Scenic Reserve), and Kinloch/Kowhai Bush (near Glenorchy). Again, you will need to confirm the availability of these areas during the Roar with the local DOC office.

The Wakatipu Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) still operates under a **ballot** system. It is available to hunters during the period 1 April to 30 September, and hunters need to apply to the Glenorchy Field Centre in November to go into the ballot.

### How do I get a hunting permit?

If you have already supplied your details for the DOC hunter database in Otago, you can ring or e-mail the department (see table below). Please quote your firearms licence number and your permit will be mailed to you.

## Contact details for DOC offices:

<b>DOC Office</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Coastal Otago Area Office	Dunedin	03 477 0677	kdauidson@doc.govt.nz
Owaka Field Centre(Catlins restricted areas)	Owaka	03 415 8341	cpullar@doc.govt.nz
Central Otago Area Office	Alexandra	03 440 2040	tnome@doc.govt.nz
Wanaka Area Office	Wanaka	03 443 7660	wanakavc@doc.govt.nz
Makarora Field Centre	Makarora	03 443 8365	wanakavc@doc.govt.nz
Wakatipu Area Office	Queenstown	03 442 7933	ahayes@doc.govt.nz
Glenorchy Field Centre	Glenorchy	03 442 9937	glenorchyvc@doc.govt.nz

If you are a new hunter you will have to register on the DOC database. For this we need to view your firearms licence and take other details like address, phone number, vehicle registration number, make and colour. Application forms are available at all Otago DOC offices. You can bring your firearms licence in to the DOC office or send a faxed copy of it, or a scanned image via e-mail. Your permit will then be mailed to you.

Please note that landing permits are required to land all aircraft in designated areas of Mt Aspiring National Park (MANP) and on all public conservation lands.

### Hunting permit conditions

- Hunting permits apply to wild animal hunting only. This includes feral deer, goats, pigs, chamois, thar, rabbits and hares. It excludes possums and game birds.
- Permits are only for public conservation land, including National Park areas.
- Hunters must obtain landowner permission before crossing private land.
- Animal pest control operations using deadly poisons may take place at any time on public conservation land. These operations are specified in pesticide summaries published every 4 months and are available from all DOC offices. For your safety, please read the caution notes and disclaimers in the pesticide summary.
- Separate permits are required for game bird shooting and possum hunting on public conservation land. These are available at all Area Offices.
- No dogs are allowed in the Mt Aspiring National Park and the permission of the landowner is required wherever access to a conservation area is gained through private land.

### Further Information

Contact the local DOC Area Office for information about access details and maps.

Fires are not permitted on public conservation lands at any time without a fire permit. In dry weather, please check the current fire status with the Area Office, as some areas may be closed due to fire risk. Hunters should use a primus or gas stove for cooking, and should also be aware that an individual may be liable for the costs associated with extinguishing a fire resulting from their activities. If you see a fire, dial 111.

There are four categories of huts managed by the Department. As at the time of printing this guide, hut fees were as follows:

Great Walks: price varies  
Serviced: \$10 per person/night  
Standard: \$5 per person/night  
Basic: Free

The exception to this is huts in the West Matukituki Valley (Mt. Aspiring National Park). These huts are owned by the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and managed by the Department.

Backcountry hut tickets are available from Area Offices during office hours. NZAC hut tickets can only be purchased from the Wanaka Area Office or direct from the hut warden when in residence (1 November to 30 April).

### **Hunting dogs**

In general, persons hunting in Otago can use dogs on conservation lands outside Mt. Aspiring National Park. However, we do ask that you initially confirm the dog policy for a reserve with the Area Office or Field Centre before taking dogs on to it. More importantly, you *must* obtain permission from neighbouring landowners if you wish to convey your dog(s) across their property into a conservation area. Landowners may require your dog to be dosed for sheep measles, or may ask you to confine or restrain the dog in some way before crossing their property.

Vertebrate poisons are currently used by various agencies on a very large scale in Otago to control possums, rabbits, mustelids and other animal pests. These operations occur on *all* classes of land throughout the province and often include the use of acute, deadly poisons such as 1080, cyanide and phosphorus. We strongly advise that hunters refer to the latest Pesticide Summary (available at Area Offices) or consult landowners about pesticide use before taking dogs out. While pest contractors normally provide good signage around public areas, dogs should still be restrained or muzzled to ensure they do not access toxic baits or carcasses.

### **Safety**

Please remember the seven basic rules of firearm safety:

- Treat every firearm as loaded
- Always point a firearm in a safe direction
- Load a firearm only when intending to fire
- Identify your target
- Check your firing zone
- Store firearms and ammunition safely
- Do not consume alcohol when using firearms

Remember also to use or wear brightly coloured material to identify yourself to other hunters. This is particularly important when carrying out a carcass or head. Remember, however, that bright clothing is not effective in all situations – it is not as effective in low light conditions or when you are seen as a silhouette.

## **Bowhunting**

Bowhunting is permitted in hunting areas subject to the following conditions (NZ Gazette notice1988):

- Bowhunters must use a hunting bow with a minimum peak draw weight of 22.5 kg and broad head arrows comprising no less than two cutting edges.
- The arrow head shall be unbarbed and the distance between opposing cutting edges at the widest part shall be not less than 25 mm (1 inch).
- The use of arrows with any poison, explosives, or other chemical substances on, or in the head or shaft is prohibited.

## COASTAL OTAGO CONSERVATION LANDS

The Coastal Otago Area comprises a wide range of landforms and vegetation types that reflect the underlying geology of sandstones, mudstones, schist and volcanics. There are good opportunities for hunting red deer and fallow deer as well as pigs, goats and some feral sheep. Total hunting area: 24,716 ha.

### ***Open hunting Areas***

(CA= Conservation Area

SR = Scenic or Scientific Reserve)

	Red Deer	Fallow Deer	Goats	Pigs	Game Birds	Dogs Allowed	260 Map Series
<b>Tautuku Forest</b>	●		●	●		✓	G47
<b>Maclennan Forest</b>	●			●		✓	G46, G47
<b>Big Bush CA</b>			●	●		✓	H45
<b>Taieri River SR</b>			●				I45
<b>Waipori Falls SR</b>	●			●		✓	H44
<b>Chalkies SR</b>	●			●		✓	I44
<b>Silverpeaks SR</b>	●		●	●		✓	I44
<b>Trotters Gorge SR</b>			●	●		✓	I43
<b>Pigeon Bush SR</b>	●	●	●	●		✓	I43
<b>Waianakarua SR</b>	●		●	●		✓	I42, J42
<b>Tuapeka West SR</b>		●		●		✓	G45
<b><i>Restricted Areas</i></b>							
<b>Glenomaru SR</b>				●		✓	H46
<b>Hinahina SR</b>	●			●		✓	H47
<b>Kaihiku SR</b>	●			●		✓	G46
<b>Purakaunui Bay SR</b>	●		●			✓	G47
<b>Purakaunui Falls SR</b>	●					✓	G47
<b>Table Hill SR</b>	●		●			✓	G47
<b>Tahakopa Bay SR</b>	●					✓	G47
<b>Waipati SR</b>	●					✓	G47
<b>Craig Rankin SR</b>	●		●			✓	G46
<b>Te Papanui C Park</b>				●		✓	H43, H44
<b>McLaren Wildlife Man. Reserve (WMR)</b>					●	✓	I45
<b>Waipori Boot WMR</b>					●	✓	I45
<b>Waihola/Waipori WMRs</b>					●	✓	I45

## **Open hunting areas:**

### ***Tautuku Forest; Catlins Rainforest Park (12986 ha)***

Rolling country with some steep gullies, between the Tautuku and Waikawa rivers, and including the MacLennan Range. Comprises a series of plateaux, mostly below 500m altitude. A map and compass or GPS is strongly recommended. Vegetation: kamahi, podocarp and silver beech forest. High rainfall. Access: from public roads in the area.

### ***McLennan Forest; Catlins Rainforest Park***

The area north of the Tahakopa River, taking in the Beresford Range and the catchment of the MacLennan River. It is steeper and higher country than Tautuku Forest, but has similar vegetation and rainfall. Access: off the public and forest roads.

### ***Big Bush Conservation Area (350ha)***

Rolling country with some steep gullies, including the headwaters of Big Creek between Milburn and the coast. Northern limit for rata/podocarp/kamahi forest mix. Access: via the Milton-Taieri Mouth Road and Big Bush Road.

### ***Taieri River Scenic Reserve (388ha)***

Includes the steep, bush clad faces adjacent to the Taieri River in the lower gorge as it nears Taieri Mouth. Vegetation: podocarp, broadleaf and kanuka. Access: from public road at Taieri Mouth or Henley.

### ***Waipori Falls/Mill Creek Scenic Reserves (2615 ha)***

Includes the Waipori Gorge, and adjoins Maungatua Scenic Reserve. Takes in some deep gullies and moderate to near vertical hillsides. Vegetation: podocarp, broadleaf, kanuka and silver beech with tussock grassland tops. Access: off the public road through the gorge and through private forestry roads.

### ***Chalkies Scenic Reserve (201ha)***

This is the steep western side of the Silverstream Valley (Whare Flat) south west of Dunedin. Vegetation: podocarp and broadleaf, merging into snow tussock grasslands on the tops. Access: via Whare Flat Road, approximately 10 minutes walk beyond the locked gate at the DCC pumphouse.

### ***Silverpeaks Scenic Reserve (3649ha)***

Rolling to steep hill country north of Dunedin. Vegetation: silver beech, broadleaf and kanuka forest with snow tussock tops. Access: through public roads north-west of Waitati, and through private forest.

### ***Trotters Gorge Scenic Reserve (152ha)***

Lies at the southern end of the Horse Range; includes many narrow ridges and steep cliff faces. Vegetation: kanuka, broadleaf, kowhai and other shrubs. Access: via Horse Range Road and the Trotters Gorge picnic area.

### ***Pigeon Bush Scenic Reserve (160ha)***

Similar vegetation and terrain to Trotters Gorge, with podocarp forest in the damp gullies and a small area of tussock on the tops. Access: via Baghdad Road from Hampden, then through private forest.

***Waianakarua Scenic Reserve (4035ha)***

A very popular deer hunting area and the largest area of public conservation land in North Otago. Steep hill country with deeply dissected valleys. Vegetation: mixed broadleaf, podocarp and totara forest with tussock grassland tops. Access: through private farmland, public road on part of the northern boundary and through private forest. Helicopter access is available through John Oakes (Glencoe Station).

***Tuapeka West Scenic Reserve (180 ha)***

Podocarp bush remnant on the banks of the Clutha River, including the river flats. Access: by crossing the Clutha River, walking along the marginal strip or via private land.

***Te Papanui Conservation Park (20880 ha) (Currently Restricted hunting area)***

This large ancient schist peneplane comprises the rounded tops and scattered tors of the Lammermoor and Lammerlaw Ranges. These tops fall into broad, peaty basins which in turn drain into steeper, rocky gorges. It experiences extreme weather conditions from all quarters in any season, so warm clothing is essential. Vegetation: tussock grassland, herbfields, cushionfields and wetlands; scattered shrublands, especially in steep gullies. Access is via either (a) the Old Dunstan Road near Rocklands, (b) Blue Spur Road and Gardiners Track from Lawrence or (c) Waipori Falls Road, Mountain Road and Gardiners Track from Waipori Falls.

## CENTRAL OTAGO CONSERVATION LANDS

Most hunting areas are on the block mountain systems that characterise Central Otago. Expanses of tussock grassland, cushion fields, upland bogs and schist tors provide 'open tops' hunting at all altitudes, within a wide range of climatic extremes.

<b>Open hunting Areas</b> (CA= Conservation Area SR = Scenic or Scientific Reserve)	<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Rabbits</b>	<b>Goats</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Game birds</b>	<b>Dogs allowed</b>	<b>260 Map Series</b>
<b>Mt. Kyeburn CA</b>	●			●		✓	I40, I41
<b>Allen Peaks CA</b>	●			●		✓	H41
<b>Oteake (Mt. Ida) CA</b>	●			●		✓	H41
<b>Oteake (Hawkdun Range) CA</b>	●			●		✓	H40
<b>Lauder Basin CA</b>	●		●			✓	G40, G41
<b>Old Woman CA</b>	●					✓	F42
<b>Kopuwai CA</b>	●					✓	F42, G42
<b>Bains CA</b>	●					✓	G43
<b>Serpentine CA</b>	●			●		✓	H42, H43
<b>Manorburn CA</b>	●			●		✓	G43
<b>Waikerikeri CA</b>			●			✓	G41
<b>North Dunstan CA</b>		●	●	●		✓	G40
<b>Restricted Areas</b>							
<b>Long Gully Bluffs CA</b>		●	●			✓	F41
<b>Bendigo CA</b>			●	●		✗	G41
<b>Bendigo SR</b>		●	●		●	✓	G41
<b>Serpentine Wildlife Management Reserve</b>					●	✓	H43

### **Open hunting areas:**

#### ***Mt Kyeburn Conservation Area (437 ha)***

Includes the headwaters of the Little Kyeburn River and Mt Kyeburn. Moderate to steep with tussock and matagouri shrubland. Access is through private land (contact N. McKenzie, Kyeburn Station (03) 444 9055.

#### ***Oteake Conservation Area (Mt Ida) (4611 ha)***

Steep to rolling tussock country, mostly north and east of Mt Ida; a 1690m escarpment overlooking Naseby. Includes the headwaters of the Wether Burn and the Ida Burn. Access is through private land. Contact G. McKnight, Braeside Station (03) 444 5819.

***Oteake Conservation Area (Hawkdun Ranges) (3988 ha)***

Steep western slopes of the Hawkdun Range and much of the easier eastern side.

***Lauder Basin Conservation Area (1516 ha)***

A substantial part of the summit plateau of the North Dunstan Mountains (up to 1670m), encompassing the headwaters of Lauder Creek. A steep, mountainous basin with some rocky bluffs. Vegetation is mainly snow tussock and shrubland. Lauder Basin Hut (sleeps 2) is located in the head of the basin. Access is through private land. Contact D. Menzies, Cambrian Station, (03) 447 3073.

***Old Woman and Old Man Ranges (8652 ha)***

The tops of the Old Woman and Old Man ranges provide a continuous area of land comprising the Old Woman CA, Kopuwai CA, the Old Man SR and Bains CA. Together they form a geographical barrier between West and Central Otago. Terrain includes rolling mountain tops with tussock grasslands, upland wetlands and herbfields. The main catchments are the upper Bannockburn, upper Hawksburn, the upper Fraser River, Campbells Creek and the headwaters of the Pomahaka River. Access to this vast area can be gained from Duffers Saddle (off the Nevis Valley Road), from Symes Road at Fruitlands and from the Waikaia Bush Road. There are four huts in the area: the Old Woman Hut (sleeps 6; situated 4km south of Duffers saddle), Boundary Hut and Nicholson Hut (both sleep 4; situated in the upper Fraser Basin) and Junction Hut (sleeps six; situated at the junction of the Pomahaka and Little Pomahaka Rivers).

***Serpentine Conservation Area (750 ha)***

This lies on the South Rough Ridge. It is a broad plateau dotted with tors and wetlands. It includes alpine grasslands to 1180m altitude, and is midway between the Manorburn (Greenland) Reservoir and the Poolburn Dam. Access is via Long Valley Ridge Road.

***Manorburn Conservation Area (1147 ha)***

The Manorburn Conservation Area is located on a broad plateau between the Clutha and Taieri river systems, west of Lake Onslow. The area is characterised by tussock grasslands, rolling gully systems and upland wetlands. Access is from Bridge Huts Road.

***Waikerikeri Conservation Area (500 ha)***

A steep mountainous area taking in the headwaters of Waikerikeri Creek, 10 km north of Clyde. Vegetation includes native shrubland, tussock grassland and some woody weeds. Access for dogs and firearms is via private land. Contact R. Parsons, (03) 449 2389.

***North Dunstan Conservation Area (Ardgour) (550 ha)***

Comprises the headwaters of Thomsons Creek; access off Thomsons Gorge Road.

<b>WANAKA AREA</b>	<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Thar</b>	<b>Chamois</b>	<b>Dogs allowed</b>	<b>260 Map Series</b>
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### ***Open hunting Areas***

#### ***MT. ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK:***

<b>Upper Makarora</b>	●		●	✘	<b>G38</b>
<b>Young</b>	●		●	✘	<b>G38, F38</b>
<b>Wilkin</b>	●		●	✘	<b>F38</b>
<b>Matukituki</b>	●		●	✘	<b>E39, F39</b>

#### ***Non-MANP Areas (CA=Conservation Area)***

<b>Dingleburn/ Timaru Creek</b>	●	●	●	✘	<b>G39</b>
<b>Mt. Alta CA</b>	●		●	✘	<b>F39</b>
<b>Albert Burn CA</b>	●		●	✘	<b>F38, F39</b>
<b>Upper Hunter CA</b>	●	●	●	✘	<b>G38</b>
<b>Lower Hunter CA</b>	●		●	✘	<b>G39</b>

### **Wanaka Area hunting areas**

#### ***Mt Aspiring National Park (106,070 ha):***

Mt Aspiring National Park offers a full range of terrain from river flats to forest, scrub, alpine and glaciated landforms, and largely straddles the Main Divide. Caution is required due to the changeable weather conditions and high numbers of trampers using the area. Backcountry huts: Serviced (\$10/head) or Standard (\$5/head). NZAC huts in the West Matukituki are managed by DOC Wanaka, and tickets can be purchased there.

#### ***(1) Upper Makarora Valley***

Takes in the steep faces of the McKerrow Range visible from the Makarora-Haast Highway, the Cameron Creek and the Makarora River catchments. Makarora Hut (Standard, 4 bunks) is midway up the Makarora Valley and Cameron Hut (Standard, 4 bunks) is near the top of the hunting area in Cameron Creek.

## **(2) Young**

Large area east of the Main Divide on the true right of the Makarora River. It includes the catchments of the Blue River, Young River and Tiel Creek and is bounded by the Wilkin River. It adjoins the Wilkin hunting area to the southwest. Shelter is available in the headwaters at the Young Hut (Serviced, 10 bunks) on the Gillepsie-Siberia tramping circuit.

## **(3) Wilkin**

This is contiguous with the Young area, and includes the large catchment of the Wilkin and Siberia valleys up to the Main Divide. Typically, wide valley floors with beech forest reaching to the snowline. Siberia Hut (Serviced, 20 bunks) is popular with trampers. Kerin Forks Hut (Serviced, 10 bunks) is near the junction of the Siberia and Wilkin rivers, and Top Forks Hut (Serviced, 16 bunks) is situated near the headwaters of the Wilkin.

## **(4) West and East Matukituki Valleys**

Hunting opportunities in this area are limited compared with other areas in the park. Mt Aspiring/Tititea and surrounding peaks make up a large part of this area. Beech forest is confined to the mid and lower slopes of the upper reaches of the West Matukituki and East Matukituki valleys. The West Matukituki is very popular for day visitors and those undertaking longer tramps. There is also a student outdoor education facility in the area, so extreme care should be taken when hunting in the area. The West Matukituki NZAC Aspiring Hut sleeps 40; there are no huts in the East Matukituki.

The following areas are outside the National Park:

### ***Dingleburn/Timaru Creek Public Conservation Lands (8680ha)***

Extensive area of dry mountain beech forest, often fragmented. Public Conservation lands are confined to the forested valley sides only. The Dingle Burn headwaters comprise mountain beech forested alpine basins. Landowner permission is required for access. The three huts in the Dingle Burn are all Standard: Cotter's (2 bunks), Bush Hut (6 bunks) and Top Dingle Hut (6 bunks). The Top Timaru Creek Hut (4 bunks) is Cat.4.

### ***Mt Alta Conservation Area (14000ha)***

Takes in the area north of the Matukituki River and includes the West Wanaka and Mt Alta conservation areas. Vegetation is mainly tussock grassland and beech forest remnants. Access: adjacent landowner permission is required.

### ***Albert Burn Conservation Area (9850ha)***

Takes in the Albert Burn and Craigie Burn catchments and adjoins Mt Aspiring National Park to the north and west. Includes river flats and steep beech forested faces, rising to tussock and sub-alpine vegetation on the tops to 2057m. Access: adjacent landowner permission is required.

### ***Upper Hunter Conservation Area (42100ha)***

The Hunter catchment runs into Lake Hawea and is bordered by the Young Range, the Southern Alps and the Barrier Range. Beech forest rises to mountainous country up to 2500m altitude (Mt Huxley). Adjacent landowner permission is required to enter this area. Ferguson Hut (Standard, 4 bunks) is near the junction of Long Flat Creek and the Hunter River. Mid Flat Hut (Standard, 2 bunks), and Forbes Hut (Standard, 6 bunks) are located towards the head of the valley.

***Lower Hunter Public Conservation Lands (16000ha)***

This area includes the McKerrow and Young ranges and is bordered by lakes Wanaka and Hawea.  
Access: permission from adjacent landowner is required.

The Big Hopwood Hut (Basic, 2 bunks) is the only backcountry hut in this area.

**Landowners bordering Conservation Lands (Wanaka Area)**

**Dingleburn Valley:** Dingleburn Station Guy Mead 03 443 1558

**Timaru Creek:** Dingleburn Station Guy Mead 03 443 1558  
Lake Hawea Station Tom Rowley 03 443 1744

**Hunter Valley:** Hunter Valley Station Taff Cochrane 03 443 1241  
Makarora River Ranch Willy Aspinall 03 443 8293  
(Boundary Ck access)

**West & East  
Matukituki:** Aspiring Station John Aspinall 03 4437155

**Mt. Alta:** West Wanaka Station Grant Cochrane 03 443 7144

**Wilkin/Craigieburn/  
Albertburn:** Mt Albert Station Mike King (Mgr) 03 443 4427

**Upper Dingleburn:** Birchwood Station Ron Williamson 03 438 9498

## WAKATIPU CONSERVATION AREAS

The Wakatipu Area comprises a large area of Otago's western mountains. It includes a range of ecosystems, such as the beech forests of Mt. Aspiring National Park and the Caples/Greenstone valleys, the shrublands of the Remarkables/Hector Mountains and the extensive tussocklands of the Richardson Mountains/Shotover district.

	Red Deer	Whitetail Deer	Fallow Deer	Chamois	Goats	Game birds	Dogs Allowed	260 Map Series
<b>Open hunting Areas</b>								
<b>MT. ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK</b> (103,000 ha):								
Lower Dart	●	●		●	●		✗	E40
Rees Valley	●	●		●	●		✗	E40
Upper Dart	●	●		●	●		✗	E39, E40
Arawhata	●			●			✗	E38, E39
Barrier	●			●			✗	E39
Sylvan/Beansburn/ Rockburn	●	●		●			✗	E40
Routeburn Nth Br.	●			●			✗	E40, D40
<b>NON N.PARK</b> (CA= Conservation Area) (17200 ha):								
U. Shotover CA	●			●	●		✗	E40
Black Peak CA	●			●	●		✗	E39, E40, F39, F40
Ballarat Creek CA				●	●		✗	E40
Lower Dart	●	●		●	●		✗	E40
<b>Restricted Areas</b> (RHA=Rec. Hunting Area) SR=Scenic Reserve RR=Recreation Reserve)								
<b>Wakatipu RHA</b>								
(Caples/Greenstone)	●		●	●			✗	D41, E41, D40, E40
<b>Kowhai/Kinloch</b>								
Bush SR	●		●	●			✗	E41
Twelve Mile SR			●	●	●		✗	E41
Mt. Aurum RR			●	●	●		✗	E40
<b>Glenorchy Wildlife Management Reserve</b>								
Diamond Lake						●		E41
						●		E40

Moir's Guide North is a handbook on tramping routes in the Southern Alps between lakes Wakatipu and Ohau. It gives detailed information on tramping routes, access and rock bivvy locations. It is recommended reading for anyone going into this region.

***Upper Shotover Conservation Area (9356ha)***

Takes in the northern Richardson Mountains and includes the headwaters of the Upper Shotover from Mt Bowyang, north along the tops to Mt Ferguson at 2484m, Centaur Peaks at 2525m and Lochnagar at 2542m. On the northern boundary it joins Mt Aspiring National Park near Mt Tindall. The area lies above 1000m and comprises subalpine and alpine vegetation with extensive bluffs. It includes the headwaters of the Glencairn, Sixty-mile and Lochnagar creeks. Access is mainly by air from the Matukituki Valley, or by foot via the Rees Valley or Branches Station; the latter requires landowner permission. The river valleys are pastoral lease land and no hunting is allowed.

***Black Peak Conservation Area (2650 ha)***

Covers the northern headwaters of the Shotover River, the Shiel Burn tops and the Polnoon Burn tops. Very mountainous terrain with high peaks, alpine benches and extensive, steep bluffs. Vegetation is alpine and subalpine. Access is generally by air from the north via the Matukituki Valley. Foot access is available via the Leaping Burn (permission required from the owners of Matukituki Station). Foot access to the Shiel Burn and Polnoon Burn tops can be gained through Branches Station in the Shotover valley (landowner permission required).

***Ballarat Creek Conservation Area (600ha)***

Adjoins Mt Aurum Recreation Reserve and covers a series of ridges running into Ballarat Creek and the Flood Burn. Ballarat Hut is on a terrace approximately a third of the way up Ballarat Creek. Access is via The Branches Road to the confluence of the Flood Burn and the Shotover River.

***Lower Dart (4600ha)***

Covers the broad expanse of the Lower Dart valley from Bride Peaks and Mt Head down to Mt Earnslaw (2820m) and the mouth of the Beansburn. Terrain and vegetation covers the full montage of snow tussock, red, silver, and mountain beech forest, and sub-alpine and alpine tops. There is a moratorium on shooting whitetail deer between Chinaman's Bluff and the Earnslaw Burn, and Mt Alfred. There is a 20 bunk hut at Daleys Flat in the Dart Valley (hut tickets required). Access to this area is via the Glenorchy-Paradise Road.

The Slip Stream (Te Korokâ Tōpuni) area is adjacent to the lower Dart on the true right and includes Slip Stream and the Cosmos Peaks areas. No access is allowed into this sacred area without a special permit.

All of the following areas are part of Mt Aspiring National Park, and are administered from the Wakatipu Area Office:

### ***Beansburn/Rock Burn***

Takes in the Beans Burn and Rock Burn catchments, and is bordered by the Dart River and the Humboldt Mountains north to Poseidon (2208m), Niobe (2204m) and Tantalus Peak (1951m). Comprises beech forested valleys and terraces with subalpine and alpine vegetation on the tops. Although there is no hut in the Beans Burn there is a rock bivvy near First Flat. Access to the Beans Burn is usually via the Routeburn-Kinloch Road to Weka Flat, then by track to Lake Sylvan and continuing north through open beech terraces along the Dart to the Rock Burn. There is an 8 bunk hut at the mouth of the Rock Burn (also known as McIntyres). A bridge crosses an impressive canyon above the hut. From here, sidle the hill and follow the Dart River to the Beans Burn. Alternatively, Dart River Safaris operate a jet boat service up the Dart in the summer. This would eliminate any river crossings and they can drop you at the mouth of the Beans Burn.

**No hunting is allowed in the area bordered by the Dart River, the Route Burn and Lake Sylvan due to it being a high use area by trampers.**

The Rock Burn can be popular with trampers as an alternative from the Routeburn, with routes leading from the Rock Burn to the North Routeburn, the Olivine River, and the Beans Burn. Animal numbers, vegetation and terrain are similar to those in the Beans Burn. Like many of the valleys in Mt Aspiring National Park there are large boulders and rock overhangs that can be used as shelters. Access to the Rock Burn is via the Routeburn-Kinloch Road to either the beginning of the Lake Sylvan track or to the Routeburn day shelter and over Sugarloaf Pass.

### ***Routeburn North Branch***

**No hunting is allowed in the main Routeburn valley as it is a high use tramping area. The rifle bolt must be removed while in the main Routeburn valley.**

The North Branch is dotted with huge bluffs, particularly on the true left. Access is via the Routeburn-Kinloch Road to the Routeburn shelter. From there, take the Routeburn track to the Routeburn Flat hut (sleeps 20) where the North Branch joins the Routeburn.

### ***Rees Valley***

This includes land within MANP, from Lennox Falls to Black Peak, along the tops of the Forbes Mountains to Mt Cunningham, then down the park boundary beside the Rees River. It includes the Hunter Creek catchment. Much of the area is subalpine and alpine vegetation and terrain. Beech forest is confined to the lower slopes of Hunter Creek and Cattle Slip faces, alongside the Rees River. Access is via the Rees Valley Road to the Muddy Creek carpark. The Rees Track provides access up the valley. Huts in the area include Earnslaw hut, (sleeps 4) near Lennox Creek, with a rock bivvy further upstream.

### ***Upper Dart***

This area takes in the Upper Dart catchment and valley north of Daleys Flat Hut, up to Mt Ansted and Cascade Saddle, and across to the tops of the Barrier Range. Beech forest is confined to the terraces and lower slopes in the mid-section of the valley, with the catchment head predominantly sub-alpine and alpine vegetation. The Dart Track follows the Dart River and crosses into the Rees from above Dart Hut. Another route provides access via Cascade Saddle into the West Matukituki. The area is popular with trampers taking in the Dart-Rees circuit. Dart Hut (sleeps 20) is at the foot of Mt Cunningham and Daleys Flat Hut (sleeps 20) is midway up the Dart valley. Access is by air, jetboat or on foot up the Dart Valley.

### ***Arawhata***

This is a very large area taking in part of the Arawhata catchment that lies within Mt Aspiring National Park. It includes the Joe River, the Five Fingers Range, and the Olivine Range. As well as the major peaks and alpine zone, terrain includes some very large grassy flats. Most of the area lies within the Wilderness Zone, and as such there are no huts, tracks or bridges and no aircraft landings are permitted. As it is on the western side of the main divide it has typical Fiordland/West Coast weather and vegetation. Hunters are asked to report any thar sightings in this area as it is part of the southern exclusion zone, a buffer zone protecting Fiordland National Park from thar ingress.

### ***Barrier***

This is mountainous terrain in the western reaches of Mt Aspiring National Park, bordered by the Barrier Range and the Olivine Range in the east and includes the Forgotten River and the headwaters of the Barrier and Pyke rivers. All of the area falls within the Park's Wilderness Zone. Access can be gained from the eastern side by walking overland for a number of days, or via Te Anau and the Hollyford and Pyke Rivers. There are no huts, tracks or bridges, providing a truly remote experience. This area is also on the western side of the main divide, so experiences Fiordland/West Coast climate and vegetation conditions.

