



Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Submissions analysis and decisions

OCTOBER 2004



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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This report is the conclusion of the department's public consultation process 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities', a Recreation Opportunity Review aimed at confirming with the public the mix of visitor facilities needed to provide the recreational opportunities most desired on public conservation land.

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1. Message from the Conservator

The following report details the content of submissions received by Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy as part of the recreation opportunity review public consultation period, and reports on other feedback received through public meetings and discussion with stakeholders during this period.

Taking account of the submissions and other information received, and following a national assessment process including key national recreation associate organisations, decisions have been made by this Conservancy. These decisions align with the strategic direction as covered by the Principles to Guide a Core Facility Network and the key policy and strategic directions referred to within these, or, where a preference has been identified through submissions to vary from this direction, these cases have been noted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Green', written in a cursive style.

P Green

Conservator

2. Executive summary

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy is often considered as the playground of the residents of the North Island. As well as providing a resource for residents, it is a major destination for overseas tourists. This mix of users creates a demand for many varied recreational opportunities.

Public consultation was undertaken as part of the Department's recreation opportunity review 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities'. The goal for the conservancy is to manage a range of opportunities in suitable locations that can cope with current and immediate future demand.

Consultation was launched on 30th September 2003, with a press release from the Minister of Conservation, and a press release from this Conservancy. Invites were sent to local recreation groups and other key associates inviting them to attend public meetings to learn about the consultation process. Proposal documents and background resource material were provided as publications and on the DOC website to provide the basis for making submissions.

Several newspaper articles were written about the review in this Conservancy. Ten meetings were held in the Conservancy and over 200 submissions were received. Following analysis of submissions and input from the Conservation Board final decisions have now been made. Public scrutiny and input on the departmental proposals has confirmed, modified or, in some cases, reversed the original DOC proposals.

KEY POINTS

- Development of four new day type walks in the Conservancy.
- Public rejection of one proposed Day Visitor opportunity.
- Public rejection of a proposed camping opportunity.
- Confirmation of the desire for community management agreements for four huts.
- Large (relatively) numbers confirming the proposed replacement of Ketetahi Hut.

Initially there will be an emphasis on the tackling of repair work and deferred maintenance. This will remain a focus of work over the next 10 years in the Conservancy. New opportunities have been proposed where there is an indication that these are required. These new opportunities will further strengthen the network of recreational opportunities in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy.

3. Introduction

This report is in two sections.

Section One summarises the Recreation Opportunities Review and the process undertaken in consultation. This section looks at the 36 original departmental proposals for the Conservancy, and the 205 submissions received in total.

Proposals within the Kaimanawa Forest Park (KFP) and the Tongariro National Park (TNP) made up the bulk of the ROR process. Consequently, they received the most submissions. Some themes that came out of submissions were:

- the concern at the cost of hut replacements and
- retention of KFP as a Back Country Adventurer (BCA) destination.
- New day visit opportunities were generally favourably received.

Section Two presents the decisions that have been made and the reasons for these. A summary of other non-specific submissions, or those the Conservancy is currently unable to attend to, is also given. It concludes with a summary of the decisions made. This section covers the 205 submissions received from 59 submitters.

Section One

4. Submitters and submissions

This section provides information on the number of submissions, the nature of submissions and a description of their content

4.1 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- **59** submitters provided submissions representing comment on **33** of the **36** proposals.
- **29** group submissions and **30** individual submissions were received.
- No submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document).
- **17** submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues, as well as (or instead of) comment on specific proposals.

4.2 MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON, BY ORDER OF TOTAL SUBMISSIONS

	ASSET NAME (AND NUMBER)	SUBMISSIONS	AGAINST	FOR	NEITHER
1	Ohakune Old Coach Rd Walk (606288)	13	0	13	
2	Hapuawhenua Viaduct Historic Walk (191126)	13	0	13	
3	Oamaru Hut (35438)	12	9	3	
4	Waipakihi Hut (35941)	12	9	3	
5	Ketetahi Hut (35904)	11	3	8	
6	Mt Tihia Track (99313)	10	0	9	1
7	Tauranga/Taupo Waterfall Walk (191441)	9	1	7	1
8	Mangaturuturu Emergency Shelter (36613)	8	5	3	
9	Dome Emergency Shelter (36788)	8	6	2	
10	Whakaipo Bay Campsite (191224)	7	4	3	
11	Waihohonu Hut (35823)	7	4	3	
12	Lupton Hut (36016)	6	0	5	1
13	Mangaturuturu Hut (36062)	6	0	6	
14	Waipakihi Rd (98351)	5	0	5	

	ASSET NAME (AND NUMBER)	SUBMISSIONS	AGAINST	FOR	NEITHER
15	Lake Rotokawa Viewing Area (191527)	5	4	1	
16	Upper Rangataua Forest Track (100210)	4	3	0	1
17	Cascade to Boyd (97504)	4	2	1	1
18	Kaimanawa Rd Campsite 2 (100222)	3	2	1	
19	Kaimanawa Rd Campsite 3 (100292)	3	2	1	
20	Spa Park to Huka Falls Cycle Track (191466)	2	0	2	

4.3 PROPOSALS THAT RECEIVED THE MOST SUBMISSIONS AND SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS, BY LOCATION

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Tongariro National Park			
606288 Ohakune Old Coach Rd Walk (13)	Proposed	Proposal from community to adopt and manage site. This is a good opportunity to provide a "Day Walk" opportunity close to Ohakune. Development potential in conjunction with the community. Needs to be developed in conjunction with the Hapuawhenua Viaduct Historic Walk 191126.	Thirteen submissions were in favour of the proposed walk. Major submission themes were the lack of day walk opportunities in the area, the need to preserve heritage and the willingness of the community to be involved in the project.
191126 Hapuawhenua Viaduct Historic Walk (13)	Proposed	It is proposed to provide access to this 284m long by 45m high viaduct, built in 1908 and now decommissioned. It is a significant new walking opportunity close to the town of Ohakune and is tied in with many important and interesting historic features. This opportunity is linked to 606288 "The Ohakune Old Coach Road" and offers a good chance of integrated management for both sites. There is a good opportunity to work with the community and Tranzrail to develop this site.	Thirteen submissions were in favour of the proposed walk. The majority emphasised the importance of heritage preservation, along with a desire for the community to be involved in the development of this proposal. A lack of opportunities in the vicinity was noted, and one submission wished for the opportunity to be multi-use.
99313 Mt Tihia Track (10)	Proposed	Mt Tihia provides excellent viewing opportunities of Lake Taupo and the National Park. Developing this track would require a change to the TNP Management Plan. There is current informal access via an unmarked route. The proposal is to create a marked and maintained tramping track to the summit.	Nine submissions were in favour of the proposal. A number of suggestions, including carparks, loops and a track leading onward, were included in submissions. One submission neither supported nor opposed the proposal. This submitter wanted signs to indicate public/private land boundaries.

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
35904 Ketetahi Hut (11)	Replace - same size	<p>Ketetahi hut is located close to the Ketetahi Road end. From the Ketetahi Road end it is eight hours to Oturere Hut and eight hours to Mangatepopo Hut. The hut, is also a popular Day Visitor destination but is in very poor condition. There is a need to assess the impacts that day visitors have on the hut. Options and issues that must be explored before any decision is made to replace the hut are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is the hut required at all? 2) If the hut is required, is its replacement best located on the current site? What is the best location? 3) How can DOC best meet the separate needs of hut users and Day Visitors? <p>All issues must be assessed with the Tongariro National Park Management Plan paramount in mind, as well as how the Tongariro Northern Circuit functions. The needs of Tongariro Crossing users are subsidiary to the hut users.</p>	<p>Eight submissions were in favour of the proposal. Some stated the loss of appeal of the current location due to increasing pressure from Day Visitors and the closure of the near by hot springs. A replacement hut, at a new nearby location is supported with the retention of some facilities for Day Visitors. Three submissions were in opposition. The key theme from opponents was the replacement cost of any new hut. A subsidiary theme was that opponents did not believe the hut was in a poor state of repair.</p>
36016 Lupton Hut (6)	Maintain by community	<p>This hut is owned by Wanganui High School. It does not currently meet minimum hut standards, and it is proposed to remove the hut if the High School does not bring the hut up to the correct standard, and enter into a proper management agreement with the Department. If the hut is removed, Wanganui High School could use Blyth Hut for free in compensation for the loss of Lupton Hut. The current situation is that the two huts are close together, and Blyth is in far better condition than Lupton.</p>	<p>Five submitters supported the proposal, but disagreed with the Department's explanation. Common themes were that they believed the hut was in good condition, and that it did not duplicate what was offered by nearby Blyth Hut. One submitter did not support or oppose the proposal, but commented negatively on the proposed free use of Blyth Hut by Wanganui High School.</p>
36613 Mangaturuturu Emergency Shelter (8)	Remove (and not replace)	<p>Emergency shelter originally installed for visitor safety reasons (questionable at the time) but the shelter is now in a very poor condition and has not performed its function very well (i.e. often in very bad weather visitors cannot find their way to the shelter). Since Turoa Ski field has been developed access to and from this area is far easier lessening the need for the shelter. People recreating in this area should come fully prepared to cope with circumstances and should not rely on the shelter (the shelter may be creating a false sense of security). The Tongariro National Park Management Plan advocates the shelter's removal.</p>	<p>Three submissions were in favour of the proposal. One submitter stated that its safety function is dubious, and another submitter wanted the parts to be recycled elsewhere. Five submissions were opposed to the removal of the shelter on safety grounds. The submitters believed that the shelter still performed an important safety function in terms of shelter, a base and as a reference point.</p>

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
36788 Dome Emergency Shelter (8)	Non-visitor DOC-managed	The facility is to be reduced in size, and will only be big enough to hold scientific equipment. Its purpose as an emergency shelter is redundant as people wanting to recreate in this environment should come fully prepared. It is often not locatable in bad weather and often covered by snow drifts. The proposal is consistent with Tongariro National Park Management Plan recommendations.	Two submitters supported the proposal. One of these wanted it removed altogether, and the second submitter in support saw it serving a useful function for Day Visitors, and those wanting to overnight on the summit. This submitter suggested removing it when it had reached the end of its useful life. Six submissions were in opposition. The key theme was that people were opposed to the removal of the shelter's visitor facilities on safety grounds. The submitters believed the shelter still performed an important safety role, as many visitors arrived ill-equipped for the conditions.
35823 Waihohonu Hut (7)	Replace - bigger size	Even though Waihohonu Hut is close to a road end (1 1/2 hours walk) and also relatively close to Oturere Hut, it is six hours to Whakapapa for those completing the Tongariro Northern Circuit. Waihohonu Hut is also a very popular destination. It receives 3000+ bed nights per year and is the most popular hut on the Tongariro Northern Circuit. When the replacement hut is planned, issues such as a new location should be assessed. The main increase in size will be to the hut amenity areas, although there is some scope for a small increase in bunk numbers. The Management Plan allows for a maximum of 40 persons (including camping) at any hut site on the Tongariro Northern Circuit	Three submissions were in favour of the proposal. Two made no additional comment, one comments, that the current site is cold, and cramped. Four submissions were in opposition. The key theme for the opposition was the cost of a replacement hut. A subsidiary theme was the cost to stay in the hut by BCA users on the Round the Mountain Tramp.
36062 Mangaturuturu Hut (6)	Maintain by community	Mangaturuturu Hut is under a joint management regime between DOC and the Wanganui Tramping Club. Even though this hut is close to the Ohakune Mountain Road, it is six hours away from Whakapapaiti Hut.	Six submitters supported the proposal, and commented that the hut was in good condition, was needed, was well used and that the club and the Department had a good relationship that they wanted to see continue.
Kaimanawa Forest Park			
35438 Oamaru Hut (12)	Upgrade to higher standard	Currently this hut is supplied with fuel - something that only "serviced huts" and above are eligible to receive. This error needs to be corrected. The two options are: 1. Cease supplying fuel to the hut to ensure compliance with its "standard classification". This could have environmental impacts which would be unacceptable to the Kaimanawa Forest Park. 2. Change the classification from "standard" to "serviced" and increase the hut fees accordingly. The recommended option is to change the hut classification, continue supplying fuel and increase the hut fees. Changes to the hut fees can only be made once per annum at the end of the summer season.	Three submissions supported the proposal, for the sake of the retention of a fire and for the environment. Nine submissions wanted no increase in fees. The main theme was a preference that hut fees were not increased, and if need be, the heater is removed. Some submitters preferred that the Kaimanawa was left in an undeveloped state, and did not want to see any change in service standard to the hut. Some submitters wanted the status quo to remain. This would mean no increase in fees but a continuance of supply of fuel.

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
191441 Tauranga/Taupo Waterfall Walk (9)	Proposed	Current informal access with relatively high visitor impacts; and use continually increasing. Community demand over past ten years for the Department to form a track to this waterfall. Will compliment the existing recreation opportunities provided in this part of Kaimanawa Forest Park.	Seven submissions supported the proposal. Most stated that it would be a valuable addition to the suite of opportunities. One submitter wanted the track to be multi-use, and another submitter suggested pushing the track through from here to Cascade. One submission neither objected nor supported, but wanted to see measures put in place to separate private and public land. One objection stated the area was good for trout. Constructing a track here would impact upon trout spawning, and make access easier for poachers.
35941 Waipakihi Hut (12)	Upgrade to higher standard	Currently this hut is supplied with fuel - which is something that only "serviced huts" and above are eligible to receive. This error needs to be corrected. The 2 options are: 1. Cease supplying fuel to the hut to ensure compliance with its "standard classification". This could have environmental impacts which would be unacceptable to the Kaimanawa Forest Park. 2. Change the classification from "standard" to "serviced" and increase the hut fees in accordance with this. The recommended option is to change the hut classification, continue supplying fuel and increase the hut fees. Changes to hut fees can only be made once per annum at the end of the summer season.	Three submissions supported the proposal, for the sake of the retention of a fire and for the environment. Nine submissions wanted no increase in fees. The main theme was that most submitters preferred that hut fees were not increased, and if need be, the heater was removed. Some submitters preferred that the Kaimanawa was left in an undeveloped state, and would not like to see any change in service standard to the hut. Some submitters wanted the status quo to remain. This would mean no increase in fees but a continuance of supply of fuel.
98351 Waipakihi Road (5)	Maintain	Access to southern Kaimanawa Forest Park. Constructed by power company. The road is currently unmaintained. The Department is to pick up maintenance of the road in the future.	Five submissions supported the proposal. Themes were that it is an important link to the park, and that security for vehicles was an issue. One submitter wanted to see a campground re-instated.
97504 Cascade to Boyd (4)	Cease maintenance	Cease maintaining old track along Te Wai O Tupuritia Stream and encourage people to use new track (99303) via the Maungaorangi high point which is located on publicly managed land. This site traverses private land and because an alternative exists, it is better for DOC to maintain the "secure access" to ensure that the public will always be able to travel between these two huts without undue impediment.	Two submissions supported the proposal stating that tracks need to be rerouted in the KFP to avoid private land. One submitter neither supported or opposed, but pointed out that a new hut or shelter was needed in this location. One submitter opposed the proposal stating that the track was still used to access private land.
100222 Kaimanawa Rd Campsite 2 (3)	Cease maintenance	Sites are to become unmaintained as they will not comply with proposed new campground standards. A camping opportunity is provided nearby at the main Kaimanawa Rd campsite and the Urchin campsite.	One submission supported the proposal, so long as there were other opportunities provided in the area. Two submissions opposed the proposal. Concerns were that each campsite had unique characteristics, and this would be lost by conformity.

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
100292 Kaimanawa Rd Campsite 3 (3)	Cease maintenance	Sites are to become unmaintained as they will not comply with proposed new campground standards. A camping opportunity is provided nearby at the main Kaimanawa Rd campsite and the Urchin campsite.	One submission supported the proposal, so long as there were other opportunities provided in the area. Two submissions opposed the proposal. Concerns were that each campsite had unique characteristics, and this would be lost by conformity.
Rangataua Forest			
100210 Upper Rangataua Forest Track and Deadman's Camp (4)	Cease maintenance	Ex 2WD road now deteriorated to the point where it is essentially a quadbike and tramping track. Potential for providing link track to Round the Mountain Track.	Three submissions opposed the proposal. The main theme was that it provided an access opportunity into the Tongariro National Park. One submitter believed that it presented itself as an OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) opportunity. One submission indicated support for the proposal. Analysis of this submission however revealed the writer possibly did not fully understand the proposal. Consequently, the submission counts as "neither".
Lake Taupo & Township			
191224 Whakaipo Bay Campsite (7)	Proposed	Accessible camping opportunities on or near the lakeshore of Lake Taupo are diminishing due to changes in land tenure and the local authority closing a significant campground. Site is already used by a number of informal campers and is a good location for a campsite. Will also be complimentary to the Department's existing infrastructure in this reserve (picnicking, walking and swimming based).	Three submissions were in favour of the proposal. One stating that there are not enough camping opportunities around the lake. Another submitter would like to see a full management plan for the reserve, and that day visitors and overnights should be well separated. The third supporter would like any camp to be of an informal nature. Four submissions were in opposition. Key reasons were the environmental and social impacts the proposal would cause. It was noted that several commercial campgrounds already provide a similar opportunity. This proposal does not comply with the CMS.
191466 Spa Park to Huka Falls Cycle Track (2)	Proposed	Site required to reduce conflicts between mountain bikers and walkers on the busy Spa Park to Huka Falls Walkway. Track and associated facilities to be constructed and maintained by Bike Taupo to the Department's standards. Expected high use and highly valued facility once completed.	Two submissions supported this proposal. One submitter stated that it was a good opportunity to separate walkers from cyclists.
191527 Lake Rotokawa Viewing Area (5)	Proposed	Remove informal access to this site for visitors on safety grounds and establish new viewing area overlooking the lake. Need to formalise access to the site via adjacent privately owned land. Proposed access would be dependent upon neighbouring landowner's consent.	One submission supported this proposal saying that it would be good to provide public access to this site. Four submissions opposed the proposal. They believed that there was no public demand for this opportunity to be provided, and that the money would be better spent elsewhere.

4.4 OTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS

The remaining proposals also received submissions:

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Tongariro National Park			
36244 Whangaehu Hut (2)	Maintain by community	Hut is open and available to be used by the public although it is primarily provided for use of NZAC members. NZAC want to continue to maintain and administer this hut as access to climbing (summer and winter) opportunities in this part of Tongariro National Park. DOC has not contributed to the administration or maintenance of this facility.	Two submissions agreed with the proposal. One of these submitters noted that it was an important part of their business, guiding their customers to this hut.
97532 Hinemihi's Track (1)	Cease maintenance	This short walk receives low use and although it provides an insight into an early Maori trail it is not sufficiently important to continue to maintain this opportunity. The Lake Rotopounamu Walk provides a better "nature walk" within the local vicinity.	One submission supported the proposal.
Kaimanawa Forest Park			
606638 Rangipo Intake Rd (2)	Maintain by community	Sealed access to Rangipo Dam. There is no formalised access into the Forest Park from here. The road is to be maintained by a power company.	Two submissions supported this proposal, stating that public access to the KFP from here is important, and that the power company responsible should guarantee its maintenance responsibilities.
Tongariro Forest			
36698 Ten Man Hut (2)	Maintain by community	This hut was constructed by persons unknown and was an illegal structure in the Tongariro Forest. It is now a popular destination for hunters. DOC staff have carried out remedial work to bring the hut up to current standards. It is proposed to replace this hut with a small prefab hut when it is due for retirement. This will only be done if an agreement for maintenance and joint management can be reached with the local community.	Two submissions supported this proposal, saying that retention of the hut would be good, and maintenance of it by a community group is a good idea.
97499 Northern John McDonald Loop Track (2)	Cease maintenance	Tongariro Forest Road and Track hierarchy in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy identifies that this site is not to be maintained by the Department. Track primarily provides access for hunters.	One submission supported the proposal, saying it was not used much by trampers. One submission opposed the proposal. The main objections were that it was an opportunity currently in use and that it provided a possibility to enter into a community maintenance regime with an interested OHV group.
98521 Upper Pukehinau Rd (1)	Maintain at lower standard	Site significantly damaged by a big slip some years ago. Some informal use remains but not an effective track to link Pukehinau and Slab Roads for the majority of users in this area.	One submission supported the proposal.

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Rangataua Forest			
100766 Road End Carpark (1)	Cease maintenance	This site adjacent to the Tongariro National Park provides a range of recreational opportunities including mountain biking, hunting and horse riding. Has a good linkage to Karioi Rahui. Carpark and picnic area no longer required and will become unmaintained	One submission objected to the proposal. The submitter stated that the site was being used so should be maintained.
101291 Paramanawera Picnic Area (1)	Cease maintenance	This site, adjacent to the Tongariro National Park, provides a range of recreational opportunities including mountain biking, hunting and horse riding. Has a good linkage to Karioi Rahui. Carpark and picnic area no longer required and will become unmaintained	One submission objected to the proposal. The submitter stated that the site was being used so should be maintained.
Lake Taupo Surrounds			
98323 Maunganamu Rd (1)	Maintain by community	This site provides access to Maunganamu Track. Access road is owned by power company. Discussions are required with Genesis about continued public use of the road to give access to the Reserve.	One submission was received. The submitter may have not fully understood the proposal, as they have stated: "It is important to retain access to the track." This reply does not fully encompass the issues stated.
98322 Tokaanu Pumice Pit Rd (1)	Cease maintenance	No significant reason to continue to manage this road. Leads to an old pumice pit.	One submission opposing the proposal was received. It suggested that it would be a good opportunity to enter into a community management regime with an OHV group.
98333 Paurini Access Rd (1)	Cease maintenance	This road is no longer required. Plan is to extend the existing Stag Pool track to link with the car park at NTC.	One submission was received. The submitter stated that the road was a good access point for fishing opportunities.
Western Bays			
100836 Waituhi Viewpoint (1)	Maintain by community	Transit New Zealand to continue to maintain this road as part of the State Highway rest-area network. Site is owned by DOC.	One submission was received in support of the proposal, noting that this would be the main entry point into the Conservancy for the Te Araroa Walkway.

4.5 PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

FACILITY NUMBER AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	DOC PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	FURTHER EXPLANATION
98324 Island Pool Anglers Access Rd	Maintain by community	This site provides access to the internationally significant Taupo sports fishery (Tongariro River). It is to be maintained by Taupo District Council	DOC to negotiate with TDC
98325 Tokaanu Boat Ramp Rd	Maintain by community	This road will be maintained by Taupo District Council.	DOC to negotiate with TDC
98349 Aratiatia Rd	Maintain by community	This site provides access to the Waikato River true right bank below the Aratiatia Dam	DOC to negotiate with TDC
98337 Waituhi Rd	Maintain by community	Permits access into Waituhi Kuratau Scenic Reserve	DOC to negotiate with Transit

4. 6 SUBMISSIONS THAT DID NOT REFER TO A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL

Overall there were 39 submissions received that did not refer to a specific proposal offered up by the Department for comment. For ease of analysis, these submissions were grouped into 20 “New Proposals”.

NEW PROPOSAL NAME	PROPOSAL	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	DEPARTMENT DECISION	REASON FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION
Tongariro National Park				
Mt Pihanga	New Track to summit of Mt Pihanga	2	Not supported	Better opportunity will now be provided up Mt Tihia.
Hauhangatahi Wilderness Area	New Track to Makatote Waterfall	1	Not supported	TNP Draft Management Plan does not allow tracks or facilities in Wilderness Areas.
Tongariro Crossing	Introduce shelters on the summit alpine sections	1	Not supported	TNP Draft Management Plan does not allow facilities in “The Gift” Area.
Te Araroa Trail	Wants trail incorporated in ROR	1	Acknowledged	Current proposed route does not comply with Draft TNP management Plan. Will work with trust to find appropriate route.
Kaimanawa Forest Park				
Cascade/Kaipō/Te Iringa Loop	Maintenance on this route to be improved	2	Accepted	Route exists in VAMS (Visitor Asset Management System). Department will address deferred maintenance on this route.
Urchin/Umukarikari/Ignimbrite/Ngapuketurua	Develop route between these points	4	Accepted	Will discuss during KFP Management Plan review. Possibility of negotiating with private land lessees.
Keep KFP as it is.	Retention of wilderness experience for KFP	1	Acknowledged	Will discuss during KFP Management Plan review.
Introduce MTB Tracks in KFP	Design separate tracks for biking & hiking in KFP	1	Acknowledged	Will discuss during KFP Management Plan review.
Introduce Fee System for Outdoor Recreation	Charge overseas visitors for use of NZ parks.	1	Acknowledged	Conservancy cannot answer this.
Improve Access Across Adjacent Land in the KFP	Negotiate with adjacent landowners for access to & from KFP.	1	Accepted	Will discuss during KFP Management Plan review.
Junction Top	Develop route to Junction Top and beyond from Waipakihi Hut	1	Accepted	Will discuss during KFP Management Plan review. Possibility of negotiating with private land lessees.
Access 10	Access needs to be formalised	1	Accepted	Department close to assuring public access.
Other Areas				
Lake Taupo Walkway	Develop Walkway around Lake Taupo	4	Acknowledged	Department will support initiative, but will not lead it.

NEW PROPOSAL NAME	PROPOSAL	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	DEPARTMENT DECISION	REASON FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION
Erua Forest Tracks	Provide tracks in Erua area	1	Acknowledged	Department will support initiative, but will not lead it.
Motorhomes Users	Provide more facilities for motorhome users	1	Accepted	Once Access 10 is confirmed for public use, then this will provide unique opportunities for these recreationists.
Track Standards	Incorporate fee for overseas tourists	1	Acknowledged	Conservancy cannot answer this.
Draft General Policy	Concern that Draft General Policy and ROR are not aligned)	1	Acknowledged	Conservancy cannot answer this.
Huts	Retain huts, and if removing, replace with cheap vandal proof shelter	1	Acknowledged	Conservancy cannot answer this.
Access For All	Priority for track development to be fully accessible tracks on main tourist routes	5	Acknowledged	Conservancy working toward this.
Tongariro River	Better access to river through private land	1	Acknowledged	Department will support initiative, but will not lead it.
OHV's	Provide more opportunities for OHV's	2	Acknowledged	CMS denotes areas for OHV in Conservancy + new opportunities being provided in Pureora as part of ROR
Tuapakurua Falls	Create track to view falls.	1	Acknowledged	Department will support initiative, but will not lead it.
Tuhingamata	Create track to summit.	1	Acknowledged	Department will support initiative, but will not lead it.
Bridge Toilet	Create toilet at Waitahanui Bridge	2	Accepted	Toilet required to prevent lakeside pollution.
MTB Only Trails	Create bike-only trails in Conservancy	1	Acknowledged	Department will work with groups as opportunity arises, but legislation stipulates that the public cannot be barred from walking access to departmental lands.
Monitoring	Create counters and methodologies that distinguish between walkers and MTBs.	1	Acknowledged	Conservancy cannot answer this.

5. User group meetings

Ten meetings have been held at the Conservancy.

Meeting with Ruapehu District Council, Obakune 2000, National Park Community Board (9/10/03) in Obakune

No significant issues or comments

Meeting with Ruapehu Mountain Clubs (11/10/03) in Iwikau Village

No significant issues or comments

Public Meeting (3/11/03) in Turangi

Concern that Department may want to change the nature of the KFP and create opportunities for non-traditional users.

An opportunity up Mt Pihanga would be greatly appreciated.

Meeting with Ngati Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board (4/11/03) in Turangi

No significant issues or comments

Meeting with Ngati Rangi Maori Trust Board (18/11/03) in Obakune

No significant issues or comments

Meeting with Bike Taupo (3/12/03) in Taupo

Concern that DOC is not providing enough MTB opportunities.

Concern that DOC is not planning strategically, by not providing "Shared Paths" when it is developing tracks.

Meeting with Taupo Tramping Club (5/12/03) in Taupo

Concern about the fragmented nature of the KFP, and the requirement to pay a fee to cross private land to be able to walk between the 2 parts of the park.

Concern that Department may want to change the nature of the KFP and create opportunities for non-traditional users.

Do not want to see MTB's in the KFP.

Meeting with Hunters & Habitats (6/12/03) in Taupo

Concern about loss of access to traditional hunting areas adjoining Kaimanawa Forest Park (KFP).

Concern that Department may want to change the nature of the KFP and create opportunities for non-traditional users.

Do not want to see MTB's in the KFP.

Meeting with Parks Department, Taupo District Council (10/12/03)

Delighted that DOC was proposing additional facilities close to township.

Public Meeting (27/1/04) in Taupo

Concern that parts of the TNP are suffering pressure from overseas tourists.

A “tourist” tax on park users was proposed.

Concern that Whakaipo Bay Campsite was being proposed, yet is contrary to the Conservancy’s CMS

6. Summary of general points from submissions

HUTS

There were **ten** hut proposals raising **74** submissions. Of these, **37** submissions were in agreement with the proposals. **Three** of the hut proposals (Waihohonu, Ketetahi, Lupton), received general agreement from the public. **Three** more of the hut proposals (Mangaturuturu, Whangaehu & Ten Man Hut) received unanimous support. This unanimous support was reserved for the “maintain by community” proposals.

The only **two** of the Kaimanawa Forest Park huts with proposals (Oamaru & Waipakihi), received **12** submissions each. The proposals were to raise the service standards of the huts. This was rejected soundly by the submitters who did not want to pay more for the use of the huts.

Other controversial hut proposals were for the removal of one shelter (Mangaturuturu), and the removal of the visitor facilities from another shelter (Dome) in the Tongariro National Park. These proposals received strong submitter resistance on the grounds of safety. Even though there was opposition, the Department will continue with these proposals as this concept is part of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan which has already been through the public consultation process.

TRACKS

There were **ten** track proposals raising **60** submissions. Of these, **49** submissions were in agreement with the proposals. **Four** of the proposals received unanimous support. **Three** of these tracks (Hapuawhenua Viaduct, Old Coach Rd & Spa Park to Huka Falls) were proposed opportunities and **one** (Hinemihi’s Track) was a “cease maintenance” proposal. No proposal received unanimous opposition, but one proposal (Upper Rangataua) did receive **zero** “yes” submissions.

Kaimanawa Forest Park

Eight proposals were related to the KFP (**two** huts – Waipakihi and Oamaru, **two** campsites – Kaimanawa Rd No’s 2 and 3, **two** roads – Rangipo and Waipakihi and

two tracks - Cascade to Boyd and Tauranga/Taupo Waterfall). General comments were that access to the park, and between sections of the park, and to private land adjoining the park are essential. In general, the submitters want to see a BCA or RS (Remoteness Seeker) standard applied to most sites and facilities.

Tongariro National Park

Eleven proposals were based in the Tongariro National Park (**seven** huts - Ketetahi, Waihohonu, Dome Shelter, Mangaturuturu Shelter, Whangaehu, Lupton & Mangaturuturu Hut and **four** tracks—Hinemihi's, Hapuawhenua Viaduct, Old Coach Rd & Mt Tihia). Submitters did not want to see a reduction of provision to facilities, but voiced concern at the cost of hut replacement, as well as the cost to stay in a BCC hut while using a BCA track. There was also concern from a search and rescue perspective, about losing the two shelters on Mt Ruapehu.

Section Two

7. Making decisions

Process of submission consideration

1. Submissions entered into database by TSO Recreation
2. Summary of submissions and full details for each area circulated for internal comment.
3. Internal comment and submission information considered by submission analysis team (members being TSO Recreation, two Area Managers, Taupo Field Centre Manager, Acting Conservator) and decisions drafted.
4. Submission Analysis report drafted.
5. Draft decisions circulated to Submission Analysis Team and Conservation Board.
6. Conservation Board briefed.
7. Conservator signs off with Area Manager support.

Submission analysis process

1. Submission points all entered into customised database.
2. Submission points categorised according to their nature: in support, not in support, neither. (Neither represents submissions that are unclear).
3. Submissions with no specific objection are accepted, on the provision that the original proposal's reasons still stand and no general submission theme arising through analysis may later influence that decision.
4. Proposals with many 'not supporting' submissions have submissions considered for merit, and possible decisions considered in view of weight of submissions with merit, and in view of the strategic objectives for that location, if there are specific objectives (e.g. from CMS, recreation strategy).
5. Proposals with a mix of 'support' and 'not support' submissions have submissions considered for merit, and the strategic intent behind the proposal checked for consistency with submission points.
6. Proposals with few submissions have submissions considered for merit, and the strategic intent behind the proposal checked for consistency.
7. All decisions that will differ from proposals are considered together to consider the overall effect this may have on the range of opportunities.

7.1 CONSERVANCY DECISIONS IN RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

SITE OR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (NO. OF SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Tongariro National Park					
606288	Ohakune Old Coach Rd Walk (13)	Proposed	Develop as an interpretive walk.	Proposed	Popular proposal. Will be developed with strong community backing. Develop to Easy Tramping Track stds.
191126	Hapuawhenua Viaduct Historic Walk (13)	Proposed	Develop as an interpretive walk.	Proposed	Popular proposal. Will be developed with strong community backing. Develop to Walking Track standards.
35904	Ketetahi Hut (11)	Replace - same size (Great Walk Hut)	Replace hut at new location.	Replace - same size	Popular hut. Hut is rapidly deteriorating and needs replacement. Current site is not suitable to be used for a hut again. Replace by 2010. Current location is suitable for development of Day Visitor facilities designed to resist geothermal environment. Further consultation will occur through the development of the Tongariro Northern Circuit Plan.
99313	Mt Tihia Track (10)	Proposed	Develop track.	Proposed	Popular proposal. Will be developed with strong community backing. Develop to Tramping Track standard.
36613	Mangaturuturu Emergency Shelter (8)	Remove (and not replace) (Basic Hut, Bivvie)	Retain shelter at current site.	Remove (and not replace)	Remove by 2010. Decision consistent with TNP draft management plan.
36788	Dome Emergency Shelter (8)	Non-visitor DOC Managed (Basic Hut, Bivvie)	Retain shelter at current site.	Non-visitor DOC Managed	Remove visitor facilities by 2020. Decision consistent with TNP draft management plan.
35823	Waihohonu Hut (7)	Replace - bigger size (Great Walk Hut)	Marginally in favour of retention "as-is".	Replace - bigger size	Replace by 2020. Popular hut at strategic location, at a junction of two major tracks (BCA and BCC). Location is not the most suitable, and is subject to possible geological instability. Further consultation will occur through the development of the Tongariro Northern Circuit Plan.
36016	Lupton Hut (6)	Maintain by community (Basic Hut, Bivvie)	Maintain by community	Maintain by community	Maintain by community. Wanganui High School to work with DOC to bring hut to correct standard, and sign management agreement.
36062	Mangaturuturu Hut (6)	Maintain by community (Serviced Hut)	Maintain by community	Maintain by community	Maintain by community. Wanganui Tramping Club to sign management agreement.

SITE OR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (NO. OF SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
36244	Whangaehu Hut (2)	Maintain by community (Basic Hut, Bivvie)	Maintain by community	Maintain by community	Maintain by community. NZAC to sign management agreement.
97532	Hinemihi's Track	Cease maintenance	Cease maintenance	Cease maintenance	No demand for track here.
Kaimanawa Forest Park					
35438	Oamaru Hut (12)	Upgrade to higher standard - serviced hut (Standard Hut)	Maintain as Standard Hut	Maintain as Standard Hut	Will maintain hut as a "Standard Hut", but further consultation will occur as part of the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan review.
35941	Waipakihi Hut (12)	Upgrade to higher standard - serviced hut (Standard Hut)	Maintain as Standard Hut	Maintain as Standard Hut	Will maintain hut as a "Standard Hut", but further consultation will occur as part of the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan review.
191441	Tauranga/ Taupo Waterfall Walk (9)	Proposed	Develop track.	Proposed	Popular proposal. Will be developed with strong community backing. Develop to Tramping Track standard (as indicated in new Standards NZ booklet). Consideration has to be given for engineering solutions on how to traverse a rock face.
100222	Kaimanawa Road campsite 2	Cease maintenance	Marginally in favour of retention "as-is".	Cease maintenance	Low use. Other campsites in the valley are more popular.
98351	Waipakihi Road	Maintain	In favour of proposal.	Maintain	DOC to maintain road in future, to 2WD standard to allow access to the Kaimanawa Forest Park at this location.
606638	Rangipo Intake Road	Maintain by community	In favour of proposal.	Maintain by community	Negotiate with power company to sign management agreement.
97504	Cascade to Boyd Hut	Cease maintenance	Marginally in favour of ceasing maintenance.	Maintain	Route to private land needs to be maintained. Original proposal was to cease maintenance on whole track. But with the weight of other submissions regarding access to private land adjoining the KFP, track will now be maintained, to Tramping Track standard up to the park boundary. Track beyond boundary will become private landowner's responsibility. Further consultation will occur as part of the KFP Management Plan review.
100292	Kaimanawa Road campsite 3	Cease maintenance	Marginally in favour of retention "as-is".	Cease maintenance	Low use. Other campsites in the valley are more popular.

SITE OR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (NO. OF SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Rangataua Forest					
101291	Paramanawera Picnic Area	Cease maintenance	Maintain	Cease maintenance	Low use site. Better opportunities provided nearby.
100766	Road End Carpark	Cease maintenance	Maintain	Cease maintenance	Low use site. Better opportunities provided nearby.
100210	Upper Rangataua Forest Track	Cease maintenance	Maintain	Cease maintenance	Low use site. Better opportunities provided nearby.
Tongariro Forest					
98521	Upper Pukehinau Road	Maintain at lower standard (Tramping Track)	Maintain at lower standard	Maintain at lower standard	Due to a major slip, this "road" will now be maintained to Route Standard.
97499	Northern John McDonald Loop Track	Cease maintenance	Half of submitters were in favour of retention, and half in favour of ceasing maintenance.	Cease maintenance	Track identified in the CMS as one the Department should cease maintaining.
36698	Ten Man Hut	Maintain by community	Maintain by community	Maintain by community	The Department will negotiate with users of the hut, and develop a maintenance agreement.
Lake Taupo Surrounds					
191224	Whakaipo Bay Campsite	Proposed	Marginally opposed.	No longer proposed	This proposal is contrary to the CMS.
98333	Paurini Access Road	Cease maintenance	Maintain	Cease maintenance	Low use road. Anglers will be better served by developments at the National Trout Centre.
98324	Island Pool Anglers Access Road	Maintain by community	No submissions	Maintain by community	Negotiate with Taupo District Council.
98323	Maunganamu Road	Maintain by community	Maintain	Maintain by community	Negotiate with power company.
98322	Tokaanu Pumice Pit Road	Cease maintenance	Maintain	Cease maintenance	Low use road that serves no definable purpose.
98325	Tokaanu Boat Ramp Road	Maintain by community	No submissions	Maintain by community	Negotiate with Taupo District Council.
Taupo Township Surrounds					
98349	Aratiatia Road	Maintain by community	No submissions	Maintain by community	Negotiate with Taupo District Council.
191466	Spa Park to Huka Falls Cycle Track	Proposed	Maintain	Maintain by community	Already developed, and has a "Maintain by Community" agreement signed.
191527	Lake Rotokawa Viewing Area	Proposed	Strong opposition	No longer proposed	No community desire for this proposal
Western Bays					
98337	Waituhi Road	Maintain by community	No submissions	Maintain by community	Negotiate with Transit New Zealand.
100836	Waituhi Viewpoint	Maintain by community	Maintain	Maintain by community	Negotiate with Transit New Zealand.

8. Summary of decisions

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

There are eleven departmental proposals for the Tongariro National Park. Seven of these relate to huts. As a summary, in the next ten years, the Department wants to replace two Great Walk huts on the Tongariro Northern Circuit (Ketetahi & Waihohonu). It also wants to formalise community maintenance agreements for three huts on the flanks of Mt Ruapehu (Lupton, Mangaturuturu & Whangaehu). The Department will also look to remove two of the shelters on Mt Ruapehu (Dome & Mangaturuturu).

The Department is also proposing new walking opportunities on Mt Tihia (in the north of the park), on the Old Coach Rd and to the Hapuawhenua Viaduct (both near Ohakune).

One track in the north of the park (Hinemihi's) will now become unmaintained

KAIMANAWA FOREST PARK

The Kaimanawa Forest Park has eight departmental proposals. It was proposed to raise service standards for two huts. Strong opposition was received, and the huts will now remain as they are. Two campsites will now become unmaintained. This is not the case with Waipakihi Rd, as the Department will now be maintaining this to a passable standard. The Department will seek to have a maintenance agreement signed with interested parties for Rangipo Rd. One track that was originally proposed to have no more maintenance, will now be maintained, and one new day walk opportunity is proposed to the Tauranga/Taupo waterfall.

LAKE TAUPO SURROUNDS

There were six proposals for this area; five of which were for roads. All received low numbers of submissions. Two roads were "Cease maintenance" proposals, and these were objected to. Three road proposals were to seek community maintenance agreements, with two of these receiving no comment at all. The sixth submission for this area was for a proposed camp ground at Whakaipo Bay. This received relatively high submission numbers, marginally opposing the proposal. The Department now no longer proposes this camp ground.

TONGARIRO FOREST

Three proposals, related to Tongariro Forest. All generated relatively low interest. The Department will seek agreement with users to formalise a community maintenance agreement with users. One track will have its maintenance ceased, and another will be maintained at a lower standard.

RANGATAUA FOREST

Three DOC generated proposals fell within the Rangataua Forest area – involving roads, carparks and amenity areas. These sites all generate low use, and the Department feels that these opportunities can be better provided elsewhere. There was some opposition to the proposal to cease maintaining these sites.

TAUPO TOWNSHIP SURROUNDS

There were three proposals for this area. One was for a shared cycle track which generated support. A proposal for a track and viewing opportunity at a thermal lake, generated strong opposition, and this proposal is no longer recommended. It was also proposed to sign a community maintenance agreement for a road to ensure that visitor opportunities are maintained.

WESTERN BAYS

The two proposals for this area are for community maintenance of a road and a viewpoint. Signing of agreements with the highway authority will ensure that visitor experiences are maintained.

TONGARIRO/TAUPO CONSERVANCY - 36 PROPOSALS

FACILITY	TNP	KFP	LAKE TAUPO	TONGARIRO FOREST	RANGATAUA FOREST	WESTERN BAYS	TAUPO TOWN
Huts 10							
Replace - bigger size 1	1 / 1						
Non-visitor DOC-managed 1	1 / 1						
Upgrade 2		2 / 0					
Remove and not replace 1	1 / 1						
Community maintenance 4	3 / 3			1 / 1			
Maintain 0		0 / 2					
Replace - same size 1	1 / 1						
Total 10 / 10	7 / 7	2 / 2		1 / 1			
Tracks 10							
Maintain 0		0 / 1					0 / 1
Maintain at a lower standard 1				1 / 1			
Proposed 6	3 / 3	1 / 1					2 / 0
No Longer Proposed 0							0 / 1
Cease maintenance 3	1 / 1	1 / 0		1 / 1			
Total 10 / 10	4 / 4	2 / 2		2 / 2			2 / 2
Campsites 4							
Proposed 1							1 / 0
No Longer Proposed 0							0 / 1
Cease maintenance 3		2 / 2			1 / 1		
Total 4 / 4		2 / 2			1 / 1		1 / 1
Amenity Areas 3							
Maintain by community 1						1 / 1	
Cease maintenance 2					2 / 2		
Total 3 / 3					2 / 2	1 / 1	
Roads 9							
Maintain 1		1 / 1					
Maintain by community 8		1 / 1	5 / 5			1 / 1	1 / 1
Total 9 / 9		2 / 2	5 / 5			1 / 1	1 / 1

This table is to be read comparing original proposals with final decisions.

The original proposals are to the left of the “/”, and the decisions are to the right of the “/”.

9. Overview of decisions in terms of a range of recreation opportunities

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy is often considered as the playground of the residents of the North Island. As well as providing a resource for residents, it is a major destination for overseas tourists. This mix of users creates a demand for many varied recreational opportunities.

The goal for the conservancy is to manage a range of opportunities in suitable locations that can cope with current and immediate future demand.

The decisions already highlighted will result in an improved mix of opportunities to visitors to Conservation lands. There will be growth in accessible interpreted high standard day use facilities (e.g. Old Coach Rd & Hapuawhenua Viaduct Walks). Further provision of Day Walk opportunities in Taupo, the Kaimanawa Forest Park, and the Tongariro National Park will also occur. Two huts will be replaced in the Tongariro National Park and, two shelters will be removed from here.

In general, there will be very little removal of facilities, but the Department will cease maintaining some opportunities. Submissions have influenced, the reversal of some original proposals, which now will no longer go ahead, these include a campground, two hut upgrades and a thermal viewing opportunity.

In summary, over the next 10 years the focus of work in the Conservancy will be the tackling of repair work and deferred maintenance. New opportunities have been proposed where there is an indication that these are required. These new opportunities will further strengthen the network of recreational opportunities in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy.

10. Analysis process

PROCESS OF SUBMISSION CONSIDERATION

31/1/04	Closing date for submissions.
1/2 - 7/3	Submissions entered into Excel database by TSO Recreation.
7/3	Submission summary provided to key personnel for their familiarisation and comment.
13/2	Conservation Board provided summary of progress on ROR.
22/3	Recreational Opportunity Review (ROR) team meeting held at Conservancy with TSO Recreation, Acting Conservator, and Area Managers and their deputies to discuss submissions.

23/3 - 5/4	TSO adds comments from the team to create "Recommendations to the Board" document.
16/4	"Recommendations to the Board" delivered to the Conservation Board. Board is briefed on the process so far, and the quantity, quality and nature of submissions, as well as the Department's draft decisions. Board is asked to endorse all of the Department's decisions
19/4 - 23/4	Interim decisions entered into VAMS
23/4	Submission analysis report drafted
10/5	Final draft of Analysis Report given to Conservator for review
14/5	Final draft of report sent to Head Office.
30/6	Comments received from Head Office.
30/9	Submissions Analysis Report sent to Head Office with modifications.

SUBMISSION ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Submissions entered into database.
- Submissions are categorised according to whether they are in support of the proposals or whether they are against it.
- Submissions are analysed for general points in relation to the proposals or to other issues, locally, regionally or nationally.
- For all proposals that received many opposing submissions these submissions are considered for merit. Possible decisions are considered in view of submissions with merit and in view of strategic objectives for that location, for example CMS.
- Proposals with a mix of opposing and supporting submissions have submissions checked for merit, and the strategic intent behind the proposal checked for consistency with submission points.
- Those proposals that received no submissions are accepted provided that the original proposal reasons still stand and no general submission theme arising from further analysis may yet influence that decision.
- All decisions that differ from original proposals were considered together to establish the effect this may have on the range of Conservancy recreation opportunities.

IWI INVOLVEMENT

Local iwi have been involved from the start of the process with specific meetings held for their benefit. No issues of consequence were raised at either meeting. The Paramount Chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa was also present when the Conservation Board was asked to endorse the draft recommendations.

Appendix 1

WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

Decisions for facilities in the Conservancy have been made by DOC as an outcome of this process of consultation. The options for future management are grouped under 13 broad headings.

Maintain

The facility will continue to be maintained, to the appropriate standard, providing recreation opportunities the same as, or similar to, those currently available. If it is a building or a structure it will be replaced with a similar facility at the end of its useful life. DOC will bring the asset up to the required standard if it is not currently to the required standard.

Proposed (new)

A new facility will be developed in a place where there has not previously been one.

Replace

A new facility will be built replacing an existing facility that will soon reach the end of its useful life.

Upgrade to higher standard

The facility requires upgrading to a higher standard or to a larger size to meet the needs of the main visitor and/or mitigate against visitor impacts.

Maintain to lower standard

The facility will be maintained to a lower standard than has previously been the case. Often this will mean continuing to manage to a lower standard because the original standard intended for the facility was too high and never achieved.

Remove

Remove the facility (if a structure, sign, hut or building). If a hut, remove by the end of 2006. If a track, remove markers, plant out track entrances and leave the track to revert to a natural state, or assist this process if necessary.

Minimal maintenance

Used for huts and other buildings. The building will be inspected by DOC on a regular cycle. Inspectors will travel with basic tools and equipment and some minor maintenance (that can be done during the regular inspections) will be undertaken. When the building is no longer weatherproof or becomes dangerous or unsanitary,

it will be removed, unless there is a community group willing and able to bring it up to standard and maintained to standard (see Seeking Community Maintenance)

Cease maintenance

For tracks, markers will be left until they naturally disappear, but the track will be left to revert to a natural state. Roads are closed to motor vehicles. Carparks, amenity areas and campsites are left to revert to a natural state and any associated buildings or signs will be removed. Signs will be placed at track entrances stating that the track is no longer maintained.

Close site/remove all assets

Remove all assets (structures, signs, huts, track markers etc), plant out track entrances and leave the site to revert to a natural state. Closed sites will be removed from all visitor information. Where necessary the site or part of it will be rehabilitated.

Own by DOC but maintain by community

The facility is one DOC believes should be retained. It is one that could realistically be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. The facility may already be maintained by the community. A management agreement should be established if one is not already in place. The funding assumption is that DOC will not cover maintenance costs, but will fund inspections and replacement.

Owned and maintained by the community

The Department currently has a formal agreement in place with a club, community group or local authority to maintain the asset. If, in the future, that agreement falls over, the future of that asset will be determined following consultation with the community.

Seeking community maintenance

The asset currently has no formal agreement in place and is not one that DOC believes it should maintain at all. The facility should only be retained long term if the community agrees to take it on. It is one that realistically could be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. DOC will discuss ongoing maintenance and replacement of the facility with such groups and should establish a management agreement for that maintenance

Non-visitor DOC management

For facilities receiving very little or no visitor use, the facility will be managed by the department for other purposes, such as to accommodate pest control staff or to access a biodiversity conservation area. The facilities will not normally be available for visitor use.