

Nelson Lakes National Park Management Plan

2002 - 2009

Published by
Department of Conservation
Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy
Private Bag 5
Nelson
(PM 9029)

Management Plan Series 13

February 2003, Department of Conservation

ISSN 1170-9626

ISBN 0-478-22396-X

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Preface

The management plan for Nelson Lakes National Park has been reviewed in accordance with the procedure set out in section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. The previous management plan was approved in 1988. This management plan is a statutory document and provides for the management of Nelson Lakes National Park in accordance with the Act and General Policy and implements the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 1996.

This management plan contains detailed objectives and policies for the effective management of the park but does not override the provisions of primary legislation, the Conservation Management Strategy or General Policy. The purpose of this plan is to express the Department's overall management intentions for Nelson Lakes National Park for the next 7 years. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources, strategic and business planning and level of community support.

The initial request for input to the review of the management plan was given in December 1994. At the same time a discussion document was released which summarised the changes within the area since the last plan was approved and identified a range of issues to be addressed by the plan. Public suggestions and responses to the discussion document were taken into account in the preparation the draft plan.

The draft plan was available for public comment from the 16 December 1995 until 31 March 1996. One-hundred-and-twenty-one submissions were received. Hearings were held during April 1996. After giving due consideration to the submissions and other public opinion, the Department revised the draft and presented it to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board for consideration in April 2000. The Conservation Board forwarded the plan to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval in August 2001.

The New Zealand Conservation Authority approved this plan on 10 October 2002. The plan has a proposed term of seven years from this date.

This management plan is a statutory document and replaces the previous plan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Marshall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kerry Marshall

Chairperson

New Zealand Conservation Authority

In the dark mists of time
When giants dwelt in this land
Tradition relates how Rākaihautū
Arrived on the canoe Uruao
And rested at Whakatū

He had a desire to seek out the source of the pure waters
That flowed to the sea at Motueka.
So he set out on a journey up the Motueka River.

When he reached the source of the Motueka in the swamps of the Wairau Saddle
He had still not found the source of the pure water
So he began with his digging ko to probe the depths of mother earth.

And as he dug he created the mountains of the St Arnaud and Travers Ranges
And still he did not find the source of the pure water.
He tried again and up rose the mountains of the Ella and Māhanga Ranges
And still he was not content.
Thus he passed onward down Te Waipounamu
Stopping and seeking the pure water in many places
Until he arrived at Manapōuri.

When he had gone the pure water came out from hiding in mother earth
And formed the two great lakes known today as Rotoiti and Rotoroa.
And so it was that mana Māori was established in this land.

Since that time travellers have paused on the shores of the lakes
To seek peace and rest and to replenish their supplies
As they passed back and forth on their journeys across the land.

(Based on Māori legend)

1. Introduction

1.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

The process for the review of a management plan is set out in section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy of the Department of Conservation administers Nelson Lakes National Park from Nelson. Staff from the Area Office at St Arnaud and a field centre at Murchison carry out day to day management activities.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This section gives an overview of the legislation and policy that the plan rests within. When the law is modified or new law is created, such as can result from Treaty settlements, this plan will be changed to accommodate the law.

1.2.1 *The National Parks Act 1980*

The National Parks Act 1980, section 4 states that:

“(1) [t]he provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.”

“(2) It is hereby further declared that ...

- (a) They shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state;*
- (b) Except where the Authority otherwise determines, the native plants and animals of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved and the introduced plants and animals shall as far as possible be exterminated;*
- (c) Sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest shall as far as possible be preserved;*
- (d) Their value as soil, water, and forest conservation areas shall be maintained;*

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

By-laws

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

1.2.2 The General Policy for National Parks 1983

Under section 44 of the National Parks Act the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) has adopted a statement of General Policy for National Parks 1983. These policies are a guide for the interpretation and exercise of discretions contained in the National Parks Act 1980 and are directed at achieving the broad objectives of that Act. From time to time the NZCA may approve additional statements of General Policy or may review and amend the General Policy.

This management plan must be in accordance with the General Policy for National Parks.

1.2.3 The Conservation Act 1987

The Conservation Act 1987 brought about the establishment of the Department of Conservation and provides for management planning and concession processes. Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to give effect to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that they do not conflict with the National Parks Act 1980. Part IIIB of the Conservation Act contains provisions relating to concessions on public conservation lands. These provisions are imported into the National Parks Act by s49 of the National Parks Act.

The Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Under section 17D of the Conservation Act 1987 the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy has prepared a 10 year Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) which sets the direction for management of all land administered by the Department in the conservancy. The current CMS was approved in September 1996.

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

Section 44(A) of the National Parks Act states that management plans cannot derogate from the provisions in a conservation management strategy.

This management plan is in accordance with policies contained within the approved Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy 1996.

1.2.4 The Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of this Act is

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

- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.” (Section 5, Resource Management Act 1991).*

The Resource Management Act 1991 is administered by the Ministry for the Environment and implemented by local authorities through regional policy statements and plans, and district plans. The provisions of the regional policy statement, district plans and regional plans bind the activities of the Department and the Department must apply for resource consents for activities as required under those plans. However, section 4 of the Act allows for a limited exemption for the Department where a landuse activity is in accordance with a management plan or a CMS and where the activity does not have significant adverse effects outside the boundary of the park.

The relevant local authority for Nelson Lakes National Park is Tasman District Council.

Sections 74(2)(b)(i) and 66(2)(c)(i) of the Act state that territorial authorities and regional councils shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under any other Act. The Tasman District Council must therefore have regard to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy and this management plan when preparing its policies and plans and when considering resource consent applications.

1.2.5 Crown Minerals Act 1991

The Crown Minerals Act provides (with some exceptions) that the Minister of Conservation must not accept any application for, or enter into, an access arrangement relating to any Crownowned minerals in national parks that were in existence prior to 1991. This means that Nelson Lakes National Park is effectively closed to mining. The exceptions are: certain activities may be permitted relating to emergency or service shafts for underground mining activities; activities involving minimal vegetation removal or land impacts; minimum impact activities; gold fossicking in a designated gold fossicking area; demonstration of historic mining methods with a special permit.

1.2.6 *Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996*

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 established Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as a 'body corporate' with the authority to act on behalf of all Ngāi Tahu Whānui. The Act enshrined in legislation the boundary of Ngāi Tahu as established by the Māori Appellate Court in 1990 (see map 12).

1.2.7 *Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998*

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 contains a number of provisions that are relevant to this plan.

1.2.8 *Other Strategies and Plans*

In February 2000 the Government adopted the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, which sets out the government's direction for maintaining natural biodiversity, and this management plan is consistent with the Biodiversity Strategy. The Department produces its own plans, strategies and reviews on both local and national issues. These include the national Visitor Strategy, Historic Strategy and Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy, recovery plans for threatened native species, and local animal/plant pest control plans.

These documents and strategies are subordinate to this management plan and cannot derogate from its provisions.

1.2.9 *Other Bodies with Administrative Responsibilities*

Tasman District Council - responsible for regional and district planning as provided for in the Resource Management Act 1991, civil defence, some aspects of public health and for the standard of buildings under the Building Act.

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

The Health Department - responsible for public health.

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

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

The Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council - responsible for the issue of sports fish and game bird licenses, for the setting of related restrictions and for the management, maintenance and enhancement of sports fisheries.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

The introduction:

- provides background information, sets the context for the plan and introduces the four management areas;
- summarises the key issues for the park as a whole and for the four management areas; and
- provides a vision for the park.

The functional sections:

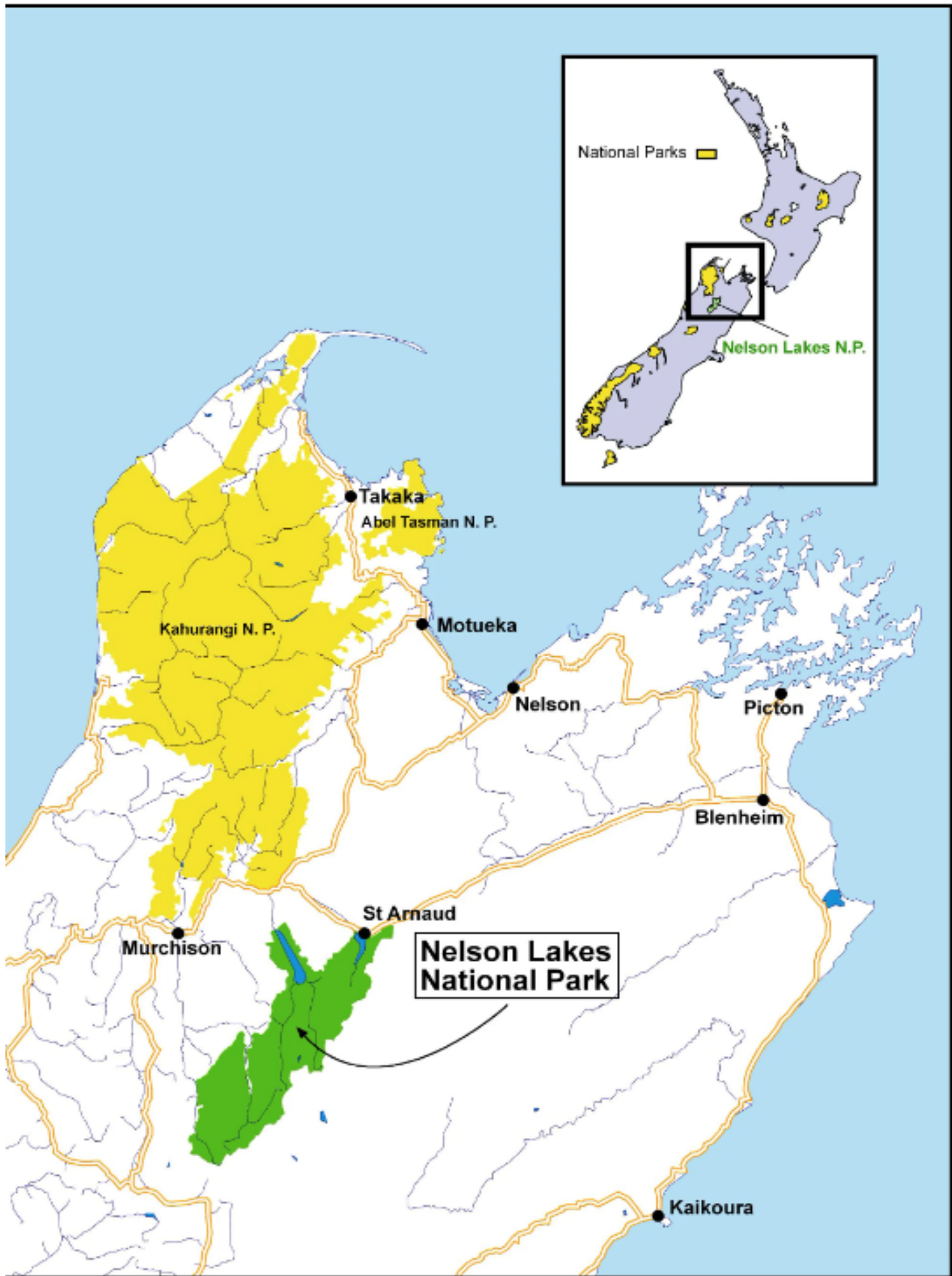
- have three main components each – the objective (describes the conservation outcome desired); issues (where points arising in achieving the outcome are discussed); and implementation (where the key action points necessary to achieving the objective are summarised);
- provide the main links with General Policy, the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy and other significant Departmental policy documents such as the national Visitor Strategy;
- provide general strategies for the management actions within the park broken down by the main themes of Departmental activity; and provide general criteria for carrying out those actions; and
- present discussion of issues for the whole park or for a specific management area where appropriate.

Each functional section also contains references to the relevant chapters of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy. Topics that are adequately covered by the CMS are not repeated in full in this management plan.

The park handbook “The Story of Nelson Lakes National Park” (1984) has a wealth of information about the park, which will assist those who wish to find out more about it¹.

¹ Potton, Craig. 1984: *The Story of Nelson Lakes National Park*, Department of Conservation. Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.

Map 1 Locality



1.4 OVERVIEW OF PARK VALUES

1.4.1 *Natural Values*

The natural features, ecological values, scenery, archaeological and historic features and those qualities that contribute to its intrinsic worth and the inspiration and enjoyment of the public all play important roles in determining management directions and objectives for Nelson Lakes National Park.

The park lies at the northern end of the Southern Alps (Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana) and is largely bounded to the west by the Alpine Fault. It can be considered to be the northernmost extension of the typical Southern Alps (Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana) landscapes and ecosystems. A large part of the park is typical glaciated mesozoic greywacke, which grades to the west to become more chloritic along the Alpine Fault. Some schist is present along the fault where it bounds the park in the Glenroy valley. Significant exposures of the fault occur in the Speargrass valley and at St Arnaud.

The main mountain ramparts, at 1800-2300 metres, create an alpine environment. Mt Ella and Mt Hopeless have the northernmost permanent snowfields in the South Island. This results in landscapes and ecosystems often indistinguishable from those further south but distinct from those elsewhere in the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.

The park encompasses the easternmost headwaters of the Buller River system, with Lake Rotoiti as its source. Glacier-carved lakes Rotoroa and Rotoiti, the park's largest, are important flood moderators in the Buller River system. They are also two of the largest lakes outside Fiordland with an almost totally unmodified catchment. Their waters are exceptionally clear and oligotrophic. This is because nutrient input and sediment loads are low due to the greywacke rocks that predominate and the absence of glaciers. The intact forests and alpine ecosystems serve to minimise soil movement. The upper catchments of the Buller, including the lakes and their tributaries, were protected by the Buller National Water Conservation Order in 1996.

Biodiversity (all the indigenous plant and animal species and their communities and ecosystems) within the park is high and the scientific importance of the almost untouched population of eels in the lakes is of national significance. The flora of the park contains few known local endemic species but it is at an interface between the diverse and wetter Kahurangi National Park and the drier eastern endemic-rich South Marlborough flora. The park's flora is notable for its lack of rare species. Of the four known threatened species, the status of three species of beech mistletoe is that of gradual decline, and *Pittosporum patulum* is nationally endangered.

A good knowledge exists of the park's vertebrate fauna. Among the bird species, parakeet (kākāriki) and kākā have some of the best population densities in the conservancy. The rare blue duck (whio) and rock wren are also found in scattered areas of suitable habitat.

Less is known about the park's invertebrate fauna, but the alpine areas are rich in invertebrate species. Two undescribed species of *Powelliphanta* (pūpū whenua) are present as localised populations on the margins of the alpine zone.

The large area of unmodified vegetation and wide range of soil and soil vegetation sequences give the area international significance for its soils. The alpine and subalpine communities are probably the most significant in the park. The alpine flora is especially diverse because of the wide range of habitats. They include many tarns

and wetland sites, scree, rockland, tussockland and fellfield. The tussock grasslands and shrublands support a diverse insect fauna as well as prominent birds such as the kea. The upland mountain beech forests contain important sphagnum moss communities. The red, silver and mountain beech forests form part of the large continuous tract in southern Nelson which is a significant habitat for the threatened kākā and yellow-crowned parakeet (kākāriki). Although the park contains little true lowland forest, the beech forests contain the important honeydew ecosystem. This once supported a rich bird and insect fauna that has been severely degraded by wasps.

Plant communities within the lakes exist to a depth of 18m, demonstrating the extreme clarity of the waters. The ecosystems are relatively unmodified and many pristine communities remain, including extensive freshwater mussel beds and eel populations. The only known introductions are brown and rainbow trout and Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*). The shores of Lake Rotoroa contain significant wetlands, including flaxlands and sedgelands near the outlet, periodically flooded kahikatea forest on the shorelines and the anastomosing spring-fed wetlands and matai forest on the D'Urville River delta.

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project is located in the park and is a “mainland island” honeydew beech forest community restoration project. The project area is approximately 825 hectares and is located in the Travers Valley Management Area.

1.4.2 *Historic and Cultural Heritage*

Māori value the spiritual qualities of this area's lakes and grand mountains and treasure its plants and animals. The low saddle between the Buller River, the Wairau and the rivers of the Waimea Plains was well known to them. Major routes traversed the area between Nelson, Marlborough, the West Coast and Canterbury (via the upper Wairau). Early Māori used the lakes for replenishing supplies and as part of their routes. Midden sites are known in the St Arnaud area. There is no evidence of permanent occupation but sites of huts and cultivation, especially the fern garden at Rotoroa, were well known to Māori guides such as Kehu. They led the early European explorers such as Cotterell, Brunner, Heaphy, von Haast and Travers through their domain.

Grazing of the area began in 1843 although the first run at Lake Rotoiti was not established until 1848. The first track was formed by 1848, the first dray road in 1863. Most of the mountain ranges were part of grazing runs and grazing occurred in some areas until 1956 when the park was formed. Although grazing in all the main valleys and the alpine grasslands has modified the vegetation in parts of the park, there are no known historic sites from that period. Fire has also had a significant effect on the landscape and habitats of the park, particularly around Lake Rotoiti and Mt Robert.

Since Cotterell in 1842, the area has always attracted visitors. Camping at Rotoiti was popular in the early part of the 20th century and by 1925 cottages had begun to appear near Lake Rotoiti. The first reserves were established surrounding the two main lakes in 1900 and progressively added to over the next 50 years. The first proposal for a national park was made in 1906 but the vision was not realised until 1956.

Mining is widespread outside the park but only three small former alluvial mining sites are known within the park

1.4.3 Recreational Setting

Nelson Lakes National Park is one of perhaps only three or four national parks in New Zealand in which recreational use has remained low-key. There is no major feature to attract large numbers of visitors and pressure has not been applied to develop services to the same extent as has occurred elsewhere. The very positive benefit of this is that Nelson Lakes National Park offers visitors peace and tranquility with little disturbance from aircraft and vehicles - values that have been eroded in many other national parks.

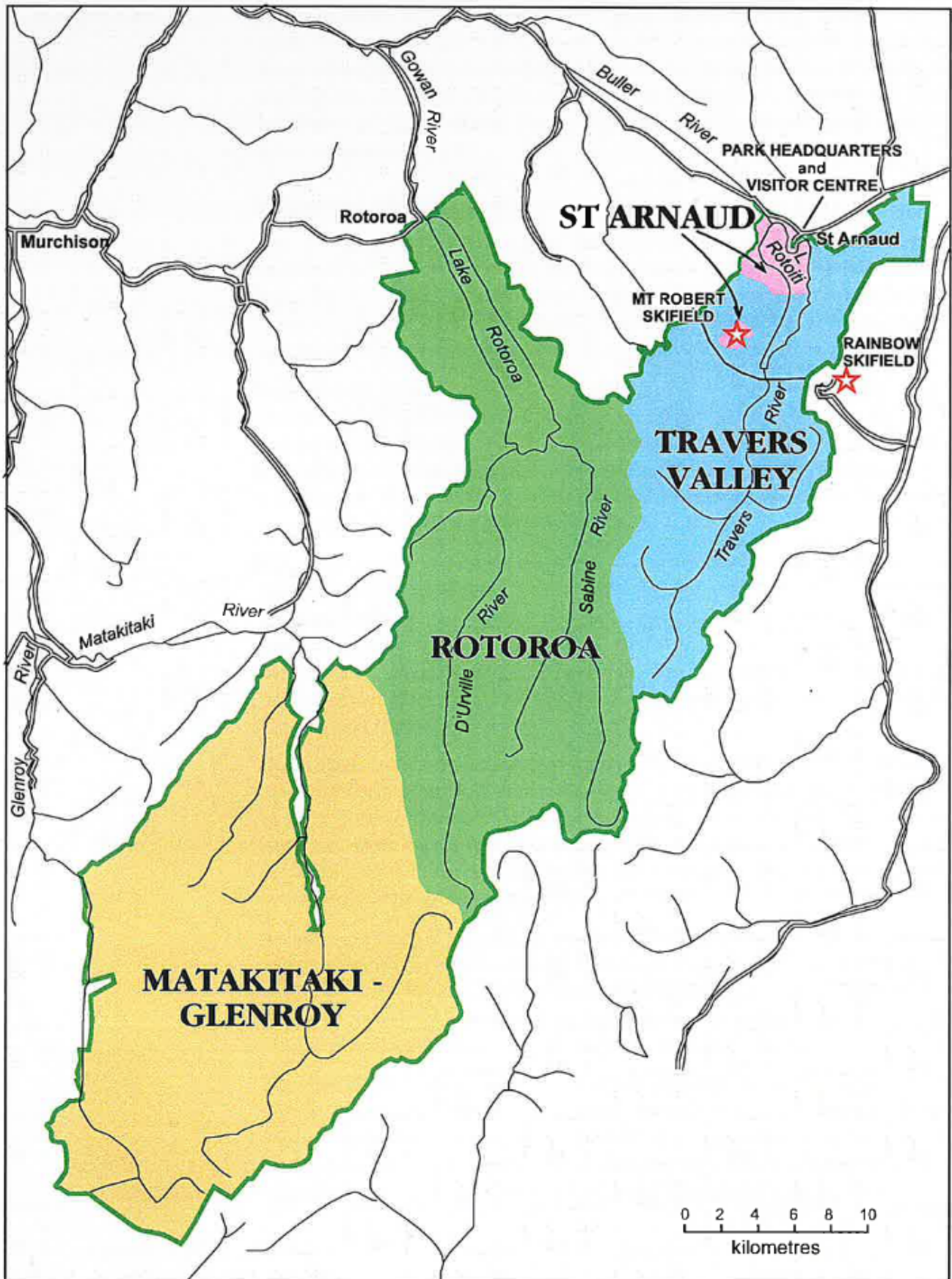
The main recreational attractions of the park are solitude, lack of development and naturalness, experienced through relatively low impact activities such as camping, picnicking, walking, tramping, snow sports, mountaineering, boating, and fishing. The feeling of remoteness increases as visitors travel up the valleys and into successive main valleys from the Travers in the north-west to the Glenroy in the south-west.

Because of the high mountains and ease of access, the park and adjacent valleys provide the only major area for snow-based activities in Nelson and Marlborough. The aggregation of high peaks makes the park the conservancy's most important place for mountaineering. Much of the tramping is based on two to five-day trips within the park, often short loops or return walks. Few tracks link with track systems outside the park. The significant exceptions are the Travers/Sabine circuit, which loops through adjacent Howard Forest, and the Waiiau Pass route which links with the St James Walkway. The park contains the Mt Robert Skifield. Rainbow Skifield, the only other skifield in the conservancy, lies in the Six Mile Stream, adjoining the park boundary.

Lake Rotoiti is a significant attraction for boating and swimming because of its proximity to settlement. Lake Rotoroa is valued for its undeveloped character and the major activity there is lake fishing.

The Travers, D'Urville and Sabine rivers are nationally significant wilderness fisheries valued for their unusually large brown trout. The park provides opportunities for recreational hunting, which can contribute to deer and chamois control. Access by boat or off-road vehicles (over leasehold land) allows remote areas to be readily reached. The upper valleys, particularly around Blue Lake, are the focus of chamois hunters.

Map 2 Management Areas



S: Draughting/Nelson Lakes Management Plan v2 management areas

1.4.4 Management Areas

Management needs vary widely across the park and are largely reflected in the ease of access, as shown on the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum map (map 10). The most intensively used area lies close to the park visitor centre, which is served by SH 63. Its focus is the village of St Arnaud. Elsewhere, the major valley systems divide the park naturally into the catchment of Lake Rotoiti, the catchment of Lake Rotoroa and the headwaters of the Mātakitaki River comprising the Glenroy and upper Mātakitaki River catchments (map 2).

St Arnaud Management Area

The St Arnaud Management Area (map 3) has a wider range of recreational opportunities than other parts of the park. There is a strong emphasis on activities based on day walks, but other opportunities include mountaineering, snow sports, camping and water recreation (including swimming, canoeing, powerboating, yachting and fishing).

St Arnaud has always been an important stopping place. Pre-European Māori used the shores of the lake at the mouth of Black Valley Stream and Kerr Bay. For them it was, and still is, a meeting point for the routes between north and south, east and west. With its position on an important tourist route, St Arnaud is naturally the main focus for the park today. It is well served by roads and tracks. Much of the pressure for increased use and recreation management arises in this area.

The presence of St Arnaud village next to, and in places within, the park creates many special opportunities to foster a conservation interest and to develop an awareness of the sensitivities of urban interaction with a largely natural environment. The visitor centre and Rotoiti Lodge (an outdoor education centre) and the two serviced campgrounds, along with the skifield and other structures, make this the most developed part of the park. The majority of visitors and visitor management issues are concentrated in this area.

The village has developed largely within natural mountain beech forest and tall manuka-kanuka forest and shrublands. Away from the village, the St Arnaud area contains some of the most modified ecosystems within the park. Nevertheless, wetlands outside the park but close to the village, although modified, are crucial filters for the tributaries of Black Valley Stream, which is the only part of the lake catchment that does not originate within the park.

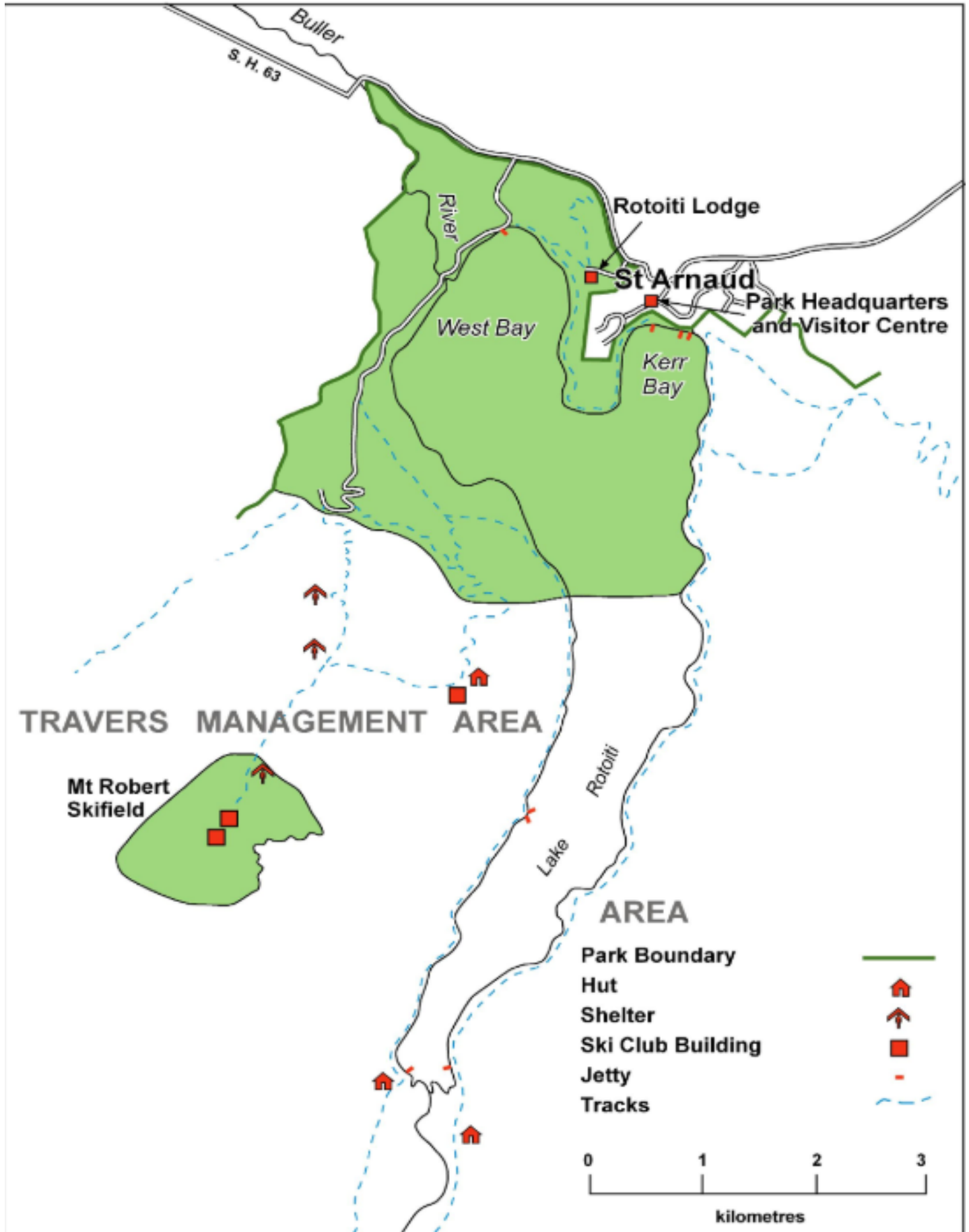
In contrast to much of the park, the St Arnaud area contains several features associated with the Alpine Fault. These include evidence of displacement along the Alpine Fault itself and Black Hill, a prominent glacial feature and igneous outcrop. Because of easy access these features, along with the terminal moraine at the lake outlet and other glacial features of the landscape, are valued as a teaching resource.

The main threats to the values of the St Arnaud area arise, directly and indirectly, from human activity. Increased visitor numbers impinge on the natural peace and quiet, which is the main reason many people visit the area. Increased use of the area creates demands for more visitor opportunities and more and better facilities, and these can erode the basic recreational experiences current visitors gain from the area.

The main urban issues are water run-off from developed areas that could threaten the water quality of the lake, fire, garden escapes, especially Douglas fir, Russell lupin and rowan, and the impacts of domestic pets on fauna.

Boats, particularly powerboats from outside the conservancy, create the constant risk of waterweed introduction into Lake Rotoiti and impact on natural peace and quiet.

Map 3 St Arnaud Management Area



S:\Drafting\Nelson Lakes Management Plan\3 st arnaud m a

Travers Valley Management Area

The Travers Valley Management Area (map 4), comprising the southern part of Lake Rotoiti and the Travers valley, is an important interface between the high-use area at St Arnaud and the remote areas to the south. Māori used the valleys in their hunt for māhinga kai such as forest birds and other small animals on the mountain slopes. They also hunted for water birds, in the now destroyed wetlands, and kūtai (fresh water mussels).

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project (RNRP) area is managed as a “mainland island” and is therefore managed more intensively than the rest of the park. It is a focus for pest control, species re-introduction and conservation. It is also a public showcase for what can be achieved with intensive ecosystem management. The RNRP has its own strategic management plan that details management activities for the area over the next 10 years. That strategic plan and all activities in the RNRP must be consistent with this management plan. The RNRP area is closed to recreational hunting but offers several walking tracks for visitors.

The Travers Valley Management Area connects various recreational environments. The most important links are the Travers Saddle, which connects with the Sabine valley, and the Hukere Track (to Lake Angelus), which connects with alpine routes. The narrow corridor created by the southern half of the lake isolates the lake head from the two bays to the north and, as such, is an important buffer isolating the lake head from the area around the village.

Rotoroa Management Area

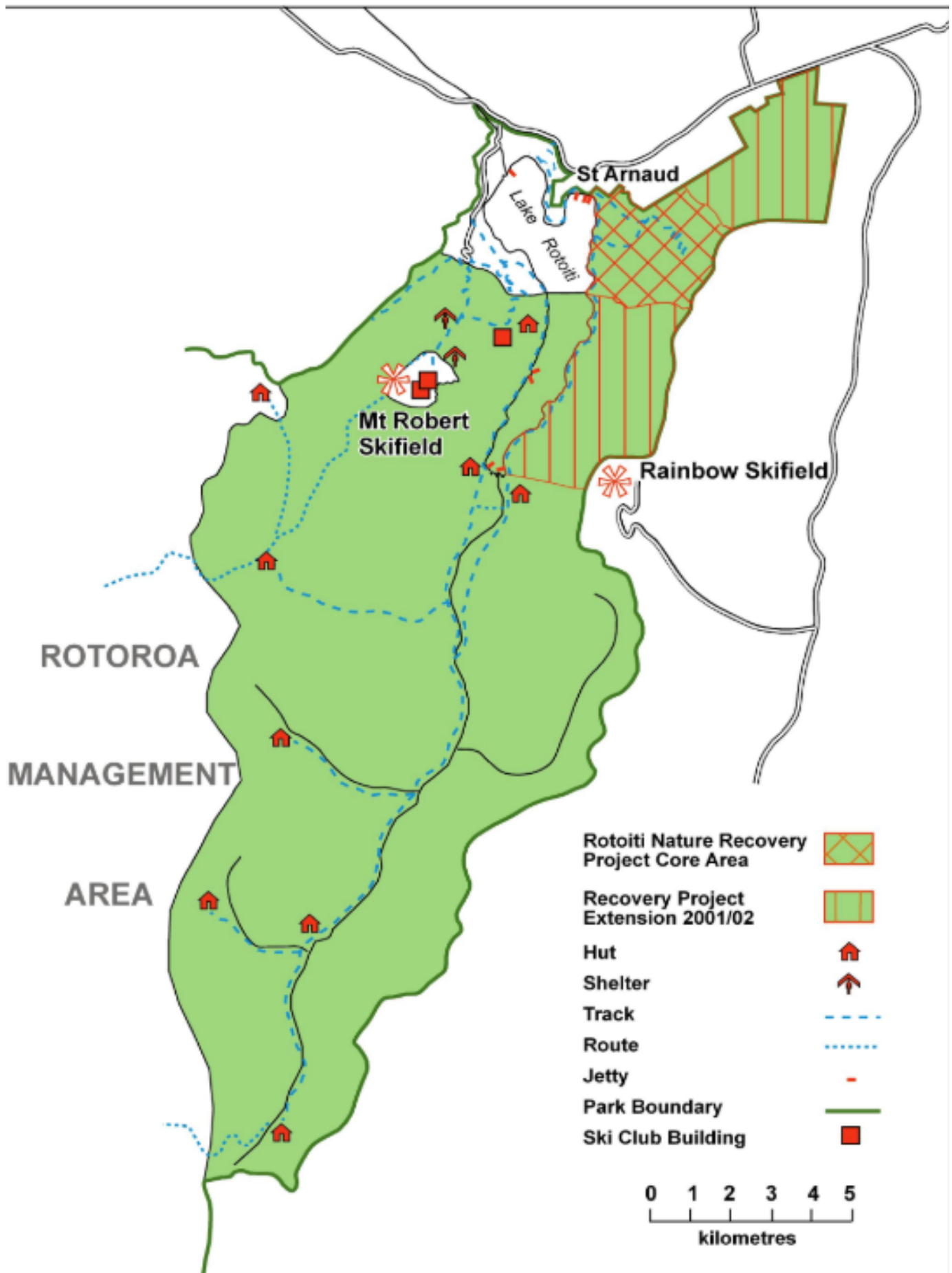
The ecosystems of the Rotoroa Management Area (map 5) are almost entirely unmodified by settlement. The only exceptions are small areas used for facilities and a small administrative area at the lake outlet. The management area contains the only podocarp-dominated forest stands in the park. These stands form the park’s only significant habitat for kereru and are important for a wide range of other wildlife.

The main threats to the biota of Rotoroa Management Area are pests such as wasps and stoats, which are currently intractable. Landcare Research has a base at the foot of Mt Misery and research into the forest ecosystems has continued there for over 25 years. The Rotoroa catchment area is used as a reference site for the RNRP mainland island programme.

The long narrow lake has only a small community at the outlet and the Rotoroa Management Area has a strong remote-wilderness character. The lake acts as an important buffer for the remainder of the area by restricting access to it.

The remote-wilderness character is reinforced by strict limitations on powerboat activities. Powerboats are mainly confined to fishing, public access to the lake head and a water taxi. Waterskiing is prohibited. The limited accommodation available at Rotoroa village means that visitor numbers have remained low. The recent sealing of the road could mean greatly increased visitor numbers in the future.

Map 4 Travers Valley Management Area



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Map 5 Rotoroa Management Area



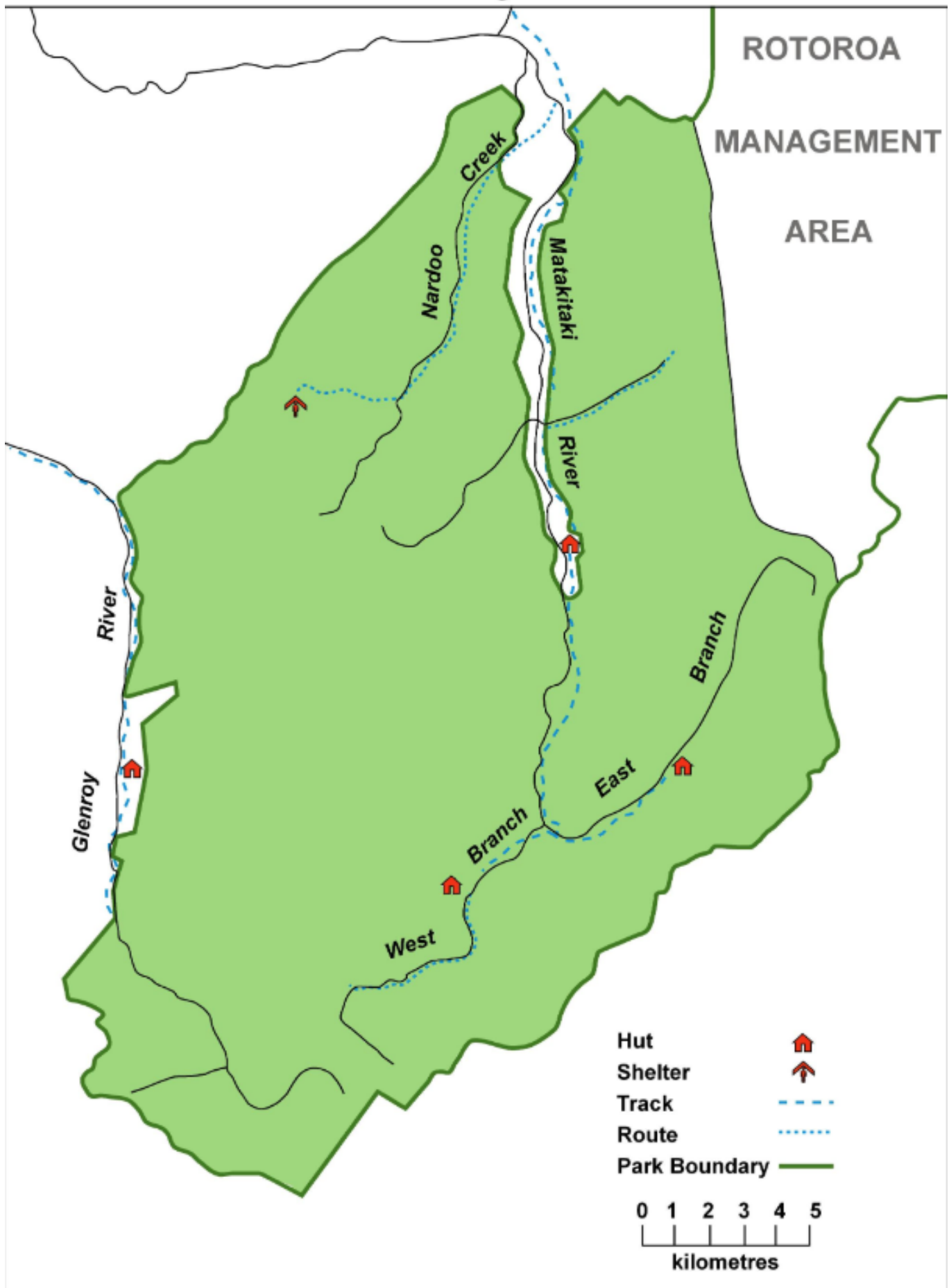
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Mätakitaki/Glenroy Management Area

The Mätakitaki/Glenroy Management Area (map 6) has a strongly remote character. Access to this area requires either a long walk or the use of off-road vehicles through areas leased for grazing (outside the park). Consequently, numbers of visitors are low. The largest contributor to use of this area is the Mätakitaki Lodge (Nelson College outdoor education centre) in the Mätakitaki valley. In order to maintain the remote environment, access should not be improved.

The main valley floors of the upper Mätakitaki and Glenroy valleys are outside the park and held under grazing licences. A small enclave of private land also exists in the upper Glenroy valley. The forested areas within the park have not been reduced by farming activities but some alpine areas were grazed until relatively recently. Previous farming activity has resulted in the establishment of wild goats over much of the area. Goat numbers are falling rapidly due to intensive control activity and, as a result, it is expected that they will be removed within the next decade.

Map 6 Mātakitaki Glenroy Management Area



S Drafting/Nelson Lakes Management Plan/6 matakītaki glenroy m a

1.5 PARK VISION

The vision for Nelson Lakes National Park is of a low-key family place where native plants and animals flourish, introduced plants and animals are absent and intrinsic values including natural quiet can be savoured without the intrusion of the noise and bustle of urban life. The purpose of this plan is to advance towards this long-term vision over the next decade.

Nelson Lakes National Park will be a place where:

- honeydew beech forests have been restored and birdlife is once more prolific;
- lake water clarity is retained and plant pests are absent;
- native alpine shrublands and grasslands flourish unbrowsed by pests;
- the functions and processes of natural ecosystems are restored;
- geological features, landforms and natural physical processes are undisturbed;
- the values preserved in the park are supported by appropriate management of adjacent areas;
- spiritual, cultural and historic values are recognised and protected;
- landscapes remain untarnished by unnecessary buildings and structures;
- remote and wilderness qualities are preserved;
- a restricted range of low-key commercial activities enables visitors to enjoy the natural features of the park without detracting from park values;
- recreation continues to be based on the quiet enjoyment of the park's natural values; and
- visitors can gain an understanding of the park's natural processes and special natural and cultural history.

1.6 PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

For Nelson Lakes National Park

- To preserve in their natural state in perpetuity native plants and animals in their natural ecological systems and the scenic and historic features of the park and, as far as possible, to eradicate introduced plants and animals.
- To retain the essential character of the park as a remote, undeveloped, natural area of great beauty, natural quiet and of value for recreation, appreciation and study.
- To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- To provide the public with opportunities to gain benefit, enjoyment, and inspiration from the park and to enjoy recreation to an extent compatible with the other objectives above.

For each specified management area

- To the extent that it is compatible with the preservation of natural and historic resources, to provide the main focus for visitors within the park in the St Arnaud Management Area.
- To preserve and enhance the viability of the natural ecosystems and to foster appropriate recreational use in the Travers Valley Management Area through providing suitable facilities and allowing compatible commercial activities.
- To preserve and enhance the viability of the natural ecosystems, and their enjoyment by fostering low-key, non-intrusive recreational use in the Rotorua Management Area and only allowing for limited commercial use, including on and around the lake.
- To preserve the natural and remote qualities of the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area by providing few facilities and ensuring that any concessions are low impact and do not detract from the qualities of the area.

The overall thrust of management in the park is low-key because the area is well buffered by surrounding areas managed under the Conservation Act 1987. The natural values are relatively less threatened and the recreational use lower than elsewhere in the conservancy. Nevertheless, the fragility of both the natural values and recreational benefits must be fully recognised and protected. Sometimes this can be achieved with minimal intervention.

All ecosystem elements are fragile, especially in alpine environments. Already the biodiversity of the park has been reduced, with species such as kōkako and mōhua/yellowhead known to be locally extinct through the loss of beech habitat and the spread of introduced pests, particularly stoats, rats and wasps.

The numbers of many other birds, including kākā, bellbirds (korimako) and parakeets (kākāriki), have also been greatly reduced and ecosystems such as the honeydew beech forests are known to be under threat. Possums, goats, chamois and deer have modified the flora. Wasps, stoats, hares, cats and other introduced predators are drastically impacting on the bird and insect faunas in ways that are poorly understood and which are only just being comprehended. Changes in water quality may seriously affect the lake ecosystems. Management must therefore be cautious about any changes that may further upset these fragile ecosystems, while working towards restoring the lost components.

The most pervasive plant invaders are herbaceous plants, particularly in the open valley-floor and alpine communities. Other significant threats include Canadian pond weed, wilding trees, willow and rowan. Plant pests such as old man's beard and broom are absent from the park, but constant vigilance is required to prevent their establishment.

Although the overriding objective of the park is preservation in perpetuity (as set out in the National Parks Act 1980), a key issue is how to manage the nature and extent of public use. In this park the high snow-topped mountains, the water and the open space that go with large lakes provide a basis for a feeling of peace and tranquility that is easily disrupted by some types of activity. Experiences derived from activities such as walking and sailing add to this tranquility but motorised transport and large crowds detract from it.

Use of the park has developed around the tradition of a lakeside holiday, especially at St Arnaud. Because of its roots as a traditional “Kiwi” holiday place, Nelson Lakes National Park has grown to be very much a family park. This atmosphere is especially evident at St Arnaud village where people arrive at holiday baches and a large camper community traditionally establishes itself for the Christmas-New Year holiday period. The two managed campgrounds within the park are predominantly patronised by family groups in the holiday season.

The low-key family atmosphere is also evident at the Mt Robert Skifield in winter where a long-established club caters for only small-scale ski activities. The club is especially close-knit because of limited access to the field and limited on-field accommodation.

Elsewhere in the park, use is much lower. Lake Rotoroa has more remote surroundings but also has a small holiday community. The Mātakitaki valley is a little used area, frequented mainly by school parties from Mātakitaki Lodge (the Nelson College outdoor education centre) and hunters. The Glenroy valley is used even less and visited only by the occasional hunter or trampers, often in family groups.

The park has a clear gradient of use, decreasing from north-east to south-west, which needs to be maintained or reinforced to retain the range of recreational experiences.

2. Kaitiakitanga

Objective

To manage the park in line with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, so far as they are not inconsistent with the National Parks Act 1980.

Through the traditions of the ancestors, whakapapa and links with iwi living in this land since the time of Rākaihautū, Ngāi (Kāi) Tahu, Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Rārua are the iwi which claim mana over the park. They maintain kaitiakitanga over the land and derive their mana from it. The management of the park recognises these important spiritual and cultural links by seeking iwi advice and co-operation.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy sets out the basis for giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as they relate to this conservancy. The most significant matters relate to the maintenance or protection of wāhi tapu, traditional and archaeological sites. The iwi also maintain a strong interest in the park's flora and fauna, particularly those species that formerly provided cultural material and traditional foods. The park is now an important sanctuary and nursery for these species, some of which may be taken by iwi in other places (see 4.4 Customary Use). Activities which seek to restore this mana through pest removal or enhancing the survival of traditional foods such as tuna (eels), kūtai, weka, kererū, kākā and kiwi are supported by iwi.

Settlement of the Ngāi Tahu Treaty of Waitangi claim has been negotiated with the Crown and this will affect the way in which the Department manages some areas of Nelson Lakes National Park. Settlement of other claims may require specific actions or place obligations on the Department. Mechanisms established in the Deed of Settlement and Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 place a number of specific obligations on the Department with respect to land which it administers, within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā/area, in addition to the general duty imposed by section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987. The Ngāi Tahu takiwā/area boundary is shown on map 12.

Pursuant to section 282 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, the Minister of Conservation has issued Protocols in relation to the Department's relationship with Ngāi Tahu. In this context, section 281 of the Act provides:

“... the term ‘protocol’ means a statement in writing, issued by the Crown through the Minister of Conservation to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, which sets out:

- (a) How the Department of Conservation will exercise its functions, powers, and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu claim area; and*
- (b) How the Department of Conservation will, on a continuing basis, interact with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provide for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu 's input into its decision-making process.”*

The 'specified matters' dealt with in the Protocols are:

- cultural materials;
- freshwater fisheries;
- the culling of species of interest to Ngāi Tahu;

- historic resources;
- Resource Management Act 1991 involvement;
- visitor and public information.

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

Implementation

2.0.1 The Department will give effect to its statutory obligations and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in a manner not inconsistent with the National Parks Act 1980.

2.0.2 Certain provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 affect management of park land which is in Ngāi Tahu's takiwā/area and the Department recognises that empowering legislation from other claim settlements may also affect the implementation of this plan.

CMS REFERENCE:

Treaty Obligations – page 111.

3. Heritage Preservation

3.1 NATURAL FEATURES

Objective

To preserve the natural features and scenery of the park.

The human values of all groups of visitors to the park derive from natural and largely unmodified scenery dominated by large features such as mountains, lakes and broad glacial valleys. The preservation of the landscape is essential for the maintenance of the spiritual values that are particularly important to both the tāngata whenua as kaitiaki and to all New Zealanders who treasure this park.

The high quality of the scenery is one of park's principal attributes. Landscape values, as well as natural values, can be adversely affected by the development of facilities such as telecommunication structures, buildings, huts, signs, bridges, fences and tracks. By careful consideration of the impact of development on the landscape, detrimental effects can be avoided, by minimising the number of built structures, or mitigated by using colours and shapes that blend in with the environment and by locating buildings away from ridgelines and lake margins. The quality of design and materials often determines how well structures fit into the natural surroundings.

Some facilities such as alpine huts and route markers must be highly visible for safety reasons. In these instances a conscious decision should be made that this is the case. For all other facilities, specific attempts should be made to reduce their visual impacts.

For private or commercial structures the applicant must first show that there are no practicable alternative sites outside the park. The primary objective to retain the undeveloped nature of the park means that commercial accommodation developments would be opposed, as they are not in keeping with the management philosophy of the park. Mitigation measures including, but not limited to, those mentioned above would have to be implemented in any approved structural development (see also section 4.3 Concessions).

Sensitive design and placement of facilities can be welcoming and enhance the experience. Site modification and structures, or even poorly controlled human use (such as heavily used, poorly formed tracks), can intrude on naturalness, especially in remote areas. When assessing proposed developments or structures in the park, all relevant factors need to be considered, including:

- impacts on indigenous flora, fauna and natural ecosystems;
- whether the structure can be located outside the park or co-sited with other developments;
- the impact on the landscape and the methods to avoid or mitigate the impact including;
 - sensitive design and colours that blend into the natural environment;
 - sensitive location, such as adjacent to existing structures or avoiding ridge tops and lake margins;

- the amount of earth and vegetation disturbance and its visual effect;
- the potential for successful rehabilitation/restoration of disturbed areas;
- the possibility of further development and/or expansion of developments and/or structures on the site as a result of allowing this development/structure;
- the biosecurity risks created by development, such as the spread of weeds.

Māori and other New Zealanders place great emphasis on the maintenance of the purity of water. Maintaining water quality in the lakes is essential for the functioning of the whole Buller River system. The main threats to the water quality come from human activities on the lakes and environmental modifications in the Black Valley Stream catchment, including land disturbance. On the lakes, threats arise from human waste and oil pollution from boats; on land, threats come from siltation and pollution due to improper or inadequate control of sewage and stormwater run-off. Threats can arise from high stock numbers and inappropriate pastoral management, such as over-grazing, which can increase soil erosion on the slopes and siltation in the lakes. Stock also threaten natural values where they are allowed to graze into the park boundaries.

Implementation

3.1.1 Any proposed developments (including structures and recreational facilities) or management actions will be assessed according to the factors set out above, in order to preserve the quality of the scenery and other natural features and values.

3.1.2 Management actions and advocacy will seek to preserve the quality of the park waters.

3.2 BIODIVERSITY

Objective

To maintain or restore the diversity and functioning of ecosystems native to the park.

The integrity and functioning of the native forest, alpine and freshwater ecosystems are threatened by introduced plant and animal pests and human activity. Control of these “agents of change” is essential to maintain or restore the natural functioning of the native ecosystems.

The place of the park within the conservancy-wide framework of values and priorities is set out in the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy. One of the main requirements for the park is to acquire further basic knowledge on species distributions and to monitor changes, especially in the rarer and more threatened elements.

Biodiversity within the park has been greatly modified. The native flora and fauna of the park has been disturbed not only by natural events but also by introduced animals, particularly wasps, stoats, deer, chamois, Canada geese, pigs and possums, and by human activities. The invasion by introduced plants and animals and the loss of the native components of the ecosystems have constituted a continual assault on the integrity of the ecosystems and on the mana of the tāngata whenua who are kaitiaki. Anything that leads to the restoration of the viability of the native species also enhances the mana of Māori.

The most significant change, in addition to predation and browsing by introduced animals, has been the spread of weeds, principally along valley floors and well-used tracks. Extensive modification of the flora exists largely on the periphery of the park where clearing by fire or grazing has occurred in the past. The continual cropping of honeydew by wasps has significantly reduced populations of nectivorous (nectar feeding) birds, while direct competition with wasps for prey has reduced population densities of insectivorous birds, such as kaka.

Landcare's Research's work at the head of Lake Rotoroa includes a range of studies into, for example, the effects of beech mast on ecosystem dynamics and the biology, impacts and means of control of wasps in the honeydew beech forest ecosystems. The research area is also used as a reference site for the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project. Particular support should be given to research and monitoring programmes that assist understanding of park ecosystems.

Lake Rotoiti contains the oldest known eels (tuna) anywhere in the country. This is due to the cold, unproductive nature of the lake, which makes the growth rate extremely slow. The eels (tuna) reach sexual maturity at around 90 years of age. The lakes are part of a mere 6% of the country's freshwater lakes that still contain unexploited eel (tuna) populations with access to the sea. As such the protection of the eels (tuna) within the lakes is of prime importance for both their ecological and scientific values. Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa are an important national haven for maturation to breeding age, with unimpeded access to the sea for spawning and re-population.

Pests

Monitoring programmes are required to detect the arrival of new pests (such as waterweed) and to detect significant changes in current pest populations, particularly wild animals such as goats and chamois. Continued research, as part of conservancy and national programmes, is also required to find effective means for controlling significant pests.

Exterminating plant and animal pests within the park is a significant challenge for the Department. It is therefore essential that every reasonable effort be made to prevent the introduction or further spread of plant and animal pests in the first instance. Such efforts should include:

- continual monitoring for new pests and the spread of existing pests;
- the extermination of plant and animal pests where possible;
- placement of appropriate signage at boat launching ramps advising of the necessary actions to prevent the introduction or spread of pest plants and animals within the park. Such actions should include ensuring boats and trailers are free of pests prior to launching;
- ensuring all earthmoving machinery and/or equipment is free from plant or animal pests prior to entry to the park. Exceptions should only include emergency works as defined under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- ensuring necessary conditions are placed on concessionaires to prevent the introduction or spread of plant and animal pests (see also section 4.3 Concessions).

General requirements and procedures for pest control are set out in the Conservation Management Strategy. In assessing the appropriate means of control (including biological or chemical agents) of any pest, all relevant factors need to be considered, including:

- urgency and necessity for control;
- impacts on non-target species;
- effectiveness of alternative methods;
- relative cost effectiveness; and
- long-term effectiveness of the control agent.

In determining the extent to which management should endeavour to restore the park to a more natural state (eg. extermination of an exotic species) the Department will consider whether:

- the objective is attainable; and
- failure to achieve the objective could detrimentally affect the ecology of the park.

Animal pests

Wasps are a major ecological problem for which no practical widespread control is currently available. Local wasp control is carried out in late summer and only in areas where there is high visitor use. Continued research into wasp impacts and new control methods is required.

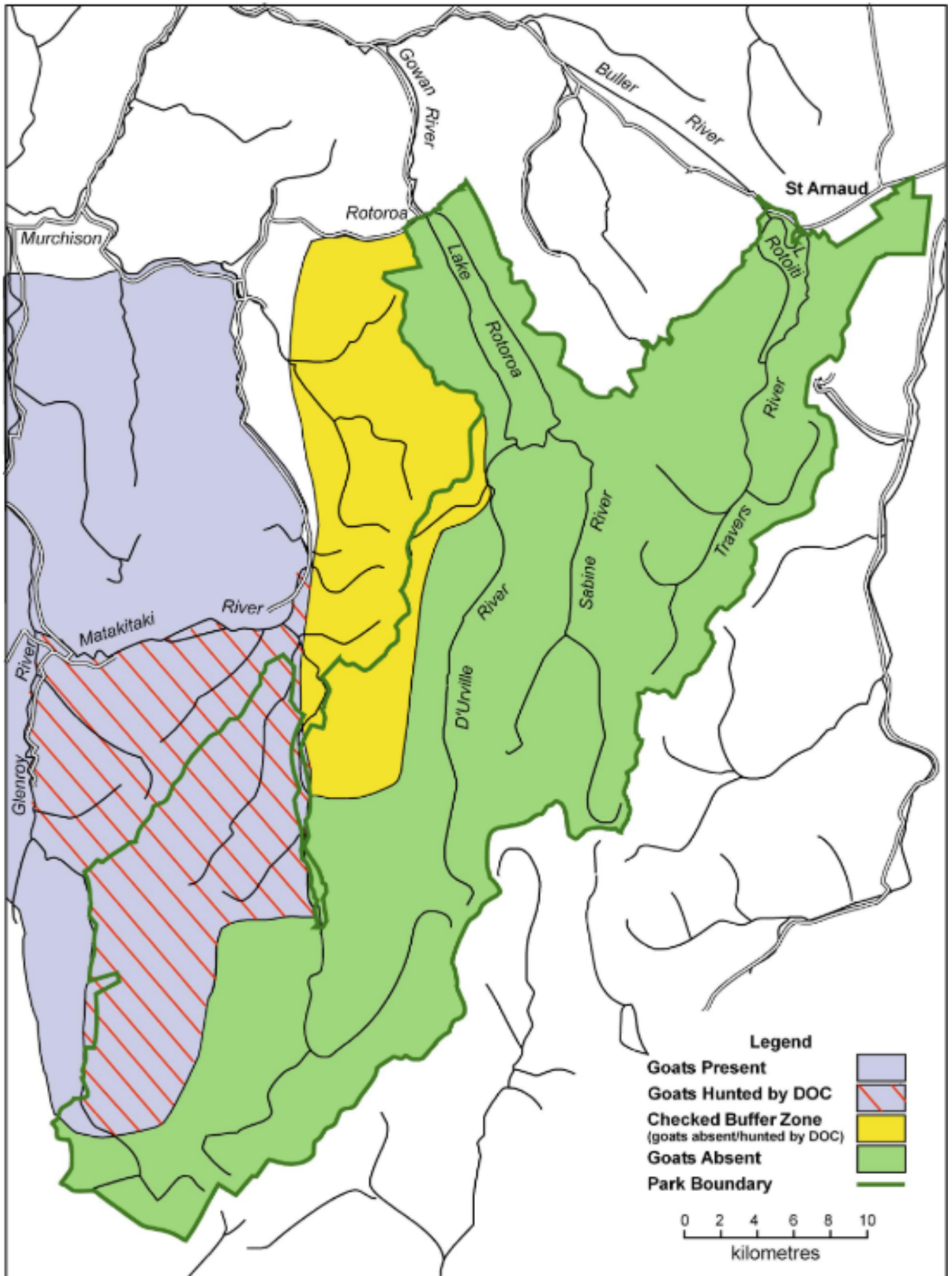
Possoms are targeting the populations of mistletoe and rātā around the shores of Lake Rotoiti. These are some of the most threatened plants in the park. However, because they lie within easy reach of the village, work on their preservation can be readily carried out. Control of possums throughout the rest of the park is more difficult and usually requires the use of toxins.

Goats were a major problem in the Mātakitai and Glenroy valleys (map 7). Goats are absent in the adjacent Rotoroa Management Area but a risk exists that they could invade from the Tūtaki valley. Intensive goat control has reduced numbers considerably over the last few years and extermination of goats from most of the park appears to be a realistic goal. Continued monitoring and control of goats adjacent to the park is required to prevent re-invasion.

Canada geese are spreading throughout the South Island high country and have established in the park. They have the potential to become a pest along the rivers and lakeshores through grazing of native vegetation, spreading seeds of plant pests and because of the large amount of faeces they produce, which can have significant negative impacts on water quality and clarity.

Pest fish such as koi carp and gambusia would be a major problem if they managed to get into the waters of the park, particularly the lakes. Their introduction must be prevented through continual monitoring for their presence and immediate actions to remove them should they be found.

Map 7 Goat Distribution



S:DraughtingNelson Lakes Management Plan7 goats

Red deer and chamois are currently largely controlled by recreational and commercial hunters. The Department will continue to encourage recreational and commercial hunters. Departmental control of deer and chamois will also be undertaken where necessary. Any decline in commercial wild animal recovery effort is likely to result in increases in deer and chamois numbers. Monitoring will be carried out to determine the need for and type of control required.

Departmental control of deer and chamois will be undertaken where:

- deer and chamois are having an undesirable impact on particular plant communities;
- the impact on other park users can be minimised through the location or timing of the activity.

Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project

A conservancy-wide assessment of threatened species and communities was carried out in 1996 to identify areas for an integrated programme of pest control, research into species ecology and monitoring of the ecosystems to measure the effectiveness of various pest control techniques.

The assessment resulted in the establishment of the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project, covering an area of 825 hectares of beech forest, along the shores of Lake Rotoiti, on the lower slopes of the St Arnaud Range. In 2001 the project expanded its stoat, wasp and rat control to include areas further south along the shore of Lake Rotoiti (see Map 4). The project seeks to restore the beech forest community (with particular emphasis on the honeydew cycle) through an integrated and intensive pest control programme.

The objectives are:

- i. To reduce wasp, rodent, stoat, feral cat, possum and deer populations to sufficiently low levels to allow the recovery of the indigenous ecosystem components (especially kākā, parakeet (kākāriki), tui, bellbird (korimako), robin (pītoitoi), long-tailed bat (pekapeka) and mistletoe) and ecosystem processes (especially the honeydew cycle).
- ii. To re-introduce recently depleted species, such as mohua/yellowhead, kiwi and kōkako (South Island subspecies if possible) once the beech forest ecosystem is sufficiently restored (i.e. pests have been removed to a level where native species are likely to survive).
- iii. To advocate for indigenous species conservation and long-term pest control by providing an accessible example of a functioning honeydew beech forest ecosystem so that a large number of people can experience a beech forest in as near-to-pristine condition as possible.

The project is aimed at eventually managing the Travers valley as a whole catchment and working with the St Arnaud community to apply the pest control programmes to areas of the village and surrounding farmland.

Plant pests

Small populations of willow at Lake Rotoroa and in the Travers valley have nearly been exterminated and should be completely removed in the next decade. At present, some of the most problematic exotic waterweeds are absent from the lakes. However, the continued use of the lakes by powerboats, often coming from other regions where waterweeds occur, represents a continual threat to the ecosystem. Active campaigns to ensure that boat inspections are carried out and monitoring programmes to detect pest arrival are essential.

Careful consideration needs to be given to species choices in plantations and within communities close to the park. Wilding trees (especially Douglas fir and rowan) can have a significant impact on the flora and fauna. Some garden escapees have yet to be evident because wilding plants are still small or have not begun to seed. Programmes for their control could involve community participation and liaison with Tasman District Council. Residents should also be encouraged to grow non-invasive species

Grazing

The floors of the two main valleys in the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area are conservation areas outside the park and are managed under grazing licences. Given the unfenced nature of the park boundary, stocking levels are set and monitored for adverse effects to ensure that stock management methods are appropriate.

Pets

With increased urbanisation at Rotoiti (especially from St Arnaud to Wairau Saddle) and Rotoroa villages the threats to native fauna from dogs and cats are likely to intensify and residents should be made aware of the adverse environmental effects of keeping pets and encouraged to minimise these effects by adopting responsible pet ownership practices. Park staff living in Departmental accommodation are not permitted to have pets.

Community involvement

Ease of access to key problem areas and proximity to centres of population make the St Arnaud Management Area the focus for community-based activities. The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project, in the Travers Valley Management Area, is also easily accessible and is a showcase for emphasising the importance of biodiversity and the impact of pests and people upon it. Many people are unaware of the potential threats that garden plants pose but are willing to assist, provided the problem species are identified. Local community participation in weed removal and pest control programmes is an ideal way of raising awareness of potential pests.

Implementation

- 3.2.1 Where practical, significant plant and animal pests will be controlled or eliminated.***
- 3.2.2 Integrity and natural functioning of the park's three principal indigenous ecosystems (forest, alpine tops and freshwater systems) will be preserved through plant and animal pest control, restoration and management of the impacts of human activity.***
- 3.2.3 Particular management attention will be given to threatened species and communities.***

- 3.2.4** *The best examples of ecosystems typical of a biogeographic region may be subject to specific pest and weed control in order to restore their functioning and natural biodiversity.*
- 3.2.5** *The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project will be managed as a “mainland island” in line with its 10-year strategic management plan.*
- 3.2.6** *Surveys will be carried out to identify significant ecological values and appropriate action will be taken to preserve them.*
- 3.2.7** *Monitoring will be carried out where species or communities are the priority for management, and to detect changes in significant ecological values.*
- 3.2.8** *The re-introduction of native species known to have once been present in the park will be undertaken where appropriate, subject to the obtaining of scientific advice on the proposal, as provided for in the General Policy 8.10.*
- 3.2.9** *The most appropriate and cost-effective methods available, including biological control agents, will be used for pest control.*
- 3.2.10** *Wild animal control will be carried out by the Department, with the assistance of recreational hunters, and/or concession holders.*
- 3.2.11** *Precautions, including instigation of public awareness initiatives, signage at boat ramps and monitoring programmes, will be taken to minimise the risk of aquatic weed introduction into lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa.*
- 3.2.12** *Sensitive habitats will be monitored for wilding tree invasion and appropriate control programmes will be initiated.*
- 3.2.13** *Willow will be eradicated from the Travers Valley and Rotoroa management areas.*
- 3.2.14** *Conditions will be placed on concessions to ensure no plant or animal pests are introduced or spread (see also section 4.3 Concessions).*
- 3.2.15** *The goat-free status of the Rotoroa Management Area will be maintained.*
- 3.2.16** *Goats will be eliminated from the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area and monitoring and shooting in a buffer area will continue to prevent reinvasion.*
- 3.2.17** *Where the park is bounded by grazed land, stock numbers will be limited and the park margins will be monitored and action taken if necessary to ensure that the browsing impacts are minimised.*
- 3.2.18** *Community awareness of the adverse impacts of garden escapees and pets on the biodiversity of the park will be fostered through publicity on issues and encouragement of community participation in control programmes.*
- 3.2.19** *Publicity on plant and animal pest issues will be used to raise awareness of the risks and to seek controls on the pests.*
- 3.2.20** *Advocacy through the Regional Pest Strategy will be used to emphasise the importance of the control of existing and potential plant pests to preserve park ecosystems.*
- 3.2.21** *Appropriate provisions in the district plans and strategies will be advocated to limit plant and animal threats.*

3.2.22 Support may be given to research programmes that relate to the functioning of ecosystems in the Rotoroa Management Area.

CMS REFERENCES:

Conservancy Overview	p49
Regional Priorities	p387
Legal protection responsibilities for species	p137
Management of threatened species	p141
Research, Survey and Monitoring	p167
Plants Pests	p187
Animal Pests	p195
Fire	p209

3.3 HISTORIC VALUES

Objective

To identify and preserve historic sites and artefacts as far as is compatible with the preservation of natural values.

Kehu and other Māori guides passed on the traditional knowledge of the routes through this area to the earliest settlers and showed them the traditional stopping places and sources of māhinga kai. Little evidence remains today, apart from reverting fern gardens at Lake Rotoroa and a few archaeological sites. Known archaeological sites on the shore at Kerr Bay were recently reburied for their own protection, as part of site landscaping.

From as early as 1848 European settlers attempted to farm various parts of what is now the park. The first lease was issued in 1851 and the last one terminated in 1956 when the park was established, although the lower Travers valley was not added to the park until 1976. Apart from this activity, the park was left largely untouched. There are few signs of the early European activity apart from some vegetation modification that resulted from an extensive fire on Mt Robert and also in the lower Travers valley. No structures from this era remain.

Former alluvial gold mining sites exist in the Mātakitaki valley and near Lake Rotoroa. Further areas may exist, particularly in the Mātakitaki/Glenroy area. All the sites need to be evaluated to determine protection requirements.

Recreational use in the area has extended over 100 years and some huts could require preservation as representatives of the styles of former years. Kea Hut has already been identified for preservation.

The strategy for the park is to continue to identify and preserve historic sites according to the priorities and procedures set out in the Conservation Management Strategy.

Surveys

Knowledge of archaeological sites and historic places is incomplete and further investigation needs to be carried out to identify unknown sites. The understanding of many sites would greatly benefit from research of documentary sources and a programme of oral history recordings. Detailed surveys are necessary in areas where historic values are suspected or inadequately known. Conservation of significant historic places should be effected by a programme of active management.

Māori Involvement

Tāngata whenua need to be actively involved in the management of their wāhi tapu and ngā taonga. They need the opportunity to care for these sites in traditional ways, which may include keeping their existence confidential. The Department must work with tāngata whenua in the management of sites of significance to them and provide the opportunity for an iwi representative to be present at any excavations and archaeological surveys.

Protection

Archaeological and historic sites are easily damaged by both natural processes and human impacts. Erosion, earthquakes, track building, trampling and even tree planting can damage historic sites. The reforestation of a pā site, for example, can destroy the historic values of that site through root damage to the human-made structures. In such circumstances, the preservation of historic values must be weighed against the ecological values of revegetation on a case by case basis.

The Historic Places Act 1993 makes it an offence to modify a historic site without a permit. The Department must ensure that a permit is gained for any site restoration or modification and that sites are not accidentally destroyed. To this end, it is important to discover unknown sites so that they can be protected from inadvertent damage.

Archaeological sites and historic places will continue to be identified and protected according to the priorities and procedures set out in the General Policy, the national Historic Resource Strategy, the Conservation Management Strategy and the conservancy's Historic Resource Strategy. Detailed information on the management of key places is contained in the conservancy register of actively managed historic places.

Interpretation

Interpretation and information can enhance visitor understanding of historic sites and can help them gain an appreciation for the historic values preserved in the park. Opportunities for interpretation of historic sites need to be evaluated according to historic significance and site suitability in terms of public access and interest. In some cases, protecting a site by not publicising its existence may be appropriate as some sites are better able to cope with visitor impacts than others. Where any Māori site is well placed for interpretation, the relevant iwi must be consulted as to the appropriateness of interpretation and its content.

Artefacts

Māori artefacts and their custody are regulated by the Antiquities Act 1975. Māori also have protocols for action following the discovery of Māori artefacts. These include reburial in the place they were found, removal to a marae or placement in a museum. It is up to the relevant iwi, in consultation with the Department, to decide what to do with a Māori artefact, provided action is consistent with the Antiquities Act 1975.

Non-Māori artefacts, including old bottles, are important to our understanding of more recent archaeological and historic sites. In terms of the National Parks Act 1980 it is an offence to remove any artefacts and relics from the park without written authorisation from the Department.

Implementation

- 3.3.1 Appropriate iwi will be consulted where an archaeological survey, management, or interpretation of a Māori site is proposed.***
- 3.3.2 Wāhi tapu and nga taonga will be conserved and managed in a way which incorporates the exercise of kaitiakitanga and appropriate tikanga.***
- 3.3.3 Archaeological and historic surveys will be carried out within the park. Historic sites and artefacts will be protected, restored and interpreted in line with the CMS, the national and conservancy historic resources strategies and the Historic Places Act 1993.***
- 3.3.4 Documentary and oral history of the park and its historic places will be researched. Information will be preserved and any new sites identified will be assessed.***
- 3.3.5 Existing hut sites will be assessed for historic values and their preservation will be encouraged where practical.***
- 3.3.6 Where preservation of historic values conflicts with the preservation of ecological values, each case will be evaluated carefully on its own merits.***
- 3.3.7 The appropriate iwi will be informed of any discovery of a Māori artefact in the park and their advice will be sought on the appropriate protocols for its care, in a manner consistent with the Antiquities Act 1975.***

REFERENCES:

Nelson/Marlborough CMS
Historic Resources, p155-166
National and Conservancy Historic Resource Strategies
Historic Places Act 1993
Antiquities Act 1975

4. Use and Accessibility

4.1 VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Objectives

To allow for public benefit, use and enjoyment within the park, in a manner that is compatible with park values and the recreational setting, and to seek to control activities that detract from that recreational setting.

To preserve and enhance the natural peace and tranquility and the predominantly backcountry and remote recreational setting of the park.

Areas of backcountry and remote experience dominate the park and the tranquil nature of these environments should be enhanced by careful planning and management of vehicular access and track systems. In order to maintain the remote and wilderness qualities, no further vehicular access points are to be developed and the current access is to be managed to maintain a contrast in use across the park from the busy St Arnaud area to the rarely visited Glenroy Valley.

Lakes Rotoroa and Rotoiti already provide contrasting experiences with the former very lightly used compared with the latter. Similarly, use at the head of Lake Rotoiti contrasts with that at St Arnaud.

Because of the high level of recreational use and management activity, the St Arnaud Management Area and the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project Area are closed to recreational hunting.

Roading and vehicles

The St Arnaud Management Area is the most heavily visited part of the park and often forms a focus for access to the park as a whole. It contains the only internal roading, some of which is public road vested in the local council and the remainder is national park road managed by the Department. It serves the village, campgrounds and the lower slopes of Mt Robert, a base for skifield and tramping access.

Access to both valleys in the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area is via 4-wheel-drive tracks that follow the valley floors for about half their length across conservation areas leased for grazing. The lease agreements provide for such vehicular access on these tracks. In the lower Mātakitaki valley, below the conservation area boundary, the access track no longer follows the legal road because of stream erosion. A legal easement is required to ensure continued public access across the leasehold land to the valley. But it should remain suitable for off-road vehicles only (see map 6) as any upgrading of the track would degrade the remote experience of the area. Roding in the park is considered to be sufficient and it is not intended that any new roads will be created. However, the realignment of current 2-wheel drive access roads may be undertaken.

In terms of the National Parks Act, 1980 mountain bikes are vehicles and the General Policy for National Parks requires that vehicle use must be limited to formed roads. Opportunities exist for mountain bikes in adjacent conservation areas. In the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area, in particular, 4-wheel-drive tracks in adjacent conservation areas provide access to remote areas close to the park boundary.

Boating

The lakes are an integral part of the park and this is recognised by their total inclusion within the legal description of the park. The lakes offer an opportunity for recreational boating. Generally boating has had a relatively low environmental impact and can provide an acceptable means of transport and access. However, some boating activities can conflict with inspirational values of the park through noise, and pose environmental risks through the possible introduction of water-weeds, water pollution, rubbish and effluent. They can also induce shore erosion.

Parts of the lake around St Arnaud are heavily used and support a range of activities including fishing, water skiing, swimming, canoeing and yachting. Conflicts can arise between different users, particularly close inshore, near launching points. The conflicts can be minimised by zoning the lake for particular activities or restrictions on use (map 8).

A higher level of use is tolerated on Lake Rotoiti than on Lake Rotoroa. Nevertheless, pollution and noise from continuous and prolonged activities such as use of jet skis, hovercraft and other personal water craft can disrupt the peace and tranquility of the area. For these reasons hovercraft and personal water craft (eg. jet skis) will be prohibited from being used on the lakes in the park. By-laws prohibit all motorised vessels from the using the rivers in the park.

Activities that result in large crowds can be inappropriate, particularly away from the main residential and camping areas. Water skiing is already prohibited on Lake Rotoroa and will be limited to the defined areas on Lake Rotoiti through by-laws, as shown on map 8.

Activities on the water are controlled through the Water Recreation Regulations 1979. Launch wardens (including boat club members) may be appointed by the Maritime Safety Authority to ensure compliance.

Constraints are placed on some activities to reduce conflicts between activities and to reduce noise. Most of the boating on the lakes involves small boats that can be readily removed from the water. Large boats (over 8 metres long) allow unacceptable increases in use and have the potential to damage shores.

The presence of large vessels in enclosed bays such as Kerr Bay and West Bay is, for most visitors, out of keeping with the landscape and a visual intrusion on the lake. It may break down the sense of remoteness and tranquility of the lake, particularly at key visitor points such as Kerr Bay. Formalising the existing ban on moorings, through a bylaw, is necessary to protect the natural and scenic values of the lakes.

All vessels, including powerboats, yachts, and any other craft that are greater than 8 metres long and/or 2.5m wide (which require a permit from the Police to be towed on the open road) will not be permitted on the lakes and rivers in the park. Rowing skiffs and waka are exempted from the restrictions on boat length due to their low impact on lake values. These restrictions will be imposed through a bylaw.

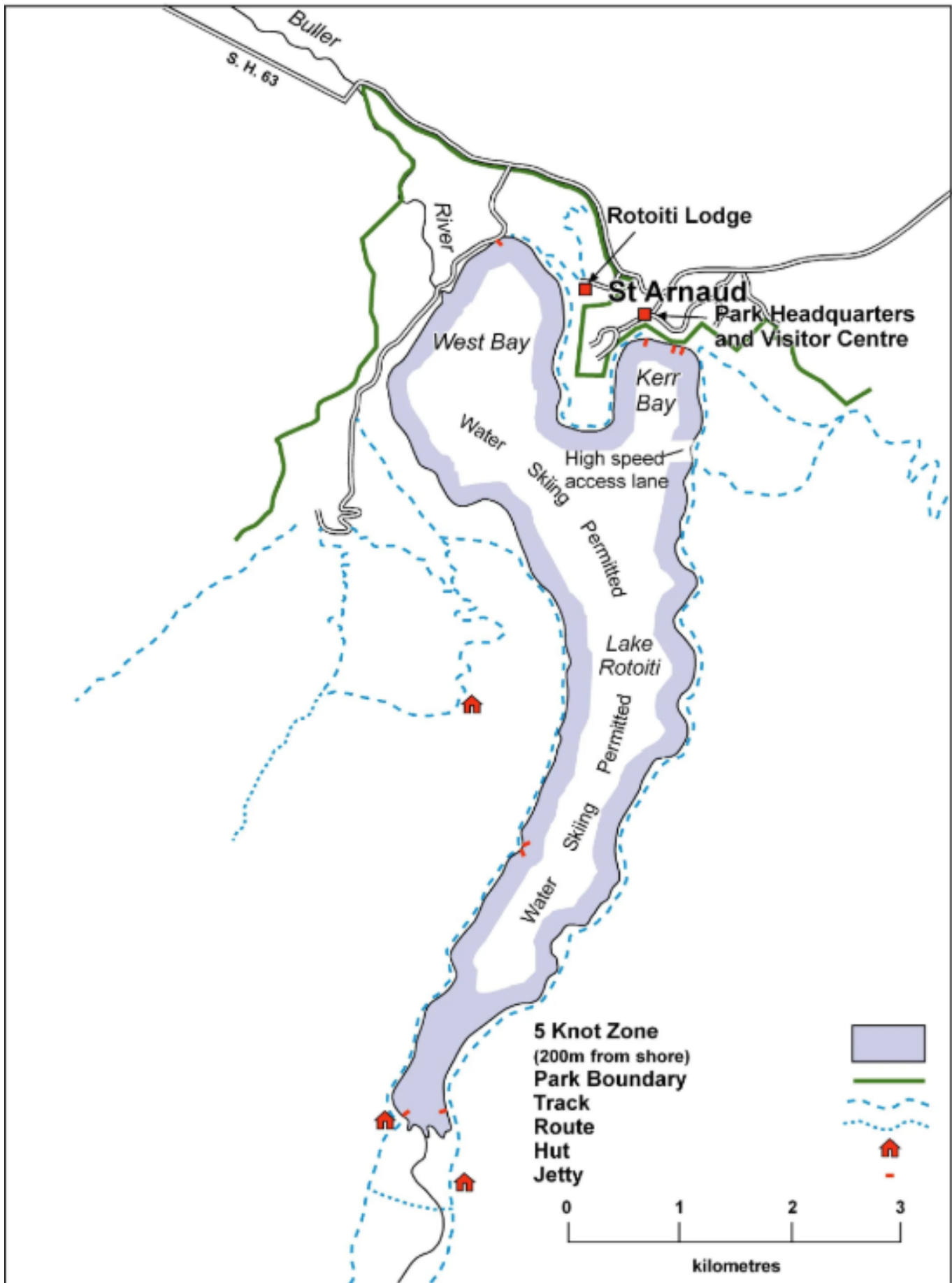
The use of boats for accommodation, particularly for a prolonged period, is likely to have unacceptable adverse effects. Potential adverse effects of overnight stays include anchor damage to the subaquatic and lakebed flora and fauna. The potential for pollution also exists from the release of sewage and rubbish cast over the side at what could become regular mooring sites. In order to preserve natural values, including water quality and peace and tranquility, such use has been prohibited in the past and this will be formalised through a by-law.

Both lakes are included in the “natural state” classification (ie. no alteration to the water can occur) under the Buller Water Conservation Order and it is inappropriate to permit activities that could have adverse effects on water quality. A by-law will be sought to prohibit overnight accommodation on vessels and require the removal of all vessels from the water at night, except where necessary or essential for park management purposes. A by-law will also be sought to prohibit vessel moorings in the lakes.

An annual yacht regatta on Lake Rotoiti is well established and does not greatly impinge on the peace and tranquility of the lake.

An annual powerboat regatta has also been a long-standing event. However, it does significantly impinge on peace and tranquility, not only during the two-day event but also in the preceding 2 to 3 days during practice runs. Furthermore, many of the boats currently exceed the intended size restrictions (8mx2.5m). Because of these impacts the Department will review the appropriateness of the powerboat regatta at the end of the term of this management plan, as part of the formal plan review process.

Map 8 Boating Zones



S:\Drafting\Nelson Lakes Management Plan\B boat zones

Motorised air access

Motorised air access detracts from the peace and tranquility of the park. The park is closed to motorised aircraft landings except for special purposes, in accordance with by-laws. The special purposes, defined in the by-laws, are mainly for essential management, emergencies and wild animal control (see also 4.3 Concessions). The chief exception is to provide for a service to the Mt Robert Skifield.

The park is subject to low-level scenic flights and occasionally used by the airforce for low flying exercises. In the confined valleys, particularly those of the Travers, D'Urville and Sabine rivers, low flying aircraft can detract from the experience of visitors and may even set off avalanches and threaten lives in some climbing areas. For these reasons, restrictions on low flying by all aircraft will be sought from the Civil Aviation Authority while recognising military powers under the Military Manoeuvres Act 1915 and the agreement between the Department and the Ministry of Defence.

Other air access

Hang-gliders and parapentes are classified as aircraft and therefore require a special permit. The Department must also approve take-off and landing sites. Hang-gliding, parapenting and similar opportunities are only limited by the ability to access suitable take-off and landing points. Unless numbers are high, the impacts on the park and other users are minimal. Landing sites need to be variable for public safety reasons. In considering requests for permits, all relevant factors need to be considered, including:

- impact on natural values;
- whether they have an approved safety plan (which is the responsibility of the operator);
- Civil Aviation Rules (which apply at all times);
- the level of use of take-off and landing places by other park visitors; and
- the likely frequency and intensity of the activity.

Closures and restriction

While access is generally unregulated, restrictions on visitor numbers are sometimes necessary at particularly sensitive sites to preserve natural values, where there is a fire hazard, to reduce noise, or for visitor safety. In a few cases temporary or permanent closure could be required. Consultation is required for some types of restrictions or closures and consultation requirements depend on the type of closure or restriction.

The restrictions or closures may be required to:

- preserve natural values;
- preserve the recreational benefits of natural peace and tranquility;
- protect visitor safety;
- allow fees to be charged for a commercial activity (eg. running a camping ground);
or
- implement a booking system for accommodation on the Travers/Sabine Circuit.

Reasons for temporarily restricting visitors or closing an area include:

- emergencies such as fire, accident, search and rescue;
- management purposes such as routine maintenance, site restoration, construction and use of aircraft;
- special events such as sports events or filming; and
- safety.

In considering restrictions, all relevant factors should be considered, including:

- whether the restriction can be achieved indirectly, eg., re-routing;
- whether suitable alternatives exist outside the park;
- requirements for re-routing of visitor traffic;
- necessary duration;
- whether numbers need to be limited;
- what area needs to be specified;
- other special conditions;
- any consultation required; and
- signs and notifications (especially at the visitor centre and other information centres).

Organised groups

Organised groups, especially school groups, are often present in the lower valleys and close to St Arnaud. Other large groups may arise through the granting of a concession, but their numbers can be controlled through the concession agreement.

Nelson College has an outdoor centre near the end of the formed public road in the Mātakitaki valley and students use the valley extensively for training purposes. Party size and intensity of use may affect the recreational experience of other visitors. Agreement should be reached on party sizes and areas to be used to minimise conflicts with other users.

School groups occasionally venture from the Mātakitaki valley into the D'Urville but place limited demands on facilities. Currently, few groups use the Rotoroa Management Area and it must remain free from the intrusion of large groups to preserve its remote character.

Where organised groups of 10 or more people congregate at a hut or particular site they can place stresses on the environment and facilities and impose on other visitors. Effects can include temporary or permanent damage to natural values (including effects on viability of species), impacts on peace and tranquility through noise, crowding of facilities (including impositions on other track users), and damage to facilities from overuse.

In particular, organised events (including military exercises) must be planned to minimise impacts. Where organisers charge a fee they require a concession. When restricting groups in a particular area all relevant factors need to be considered, including:

- size of party;
- duration of stay;
- nature of activities;
- location of activities;
- timing of activities in relation to use of that area and the park as a whole;
- likely stress placed on facilities;
- likely damage, especially to areas around huts or particular sites; and
- likely disruption to the experience of other visitors in that particular recreational setting.

These must be evaluated along with the potential benefits such as:

- increased knowledge about the park;
- outdoor education under a defined education programme;
- participation in a Departmental work programme;
- construction or maintenance of planned park facilities.

Camping and accommodation

Freedom camping within the park is generally allowed, but in the Travers and Sabine valleys, adjacent to high use tracks, on the shores of the lakes, and in a few other areas, restricting camping to particular places or times may be necessary to prevent adverse effects. Adverse effects can include pollution, in the form of rubbish and human waste, vegetation damage from clearing camping areas and fires, and social effects on other visitors from poorly positioned camping areas.

A booking system may be required for access to facilities on the Travers/Sabine Circuit if the visitor numbers exceed the capacity of the facilities at peak periods. At the same time, to ensure equitable use of facilities and to avoid spreading the impacts of camping along the track, it may also be desirable to restrict camping to particular places.

Where restrictions to camping are being considered, the Department will consult with key stake holders. All relevant factors need to be considered, including:

- the impact on the natural and social values in the particular recreational setting;
- the need to limit visitor numbers;
- likely compliance with restrictions and fees and the means available to achieve this;
- ecological impacts; and
- human waste management.

In order to protect natural values and water quality, the management of camping within 200m of lakes Rotoroa and Rotoiti will be reviewed. Camping may need to be restricted to the campsites provided by the Department and freedom camping may be prohibited.

Dogs

Under the National Parks Act 1980 and the Dog Control Act 1996, dogs are not permitted in a national park without a permit, unless they are guide dogs, companion dogs, search and rescue dogs, Police or Customs Department dogs or dogs used by the Department in management programmes. Permits can be issued, subject to conditions.

Permits may be issued for the use of dogs in the park if:

- the activity is legal and all necessary consents have been obtained;
- their use is essential for the activity ;
- they are fully trained for the proposed activity;
- they are used according to a previously approved plan for that activity;
- the actual and potential risk to protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs can be avoided or minimised through conditions on the permit;
- conflicts with other users of the park can be avoided or minimised through conditions on the permit.

Implementation

4.1.1 *Further roading within the park will not be provided, with the realignment or re-routing of existing roads (particularly at Kerr and West bays) being the only roading work considered to be appropriate during the term of this plan.*

4.1.2 *No further vehicular access points will be developed and the current access will be managed to maintain a contrast in use across the park from the busy St Arnaud area to the rarely visited Glenroy valley.*

4.1.3 *Any grazing licences covering the Mātakitaki and/or Glenroy valley floors will provide for access for off-road vehicles and on foot.*

4.1.4 *An easement will be negotiated to protect 4-wheel-drive access into the Mātakitaki valley.*

4.1.5 *A by-law will be sought to prohibit powerboats more than 8 metres in length and/or wider than 2.5 metres on Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotoroa. Further constraints on boat use may be considered to minimise the visual and noise impacts of vessels on the waters of the park .*

4.1.6 *A by-law will be sought to prohibit yachts and other non-motorised boats, except rowing skiffs and waka, that are longer than 8 metres and/or wider than 2.5 metres on the waters of the park.*

4.1.7 *A by-law will be sought to prohibit vessel moorings in park waters.*

4.1.8 *A by-law will be sought to prohibit people staying overnight on boats.*

4.1.9 *A by-law will be sought to prohibit vessels from remaining on the lakes overnight without a permit, except for park management purposes.*

- 4.1.10** *Temporary facilities for swimming may be provided and temporary marker buoys may be used to define access ways and zones or for scientific purposes only at Lake Rotoiti.*
- 4.1.11** *A by-law will be sought to prohibit personal water craft (eg. jet skis) and hovercraft in park waters.*
- 4.1.12** *Use of motorised vessels in the rivers will continue to be prohibited through by-laws.*
- 4.1.13** *A by-law will be sought to restrict water skiing to the areas shown on map 8.*
- 4.1.14** *Water skiing and personal water craft will continue to be prohibited on Lake Rotoroa through by-laws.*
- 4.1.15** *Appointment of boat wardens will be sought through the Maritime Safety Authority and an education programme (including signs) will be initiated to manage water-based activities.*
- 4.1.16** *The Department will review the appropriateness of the powerboat regatta at the end of the term of this management plan, as part of the formal plan review process.*
- 4.1.17** *Restrictions will be sought, through the Civil Aviation Authority and in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence, to prevent aircraft without a current landing permit flying low over the park.*
- 4.1.18** *Landing of aircraft will be only be permitted for special purposes (including the winter service on Mt Robert) under a concession and any decision regarding aircraft over-flights and landing within the park will be mindful of the value of natural quiet.*
- 4.1.19** *Hang gliding, parapenting and other non-mechanised air activities may be limited to defined take-off and landing areas on a case by case basis, taking into account the factors set out in “Other air access”, above.*
- 4.1.20** *The Air Force will be discouraged from using the airspace above the park for training flights and any Defence activities must comply with the Defence Training Agreement.*
- 4.1.21** *Groups of more than 20 (school, sports or recreation groups) will be encouraged to inform the visitor centre staff at St Arnaud of their intended presence and may be restricted to particular areas according to factors set out in “Organised groups”, above.*
- 4.1.22** *A by-law may be sought to prohibit camping within 200 metres of the edge of lakes Rotoroa and Rotoiti except at designated sites and managed camping areas.*
- 4.1.23** *Consideration will be given to implementing a booking system for accommodation at peak use times on the Travers/Sabine Circuit, following public consultation, and an appropriate by-law will be sought.*
- 4.1.24** *Restrictions on camping may be instigated (through an appropriate by-law) along the Travers/Sabine Circuit if a booking system is instigated for hut use after taking into account the matters set out in “Camping and accommodation restrictions” above.*

- 4.1.25 Restrictions for special purposes may be placed on numbers of visitors to particular sites, through a by-law, taking into account the factors listed in “Closures and restrictions” above.**
- 4.1.26 Permits may be issued for the taking of dogs into the park only for special purposes and subject to compliance with the matters set out in “Dogs” above.**
- 4.1.27 Competitive sports events not requiring a concession may be permitted only in the St Arnaud Management Area, provided due consideration is given to the environmental impact and the impact on other users of the area and taking into account the factors listed under “Organised groups” above.**
- 4.1.27 A by-law will be sought to prohibit recreational hunting in the St Arnaud Management Area and the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project Area for safety reasons.**
- 4.1.28 Large groups will be discouraged from using the Travers Valley and Rotoroa Management Areas unless there are direct benefits to the park.**
- 4.1.29 Continued dialogue with the managers of Mātakitaki Lodge will be maintained to ensure that school use of the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area has minimal impact on other visitors.**

CMS REFERENCES:

Visitor Access,	p273
Visitor Opportunitie	p281
Air Access,	p 279

4.2 VISITOR SERVICES

Objective

To provide facilities for public use and enjoyment of the park in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural values, public safety and the recreational setting of each management area.

Many activities in the park require few facilities. For others, the Department provides a range of facilities.

The basis for recreational development planning within the conservancy has been set out in the Conservation Management Strategy, which was guided and informed by the national Visitor Strategy. Planning takes into account the mapped Recreational Opportunities Spectrum (ROS) for an area and the current and expected patterns of use. The classification of an area is in part determined by ease of access.

The Department has developed a Quality Conservation Management system, arising from the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Cave Creek incident. As part of this work the Department has developed the Visitor Asset Management Programme, which includes public consultation. This programme involves the assessment of every visitor facility and structure managed by the Department to produce a site ranking which determines whether or not each facility is to be retained, upgraded or removed. This programme will heavily influence the manner in which the Conservation Management Strategy and existing facility planning documents are implemented.

Within this park a clear pattern of recreational opportunity exists. St Arnaud lies on a main highway and is to a degree urbanised, whereas the Rotoroa settlement is small, lies on a side road off the main highway and it is therefore more remote. Access into the Mātakitaki and Glenroy is even more difficult with the final vehicle access segments being across farm tracks, making the valleys very remote. This range of recreational experiences will be preserved.

Easy road access to the two main lakes attracts large visitor numbers to a few focal points. St Arnaud lies on, or not far from, the main tourist routes to the West Coast and Nelson/Marlborough and so has the potential to draw high visitor numbers. Numbers are growing significantly in the St Arnaud area and park tranquility there is threatened. Increased numbers are placing stress on some facilities and areas such as Kerr Bay.

Most visitors do not venture far from their vehicles and so it is at the roadends that facilities should be provided. For those who do venture further there is a requirement for day-based recreation opportunities at St Arnaud that should be met by providing and maintaining track systems there.

The major walking tracks are concentrated around St Arnaud and Rotoroa. They provide relatively easy walks that are suited to family groups and this pattern should be maintained. Further afield a range of tracks, routes and untracked areas are maintained to provide for a range of recreational experiences in backcountry and remote environments (map 9). Within this framework the Travers/Sabine Circuit is the only major track system and caters for those seeking comfortable huts and a good track.

St Arnaud Management Area

The visitor information centre at St Arnaud provides the major focus for the park. The location of the visitor centre, along with the village and two campgrounds, creates a demand for short loop walks in this area and this demand is well catered for. The visitor centre is also one of the main start and end points for several longer walks offering a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

Good information systems at parking areas, track entrances, and at the visitor centre are key parts of the management of the facilities in the park. These systems can include signs, interpretation, pamphlets, maps and up-to-date information on local weather and track conditions, some of which is provided by a computer-based system at the visitor centre.

Kerr Bay experiences crowding at peak times. The closure of the road to the east of Kerr Bay emphasised the need for shelter, car parking and landscaping, consistent with national park values, within Kerr Bay to provide for day visitors and manage the boat traffic. Significant landscaping and car park development was completed in 2001, but some members of the local community felt that the work was inappropriate. The Department will continue to monitor the functioning of the area and will work closely with the local community and user groups in the future development of Kerr Bay. Toilet facilities may be required in future in the small bays that are used as water ski take-off points and for picnicking.

Travers Valley Management Area

The lower Travers valley is the part of the park most heavily used by trampers. This is because it is part of the Travers/Sabine Circuit that links the two lakes and also because it is linked with ridge routes on the Travers Range, particularly through Angelus Hut. Snow-based activities and climbing are popular along the range.

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project is a showcase of what intensive management intervention can achieve and it attracts many and diverse visitors to its short easy tracks.

Other recreational activities within the management area include hunting and freshwater fishing, the latter largely based on day trips by small boats. Two jetties are provided at the lake head and two at Whisky Falls.

Visitor numbers fall rapidly up-valley with less than a quarter travelling over the Travers Saddle at the valley head. The eastern side of the Travers valley has no tracks and the Arnst valley is a particularly remote area.

Rotoroa Management Area

Three short walks are maintained at the Lake Rotoroa roadend. The lakehead is a focal point for tracks up the two valleys and links with the Tiraumea and Speargrass valleys. The lower Sabine valley is heavily used by trampers, hunters and anglers because it is a link in the Travers/Sabine circuit and carries traffic to the West Branch and on to Blue Lake, Waiau Pass or Moss Pass. The East Sabine valley is rarely visited. Use in the D'Urville valley is perhaps a tenth of that in the Sabine valley and it is a popular place for hunters and anglers. The fishery is particularly highly valued and receives high pressure from anglers.

The western side of Lake Rotoroa is untracked and fringes an area with a wilderness classification under the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (map 10) in Tutaki Forest Conservation Area. The aim is to allow for increased use on the Travers/Sabine segment but to maintain the current status of the track systems elsewhere.

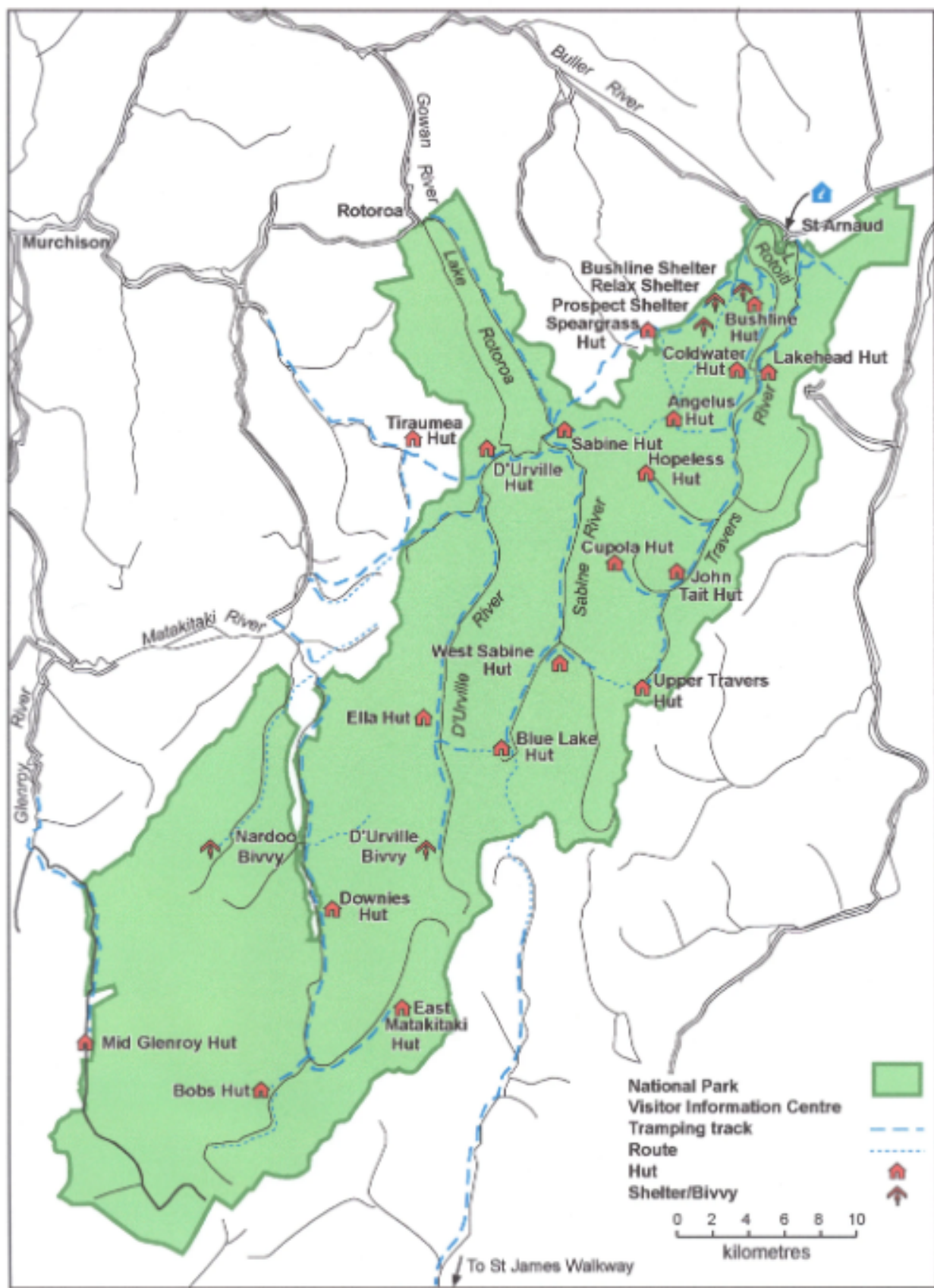
Development of extensions to facilities needs to be carefully planned to ensure that they do not create increased use or demands for services or uses that are incompatible with the remote environment.

The two lake-head huts are recognised as having different characters. Sabine Hut is used by large numbers of trampers. D'Urville Hut is smaller and used mainly by anglers and hunters.

The Rotoroa Management Area has several marked and unmarked high altitude passes that often require a wide range of outdoor skills to minimise risks. Blue Lake forms an important focus for these tracks and routes. Some routes can be quite dangerous even in midsummer and are often undertaken by people with limited skills because the approach tracks up the valleys are easy. With growing visitor numbers, the risks of accidents are increasing. Appropriate warnings are required in park information, huts and hut books.

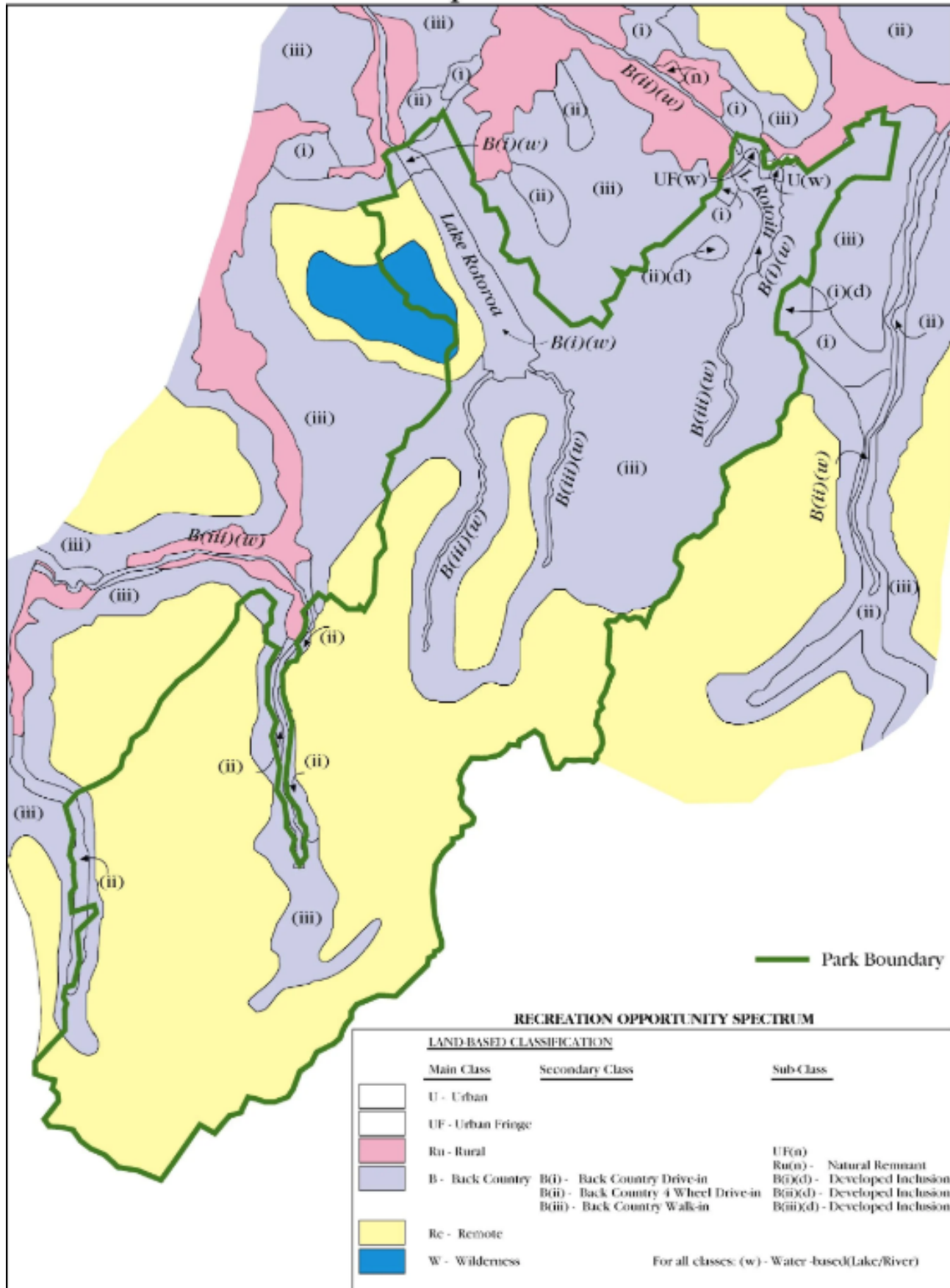
Chamois hunting is concentrated in the upper valleys, particularly the West Sabine. Lake fishing is the other main recreational activity. It is largely based on day trips by small boats and is served by a boat ramp and jetty at Rotoroa.

Map 9 Facilities



S. Draughting/Nelson Lakes Management Plan/Facilities

Map 10 Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Zones



S: Draughting/Nelson Lakes Management Plan/10 ros

Mätakitaki – Glenroy Management Area

The main recreational activities in the Mätakitaki-Glenroy Management Area are hunting, climbing and tramping. The main tracks are not linked between valleys and there are no formal links with other parts of the park, although low passes allow crossings into adjacent valleys such as the D’Urville, Waiau and Maruia valleys. The character of the management area is one in which a high level of self-reliance is required. To enhance the remote character of the area, the aim is to establish no further facilities but rather to downgrade, close or remove some facilities, as discussed in the Hut and Track Review and the CMS. This strategy will be implemented according to the Visitor Asset Management Programme and through this management plan.

Over half the use in this area comes from people using Mätakitaki Lodge. Nelson College maintains several tracks in the lower valley to non-uniform and varied standards. These facilities need to fall under formal maintenance prescriptions and track standards need to be made compatible with the same categories elsewhere in the park.

Travers Sabine Circuit

The CMS indicates that the Travers Sabine circuit is one of the seven important track systems in the conservancy for development over the next decade, based on current and predicted increases in visitor use. Track segments in the lower Travers and Sabine valleys are being upgraded, but the link over the Travers Saddle remains a steep and poorly-formed segment. It should only be upgraded sufficiently to reduce environmental damage above the treeline and to enhance visitor safety. The track will continue to be maintained to a standard suitable for backcountry users but will not become a Great Walk: the Department has indicated that there will be no more Great Walks. The Sabine Hut may be replaced with a larger capacity hut, provided a suitable location can be found. Once this has been done, no further huts are intended and increased use is to be managed by establishing a booking system, rather than increasing hut size.

Provision of facilities

At the time this plan was approved, the Department was undertaking a comprehensive review of all visitor services and facilities it manages. This review is known as the Visitor Asset Management Programme. All structures have been assessed against strict criteria for retention, upgrade or removal. Facilities that are to be retained, or built, will have to be constructed and maintained to nationally consistent engineering standards. There will be consultation with key user groups over the future management of facilities as part of this review.

Where a facility does not meet the criteria for ongoing retention, the opportunity to upgrade or maintain the facility for public use may be offered to user groups. Maintenance of such facilities will have to meet the strict standards set and used by the Department itself.

In considering the development or approval of any new recreational facilities or modifying existing facilities in the park all relevant factors need to be considered, including:

- impact on natural values;
- Visitor Asset Management Programme outcomes;

- the need for consultation;
- the area likely to be affected;
- ability to carry out the activity outside the park;
- expected frequency of participation;
- compatibility with the current recreational setting (ROS categories);
- conflict with existing activities and options available to each group;
- level of use and visitation;
- impacts on current facilities and likely requirement for new facilities;
- long-term impacts, including those on indigenous biodiversity;
- biosecurity risks; and
- safety of other visitors.

Camping facilities

The campgrounds at Kerr and West bays provide only basic facilities. The private sector is able to provide higher quality services, particularly budget accommodation such as cabins and backpackers facilities, outside the park. Kerr Bay should be managed primarily for short stay visitors, particularly those beginning or completing longer walks. The West Bay campground should be managed for longer stay visitors, although the decline in use through changing holiday patterns means that the size and scope of the area needs to be carefully re-thought. Possibly the area could be closed to camping altogether, if demand declines further, and developed for day use to take pressure off Kerr Bay. In particular, the placement of the road and the relationship of the campground to the shore and boating area need to be better integrated if the camp is to continue.

At Rotoroa, although there is a demand for a better quality campground, the provision of cabins or the encouragement of long term stays could create a demand for tour boats, day walks at the lake head and a range of entertainment that would detract from the remote character and the peace and tranquility of the area. On the other hand there is a need for improved accommodation services for trampers, particularly those exiting the park. This demand will not be catered for in the park but could be served by backpacker-style accommodation provided by the private sector, outside the park.

All the camping areas provide only basic camping facilities without extras such as TV rooms. Any demand for cabins or other forms of accommodation is more appropriately provided for by commercial businesses at St Arnaud or Rotoroa villages. The CMS states that accommodation generally will not be provided in parks where practical opportunities exist on adjoining land. In the case of Nelson Lakes, opportunities do exist for provision of commercial accommodation adjacent to the park.

Visitor information

The park has not been promoted strongly as a tourist destination and this has helped to preserve its basic recreational values. Both nationally and within this conservancy, the park fulfils an important role as a relatively unvisited area not subject to excessive visitor pressure, where peace and tranquility remain dominant values.

The visitor centre at St Arnaud is the key focus for information about the park. It is the source of information about day-to-day issues and route information as well as broader values and history of the park. St Arnaud is the main entry point to the park for a range of activities and the lakes provide for a range of boating experiences. For safety reasons, key information should be regularly updated and kept readily available at all times. The Department's own information on the park will be consistent with its remote character and peace and tranquility values.

The park provides a range of challenges and limiting the development of some opportunities or facilities reinforces these challenges. In doing this, self-reliance is stressed: visitors will be made aware of the need to be responsible for their own safety and the safety of children and others in their care. The experience and equipment requirements of the riskier routes should be stressed in their descriptions, particularly at the visitor centre and key huts which serve as gateways to those routes.

Implementation

- 4.2.1 A range of walking opportunities will be provided for day visitors at the St Arnaud and Rotoroa roadends but not at the head of Lake Rotoroa.***
- 4.2.2 All implementation will be as defined in the Visitor Asset Management Programme process.***
- 4.2.3 Appropriate facilities for day visitors will be developed, especially along the shores of Lake Rotoiti.***
- 4.2.4 So as to enhance the gradation towards a wilderness experience away from the main entry points within each valley system, some tracks will not be maintained and some will be maintained to a lower standard in more remote parts.***
- 4.2.5 In backcountry and remote areas limited facilities will be provided and local groups may be encouraged to maintain low-use peripheral tracks.***
- 4.2.6 Where facilities within the park are not maintained by the Department, the people or groups doing so will be required to work to the Department's national standards.***
- 4.2.7 Planning for new facilities or upgrading existing facilities will take into account the factors listed in "Provision of facilities" above.***
- 4.2.8 The Travers/Sabine Circuit will be the only major track maintained to a high standard for backcountry users but will not become a Great Walk.***
- 4.2.9 The Travers Saddle route will be upgraded only to the extent necessary to mitigate hazards and minimise physical impacts by trampers.***
- 4.2.10 The eastern side of the Travers valley above Borlase Stream will remain track-free, apart from the valley floor and lakeshore tracks, and tracks providing public access to the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project Area, or where required for management purposes.***
- 4.2.11 Facilities for skiers will not be provided within the park on the St Arnaud Range.***
- 4.2.12 Huts may be removed and tracks or routes downgraded or closed in the Mātakitaki/Glenroy management area to enhance the remote experience.***

- 4.2.13** *The functioning of the car park and landscape development at Kerr Bay is an ongoing issue which will be monitored and the Department will work closely with the local community and user groups in the future development of Kerr Bay.*
- 4.2.14** *Nelson College will be encouraged to help in the planning and maintenance of facilities in the Mātakitaki valley.*
- 4.2.15** *Camping areas will provide only appropriate low-key camping facilities.*
- 4.2.16** *Kerr Bay campground will be managed for short stay visitors.*
- 4.2.17** *The future of West Bay campground will be regularly re-assessed and it may be closed.*
- 4.2.18** *The Rotoroa campground will provide only basic facilities for short stay visitors.*
- 4.2.19** *Where appropriate, commercial businesses will be encouraged to provide accommodation outside the park.*
- 4.2.20** *Departmental publicity about the park will focus on information and safety rather than promotion of the park as a destination.*
- 4.2.21** *Key information about access provided at the visitor centre will be regularly updated and readily available.*
- 4.2.22** *An information system of publications and interpretation will be provided covering key sites.*
- 4.2.23** *Appropriate park information and interpretation will stress the range of tramping challenges, the need for individuals to be responsible for their own safety and the need for particular skills and equipment on the most dangerous routes.*

CMS REFERENCES:

Strategic Directions, p32
 Recreational Facilities, p297
 Visitor Information, p325

4.3 CONCESSIONS

Objective

To allow only those concession activities which are in keeping with the low-key nature of the park and which operate in a manner consistent with the predominantly backcountry or remote recreational setting and natural values.

All concession applications will be considered in terms of the legislation and the national park status of the land and waters. Any decision to approve a concession must be consistent with the principles of the National Parks Act, as well as the Vision and Primary Objectives set out in this plan.

Nelson Lakes National Park has an essentially backcountry to remote recreational setting. There is a low level of recreational use over much of the park. This means that the range of potential activities is more limited than in most other parts of the conservancy.

The CMS sets out the main considerations in issuing a concession for recreation, commercial use and public works such as roading. These are based on an assessment of the potential effects of the proposal. The chief factors to take into account in considering concession applications are set out in Part IIIB of the Conservation Act and are based principally upon the effects of the activity.

Within this park important effects are those that detract from its natural peace and tranquility and its perceived low level of use, or which impact on the clarity and low nutrient status of its waters. All concessionaires will be required to monitor the impacts of their activities and report to the Department in accordance with any conditions attached to their concessions.

Recreation concessions

Eco-tourism is a growing industry. Backpackers represent the most obvious part of a market that looks for adventure tourism activities. Guiding concessions assist overseas visitors and the less experienced to venture into the more remote areas of the park.

Since the park is closed to commercial helicopters through by-laws (except for wild animal control and Mt Robert skifield access), access by concessionaires must be by boat or on foot. As a result, most applications for concessions are to provide small-scale guided day walks or guided fishing services on the lakes or in the lower river valleys. These and other similar activities are compatible with the backcountry and remote recreational settings, provided conflicts do not occur with other users. Concessions will be limited so as to minimise conflicts with other users and to preserve backcountry and remote recreational experiences. Cumulative concession numbers will be limited to half the hut accommodation capacity and co-operation between the operators will be required to keep within the allowed number.

Within the conservancy, the lakes provide a unique opportunity for quiet freshwater boating such as kayaking. Thrill-seeking activities such as jet boating and jet skiing are incompatible with the overall character of the park.

The St Arnaud Management Area is a terminus for boat access along Lake Rotoiti and private operators provide a suitable water taxi service for those going fishing, hunting or tramping from the lake head. Commercial boats will be limited to the same size as recreational boats (8m long x 2.5m wide). At Lake Rotoroa large boats are considered an incompatible visual intrusion and boat size will also be restricted to 8m x 2.5m or less. Existing concessions are to be exempted from these restrictions. However, any new concession (including variations/extensions to an existing concession) may be required to comply with the boat length restrictions.

In order to control the adverse effects of boating concessions, the number of trips and/or passengers per trip will be limited. Limits will also be placed on the number of boat landings in the Travers Management Area, in order to preserve its remote character. Constraints on the use of motorised boats on the lakes and rivers limit boat tour potential in the park.

Good access and high seasonal visitor numbers mean that the St Arnaud area is a place where sports events are likely to be based (eg. yacht regatta). Major sports events such as coast to coast or mountain runs have limited benefits to visitors and consideration of applications for such events must take into account their likely size and impacts on the natural values and other users, the potential for growth and commercialisation and the Recreational Opportunities Spectrum setting.

The Rotoroa Management Area has a history of occasional low-key organised boating events that do not appear to have any obvious adverse effects on the general remote atmosphere of the area. In order to retain the character of Rotoroa it is considered that these small-scale, low-key activities should be managed by way of one-off permits from the St Arnaud Area Manager. However, the Rotoroa Management Area must remain free from the intrusion of large sporting groups in order to retain its remote character. Any new initiatives involving major activities will generally not be considered appropriate and bylaws will be sought to give effect to this provision.

The picnic area near the launching point for rafts at the mouth of Lake Rotoroa is sometimes crowded by rafting parties preparing their craft. Numbers of rafts and party sizes may need to be controlled to relieve the congestion and operators may need to co-operate with each other to keep within specified limits.

Advertising needs to be appropriate and unintrusive.

Based on size and scale the only forms of advertising to be permitted are:

- trade sign writing normally carried on vehicles;
- small scale sponsorships being carried out at the time in the park (mainly on clothing);
- small notices setting out timetables for services relevant to the park placed in huts;
- notices on vehicles for food services provided within the park; and
- small scale sandwich-board-type signs of up to 1 metre square for location information.

The Mt Robert Skifield

The park has one of only two ski-fields in the conservancy. However, in a South Island context, the park provides only one of many opportunities for commercial skiing. Other snow-based activities are available in various areas in the conservancy.

The skifield at Mt Robert is a small-scale club field in an essentially pristine environment. It was established before the park and continues to cater for small groups, particularly families. It has the atmosphere of “pioneering” with a lengthy walk to the field. A strong club spirit exists among those responsible for the field. The area provides an ideal low-key environment based on a high level of self-sufficiency.

Proposals to improve or develop facilities will be considered in terms of:

- the need for them;
- effect on the park;
- compatibility with the plan’s overall objectives and specifically those for the St Arnaud Management Area; and
- the operating and development plan for the ski area.

Some of these activities themselves require special facilities, buildings or other modifications to the site that are not compatible with the nature of the area. For instance, skifield maintenance requires snow grooming, minor tow realignments and small-scale terrain grooming. However, large-scale or high-impact terrain grooming is seen as incompatible with the nature of the skifield.

Aircraft landings associated with the Mt Robert ski-field

As a special exception to the usual restrictions on helicopter landings in the park, a helicopter service between the Mt Robert carpark and the Mt Robert skifield was established as an alternative to road access to the skifield and should be allowed to continue. The concessions are restricted to take-offs and landings between these two points.

Ski touring is possible between Angelus and Mt Robert. However, because of hut capacity and problems of winter use, commercial use of this route should be severely limited, both in party size and timing or frequency of use.

Rainbow Ski-field

The Travers Valley Management Area is bounded to the east by the Rainbow Forest Conservation Area, which is outside the park and contains the Rainbow Skifield. In areas adjoining the park boundary, apart from the skifield, use is quite similar to that within the park. The Rainbow skifield draws large numbers of people during the ski season and the road access increases activity on that part of the park boundary. There is also interest in obtaining helicopter access between Rainbow and Mt Robert Skifields. If this were permitted it would greatly increase noise impacts and erode natural values such as natural quiet. It would also increase use on the Mt Robert Skifield and could result in a demand for further facilities. One of the reasons for the development of the Rainbow Ski-field was the restrictions on the development of the Mt Robert Ski-field, and for that reason air access will not be permitted between the two.

Grazing

A small area (less than 1 ha) at Rotoroa, originally kept for future developments, is the only area of grazing within the park. The future use of this area will be reconsidered. The area lies close to the lakeshore swamps and should be allowed to regenerate to protect that shore and water quality.

Structures

Large-scale, resource based commercial activities, such as mining and hydroelectric power generation have significant environmental effects that often cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Case law indicates that hydroelectric generation structures are not permissible within national parks. Mining is largely prohibited in national parks through the Crown Minerals Amendment Act (No.2) 1997. However, some small scale activities are permitted.

For any private or commercial structures the applicant must first show that there are no alternative sites available outside the park. Because of the primary objective to retain the undeveloped nature of the park, commercial accommodation developments would be opposed as they are not in keeping with the management philosophy of the park.

The Department regards the presence of existing telecommunications facilities and the erection of new facilities as being essentially incompatible with the primary objectives of this plan and the philosophy of the National Parks Act 1980. However, because of the mountainous nature of the park it is a prime area for such facilities. The Department will work closely with telecommunications providers in order to meet its own requirements and to reduce the effects of telecommunication facilities and to ensure that landscape values are preserved. Any concession granted for such facilities will contain strict conditions to ensure natural and historic values are protected and that obsolete facilities are removed.

Rotoiti Lodge Outdoor Education Centre at St Arnaud provides environmental education programmes for secondary school students and other groups. Activities with a similar strong educational component, or which favour low-key family group activities, are in keeping with the park atmosphere and objectives. The occupation of land for other purposes is not favoured.

Red Deer Lodge is owned by the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDSA) and is located within the park, across the road from the visitors centre at St Arnaud. NZDSA members utilise the lodge but it is also rented out to other groups. The lodge has a lease that expires in 2012, at which time it will be reviewed.

Water extraction

The Buller River's headwaters are now covered by the Buller Water Conservation Order, which restricts use to small-scale domestic purposes. The Buller Water Conservation Order provides for the granting of resource consents to the Department for the taking of water from the lakes, where it is demonstrated to be necessary for the management of the land administered by the Department. The Order also provides for the taking of water from the lakes and river for domestic purposes.

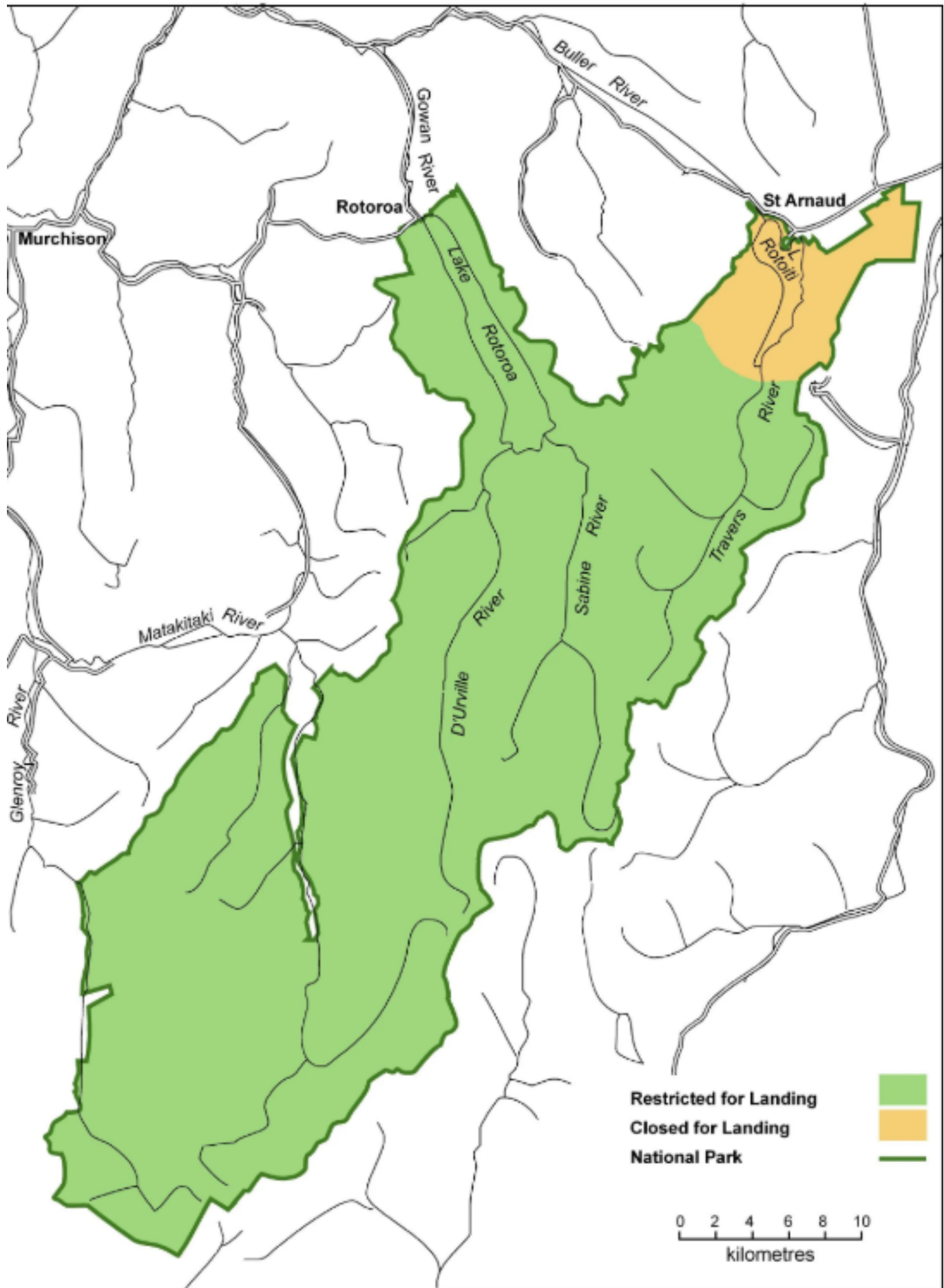
These extractions have had little impact on the ecosystems and caused little physical disturbance. On the other hand, taking of water from streams may result in continual disturbance to maintain flows, and the need for structures and pipelines. These structures would require a concession where they were located on park land. The only area where this might occur is between the Wairau Saddle and St Arnaud. In this area, other sources are available outside the park and should be utilised.

Use of helicopters for wild animal recovery

Commercial wild animal recovery is recognised as a valuable means of wild animal control in remote areas and will be encouraged. However, aircraft noise can intrude into that environment. The best time to hunt is determined by many factors including weather, animal vulnerability, and prices. Public use is highest in the summer but can also be high in some areas during the ski season. These factors must be considered within the context of recreational experience identified for each management area.

Closure to aerial recovery occurs between the beginning of November and the end of May. The St Arnaud area is closed at all times along with the Robert Ridge and the St Arnaud Range north of the Arnst River catchment (map 11). Daily or weekly approval from the Department is required before flights can take place.

Map 11 Helicopter Landing Zones for Wild Animal Recovery.



S. Craig/htg/Nelson Lakes Management Plan/11 helicopter hunting

Further areas may be closed, if necessary, where:

- other means are better able to maintain the desired level of control;
- public use has greatly increased or safety is threatened.

Access to closed areas for commercial hunting may be permitted where:

- a specific animal control programme is instigated;
- the control programme is of a specified, short duration; and
- public notice is given of the intentions.

Public use of those areas may need to be discouraged at such times for public safety.

Taking samples for scientific and non-commercial purposes

From time to time requests are made to collect or sample plants and animals within the park. Applications to take native plants and animals from within the park can be made in terms of section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980 and section 8.7 of the General Policy for National Parks. Concession applications for research that is relevant and beneficial to park management will be encouraged. All requests will be considered in the first instance as to whether there are suitable alternative sources outside the park.

Applications may be approved under the following conditions:

- small samples to be taken;
- for plants - seed rather than cuttings to be taken;
- the population is not unduly depleted;
- ecological associations are not damaged;
- the activity does not detract from the natural values of the collection area;
- the appropriate iwi have been consulted; and
- such other conditions as the Minister may consider appropriate.

Samples of rock, mineral or soil may only be taken according to a defined and Departmentally approved research programme regarded as appropriate by the Minister in accordance with section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 and section 8.7 of the General Policy for National Parks.

Filming

Commercial filming that promotes the park will be discouraged as it could result in increased visitor pressure and threaten the low-key character of the park.

Commercial filming may be permitted:

- where no special exemptions are needed, such as for air or vehicular access, animals, or group sizes;
- where conditions can be set to avoid or mitigate effects and ensure adherence to the primary objectives of this plan;
- where it does not specifically promote the park itself.

Eel (tuna) fishing

In terms of General Policy 11.5, the Department is not aware of any past practice of commercial eel (tuna) fishing within the park. Therefore, bylaws will be sought to prohibit commercial eeling in the waters of the park. It should be noted that any decision to allow the removal of indigenous fauna from the park is subject to the approval of the Minister of Conservation.

Implementation

- 4.3.1 Conditions may be placed on party size and frequency of visits by commercially guided parties.***
- 4.3.2 Commercial groups will have access to facilities on the same basis as the general public provided, in the case of huts, that half the bunks remain available to others if required.***
- 4.3.3 The Department will recommend to the Minister that recreation concessions in the St Arnaud Management Area comply with constraints on other users of the area.***
- 4.3.4 The Department will recommend to the Minister that organised sports events that require a concession be restricted to the St Arnaud Management Area only, and due consideration is given to the environmental impacts and the impacts on other users of the area.***
- 4.3.5 The Department will recommend to the Minister that only concessions with low impact on recreational experiences, such as for guided day walks or small-scale guided tramping, hunting or fishing, be considered appropriate for the Travers Valley Management Area.***
- 4.3.6 The Department will recommend to the Minister that party size for guided hunting, tramping or fishing concessions using hut accommodation in the Travers Valley Management Area be limited through conditions to 6 (plus the guide) and the number of parties be limited to protect the recreational experience of others.***
- 4.3.7 The Department will recommend to the Minister that party size for guided day trips in the Travers Valley Management Area be limited through conditions to 10 (plus the guide) to protect the recreational experience of others.***
- 4.3.8 An exception to group number limits will be made for educational groups using the park as part of programmes being conducted at the Lake Rotoiti Outdoor Education Centre.***
- 4.3.9 The Department will recommend to the Minister that only recreation concessions with low impacts on other visitors be considered appropriate in the Rotoroa and Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Areas.***
- 4.3.10 The Department will recommend to the Minister that the number of guided parties allowed under guiding concessions in the Sabine or D'Urville valleys and the Mātakitaki/Glenroy Management Area be limited and party size be limited to 6 (plus the guide) so as to protect the remote recreational experience of others.***

- 4.3.11** *If a pass system is instigated for the Travers Sabine Circuit, quotas may be introduced for commercially guided parties.*
- 4.3.12** *Advertising within the park will be limited to the forms listed in “Recreation concessions”, above.*
- 4.3.13** *Conditions will be placed on concessions to prevent the introduction or spread of plant and animal pests.*
- 4.3.14** *The location of structures in the park necessary for the taking of small quantities of water from the lakes for Departmental purposes will be permitted where appropriate.*
- 4.3.15** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that concessions for structures in the park for the taking of water for other than departmental purposes not be granted.*
- 4.3.16** *New telecommunication facilities or upgrades of existing facilities will be allowed only where there are proven to be no alternative sites or systems available, natural values will not be compromised, effects can be avoided or remedied, and where the Department considers the visual impact to be acceptable.*
- 4.3.17** *The Department will require co-location with existing telecommunication facilities.*
- 4.3.18** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that commercial wild animal recovery by helicopter be restricted to particular times of the year and/or particular places as specified in “Use of helicopters for wild animal recovery”, above.*
- 4.3.19** *Commercial filming may be permitted where applications meet the criteria in “Filming”, above*
- 4.3.20** *Sampling of plants, animals, rocks or soils may be permitted under special conditions as outlined in “Taking samples for scientific and non-commercial purposes”, above.*
- 4.3.21** *Existing concessions will not be subject to boat length restrictions, however, any new concession (including variations/extensions to an existing concession) may be required to comply with the boat length restrictions.*
- 4.3.22** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that water taxi services be permitted on Lake Rotoiti but with restrictions placed on the number of trips, passengers per trip and number of landings within the Travers Valley Management Area.*
- 4.3.23** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that motorised water transport concessions on Lake Rotoroa be limited (with restrictions on numbers granted and the numbers of passengers per trip) to minimise boat traffic on the lake and retain the remote visitor experience.*
- 4.3.24** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that the number of operators granted concessions for guided fishing on Lake Rotoroa be limited to minimise boat traffic on the lake and retain the remote visitor experience.*

- 4.3.25** *Development of permanent facilities for downhill skiing will be confined to Second Basin, Robert Ridge.*
- 4.3.26** *Portable facilities (eg. ski tow) may be used in Third Basin when required (if there is insufficient snow in Second Basin).*
- 4.3.27** *The Mt Robert skifield will continue to be operated on a small scale, low impact, club basis.*
- 4.3.28** *Alterations to the present method or scale of skifield operation will require the prior approval of the Department, after public consultation.*
- 4.3.29** *Prior to any further ski-field developments, including any terrain grooming, the ski club, in conjunction with the Department and the Conservation Board, will review the skifield operating and development plan.*
- 4.3.30** *The overnight accommodation capacity of the ski-field will not be expanded.*
- 4.3.31** *Helicopter passenger services between Rainbow and Mt Robert ski-fields will continue to be prohibited in accordance with the by-laws.*
- 4.3.32** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that helicopter services under concessions continue to be permitted only between the Mt Robert carpark and the Mt Robert skifield.*
- 4.3.33** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that one concession for guided ski touring between Angelus and Mt Robert, limited to 5 clients at any one time, be considered acceptable in terms of preventing overcrowding at Angelus Hut.*
- 4.3.34** *Restrictions may be placed on the use of access points at the mouth of Lake Rotoroa by rafting concessionaires if congestion arises.*
- 4.3.35** *Grazing will only be recommended to the Minister as appropriate if necessary for park management purposes and only where existing at the commencement of this plan.*
- 4.3.36** *A by-law will be sought to prohibit commercial eeling in the waters of the park.*
- 4.3.37** *The Department will recommend to the Minister that concessionaires be required to provide a 12-monthly report detailing their operations (date/place/number of clients) to enable cumulative impacts to be assessed. If monitoring highlights problem areas, mitigative actions will be required.*

CMS REFERENCES:

Conservancy Overview, p49
 Use of Areas Adminstrated by the Department, p231

4.4 CUSTOMARY USE

Objective

To provide for the taking by tāngata whenua of customary materials from the park, where it can be carried out legally and without damage to natural values.

Māori traditionally gathered certain plants and animals from the land and water for customary use. These materials were essential to everyday life. There is a present day revival of former traditions and the use of natural materials. Traditional customary materials include, but are not limited to, native plants used in rāranga/weaving and for rongoa/medicine and native birds and animals for their feathers, bones and for food. Many of the customary materials remaining today are found on lands administered by the Department.

Section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980 allows for the cutting or taking of plant material and the trapping, killing, or taking of animals only with prior written consent from the Minister. The General Policy provides for the traditional taking of indigenous plants and animals from a national park, where the plants or animals are not protected under the Wildlife Act 1953, demands are not excessive and the activity is consistent with the National Parks Act 1980.

A permit from the Minister is required for the gathering of any material from the park. Conditions may be imposed on such gathering to ensure that materials are available to future generations and that native flora and fauna are preserved.

Preservation

There is some conflict between the Department's legal requirements to preserve native flora and fauna and their habitats in the national park and to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Where there is a conflict the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980 will prevail.

The national park status of Nelson Lakes provides a high degree of protection to plants and animals within the park. The taking of plants and animals is not appropriate in terms of the general purpose of a national park and tāngata whenua should be encouraged, where possible, to use traditional materials from areas outside the park. However, some customary take from within the park may be appropriate for the exercise of tikanga Māori by tāngata whenua.

A precautionary approach is appropriate in a national park. Where little is known about a species, or the effects of an activity or take, the emphasis is placed on preservation.

Eeling

Eel (tuna) fisheries are managed by the Ministry of Fisheries under the Fisheries Act 1996, but permission to take from and access to those fisheries in the park is controlled by the Department through permits and concessions. The Department is responsible for freshwater fish and their habitats in terms of section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

There are no customary or cultural rights for the commercial taking of eels (tuna) as these were settled by the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 (section 10). Customary harvest of eels (tuna) can therefore only be considered for non-commercial, traditional use in accordance with section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980 and the appropriate application of section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

Scientific research into the ecology of eels (tuna) in montane environments to date has been limited but a major study was undertaken on the eels in Lake Rotoiti by (Dr D Jellyman (1991). The study found that Lake Rotoiti is home to the oldest known eel (tuna) population in New Zealand. This is due to the cold, unproductive nature of the lake, making the growth rate of the eels (tuna) extremely slow (9mm per year), with sexual maturity occurring at around 90 years of age. Both Rotoiti and Rotoroa form part of the mere 6% (estimated) of New Zealand's freshwater lakes which still contain unexploited eel (tuna) populations with access to the sea. As such, the lakes act as an important haven for maturation to breeding size with safe access to and from the sea for spawning and re-population. Further long-term research is required to determine the ecological sustainability of the population. This research should include both scientific and Māori practice concepts.

The Planning Tribunal has accepted that the lakes have national significance for scientific research, because they are the only significant long-finned eel (tuna) habitats in the country which are neither commercially exploited, nor suffer constraints on fish passage to and from the sea. The lakes were included in the Buller Water Conservation Order for this reason.

Scientific advice is that any take has the potential to adversely affect the Nelson Lakes eel (tuna) population, given their age and slow growth and mortality rates.

The customary rights of iwi to take are acknowledged in terms of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. However, there is conflicting opinion on the potential effects of customary take from the waters of the Nelson Lakes National Park. Kaitiaki will be appointed by iwi to advise the Department on customary take applications.

For some species present in the park (such as freshwater mussels (kākahi) and eels (tuna) and perhaps some plant species) collection sites are available on the Buller River or in adjacent conservation areas. Any application to take within the park will be considered on its own merits, potential cumulative effects, the biological and scientific value of the species involved and the requisite legislative framework.

Implementation

4.4.1 Applications for the taking of materials for traditional or customary purposes, by permit only, will be considered in accordance with relevant legislation.

4.4.2 Applications for non-commercial customary take (other than eels (tuna)) will be considered with regard to all relevant factors, including the following criteria and conditions:

- ***the species to be taken is not a protected species under the Wildlife Act 1953;***
- ***the species is not rare, endangered, or locally uncommon;***
- ***there is a justified need to use the resources from within the park (ie. no other sources are available or appropriate);***
- ***evidence that there has been traditional use of that species;***
- ***use is not excessive and the protection and preservation of the species and natural values are ensured;***

- *the species is of high importance to iwi and its use is an important expression of mana whenua and tikanga Māori;*
- *iwi will carry out appropriate measures to avoid damage to natural values.*

4.4.3 *Iwi will be encouraged to carry out customary take in areas outside the park.*

4.4.4 *A precautionary approach will be taken where customary take could adversely affect ecological values or the viability of a species.*

4.4.5 *Any application for customary take of eels (tuna) from within the park will be considered on its merits, potential cumulative effects and the biological and scientific value of the eel (tuna) population.*

4.4.6 *The Department will liaise with the Ministry of Fisheries in undertaking and encouraging scientific research into eel ecology, including traditional Māori concepts.*

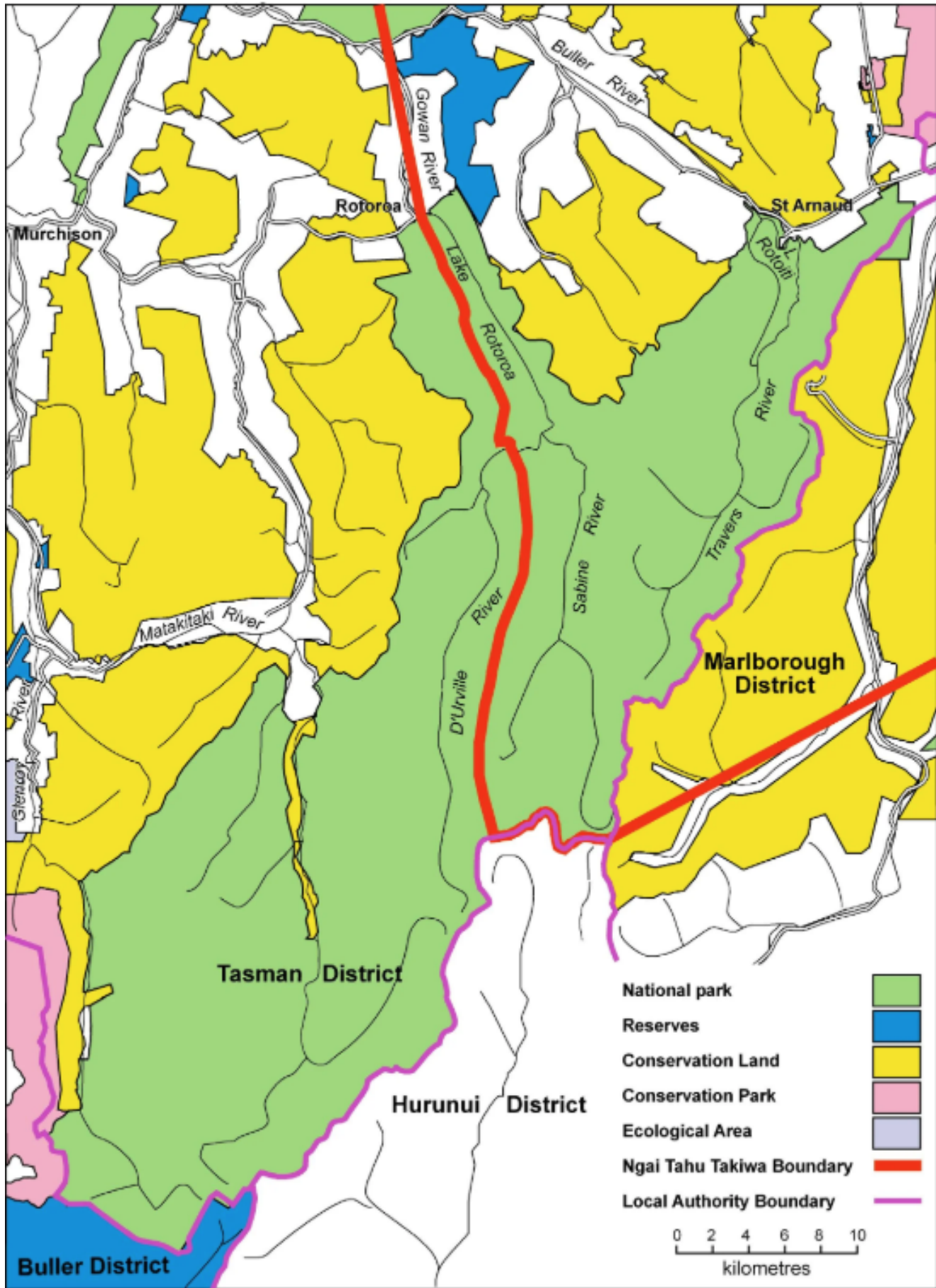
4.4.7 *The Department will work with kaitiaki appointed by iwi to facilitate closer consultation and relationships and give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.*

4.4.8 *Liaison will be maintained with the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and the relevant iwi to resolve issues relating to customary take in the park.*

CMS REFERENCES:

Māori Traditional Use, p 237, 14.1

Map 12 Tenure and Administration



S.Draughting/Nelson Lakes Management Plan/12 tenure

5. Community Relations

Objectives

To encourage land use and land management practices on areas adjacent to the park that are, as far as possible, compatible with those of the park.

To establish and maintain a constructive relationship with local communities and associates and promote opportunities for them to be involved in park management.

The local authority with responsibility for the park is the Tasman District Council. The Marlborough, Buller and Hurunui District Councils are responsible for areas that adjoin the park (map 12).

The park has two small communities located close to its boundaries at St Arnaud and Lake Rotoroa. Both communities are intricately linked with the park and ongoing consultation with the residents is essential.

Consultation is an ongoing and evolving process that calls for regular meetings with affected and interested parties in order to achieve effective management of the park and public support for that management regime.

Wildlife and ecosystems do not recognise ownership or administrative boundaries. Actions on land adjacent to the park can be just as significant as those within the park, often more so because of the intensity and extent of the impacts on the values of the park. Where the Department manages the adjacent land, sympathetic management is readily achieved. Where adjacent land is not managed by the Department, advocacy, both directly and through the Resource Management Act 1991, is required.

The area to the north of St Arnaud between the Wairau Saddle and the village is being subdivided into alpine village areas and lifestyle blocks. Benefits to the area may include better services, infrastructure and increased business activity. Benefits to the park could include an increased awareness of park values and the commitment of a wider group of people to preserve those values.

Subdivisions could have several impacts on the park. Firstly, the impacts are environmental. In particular, increased population and visitor numbers could place stress on sewage systems and rubbish disposal, and hence the water quality of Black Valley Stream which drains through St Arnaud village to Lake Rotoiti. Water quality problems are being alleviated by the new sewerage reticulation system that discharges polluted waters outside the lake catchment.

Secondly, subdivisions change the landscape. The filling in of open space leads to a loss of vistas and inappropriate tall buildings or building styles can detract from the character of the area. Within the village, further subdivision or larger, taller buildings could dramatically change the landscape quality and destroy much of the forest and shrubland vegetation that gives the area a "cosy" character.

In addition, increased numbers make more demands on recreational facilities and desire or require better visitor opportunities. The changing nature of visitors, encompassing a greater range of types, from conference goers to backpackers, also places demands on a wider range of facilities.

Finally, subdivisions can lead to biotic impacts from the introduction of new weed sources (gardens), pet escapes, and the release of animals such as Koi carp and goldfish.

Public participation in conservation activities can help raise awareness of the potential problems. On adjacent land, some control can be achieved through advocating specific by-laws or rules in the district plan, especially as they apply to the village area.

Rules within the district plan can constrain building development and should be aimed at preserving the current landscape and vegetation to provide a buffer for the park. Sound planning of run-off and wastewater development, including changes outside the lake catchment, can reduce sedimentation and pollution. By raising public awareness of the issues and supporting sound proposals, positive changes to the way in which the village is managed and developed can be effected.

Plantation pines, Douglas fir and a few other species have the potential to be spread long distances by wind or birds. Alpine areas above the natural tree line could be colonised by pines and Douglas fir, and sycamore and rowan may invade forested areas.

The development of a tourist village at Rotoroa could greatly increase the use of the lake and create demands for a wider range of facilities and services, ultimately destroying the values for which the area is currently treasured. Consequently, any expansion of the community at Rotoroa, and in particular increased accommodation for longer stay visitors, will be opposed. On the other hand a need exists to provide low-key accommodation for visitors exiting from the park.

The Rotoroa Management Area is bounded by parts of Tutaki and Howard Forests in the north and Waiau Forest and St James Station in the south. The forests are managed in a similar way to the park and although much of the land to the south is leasehold, areas close to the park are not grazed and act as a buffer to the park. These are effectively an extension of the remote experience area of that part of the park.

The management of grazing licences on the conservation areas adjacent to the park has a major impact on the use of the Mātakitaki/Glenroy valleys, since the valleys provide the main access and communication links. The intensity and nature of stocking influences the browsing impact on the forest margins. The terms and conditions of the grazing licences need to assure hunting and off-road vehicular access to the park. Stocking rates, stocking times and the stock used should be specified to minimise the browsing and trampling impacts on the park fringes (see also section 4.3).

Implementation

5.0.1 The Department will work with Tasman, Marlborough, Buller and Hurunui District Councils, particularly on local planning issues that may have an impact on the park, to maintain the largely natural character of the park and its surrounding buffer areas.

5.0.2 Appropriate protection provisions will be sought in local authority plans and strategies and as conditions on resource consent applications to preserve landscapes, water quality, natural peace and tranquility and other natural values within the park.

- 5.0.3** *Appropriate rules to provide a buffer zone to the park will be sought in the district plan.*
- 5.0.4** *Appropriate rules will be sought in the district plan to preserve park values from the adverse impacts of any urban expansion at Rotoroa.*
- 5.0.5** *Public awareness initiatives will aim to reduce threats to park values from neighbouring lands.*
- 5.0.6** *Public involvement in habitat management in the park will be used to raise general awareness of the conservation issues.*
- 5.0.7** *Wherever possible, adjacent conservation areas will be managed to produce a substantial buffer to the park.*
- 5.0.8** *Management of the area around Rainbow and Mt Robert skifields will be in keeping with that within the Travers Valley Management Area.*
- 5.0.9** *Set stocking rates and stock management conditions will be placed on any grazing concessions adjacent to the park, to ensure minimal impact on the park margins.*
- 5.0.10** *Free foot access into the park will be guaranteed and the use of off-road vehicles allowed for in conditions on any grazing concessions on adjacent land administered by the Department.*
- 5.0.11** *The Department will consult and meet with local communities and associates with an interest in the park on a regular basis, with regard to the implementation of this management plan.*

CMS REFERENCES:

Community Participation,	p355
Community Liaison,	p357
Statutory Planning,	p359

6. Administration

Objective

To effectively administer the park in accordance with relevant legislation and planning instruments.

The park is administered primarily under the National Parks Act 1980, but is also subject to other Acts, the General Policy for National Parks, other General Policies, and also to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy.

Management of the park requires a range of administrative activities that enable the Department to carry out its legislative obligations and to implement this management plan and strategies. This plan is a statutory document and the Department is subject to its philosophy and provisions.

The Department has put in place a Quality Conservation Management (QCM) system that improves the way it carries out its functions and manages land it administers. The QCM system has been introduced in stages, the first of which applied to structures and set specific standards for the design and construction of all structures built by the Department. All the Department's activities, from planning to pest control, have a set of QCM guidelines that must be followed and standards that must be met. This plan will be implemented within the framework of the evolving QCM system.

Compliance and law enforcement

National parks are set aside for all New Zealanders and visitors to this country. The Department manages national parks on behalf of all New Zealanders but it is important that visitors to a park share in the management responsibility and adhere to the purpose and principles that that park is managed under. The National Parks Act 1980 includes a list of offences which warrant legal prosecution. Conservation officers and Departmental compliance and law enforcement officers carry out responsibilities in respect to offences in the park. Offences are first discouraged through compliance education. If offences do occur, these can be pursued through law enforcement.

Unformed roads

The formed and unformed legal roads running into the park are administered by the local council and can present management problems by enabling activities that are not permitted in the adjacent park. On the formed legal road at Kerr Bay the principal issue is management of weeds (Douglas fir), dogs and pets. Unformed legal roads can be used for parking, camping and similar activities and the Department has no legal ability to control this. Prevention of such activities on unformed roads is desirable.

The General Policy for National Parks (19.5) states that unformed roads "*should be closed and the land incorporated in the park except where they are essential as legal access to other lands*". The unformed extension of the Black Valley road on the eastern shore of the lake does not provide legal access to any other lands or properties. It should therefore be transferred to the Department and incorporated into the park in accordance with General Policy, following liaison with the Tasman District Council in whom the unformed road is vested.

Additions to the park

Much of the park adjoins other conservation areas. In future, land adjacent to the national park which meets the criteria for national park status could become available. In such cases, the Department should seek to add that land to the Nelson Lakes National Park through the process dictated by the National Parks Act 1980.

By-laws

In terms of the National Parks Act 1980, the Minister may make by-laws for park management that are not inconsistent with the management plan. This park has a set of existing by-laws (the Nelson Lakes National Park By-laws 1981) which require revision in line with this management plan. This management plan will also require a number of new by-laws to be passed in order to give effect to the implementation statements.

Fish and Game Council

Because of the special relationship between the Department and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in terms of the Conservation Act 1987, regard must be had to the Nelson/Marlborough Sports Fish and Game Management Plan in the management of sports fish (trout) and game birds in the park. However, the Department will recommend that the Minister exercise his/her discretion, in terms of section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987, to prohibit the release of trout and other exotic aquatic organisms into streams where they have not previously been released, or do not already exist.

Communications

The Department relies on radio communication within the park and may require the installation of repeater stations to enhance communication systems for staff and public safety. In constructing any such structures, the Department will need to follow the guidelines for building structures as set out in section 3.1, Natural Features.

Helicopter use

The Department often utilises helicopters for park management purposes. Helicopter overflight can have a significant adverse effect on the experiences of some visitors. In order to minimise these effects, the Department should seek to carry out activities requiring helicopter support at times of the day or year when visitors are least likely to be disturbed by the noise and visual impacts.

Memorials

The General Policy allows for memorials such as plaques to be attached to structures such as huts in the park, where they are appropriate, and for the construction of monuments, but only where these are for people or events of exceptional importance.

Staff and management facilities

The park visitor centre, staff houses, and the workshop areas are on park land. As a result, some routine activities require special exemptions (such as having a private vegetable garden) and routine visitor activities (such as bringing a pet into the carpark) can be in contravention of the National Parks Act 1980. The situation arises from the

time when the park was administered directly by a park board and this land needed to have a National Park status in order that the Board could manage it. The problem could be alleviated by setting aside these areas as government purpose reserves or under some other more appropriate status, through an Act of Parliament.

Areas of restricted use

Some of the land, including much of the peninsula, was gifted to the park with particular restrictions on its use, sale or naming of facilities (Appendix 1). These restrictions, which include the naming of Gibbs Walk and the Blechynden Shelter at Kerr Bay, must continue to be recognised.

Implementation

- 6.0.1 Compliance and law enforcement activities in the park will be carried out in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980 and other relevant Acts.***
- 6.0.2 The addition of public land adjacent to the park which meets the necessary criteria will be sought if and when it becomes available.***
- 6.0.3 Stopping of the unformed extension of Black Valley Road on the eastern shore of the lake and its inclusion within the park will be sought.***
- 6.0.4 Local by-laws will be sought from Tasman District Council to assist in control of pets, particularly on the section of Black Valley Road that lies within the park.***
- 6.0.5 The amendment or passing of any new by-laws necessary to implement restrictions, as noted within this management plan, will be provided for.***
- 6.0.6 The Department will liaise with the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council in the management of sports fish and game birds in the park.***
- 6.0.7 The Department will recommend that the Minister exercise his/her discretion in terms of section 26ZM of the Conservation Act to prohibit the release of trout and other exotic aquatic organisms where they have not previously been released, or they do not already exist.***
- 6.0.8 The Department will allow for the construction of communication facilities for Departmental use and ensure that they comply with the relevant considerations listed in section 3.1 Natural Features, regarding minimising impacts on landscape values.***
- 6.0.9 The impacts on visitors of helicopter use by the Department will be minimised, where possible, by timing flights to avoid high use periods or by avoiding over-flying areas where visitors are likely to have high sensitivity.***
- 6.0.10 Memorials of a monument type will be permitted only where the historical association of the site, individual or event is of exceptional importance, consistent with the General Policy.***
- 6.0.11 Where appropriate, benefactors of the park may be commemorated by unintrusive plaques on facilities such as huts, shelters and footbridges.***
- 6.0.12 Areas used for private or administrative purposes may be transferred from the national park to another more appropriate land status through an Act of Parliament.***

6.0.13 Particular restrictions on the use of areas gifted to the park, as shown in Appendix 1, will continue to be recognised.

6.0.14 Vegetables and nonspreading shrubs and flowers may be planted for domestic purposes within the curtilage of staff houses.

CMS REFERENCES:

Compliance, p225

Classification of Areas

Administered by the Department, p129

Community Liaison, p357

7. Implementation and Review

Objective

To implement this management plan through the annual Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Business Plan and to maintain its integrity through review and amendment.

The objectives in the Conservation Management Strategy and this management plan are put into effect through the annual business plan. Each year every Conservancy, in consultation with its Conservation Board, prepares a business plan setting out the activities it intends to complete in that financial year. This forms the basis for managing finance allocated to the Department and directed for use in the conservancy.

The Department is funded by an annual appropriation from Parliament as a result of a Purchase Agreement between the Director-General and the Minister of Conservation to carry out an agreed range of activities that the Minister, and the Government of the day, wishes the Department to achieve.

One of the main purposes of this management plan is to provide a guide to the priorities to be pursued by the Department in Nelson Lakes National Park over the next seven years. The management plan establishes targets which the Conservancy will aim to achieve. Annual business plans will seek to reach these targets as personnel and finances permit and depending on the priorities of the Government of the day.

Priorities in any one year may vary from those set out in the conservation management strategy and this management plan according to national priorities and the extent to which priorities were completed in previous years. Threats to natural, historic and recreational values, finance, weather events and many other factors can redirect priorities from year to year. The management plan will be implemented within these constraints.

This management plan has a statutory term of seven years from the date of its approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). The decision was taken to run this plan for seven years rather than the maximum ten to off-set the next review from other plans in the region. To keep up with increased knowledge and changing circumstances the plan will require periodic review and amendment and may be reviewed as a whole or in part. Major amendments will require the full public consultation process, but where an amendment is considered to be of a minor nature and does not alter the general intent of the document, it requires only the approval of the Conservation Board and the NZCA in terms of section 46 (5) of the National Parks Act 1980.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board is comprised of private individuals appointed by the Minister. Board members come from diverse backgrounds such as conservation, iwi, commercial concessions, farming and business. The role of the Board is to advise the Department. It also has statutory duties relating to the development of management plans and strategies. The Board also oversees the implementation of management plans and strategies and ensures that the Department fulfils its obligations through the annual business plan. As a result of the Ngāi Tahu Settlement, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu may nominate at least one of the members of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board.

Implementation

- 7.0.1 The Department will ensure that the annual business plan reflects the objectives set out in this management plan.***
- 7.0.2 The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board will be consulted on priorities for park management prior to and during the preparation of the annual business plan.***
- 7.0.3 This management plan will be reviewed or amended where changes in circumstance or legislation, or new knowledge, cause the policies in the plan to become ultra vires, outdated or irrelevant.***
- 7.0.4 The recommendation of minor amendments proposed by the Department may be made directly to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority.***
- 7.0.5 A full review this management plan will be undertaken within seven years from the date of approval.***

CMS REFERENCE:

Management planning, p365

Glossary

access (public): On foot only unless otherwise qualified.

activity: Includes a trade, business, or occupation.

(Conservation Act 1987)

advocacy: The collective term for work done to promote conservation to the public and outside agencies by the Department of Conservation, conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Advocacy includes taking part in land use planning processes and using a range of methods to inform and educate the public and visitors on conservation issues.

agreement: mutual understanding; covenant; treaty; arrangement undertaken by and legally binding on parties.

(The Concise Oxford Dictionary)

anastomosing: Cross-connecting channels.

archaeological site: Any place in New Zealand, including shipwreck sites, which was associated with human activity more than 100 years before present and which through investigation by archaeological techniques may provide scientific, cultural, or historical evidence as to the exploration, occupation, settlement, or development of New Zealand.

(Historic Places Act 1993)

biological community: A group of plants or animals of distinctive character related to a particular set of environmental requirements. The term is used in a general, collective sense.

biodiversity/biological diversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

(United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992)

chloritic: A green slaty rock consisting largely of chlorite in foliated plates.

(The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary 1991)

community (biotic): A recognisable group of plants and animals living together in one place.

concession or concession document: A lease, license, permit or an easement granted under section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 and including any activity authorised by the concession document.

(National Parks Act 1980)

conservation boards: There are 14 conservation boards, each comprising up to 12 appointed members. Their functions include recommending approval, review and overseeing the preparation of the conservation management strategies and national park management plans for their areas, approval of conservation management plans (for example, for Forest Parks), advising the New Zealand Conservation Authority or Director-General on the implementation of a national park plan and on conservation matters generally and advising on new walkways in their regions.

(Conservation Act 1987)

consultation: The statement of a proposal not yet decided upon and includes listening to what others have to say and considering responses. Sufficient time must be allowed and a genuine effort must be made. There must be enough information made available to the party obliged to consult, to enable the consultee to be adequately informed so as to be able to make intelligent and useful responses. The party obliged to consult must remain open minded and be ready to change and even start afresh. However, the party consulting is entitled to have a working plan already in mind. It does not mean automatic acceptance of the other party's view, but enables informed decision-making by having adequate regard to those views.

(Adapted from Air New Zealand v Wellington International Airport. CP403/91, 6 January 1992)

cultural: Spiritual, traditional and historic values, pertaining to an ethnic group's culture.

customary: In accordance with custom or habitual practice; a practice founded upon long-continued practices and usage.

Department: Department of Conservation.

Director-General: Director-General of Conservation.

district plan: Prepared and changed by the territorial authority according to the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of sustainable management of natural and physical resources. District plans indicate what uses are permitted for land within the district.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

ecology: The study of organisms in relation to one another and to their surroundings.

(NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary)

ecosystem: A biological system comprising a community of living organisms and their environment involved together in the process of living. There is a continuous flow of energy and matter through the system. The concept implies process and interaction. They range in size from small freshwater ponds to Earth itself.

endangered: A plant or animal in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue.

(Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981)

endemic: Refers to species of plants and animals which are unique to an area or animals which may migrate but breed only in the area.

(Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981)

exploration (in relation to mining): Sampling to determine the feasibility of mining.

fauna: Animal life of a given place or time.

(Collins Concise Dictionary)

fishery: One or more stocks or species of freshwater fish or aquatic life that can be treated as a unit for the purposes of conservation or management.

(Conservation Act 1987)

flora: Plant life of a given place or time.

(Collins Concise Dictionary)

freshwater fish: Species of finfish (classes *Agnatha* and *Osteichthyes*) and shellfish (classes *Mollusca* and *Crustacea*) that must spend all or part of their life histories in freshwater.

General Policy: The General Policy for National Parks 1983.

(Management Planning Guidelines, DOC)

Great Walks: Popular tramping tracks promoted in a particular way.

habitat: The environment in which a particular species or group of species live. It includes the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned. For example, the habitat of the blue duck consists of swift water with an abundance of freshwater insects.

hapū: Sub-tribe

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

historic place: Any land and/or building and/or structure that forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and is within the territorial limits of New Zealand. Includes anything fixed to this land.

(Historic Places Act 1993)

historic resource: An historic place within the meaning of the Historic Places Act 1993. Includes any interest in an historic place.

(Conservation Act 1987)

indigenous animal: Native animal.

indigenous plant: Native plant.

integrate: Bring together.

integrated management: The management of activities, existing or potential, in a manner which ensures that each is in harmony with the other and that priorities are clear.

invertebrates: Animals without backbones - including snails (pūpū), insects (te aitanga-ā-punga), worms (noke), etc.

interpretation: Conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of national or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media. It occurs in the vicinity of the subject and is designed to stimulate visitor interest, increase understanding and promote support for conservation.

iwi: Tribe, people.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

kaitiakitanga/kaitiakitanga Ka: The exercise of guardianship. In relation to a resource this includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

kākahi: Fresh water mussels

karakia: Prayer.

kaupapa: An abstract word with many meanings. Within the Department it is generally used in the sense of vision, philosophy, cause, idea or theme.

land status: Legal protection given to land by the Act under which it is reserved.

lease: See National Parks Act 1980, section 2.

licence: See National Parks Act 1980, section 2.

māhinga kai: The concept meaning both the specific place and/or specific activity exercised by Maori of customary gathering of natural resources for food purposes.)

mana: Authority, control, influence, prestige, power.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

mana whenua: Customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapū or individual in an identified area.

(Conservation Act 1987)

management planning: The process of setting and confirming objectives for the management of natural and historic resources, and recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes, and specifying the actions and resources necessary to achieve those objectives.

(Management Planning Guidelines, DOC)

mauri: Life principle, special character.

(The Revised Dictionary of Māori, PM Ryan)

mining: Extraction of mineral, but may include prospecting and exploration.

New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA): A national body of 13 appointed members established under section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987. Amongst other functions, it has the statutory responsibility for approving General Policy, conservation management strategies and plans and national park management plans. The NZCA must also be consulted over any access notice over national park land under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

(Conservation Act 1987, National Parks Act 1980)

objectives: Statements of intended results. These can be broad or narrow in scope and should be accompanied by implementation provisions.

(Management Planning Guidelines, DOC)

permit: See National Parks Act 1980, section 2.

personal water craft (PWC): A power-driven vessel that has a fully enclosed hull does not retain water when capsized and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, but not seated within the vessel (includes jet skis).

podocarps: A predominant Southern Hemisphere family of coniferous plants which includes the kahikatea (white pine), tōtara, Hall's tōtara, miro, rimu, tānekaha (celery pine) and mountain pine.

predate (predation): Preying upon, searching out to kill.

prospecting: Initial survey with hand-held methods.

QCM: Quality Conservation Management - a management system which sets in place standard operating procedures and standards for work.

rare: Species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk.
(Setting priorities for the conservation of New Zealand's threatened plants and animals, Department of Conservation.)

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS): The ROS is a system for classifying outdoor experiences. It identifies opportunities along a continuum from urban to wilderness. It has eight main categories and provides both an inventory and planning process.

regional plans: The purpose of these is to assist regional councils and unitary authorities to carry out their functions. They are designed to address specific resource management issues for which regional councils and unitary authorities are responsible. Councils must decide what regional plans they will prepare. Plans may cover matters such as water management, soil conservation, natural hazard mitigation and air pollution. (Refer regional policy statements.)

(Resource Management Act 1991)

regional policy statements: These set out the objectives for managing resources and are prepared by regional councils and unitary authorities in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. They provide the overall framework for achieving sustainable management in the region and are binding on regional and district plans.

(Resource Management Act 1991, Regional Policy Statements and Plans, Ministry for the Environment.)

review: In relation to conservation management strategies and management plans means to reconsider objectives and policies and, following a process of public comment, to approve a new strategy or plan, having regard to increased knowledge or changed circumstances.

(Conservation Act 1987)

rohe: Boundary, tribal region.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

rūnanga: Assembly, council.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

pecially protected areas: Any part of a national park set apart as a specially protected area under section 12 of the National Parks Act 1980.

(National Parks Act 1980)

species recovery plan: A plan of action intended to halt the decline of a threatened species and increase its population.

sports fish: Introduced fish sought by freshwater anglers, mostly trout or salmon.

strategic: Planned approach to a problem or issue.

sustainability, ecological: The use of the components of an ecosystem in ways that allow for the perpetuation of the character and natural processes of that ecosystem.

taking: In relation to plants this includes breaking, cutting, destroying, digging up, gathering, plucking, pulling up and removing of the plant. In relation to fish it means fishing.

(Conservation Act 1987)

takiwā: Boundary, tribal region (see also rohe).

tāngata whenua:

1. In relation to a particular area, means the iwi or hapū that holds mana whenua over that area.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

2. People of a given place.

(Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991)

tapu: Under restriction, sacred.

territorial: Relating to an area or territory.

threatened (species): A term used to mean vulnerable or more loosely used to include rare, vulnerable and endangered species.

tikanga/tika Ka Māori: customary values and practices.

(Resource Management Act 1991)

traditional: of, relating to, or being a tradition; the body of customs, thought or belief belonging to a particular people over a long period of time.

vulnerable: A plant or animal believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue.

(Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981)

wāhi tapu: Place sacred to Māori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual, or mythological sense.

(Historic Places Act 1993)

waiata: Song, chant.

wairua: Life principle, spirit.

walkway: An area of land that has been declared a walkway or an area of land over which a walkway has been established under the New Zealand Walkways Act.

(New Zealand Walkways Act 1990)

wetland: Permanent or intermittently wet areas, shallow water and land-water margins. They include swamps, bogs, estuaries, braided river, and lake margins.

whakapapa: A recounting of genealogical lineage.

wild animal: Deer, chamois, thar, wallaby and opossum; goats and pigs that are living in a wild state. Except for deer kept in captivity for farming, does not include animals kept in captivity or rats, mice, rabbits, stoats, ferrets or weasels. Refer to the Act for the legal definition.

(Wild Animal Control Act 1977)

Wilderness Area: Any part of a national park set apart as a wilderness area under section 14 of the National Parks Act 1980.

(National Parks Act 1980)

Appendix 1

NELSON LAKES NATIONAL PARK AREAS OF RESTRICTED USE - ST ARNAUD AND LAKE ROTOITI

These are conditions agreed to upon purchase to be upheld in the management and development of the park (see also figure 1).

1. Building Restriction

Part Section 22 Square 46, Blk XIII Motupiko S.D. D.P.454, Area: 8321.35 square metres.

This area of land was gifted to the Rotoiti Domain Board by Mrs S J Blechynden on condition that the area should for all time be an open recreation ground and that no buildings or boat sheds be erected on it.

The area was gazetted as permanently reserved for recreation by Gazette No. 13 Page 499, 8 March 1934 ref File 8/3/52 Pt 1 (Closed) Folio 57.

2. Land Disposal Restriction

Lots 1 and 2 D.P. 3320. Part Sections 18 Square 46, Blk XVI, Howard S .D. Part Sections 19, 20, 21, 22 and 102 Square 46 Blk XIII Motupiko S.D. and Sections 6, 13 and 15 Blk XIII, Motupiko S.D. being all the land in C.T. 92/84. Area: 188.78 hectares.

This area was purchased from Mrs S J Blechynden under a condition of sale that the Rotoiti Domain Board would not sell any of the land to private purchasers.

This area was gazetted as permanently reserved for recreation by Gazette No. 48 Page 896, 12 July 1945 ref File 8/3/52 Pt.2 (Closed) Folio 146A N.L.36 Folio 20.

3. Preservation of Bush

Sections 34 and 36 St Arnaud Township.

This area was gifted to the Rotoiti Domain Board by Mr F G Gibbs who wished the native bush to be retained on these sections.

This area was gazetted as permanently reserved for recreation by Gazette No. 74 Page 1920, 18 December 1947 ref File 8/3/52 Pt 2 (Closed) Folio 184.

All three were gazetted as National Park by New Zealand Gazette 1956.

Fig. 1

**Areas of Restricted Use
Nelson Lakes National Park**

