

# 8.0 Concessions and Other Approvals

## 8.1 CONCESSIONS GENERAL

### Objectives

- a To process all applications for concession proposals in accordance with the relevant legislation, statutory planning instruments, objectives and policies of this plan and the Visitor Management Settings identified in Appendix A.
- b To monitor concessionaire activities to ensure that they avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects, including cumulative effects, and maximise any positive effects on the park's natural and historic resources, cultural heritage and public benefit and enjoyment.
- c To limit concessionaire facilities within the park.

### Policies

- 1 Applications for concessions will comply with the Conservation Act 1987 and other relevant Acts, the Conservation General Policy 2005, the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy and the objectives and policies in this plan.
- 2 In assessing and making recommendations on concession applications, the department will seek information on measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on, but not limited to, the following:
  - the park's natural and historic resources and cultural heritage;
  - park values;
  - the park's wilderness character;
  - hut use and capacity;
  - track systems, both within and adjacent to the park;
  - public access; and
  - public use and enjoyment of the area concerned.
- 3 The Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) will be used to assist in assessing the potential effects of the proposed activity.
- 4 Protocols under He Kaupapa Rangatira will be established to ensure appropriate iwi participation in the consideration of concession applications.
- 5 Concessionaires and their clients may share facilities such as huts on a first-come, first-served basis with other visitors but will not be given exclusive use of any facility.
- 6 New concession applications and renewals of existing concessions involving use of the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone should be

restricted to comply with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A).

- 7 Concession activity may be monitored in order to ensure that the activity is consistent with the conditions of that concession and with this plan and in order to inform future management decisions.
- 8 Where the cumulative effects of concessionaire activity have an adverse impact on the park or on the experience of park users, further applications for that activity should be declined.
- 9 Concessionaires will be responsible for the safe conduct of their operations, including the safety of their employees, clients and contractors. Concessionaires may be required to submit an audited safety plan.
- 10 Sourcing of seeds from within the park should be authorised only for eco-sourcing for restoration projects on public conservation land and on a case-by-case basis.
- 11 The reasonable costs of processing, consultation and monitoring should be recovered from applicants. Not for profit activities should incur processing costs.

### **Explanation**

Before carrying on a trade or business (either commercial or non-commercial) in the park, an operator must obtain a concession in the form of a lease, licence, permit or easement. Concessions may be either commercial or non-commercial in nature and may be for recreational or non-recreational activities.

Other approvals may be required for activities in the park, such as aircraft access for management purposes or mining access.

Concessions are processed in accordance with Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987, the Conservation General Policy 2005 and the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy. General guidance for the assessment of concession applications is provided in section 3.8 of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy.

Current concessionaire activity within the park includes several helicopter and fixed-wing commercial transport operations and a small number of guided hunting, fishing and/or walking operations.

Concessionaires operating in the park can extend the range of services and facilities available to the public. For example, guiding concessions may encourage a wider range of people to experience the park and may enhance environmental interpretation and encourage sound environmental practices. However, concessions that provide these opportunities must be compatible with the protection of the park's natural and historic resources, cultural heritage and the needs of other visitors. Section 19(1) of the Conservation Act 1987 states that the primary purpose of conservation parks is the protection of natural and historic resources and, subject to this, public recreation and enjoyment is to be facilitated.

The operation of a concession can have effects not anticipated at the time of authorisation. The effects of a concession operation must be

monitored both for specific outcomes and for general trends over time. Monitoring is the key tool for determining the appropriateness of initial decisions. It provides the background for changes which increase the benefits of a concession operation while decreasing adverse effects.

This plan prioritises protection of the undeveloped wilderness character of the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone (REZ). Visitors to the Rangitikei REZ tend to seek solitude and an independent wilderness experience. Contact with concessionaires and their clients would undermine the motivation of independent people visiting the REZ and for this reason concession activity in the Rangitikei REZ should be restricted to comply with visitors' expectations set out in Appendix A Visitor Management Settings.

The department acknowledges that some concessionaires currently hold concessions that do not specifically exclude them from operating in the Rangitikei REZ. These concessionaires will be allowed to operate under their current permits but at the time of renewal must comply with this plan..

Concession applications for the Rangitikei REZ involving large numbers of people, for example events, aircraft landings or the erection of structures and facilities must comply with the other provisions in this plan.

Concessions may be issued for land administered by the department only; no jurisdiction is provided for over private land. This means that no concession may be issued for private land that adjoins the park.

Refer to 5.2 Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone, 7.12 Public Safety, all other concession policies (8.2 Guiding to 8.10 Gravel Removal and Access for Crown Minerals), Map 1 Management Zones and Appendix A Visitor Management Settings.

## 8.2 GUIDING

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

### **Objective**

- a To consider applications for guiding within the park where:
- the activity will enhance public use, benefit and enjoyment of the park;
  - the activity will enhance public safety;
  - the activity is compatible with park values;
  - the use is not inconsistent with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) for the area in which the activity is to take place; and
  - any adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

### **Policies**

- 1 Appropriate conditions will be attached to concessions for guiding

operations, to protect the park and its facilities, to protect the opportunities for use and enjoyment by others and to maintain high standards of visitor safety.

- 2 Where environmental and/or social effects are considered by the department to be unacceptable, imposition of controls, including restrictions on group types and numbers, may occur.
- 3 Where the cumulative effects of all existing guiding concessions are at the limit of acceptable environmental and/or social effects, no further concessions should be granted.
- 4 Approval of guiding operations will take into account the qualifications, experience and skills of the applicant.
- 5 An independently audited safety plan will be required as part of all guiding applications.
- 6 Guides and their clients may share facilities such as huts on a first-come, first-served basis with other visitors but will not be given exclusive use of any facility.
- 7 Guides who are overnighing in the park will be required to carry tents or temporary shelter to accommodate themselves and their clients.
- 8 Guides will be encouraged to raise the conservation awareness of their clients and ensure that they are operating within the Environmental Care Code and the Water Care Code.
- 9 New concession applications and renewals of existing concessions involving use of the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone (REZ) should be restricted to a maximum party size of three people and no more than two groups in the Rangitikei REZ at any one time as per the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A). The department will manage this through a booking system.
- 10 The department will recommend to the Minister that a maximum number of guiding concessions per annum for the Rangitikei REZ be set in consultation with current concessionaires and taking into account the concessionaires' activity returns for the financial year 2005/06.

### **Explanation**

Guiding can add significant value to visitor experience in terms of both safety and park knowledge. Concessions may be granted for guiding services for the purposes of:

- tramping or walking;
- hunting (other than helicopter hunting);
- fishing;
- instruction or examination of guides; and
- in support of other activities requiring approval under other provisions of this plan, for example, commercial filming.

All guiding concessionaires should be based outside the park, consistent with the management philosophy of limiting facilities within the park.

Guiding concessionaires are required to carry tents or temporary shelter for themselves and their clients because the number of bunks in park

huts is limited and concessionaires must not use them on an exclusive basis. The likelihood of being able to accommodate all clients in a hut is low and alternative shelter must be available.

Guiding within the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone is considered appropriate but needs to be in line with visitor expectations reflected in the Visitor Management Settings set out in Appendix A. Visitors to the Rangitikei REZ are seeking an experience of solitude and wilderness and do not wish to see large numbers of people or groups of people. The department therefore considers it appropriate to limit concession use of the Rangitikei REZ. This includes limiting party size to three people and numbers of parties to no more than two at any one time. This will be managed by the department through a booking system. The department will seek to limit the total number of trips per annum in consultation with current concessionaires and taking into account the activity returns for the 2005/06 season.

Refer to 5.2 Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone, 3.1(2) Key Management Philosophies, Map 1 Management Zones, Map 2 Visitor Facilities and Appendix A Visitor Management Settings.

### 8.3 AIRCRAFT

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

#### **Objective**

a To minimise the adverse effects of aircraft on park users and park values.

#### **Policies**

- 1 Commercial and private aircraft should be permitted, where appropriate, to transport passengers to the following designated locations for recreational purposes:
  - Boyd airstrip;
  - Oamaru Hut helipad;
  - Waipakihi Hut helipad;
  - Cascade Hut helipad;
  - Thunderbolt helipad; and
  - Waiotaka helipad.
- 2 In addition to policy 1 above, the Rangitikei River/Waingakia Stream confluence helipad within the Waingakia Stewardship Area is included for the purposes of this plan. It is the department's intention to gazette Waingakia Stewardship Area as part of Kaimanawa Forest Park during the life of this plan.
- 3 Aircraft should be permitted, where appropriate, to land for management purposes at the following locations:
  - Waimarino catchment west of Ngapuketurua;

- Tiraki catchment; and
  - Waiotaka catchment.
- 4 Concessions for one-off landings of aircraft at sites not defined as designated landing sites may be permitted for the purposes of wild animal recovery.
  - 5 Requests from recreational hunting clubs for one-off aircraft landing permits for the purpose of accessing areas with high deer concentrations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the exception of policy 7 below.
  - 6 Aircraft may operate with minimal restriction where required for emergencies, for park management and for activities which would benefit park management, undertaken by the department or an authorised concessionaire.
  - 7 Aircraft landings in the Rangitikei REZ will only be permitted for emergency or management purposes.
  - 8 The department will work with the aircraft industry and in particular local fixed-wing and helicopter operators to ensure that the effects of aircraft use over the park are minimised.
  - 9 The use of flight paths which minimise adverse effects on park values will be sought as a condition for aircraft landings within the park.
  - 10 The department will advocate to aircraft operators that they exclude overflying of the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone.

### **Explanation**

This section applies to private and commercial aircraft as well as to aircraft use for management purposes, which include search and rescue operations, wild animal control operations, the Otamateanui Powelliphanta marchanti snail protection work and fire-fighting.

The term 'aircraft' in this policy section refers to airplanes, helicopters and balloons but excludes non-motorised hang gliders and parapentes.

Aircraft are permitted to land within the park at Boyd airstrip, at helipads adjacent to the Oamaru, Waipakihi and Cascade huts, at the Thunderbolt and Waiotaka helipads and on a helipad in the Waingakia Stewardship Area adjacent to the Waingakia Stream/Rangitikei River confluence. It is the department's intention to gazette the Waingakia Stewardship Area into Kaimanawa Forest Park during the life of this plan.

The creation of further designated landing sites in the park is not seen as desirable as the presence and noise of aircraft can have an adverse impact on the park's wilderness character.

In the previous Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan, aircraft were permitted to land for management purposes on the Whakamarumaruru and Otamateanui tops and mid-Ecology Stream, within the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone. This policy - to facilitate deer control at these sites - has been discontinued; the ecological benefit of the number of deer shot has been minimal and the noise and presence of aircraft conflicts with other park policies aimed at protecting the park's, and in particular Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone's, distinctive wilderness character.

Many submitters to the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan Discussion Document and the draft Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan (December 2005) also suggested that these landing sites should be discontinued.

During the two rounds of public consultation in the initial stages of preparation development of this plan, Eastern and Wellington Fish and Game submissions sought helicopter access into the Rangitikei River, within the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone, to enable anglers to have a wilderness angling experience. However, following extensive discussions between the department and the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board it was determined that the current policy of restricting air access to designated landing sites would continue in order to protect the park's wilderness character and park values.

The control of aircraft flying over the park is the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) under the Civil Aviation Act 1990.

Though the department has no jurisdiction over airspace and cannot control general overflying of the park, it has some means to influence flight paths through landing permits and concessions. It can also advocate to aircraft operators to voluntarily exclude areas from their routes if possible, in particular in relation to the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone.

Refer to 9.12 Classification of Public Conservation Land and Map 3 Aircraft Landing Sites.

## 8.4 COMMERCIAL FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

### **Objective**

a To consider applications for commercial filming and photography in the park where:

- the activity is compatible with park values;
- the use is consistent with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) within which the activity is to take place; and
- adverse effects can be avoided.

### **Policies**

1 The following criteria should be applied when considering applications for commercial filming and photography:

- effects on natural and historic resources;
- effects on cultural heritage;
- effects on the park's wilderness character;
- effects on other park visitors; consistency with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A); and
- whether the filming activity promotes park values.

- 2 Film crews are required to comply with the department's and Film New Zealand's Code of Practice - Filming on Public Conservation Lands.

#### **Explanation**

Requests are occasionally received from organisations wishing to utilise the park for advertising and promotional purposes. These could include filming of advertisements, television commercials, television programmes, commercial photography and feature films.

The activity of filming and photography ranges from just one or two people using hand-carried equipment for a few hours to large groups of people filming for multiple days and using high levels of auxiliary equipment such as vehicles, animals, aircraft and temporary buildings.

Refer to 6.1.6 Domestic Animals, 8.3 Aircraft, 8.7 Utilities and Easements and 9.6 Roads and Motorised Vehicles.

### **8.5 WILD ANIMAL RECOVERY**

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

#### **Objective**

- a To permit wild animal recovery operations where compatible with park values.

#### **Policies**

- 1 Wild animal recovery operations may be permitted for limited periods in specific areas in order to achieve conservation management objectives.
- 2 Applications for wild animal recovery operations in the Kaimanawa Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) will be declined, with the exception of policy 3 below.
- 3 Wild animal recovery operations may be permitted in the Kaimanawa RHA as part of the Recreational Hunting Management Plan for specified periods where studies show that the presence of wild animals is having an adverse impact on protection of natural resources provided intensive recreational hunting for specified periods has been trialled in the first instance.
- 4 Wild animal recovery operations may be replaced by targeted sponsored/subsidised aerial culling of female deer where the economics of wild animal recovery do not allow for sufficient deer control or where agreements with recreational hunters through the Memorandum of Understanding can demonstrate the same, or better, biodiversity outcomes.

#### **Explanation**

The Wild Animal Control Amendment Act 1999 brought commercial recovery of wild animals on public conservation land under the concessions system in Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987. Aircraft operators



wanting to carry out wild animal recovery operations in the park must obtain a concession to hunt and land aircraft, as well as comply with Civil Aviation Authority and NZ Police requirements.

The commercial viability of deer recovery fluctuates significantly depending on the commodity price paid for feral venison. Peaks in demand for feral venison may not necessarily coincide with the biodiversity management requirements for deer control within the park. Targeted sponsored/subsidised aerial culling of female deer may, therefore, be a viable alternative to wild animal recovery operations that will be explored with recreational hunting interest through the Memorandum of Understanding process.

Currently, the entire park, with the exception of the Kaimanawa Recreational Hunting Area, is available for commercial wild animal recovery operations from 1 June until 31 October of each year. The spring/summer/autumn period is excluded in recognition of the popularity of recreational hunting within the park during this period.

Applications for possum recovery for fur and skins should be encouraged in recognition of the importance of possum control.

Refer to 5.3 Kaimanawa Recreational Hunting Area, 7.7 Recreational Hunting, 8.3 Aircraft and Map 3 Aircraft Landing Sites.

## 8.6 EVENTS

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

### **Objective**

- a To consider applications for organised events in the park where an event:
- is not located in sensitive natural areas;
  - is compatible with protection of the park's natural and historic resources and cultural heritage;
  - is compatible with the park's wilderness character;
  - is consistent with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) within which the event is to be held; and where
  - any adverse effects, including cumulative effects, can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

### **Policies**

- 1 A concession is required for all organised events.
- 2 Any proposal for facilities related to an event, excluding temporary shelter or signs, should be declined.
- 3 Following consultation with the applicant, further monitoring of a concession may be required to ensure the activity is consistent with the conditions of that concession and the policies within this plan.
- 4 Where an event may result in adverse impacts on park values, limits

may be placed on participant numbers.

5 Where the department has concerns in relation to the effects, including cumulative effects, of events on the environment or on the experience of park visitors, further event applications should be declined.

6 Event applications for the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone should be declined.

#### **Explanation**

This policy covers organised events which are advertised as being open to the general public, as distinct from small, closed club events and individual/small group activities. Such events might incur a charge or request a donation.

Some parts of the park, in particular areas above the bush line, for example, the Umukarikari Range, have fragile soils that are prone to erosion. Large numbers of event participants passing through these areas may exacerbate this process. The presence of event participants may also conflict with park values and adversely impact upon other park visitors' enjoyment of the park. For these reasons, limits may be placed on the number of event participants authorised by concessions.

Events within the Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone would conflict with the purpose for which this area has been set aside - to enable visitors to have a wilderness experience. For this reason, applications for events within the REZ should be declined.

Refer to 5.2 Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone and 8.7 Utilities and Easements.

## **8.7 UTILITIES AND EASEMENTS**

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

#### **Objective**

a To consider applications to place utilities and easements in the park where:

- they cannot reasonably be achieved outside the park;
- the use is not inconsistent with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) for the area within which the utility or easement is to be located; and
- their adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

#### **Policies**

- 1 Utility infrastructure should be located outside the park.
- 2 Applications for utilities and easements within the Rangitikei REZ should be declined.
- 3 New and existing telecommunication operators are to co-locate on existing sites and use designs that will minimise visual and other effects.

- 4 Site areas should be kept to the minimum necessary for the utility.
- 5 At its discretion, and at the applicant's cost, the department may employ appropriately-qualified experts to peer-review and provide advice on applications.
- 6 Applications for utilities and easements necessary for the operation, maintenance and enhancement of existing infrastructure will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 7 Removal of redundant utilities and site restoration, as far as is practicable, will be required to protect the natural landscape.

**Explanation**

Public utilities such as telecommunications sites and lines, transmission lines and associated infrastructure, dams, tunnels, lahar warning system infrastructure, rain gauges and access ways exist within the park. An easement is required for this type of activity. Public utilities and associated infrastructure are generally not compatible with conservation management and will, whenever possible, be located outside of the park.

## 8.8 RESEARCH

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

**Objective**

- a Concessions for research should be allowed where:
- the research will inform conservation management, contribute to interpretation or improve knowledge of natural process;
  - any activities associated with the research are consistent with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) for the area in which they are to take place;
  - the research has no significant adverse effect on the enjoyment of the public; and
  - any adverse effects on natural and historic resources and cultural heritage can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

**Policies**

- 1 Cooperative research relationships will be fostered where outcomes are likely to inform conservation management.
- 2 Māori interests in research in the park should be recognised and may be supported by cooperative arrangements.
- 3 Applications for the collection of material, including indigenous species, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 4 Recovery of authorisation costs for research activities may be waived where the research:
  - makes a direct contribution to park management; or
  - supports departmental priority outcomes; or

- is for non-commercial Māori customary use.
- 5 Research results from any concessionaire gathering information in the park should be made publicly available as a condition of consent.

**Explanation**

In the past there has been little research conducted in the park. To increase information about and understanding of the park, research should be encouraged wherever it is consistent with the protection of park values.

**8.9 TRANSPORT**

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

**Objective**

- a Transport concessions may be allowed where:
- the activity will enhance public use, benefit and enjoyment of the park;
  - the use is not inconsistent with the Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A) for the area in which the activity is to take place; and
  - any adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

**Policies**

- 1 Concession applications for public transport services will be encouraged where they provide for a core visitor need.
- 2 Transport concessionaires will be encouraged to provide safety information for their clients.
- 3 Transport concessionaires will be expected to meet best practice standards for safety and visitor services.
- 4 No further carparking facilities will be developed.

**Explanation**

The department administers Clements Mill Road and short sections of road at the start of the Umukarikari, Urchin, Pillars of Hercules and Ngapuketuru tracks.

The department recognises that transport concessionaires can enhance public benefit, use and enjoyment of park.

Refer to 9.6 Roads and Motorised Vehicles.

**8.10 GRAVEL REMOVAL AND ACCESS FOR CROWN MINERALS**

Note: 8.1 Concessions General applies whenever a concession is required.

## **Objectives**

- a To consider applications for access for prospecting, exploration or mining under section 61(1A), where applicable, and section 62(2) of the Crown Minerals Act.
- b To permit quarrying of metal where consistent with park values.

## **Policies**

- 1 Assessment of applications for access for prospecting, exploration or mining must have regard to whether:
  - adverse effects on natural and historic resources can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
  - adverse effects on cultural heritage can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
  - adverse effects on park values can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
  - adverse effects on other park visitors can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
  - the activity is consistent with Visitor Management Settings (refer to Appendix A); and whether
  - any restoration is adequate and can be achieved.
- 2 All applications for mining access will be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment.
- 3 All applications for mining access will be considered against other objectives and policies in this plan.
- 4 Resource consent applications for mining will be opposed where there are adverse effects on natural and historic resources, cultural heritage, park values or recreational opportunities.
- 5 The removal of tunnel metal from the present stockpile at the end of Tree Trunk Gorge Road will be permitted until such time as that resource has been exhausted.
- 6 When the tunnel metal from the stockpile at the end of Tree Trunk Gorge has been exhausted the area will be restored.
- 7 Removal of metal from the Clements Mill Road quarry may be permitted subject to the preparation of an environmental impact assessment.

## **Explanation**

Mining is considered incompatible with the protection of the park's natural and historic resources, cultural heritage and recreational opportunities.

The Crown Minerals Act 1991 and the Resource Management Act 1991 control mining. Mining licences are not concessions under the Conservation Act 1987, but access for mining must still be gained from landowners/administrators.

Section 8(2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 provides for the use of Crown-owned minerals that exist in a natural state by the department for purposes such as road making or building on that land.

A large stockpile of metal from one of the Tongariro Power Scheme tunnels is situated within the park at the end of Tree Trunk Gorge Road.

This tunnel metal will continue to be used as required until the resource has been exhausted. The area will subsequently be restored.

The removal of metal from the old Clements Mill Road quarry, opened by the Forest Service, is being considered to allow cost-effective upgrade of Clements Mill Road. A comprehensive environmental impact assessment will be required prior to any removal of metal from this site.

# 9.0 General Policies

## 9.1 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### **Objectives**

- a To provide for community involvement in protection of park values.
- b To ensure effective working relationships are established and/or maintained with the community resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes and public enjoyment in the management of the park.
- c To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

### **Policies**

- 1 Ongoing communication with individuals and organisations with an interest in the protection of park values will be maintained.
- 2 Interested individuals and organisations will be consulted on substantive management issues.
- 3 Community conservation initiatives in the park will be encouraged and facilitated where they are consistent with departmental conservation management priorities and park management philosophies.
- 4 Protocols under He Kaupapa Rangatira will be established to ensure appropriate iwi participation in the protection of park values.

### **Explanation**

Community members or groups include those who live within the vicinity of, recreate in, or have close associations with the park. The community includes tangata whenua, non-government conservation organisations, recreation groups and individuals and volunteer groups. The community also includes adjoining landowners, concessionaires and educational institutions.

Good communication and relations with the community are vital to park management. Community members assist the department in many ways, including contributing volunteer work, resources, advice and guidance on conservation matters.

Community relations with respect to the park are an ongoing aspect of the department's work and are undertaken as part of a wider conservancy and national initiative to facilitate community involvement in the management of public conservation land.

Substantive issues on which the department would consult identified interested individuals or groups include any proposals that would require an amendment to this plan, any proposal to alter the current network of visitor facilities, proposals to carry out conservation projects in partnership with community groups, or proposals that may affect visitor recreation and enjoyment of the park.

## 9.2 WORKING WITH ADJOINING LANDOWNERS AND RESOURCE MANAGERS

### Objectives

- a To work co-operatively with adjoining landowners to seek mutually satisfactory solutions to cross-boundary issues.
- b To undertake statutory advocacy to protect park values where necessary.

### Policies

- 1 Liaison with East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservancy will be maintained to ensure park management is consistent with that of the adjoining Kaweka Forest Park.
- 2 The department will work co-operatively with adjoining land owners on matters of mutual interest.
- 3 The department will continue to negotiate for public access to and through the park, while recognising the rights of adjoining landowners.
- 4 Plantation forestry initiatives on adjoining land that are undertaken consistent with certification programmes through agencies such as the Forest Stewardship Council will be supported.
- 5 Close contact on regional and local planning matters will be maintained with adjoining local authorities in order to advocate for the protection of park values.
- 6 The department will work cooperatively with the New Zealand Defence Force to manage the effects, if any, of military exercises.
- 7 Liaison with the Hawke's Bay and Wellington Fish and Game councils will be maintained on matters of mutual interest and in particular policies in this plan that affect the Rangitikei, Ngaruroro and Mohaka river catchments.
- 8 The department will work with Genesis Power Limited (or any successor to them) in relation to the Tongariro Power Development scheme activities for the protection of park values and on matters of mutual interest.

### Explanation

Protection of the park relies to a large degree on the recognition it receives from regional and local authorities and on land use practices on adjoining lands.

The Tongariro Power Development scheme harnesses water from (among other water bodies) the Tongariro River, which runs along the western boundary of the park. The department will continue to work closely with Genesis Power Limited.

Refer to 7.2 Public Access, Map 8 DOC, Fish & Game and Local Authority Boundaries and Map 9 Land Tenure Adjoining Kaimanawa Forest Park.



### 9.3 USE OF FOREST RESOURCES FOR TRADITIONAL MAORI PURPOSES

#### **Objective**

- a To allow cultural use where this is consistent with management for conservation.

#### **Policy**

- 1 Customary use may be permitted on a case-by-case basis where:
  - it does not adversely affect the environment or species for which protection is the paramount priority;
  - the use is non-commercial and the level of removal is sustainable;
  - use is traditional or is to establish a source outside the park; and
  - use is consistent with the He Kaupapa Rangatira protocol.

#### **Explanation**

The intrinsic value tangata whenua place on many plants found within the park is recognised. Historically, plants have been used for rongoa Māori (medicinal purposes), weaving, carving and kai (food). The department acknowledges cultural use where it does not threaten rare species, there are no viable alternatives and use is carried out on a small, non-commercial scale in a sustainable way.

### 9.4 NATURAL HAZARDS

#### **Objectives**

- a To allow the park's natural processes to function unaffected by human interference.
- b To protect visitors, as far as possible, from the park's natural hazards.
- c To inform the public about natural hazards where the risks are known.

#### **Policies**

- 1 Visitor facilities will be located so as to minimise the risk of damage or loss (and thus minimise the risk to public safety) from natural hazards.
- 2 Visitor facilities vulnerable to natural hazards will be relocated as resources permit.
- 3 Liaison with local authorities will be maintained to ensure that natural processes within the park are acknowledged and provided for in statutory documentation.
- 4 A basic backcountry advisory system for information on natural hazards will be maintained to enable people to assess risks from natural hazards in the park.
- 5 People will be responsible for their own decisions on the risks that they are prepared to take arising from natural hazards in the park.

### **Explanation**

The Resource Management Act 1991 defines a natural hazard as any atmospheric earth- or water-related occurrence producing an action that may adversely affect human life, property or other aspects of the environment. The natural hazards within the park include flooding, erosion, landslides, earthquakes and volcanic events in the adjoining Taupo Volcanic Zone.

Although the responsibility for managing natural hazards within the region lies primarily with local authorities, the department has a two-fold role - to protect the public while in the park and to protect natural processes by removing or minimising threats.

Many of the natural hazards within the park are common to all mountain environments. The combination of a harsh and unpredictable climate and rugged, often isolated, terrain makes it essential that visitors are well informed and have the appropriate skills, experience and equipment.

## **9.5 CHAINSAWS**

### **Objective**

- a To protect the park's indigenous flora from the effects of vegetation cutting.

### **Policies**

- 1 Chainsaws are only permitted in the park for management purposes.
- 2 The department will seek regulations to enforce policy 1 above.

### **Explanation**

The cutting of live vegetation within the park is a major problem. This is usually associated with firewood collection and campsite clearance, with many users flying chainsaws into campsites as part of their equipment.

Chainsaws are used for management purposes such as clearance of windfall debris on tracks.

The support of commercial aerial operators and park users will be required to ensure that this policy is enforced.

## **9.6 ROADS AND MOTORISED VEHICLES**

### **Objectives**

- a To permit motorised vehicles only on formed and maintained roads within the park.
- b To manage the park's formed and maintained roads in a way that provides for existing public access but avoids adverse effects on the environment.

### **Policies**

- 1 Motorised vehicles will be permitted only on formed and maintained roads.
- 2 The department will seek regulations to enforce policy 1 above.
- 3 Park roads will as far as possible be maintained to all-weather standards (not necessarily including sealing) to avoid the imposition of restrictions on use and to reduce impacts on surrounding land.
- 4 Roads and carparks will be located and designed to minimise adverse visual and physical effects on park values.
- 5 Existing roads, carparks and associated signs will be maintained to a standard commensurate with park values.
- 6 No new park roads or carparks will be developed.
- 7 The department will negotiate with Genesis Energy Limited for a management agreement allowing maintenance of the Rangipo Road by the community.

### **Explanation**

Park roads include Clements Mill Road, Kiko Road (last 4km), Kaimanawa Road and short sections of the Tree Trunk Gorge and Rangipo roads.

The Waipakihi Road and sections of the Rangipo Road are not included in the park. However, the department will encourage Genesis Energy Limited to maintain the Waipakihi Road to allow continued public access and will encourage community maintenance of Rangipo Road for the same reason. These proposals were supported during public consultation carried out during the Recreation Opportunities Review 2004.

Motorised vehicles are excluded from all areas other than formed and maintained roads due to danger to other park users, noise nuisance and the damage that they can cause to fragile soils and natural resources.

The Conservation General Policy 2005 defines mountain bikes as vehicles. However, this section applies only to motorised vehicles. Section 7.8 Mountain Biking of this plan applies to mountain bikes as non-motorised vehicles.

Refer to 7.8 Mountain Biking and 8.9 Transport.

## **9.7 WASTE DISPOSAL**

### **Objectives**

- a To seek the disposal of refuse at suitable sites outside park boundaries.
- b To provide toilet facilities at all huts and, as necessary, at other appropriate sites.

### **Policies**

- 1 The 'pack it in-pack it out' system will be promoted and enforced throughout the park.
- 2 Concessionaires will be required to ensure that all rubbish produced by

- themselves, their staff and their clients is removed from the park.
- 3 All coloured marker tapes and other items introduced into the park as part of any management activity will be removed at the completion of such an activity.
  - 4 Unauthorised 'private huts' and polythene camps will be removed from the park.

**Explanation**

Refuse is a major problem around many camp and hut sites and high costs are incurred in removing it from the park.

The 'pack it in-pack it out' system requires visitors to carry out their own refuse. This can be encouraged by promotion and, in particular, by recommending that concessionaires such as aerial operators introduce systems to ensure its success.

## 9.8 COMPLIANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Objective**

- a To administer the park in accordance with relevant legislation.

**Policies**

- 1 Compliance and law enforcement activities in the park will be carried out in accordance with the Conservation Act 1987 and other relevant acts.
- 2 Compliance with legislation will be encouraged through education and advocacy.

**Explanation**

While the department manages the park on behalf of all New Zealanders, it is important that park visitors share in the management responsibilities and adhere to the purpose and principles under which the park is managed. The Conservation Act 1987 includes a list of offences. 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, those responsible can be pursued through law enforcement.

## 9.9 DEFENCE AND POLICE TRAINING

**Objectives**

- a To allow military training exercises on public land where these comply with the 1990 Defence Training Agreement.

- b To allow use of the park for search and rescue training authorised by the New Zealand Police.

**Policies**

- 1 Military training exercises that comply with the 1990 Defence Training Agreement, or any successor to it, will be allowed.
- 2 The department will work cooperatively with the New Zealand Defence Force to manage the effects, if any, of military exercises.
- 3 Conditions may be applied to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse impacts on natural and historic resources, cultural heritage and on other park visitors.
- 4 Search and rescue training authorised by the New Zealand Police will be allowed.
- 5 Military training and search and rescue exercises will be expected to comply with the objectives and policies in this plan.

**Explanation**

In the past the park has been used by the New Zealand Army and the New Zealand Police for training exercises. The department and the New Zealand Defence Force are parties to the Defence Training Agreement 1990 which provides for military training to be carried out provided certain conditions are met. Departmental approval to carry out military exercises is issued subject to conditions to protect natural and historic resources, cultural heritage and visitor's enjoyment of the park. Conditions also ensure compliance with the other policies in this plan.

Refer to 8.3 Aircraft.

## 9.10 DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH, MONITORING AND SURVEY

Note: Section 8.8 Research contains policy relating to concessions for research.

**Objective**

- a To carry out research, monitoring and survey that assists managers in the protection of natural and historic resources and cultural heritage of the park.

**Policies**

- 1 Where resources permit, research will be carried out on:
  - who populations;
  - Powelliphanta marchanti populations;
  - indigenous bat populations;
  - visitor groups (use and trends);
  - the ecological status of the park;
  - indigenous aquatic species; and
  - other projects as may be defined from time-to-time.

- 2 The adaptive forest management pilot study in the forest west of the Umukarikari Range EMA will continue to be supported.
- 3 Management programmes will be monitored as appropriate to determine results and to guide future management options.
- 4 Information from monitoring and research will be made available to interested parties.
- 5 Any information collected or research undertaken by the department requiring access to private land will only be carried out with the agreement of the landowner. Information and research results will be made available to the owner.

#### **Explanation**

A sound information base is required to provide for effective management. Information on the park's natural resources, their status, changes, trends and outside influences is needed.

Information is also needed in a variety of areas including visitors, their needs and aspirations, changing patterns of use and the impacts on park facilities and the park's historic resources.

A long-term study of an adaptive forest management model in the forest west of the Umukarikari Range EMA is being undertaken as part of a national pilot for moving towards this type of management within appropriate areas of conservation land in New Zealand. Adaptive forest management involves closely monitoring the effects of control measures on plants and wildlife in order to check that management efforts are achieving conservation-based goals, in addition to gathering information on how the natural system operates.

Refer to Map 7 Monitoring Locations.

### **9.1.1 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

#### **Objectives**

- a To implement the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan through the annual Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy Business Plan and to maintain its integrity through review and amendment.
- b To monitor the environmental health of the park to help determine the department's management actions and effectiveness, to determine species location and to facilitate baseline information.

#### **Policies**

- 1 The annual business plan should reflect the objectives set out in this plan.
- 2 The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board will be consulted on priorities for park management prior to and during the preparation of the annual business plan.
- 3 This plan will be reviewed or amended where changes in circumstance

or legislation or new knowledge cause the policies in this plan to become ultra vires, outdated or irrelevant.

- 4 The recommendation of minor amendments proposed by the department, for example, to correct factual errors - may be made directly to the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board.

#### **Explanation**

The objectives in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy and this plan are put into effect through the annual business plan. Each year every conservancy, in consultation with its local conservation board, prepares a business plan setting out the activities it intends to complete in that financial year. The business plan forms the basis for managing finance allocated to the department and directed for use in the conservancy.

One of the main purposes of this plan is to provide guidance on the priorities for the department in the park over the next ten years. Priorities in any one year may vary from those set out in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy and this plan, according to national priorities, funding and the extent to which targets were reached in previous years. Threats to natural and historic resources, cultural heritage, recreational opportunities, finance, weather events and many other factors can redirect priorities from year to year. This plan will be implemented within such constraints.

This plan has a statutory term of ten years from the date of its approval by the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board. To keep up with increased knowledge and changing circumstances, the plan will require periodic review and amendment. It may be reviewed as a whole or in part. Major amendments 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 Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board.

## **9.12 CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC CONSERVATION LAND**

### **Objective**

- a To continue to review land status, classification and management methods to provide for the most appropriate management of natural and historic values on public conservation land.

### **Policies**

- 1 Public conservation land which adjoins the park will be assessed as possible additions to the park.
- 2 The Waingakia Stewardship Area will be gazetted as part of the park during the life of this plan.

### **Explanation**

The Conservation Management Strategy provides guidance on the

classification of public conservation lands (see section 3.1.9 Classification and Control of Public Conservation Land).

The Waingakia Stewardship Area (821.3 ha) adjoins the park in the south and is currently managed as if it was part of the park. The department intends to gazette this area as part of the park during the life of the plan.