

# Southland Conservation Board Te Roopu Atawhai o Murihiku

## Annual Report



To the New Zealand Conservation Authority

1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015



# Southland Conservation Board

## Annual Report

1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority Pursuant to Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987

Serviced by the Department of Conservation  
Southland Conservancy  
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FRONT COVER:

*Tukutuku rakiurae* The Harlequin gecko, found only on Stewart Island – Photo: Phil Melgren

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# 1 Chairman's Report

The past year has been mainly occupied in getting the proposed Southland / Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy to a point where it could be recommended to the New Zealand Conservation Authority. This point has not yet been reached but it is very close. The process has been delayed in getting information from the Department and external sources. The Board will be pleased when the CMS is implemented.

The Board has worked its way through the Department's restructure and has now got lines of communication with relevant Department Staff. The proposed new realignment will see us going through the process again in the New Year. I feel the Board has an excellent relationship with Departmental Staff.

The Minister's letter of expectation and associated work programme has made the Board prioritise its work load and has led to a greater focus.

The Board was pleased that the members whose terms were due to expire were reappointed by the Minister as this meant continuity within the Board when the CMS was in its final stages.

The Board still has concerns over the state of the region's waterways, wetlands and estuarine areas and has advocated on their behalf.

The Board, (with Nick Humphries leading) has been working on prioritising Stewardship land to hopefully see the status of much of this land upgraded.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Helen McPhail who was Chairman of the Board for most of the last year and who guided the Board through some interesting issues while keeping the principles of the Conservation Act and Plans foremost. Her pragmatism and poetry was valued.

The Board also acknowledges the work of our Board Liaison Officer Yvonne Service who keeps the Board running smoothly, can expertly correct spelling and grammar and can organise a great lunch.

We also acknowledge the support from Phil Melgren, Barry Hanson, Alan Munn and all other Department staff that have been called upon to provide information to the Board.

I would like to thank all members of the Board for their hard work within the Board and outside for conservation. Their hours of volunteered time go largely unnoticed but are valued.



John Whitehead  
Chairman  
Southland Conservation Board

## 2 Introduction

The Southland Conservation Board is one of the fourteen statutory bodies appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions and powers of the Board as outlined in Sections 6M and 6N of the Act are as follows:

- To review, amend and recommend the approval of Conservation Management Strategies
- To review and approve Conservation Management Plans
- To provide advice on the implementation of Conservation Management Strategies and Plans
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national or international significance
- To advise on proposals for new walkways
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters
- To carry out other powers and functions as delegated to the Board by the Minister of Conservation under the Conservation Act or any other Act
- To advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process and to be heard on matters relating to the Board's functions.

Under the National Parks Act 1996, the Board also has a number of functions as follows:

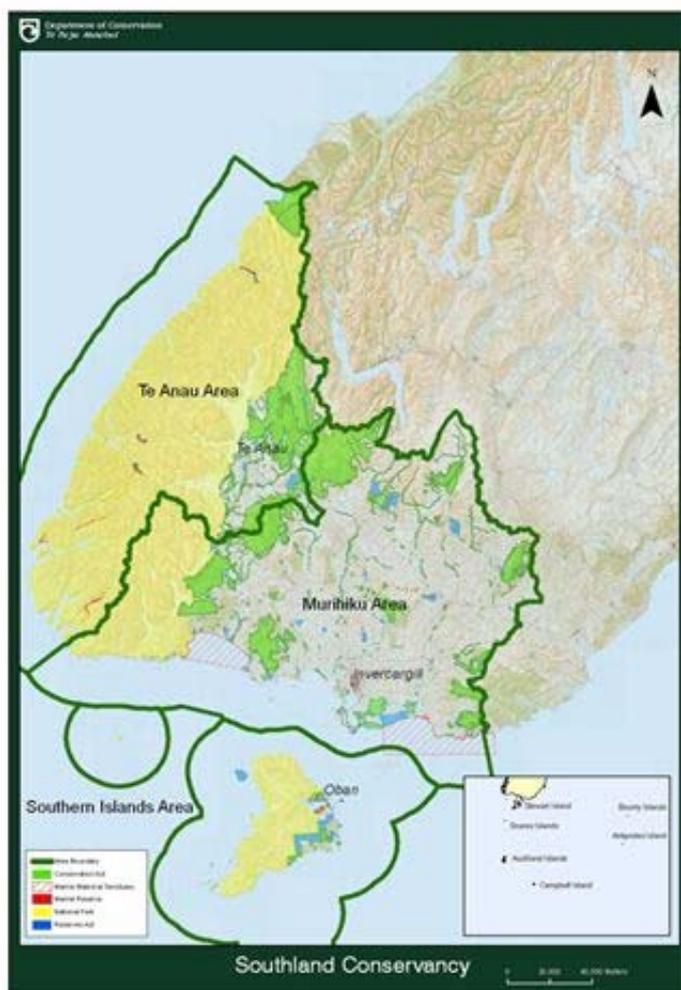
- To review, amend and recommend National Park Management Plans
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of Management Plans for national parks
- To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers
- To review and report on the effective administration of the general policies for national parks
- To give advice on the interpretation of any National Park Management Plan, on the addition of land to a national park or the establishment of a new national park
- To give advice on any other matter relating to any national park within the Board's jurisdiction.

These functions and powers, where exercised, are noted within this annual report. The report covers the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

### 3 The Board's Area

The Southland Conservation Board has the largest area of jurisdiction of all Conservation Boards in New Zealand. Over half of the land within the province of Southland is managed on behalf of all New Zealanders by the Department of Conservation. The Southland Conservancy is vast, encompassing a total of 1.9 million hectares of land that is administered by the Department and 574,286 hectares of marine reserve (of which the Auckland Islands Marine Reserve makes up 562,812 hectares).

Two significant areas of land within the Board's jurisdiction have World Heritage status – the Subantarctic Islands and Fiordland National Park. Another area is an internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands site – Awarua Wetlands.



#### **World Heritage Areas**

##### **Subantarctic Islands**

Isolated, windswept, beautiful and fragile, New Zealand's Subantarctic islands are unique, the flora and fauna irreplaceable. Described by the United Nations Environment Program as "the most diverse and extensive of all Subantarctic archipelagos", all five island groups: the Bounty Islands, the Antipodes Islands, the Snares Islands, the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island were honoured with World Heritage status in

1998. They are also National Nature Reserves under New Zealand's Reserves Act 1977. New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands are located in the Southern Ocean south to south-east of New Zealand. Spanning six degrees of latitude, from 47 to 52 degrees south, the five island groups occupy the stormy latitudes of the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties, known also as the Albatross Latitudes. The islands contain a high degree of endemism and are home to a number of rare species of birds, plants, marine mammals and invertebrates. The New Zealand Subantarctic region supports the most diverse community of breeding seabirds in the southern ocean. Their isolation presents a number of challenges, and a separate Conservation Management Strategy outlines the way in which the islands should be managed. This CMS is currently under review as part of the Southland Murihiku CMS.

### **Fiordland National Park**

Fiordland National Park, established in 1952, is the largest national park in New Zealand (1,260,200 hectares). At the heart of Te Wāhipounamu/South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, Fiordland National Park includes some of New Zealand's most recognised and special places including Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. It has high cultural, historical and biodiversity significance and offers a wide range of visitor opportunities, from scenic viewing points to intense wilderness experiences. The Fiordland National Park Management Plan sets out how the Park should be managed.

### **Ramsar Sites**

Southland was the first place in New Zealand to have a wetland officially recognised under the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance) when 3500 ha of the Waituna Wetland Scientific Reserve was registered in 1976. A further 15,400 ha was added in 2008 which included the three major estuaries; Toi Toi, Awarua Bay and the New River. These three estuaries are a unique feature of Southland and are still relatively unspoiled compared to similar waterways in other parts of the country. Alarming, Waituna has now gained further national attention as being at risk as management of the Waituna lagoon continues to rely on scientists from the Department and Environment Southland for best practice to prevent further degradation of this site. The Board has taken an active interest in this management.

### **National Parks**

There are two National Parks within the Board's jurisdiction – **Fiordland National Park** (mentioned above) and **Rakiura National Park**. Opened in 2002, Rakiura is New Zealand's fifth largest and newest National Park. It encompasses 139,000 hectares of land, and comprises 85% of New Zealand's third main island – Stewart Island/Rakiura. The Park extends from the northwest of the island to South Cape, and includes many offshore islands in Port Pegasus/Pikihaiti and Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera.

### **Other Conservation Land in Southland**

In addition to the National Parks, World Heritage Areas and Ramsar wetlands, the Board's area of jurisdiction includes large forested, mountainous areas on the mainland such as the Takitimu, Eyre, and Blue Mountains; diverse coastlines, important estuaries and wetlands areas such as Curio Bay and at Burwood Red Tussock reserve where there is a Takahē breeding unit.

On Stewart Island/Rakiura, the Board's area of jurisdiction covers conservation lands outside of the Rakiura National Park. This includes Codfish Island/Whenua Hou, home to the critically endangered Kākapo, which is managed as a Nature Reserve and for which



the Board provides management advice through membership of the Whenua Hou Committee.

The Southland Conservation Board has a responsibility to the people of Southland and the wider New Zealand population to ensure that conservation lands within its jurisdiction and the biodiversity they contain are protected and enhanced.

## 4 Board Membership

The following table lists the membership of the Southland Conservation Board between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 and their term of office.

Name	Area	Date first appointed	Term ends/ended	Time served
Fiona Black	Te Anau	23/12/2010	30/06/2018	4½ years
Andrew Bowmar	Gore	01/05/2014	30/06/2018	1 year
Alison Broad	Invercargill	01/07/2014	30/06/2017	1 year
Stewart Bull*	Riverton/Aparima	04/06/2009	30/04/2016	6 years
Lloyd Esler	Invercargill	01/05/2014	30/06/2018	1 year
Nick Humphries	Te Anau	01/07/2014	30/06/2017	1 year
Peter Jones	Gore	01/05/2014	30/06/2017	1 year
Helen McPhail	Gore	31/08/2008	30/06/2016	7 years
Gail Thompson*	Bluff/ Awarua	16/10/2006	30/06/2018	8 years
John Twidle	Te Anau	01/07/2014	30/06/2017	1 year
John Whitehead	Te Anau	01/01/2011	30/06/2016	4½ years

(\*Ngai Tahu Representative)

## 5 Board Meetings and Field Trips

During the 2014/15 financial year the Board held six formal day meetings. For each formal meeting Board members receive \$180 per day, and the Chair receives \$240 per day. Individual Board members' participation in Board meetings and field trips is noted in Appendix 1.

### 5.1 BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting dates and locations

Date	Location
14 August 2014	Invercargill
16 October 2014	Te Anau
18 December 2014	Invercargill (Murihiku Marae)
19 February 2015	Invercargill
16 April 2015	Invercargill
18 June 2015	Invercargill

## **5.2 FIELD TRIPS**

During the past year the Board undertook four field trips. Field trips provide the Board with the opportunity for members to become familiar with conservation issues and to discuss management and implementation issues with Department staff and members of the local community.

### ***MILFORD ROAD FIELD TRIP (15 October 2014)***

The Board had a successful day travelling on the road from Te Anau to Milford Sound. Board members looked at the infrastructure of Milford Sound, spoke about the growing traffic problem on the road, and looked at the proposed campsite “Little Tahiti”.

### ***NZCA FIELD TRIP TO WAITUNA LAGOON (2 February 2015)***

In February 2015 the Board hosted the NZCA members at a field trip to Waituna Lagoon, followed by dinner in the evening.

### ***MASON BAY, RAKIURA/STEWART ISLAND FIELD TRIP (18 February 2015)***

Board members were flown to Mason Bay, Rakiura/Stewart Island where they looked at the marram eradication, the dune restoration and air access issues. A public forum meeting was held at Oban which two members of the community attended.

### ***TIWAI PENINSULA WITH NZ ALUMINIUM SMELTERS (15 April 2015)***

Senior DOC and Board members were invited by the NZ Aluminium Smelters to attend a half-day field trip at the Tiwai Peninsula. The trip was very worthwhile.

## **5.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN BOARD MEETINGS**

Throughout 2014/15, the Board welcomed presentations at its meetings and field trips from a number of different organisations and individuals.

- Southland District Council Mayor, Gary Tong
- QEII Trust, Graeme Watson
- Tenure Review Manager, Tim Whittaker
- Te Ao Marama Rep, Michael Skerrett
- Recreational Backcountry Pilots Association (two meetings)
- Fiordland Trails Trust, Stephen Hoskin and Rachel Cockburn
- Fiordland Sewage Group, Ruth Shaw
- Fiordland Lobster Company, John Steffans
- Stewart Island community members, Sandy King and Philippa Fraser-Wilson who asked about shark cage diving and the Predator free Rakiura proposal.

The Board’s agenda and minutes (once confirmed) are sent to groups and individuals on request, and are posted on the Department of Conservation’s website:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/nz-conservation-authority-and-boards/conservation-boards-by-region/southland/>

Currently fourteen people or groups receive the Board’s confirmed minutes.

## 6 Southland *Murihiku* Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Throughout 2014/15, the Board has continued to be involved in the drafting of the new Southland Murihiku CMS incorporating the Subantarctic Islands. The whole Board has been involved in providing feedback on this important document with John Whitehead coordinating the Board's feedback.

The process has taken four years to date. The document is waiting for final approval by the Board.

## 7 Implementation Issues

One of the Board's key roles, as set out in the Conservation Act, is overseeing the implementation of national park management plans and CMSs. Over the past year the Board has provided advice to the Department on implementation issues for the Fiordland National Park Management Plan, the Mainland Southland West Otago CMS (the new CMS will be named Southland *Murihiku* CMS and it will include the Subantarctic Islands) and the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and Rakiura National Park Management Plan. The Board now has in place a system of feedback from the Department on outcomes of advice given. Relationships with Department staff receiving the advice is generally open and positive.

The Board is aware of change in focus of the Department with the new Partnership model working with businesses and the community while the Board needs to ensure that the Department adheres to the Conservation Act while pursuing its new Partnership focus.

### **FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Over the last few years the Department and the community have come to the Board with a number of issues relating to implementation of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan (FNPMP). This year the Board has considered a number of matters relating to mountain biking opportunities and boundary changes.

The Board was advised any mountain biking opportunities in the Fiordland National Park would be more than minor and would require a full public submission and hearing process. The Board was aware that this was not a realistic proposition and has signalled to interested parties that it intends to begin preparing for the revision of the FNPMP (2007-2017) as soon as the Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy is signed.

The Board is waiting for outcomes of a number of submissions.

There is still no progress on the South West Cameron Remote Area.

Proposed additions to the Fiordland National Park would be likely to be addressed with the revision of the FNPMP in 2017.

### **STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA CMS AND RAKIURA NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Rakiura National Park Management Plan implementation monitoring report 2015 was presented to the Board at the meeting held on 18 June 2015 - see Appendix 4.

An alternative energy project is still in the investigation stage.

Occasional rat invasions at Ulva Island have been well managed this year.

The Board continues to be interested in the Predator free Rakiura proposal, shark cage diving and seafood farming.

Federated Mountain Clubs are still requesting a Southern Wilderness area.

### **MAINLAND SOUTHLAND/WEST OTAGO CMS**

The Board has been working with the “old” 1998-2008 CMS. There have been difficulties as it has tended to become obsolete as the new Southland *Muribiku* CMS document has been developed.

### **Stewardship Lands**

The Board has been concerned at the lack of progress in any land reclassifications. There are a number of significant high value conservation areas in the region that remain at risk while classed as stewardship land. Particularly notable are the Takitimu Mountains, the Mavora area and Snowdon Forest.

### **SUBANTARCTIC CMS**

Subantarctic Marine Reserves were formally established in March 2014 – the Board played an active role in the Subantarctic Marine Protection Forum which made the recommendations to the Ministers of Conservation and Fisheries. The Board was supportive of full protection around each of the island groups which did not happen (with the exception of the Antipodes Islands), but took the pragmatic view that some protection for the Bounties and Campbell Islands was better than no protection.

There are a number of other projects being investigated for these unique islands, including mouse eradication and a research station.

A new CMS will be named Southland *Muribiku* CMS and it will include the Subantarctic Islands. It is hoped that this document will be approved by the NZ Conservation Authority later in 2015.

### **CONSERVATION ADVOCACY**

Under Section 6N of the Conservation Act, the Southland Conservation Board may advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process. During the 2014/15 year the Southland Conservation Board has made the following submissions or attending meetings on resource consent applications:

- Ministry for Primary Industries - on future management of the recreational blue cod fishery in Doubtful, Thompson and Bradshaw Sounds
- Southland District Council – Around the Mountain Cycle Trail
- Southland District Council District Plan
- Environment Southland – Proposed Regional Policy Statement
- Cruise Milford NZ Ltd – surface water activity
- Southland District Council – long term plan
- Environment Southland – long term plan
- Invercargill City Council – long term plan
- South Catlins Charitable Trust – erect heritage centre at Curio Bay

Over the past year, the Board has written to various bodies pursuing conservation issues and supporting other conservation groups.

## 8 Subcommittees

The Board has one main subcommittee to provide advice to the Department on resource consents, concession and mining access applications. Other ad hoc subcommittees are formed to respond to specific issues.

A major Subcommittee during the last 12 months has been the Conservation Management (CMS) Committee. Several workshops were held to discuss the revised CMS.

For a full list of subcommittees and their membership see Appendix 2.

### **CONCESSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Concessions Subcommittee has been very active in providing advice to the Department. A set of triggers exists which the Department uses to determine which concession applications should come to the Board for advice. During the 2014/15 year, the Board has provided advice on seven concession applications.

- Environmental Management Association
- Te Anau Scout Hall
- Recreational Backcountry Pilots' Assn
- NZ Antarctic Research Station – Auckland Islands
- IX Survey
- Milford Sound Infrastructure – accommodation and storage, Milford Sound
- Cruise Milford NZ Ltd

The Board should receive a progress report on all outstanding concession applications at each meeting. This is not always happening.

The concession subcommittee also reviews mining access applications. During 2014/15, advice was provided on one mining access application.

- Otago Mining Ltd

The Board has a good working relationship with Department staff with regard to both concession and mining access applications.

### **WHENUA HOU COMMITTEE**

The Whenua Hou Committee is a subcommittee of the Southland Conservation Board, established under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as part of a joint approach to manage the island. It consists of one representative from each of the four Murihiku Papatipu Rūnaka and four members of the Southland Conservation Board. In 2014/2015, two meetings were held – these were in September 2014 and February 2015. The minutes of the Whenua Hou Committee are to be circulated to all Board members.

## **9 Liaison**

### **9.1 NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NZCA)**

The Board received minutes and agendas from NZCA meetings. The Board's liaison person is Jan Riddell.

A Board Chairs' conference was held in Wellington in November 2014. That provided a good opportunity for Board Chairs to meet one another and to gain a national perspective.

In February 2015 the Board hosted the NZCA members at a field trip to Waituna Lagoon, followed by dinner in the evening.

### **9.2 OTHER CONSERVATION BOARDS**

Helen McPhail is the Board's liaison representative with Otago. The Boards share agendas and minutes. Board Support Officers are also in regular contact. Over the course of the year the Director, Board Chairs of the Otago and Canterbury/Aoraki Conservation Boards and the Board Support Officers of the three Boards have had three meetings.

### **9.3 IWI LIAISON**

The Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 require a number of decision makers, including Conservation Boards within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā to consult with and to have particular regard to the views of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Gail Thompson and Stewart Bull are Ngāi Tahu's representatives on the Board (appointed on the nomination of Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu as established by Section 6 of Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu Act 1996), and are also members of Kaitiaki Roopu. This group of six iwi representatives from the four rūnaka in Southland was established by the Department of Conservation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act. The Department consults with this group on a regular basis. The Board maintains good relationships with iwi through the Whenua Hou Committee.

The Southland Conservation Board meeting for December 2014 was held at the Murihiku Marae in Invercargill. A warm welcome was received and provided increased awareness of Iwi as the Primary Partner with the Department of Conservation.

### **9.4 FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

The Southland Conservation Board continues to liaise with the Southland Fish and Game Council on both a formal and informal basis. Two meetings during the year were attended by Fish & Game Council staff.

### **9.5 LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

John Whitehead represents the Board on the Waiau Working Party, keeping members informed on issues relating to eels and river flows. John Twidle is the Board's

representative on the Leslie Hutchins Conservation Foundation. Gail Thompson represents the Board on the Deep Cove Outdoor Education Trust.

Members of the Board also have strong links with a number of community groups in Southland and are active participants in a range of conservation activities. For a full list of Board members' conservation activities in the community see Appendix 4.

## **9.6 MEDIA**

Reporters from the Southland Times regularly attended Southland Conservation Board meetings throughout the year and a number of items have appeared in newspapers following the meetings.

## **10. Appendices**

***Appendix 1: Attendance at Formal Board Meetings and Field Trips***

Name	Home Town	Meetings Attended	Field Trips Attended
Fiona Black	Te Anau	5 out of 6	4 out of 4
Andrew Bowmar	Gore	6 out of 6	4 out of 4
Alison Broad	Invercargill	5 out of 6	2 out of 4
Stewart Bull	Riverton	5 out of 6	2 out of 4
Lloyd Esler	Invercargill	6 out of 6	3 out of 4
Nick Humphries	Te Anau	4 out of 6	2 out of 4
Peter Jones	Gore	3 out of 6	3 out of 4
Helen McPhail	Queenstown	5 out of 6	4 out of 4
Gail Thompson	Bluff	6 out of 6	1 out of 4
John Twidle	Te Anau	5 out of 6	3 out of 4
John Whitehead	Te Anau	6 out of 6	4 out of 4



## ***Appendix 2: Subcommittees of the Southland Conservation Board***

### **Concessions/RMA Subcommittee**

Fiona Black  
Andrew Bowmar (Chairman)  
Alison Broad  
Lloyd Esler  
Helen McPhail  
John Whitehead

### **CMS Subcommittee**

John Whitehead (Chair)  
All Board members

### **Whenua Hou Committee**

#### **Name:**

Tane Davis (Chairman)  
Rodney (Hom) Ryan  
Cyril Gilroy  
Estelle Leask  
Fiona Black  
Stewart Bull  
Lloyd Esler  
Helen McPhail

#### **Representing:**

Te Runanga o Oraka-Aparima  
Hokonui Runanga  
Waihopai Runaka  
Te Runanga o Awarua  
Southland Conservation Board  
Southland Conservation Board  
Southland Conservation Board  
Southland Conservation Board

***Appendix 3: Board Members' Conservation Activities in the Community***

<b>Organisation/Activity</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
Pomona Island Charitable Trust	John Whitehead
Waiau Working Party (Board rep.)	John Whitehead
Waiau Wildlife & Fisheries habitat Enhancement Trust	John Whitehead
Community Conservation Partnerships Fund	John Whitehead
Leslie Hutchins Conservation Foundation (Board rep.)	John Twidle
South West Endangered Species Charitable Trust	Stewart Bull
Rakiura Titi Komitee	Stewart Bull
Rakiura Titi Islands Administering Body	Stewart Bull
Fiordland Marine Guardians	Stewart Bull
Fiordland Marine Guardians Management Group	Stewart Bull
Pest-free Rakiura Governance Group	Stewart Bull
Pest-free Rakiura Governance Group	Gail Thompson
South East Marine Protection Planning Forum	Gail Thompson
Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group	Helen McPhail
Wakatipu Reforestation Trust	Helen McPhail
Environment Southland	Peter Jones
NZAS Interdepartmental Committee (Board rep.)	Alison Broad
Game Animal Council (Board rep.)	Lloyd Esler
Otatara Landcare Group	Lloyd Esler
Omaui Tracks Trust	Lloyd Esler
Southland Natural History Field Club	Lloyd Esler
Hollyford Conservation Trust	Andrew Bowmar
Wilmot Pass Road User Group	John Twidle
Manapouri Doubtful Sound Commercial User Group	John Twidle
Guardians of Lakes Te Anau, Manapouri and Hauroko	John Twidle
Manapouri Doubtful Sound Commercial User Group	Fiona Black

*Appendix 4 – Letter of Expectation/Work Programme 2014/15*

**SOUTHLAND CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**TE ROOPU ATAWHAI O MURIHIKU**

File: SBC-09-04

18 August 2015

**Letter of Expectation / Work Programme 2014 / 2105**

Conservation Management Strategy:

The Board will review the revised Southland Murihiku CMS draft and within six months of receiving it from the Department will recommend the adoption of the draft by the NZCA with amendments if deemed necessary.

As part of the review of the CMS the Board will identify appropriate milestones to monitor subsequent Departmental compliances with the final approved CMS.

The Southland Conservation Board was disappointed that it was unable to recommend the Southland Murihiku CMS to the NZCA within the allocated timeframe due to delays in reporting back by a third party. Extensive revision of the draft CMS was carried out by the Board to make sure it would remain relevant throughout the life of the document.

The Board, in consultation with the Department, developed milestones that should adequately monitor the implementation of the new CMS into the future.

Stewardship Lands:

By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the Southland Conservation Board will initiate investigation of stewardship lands in the Southland Murihiku region, and identify areas that require increased protection because of their significant conservation values, and encourage the Department to reclassify those lands accordingly.

The Board has developed a draft 'Southland Stewardship Land Report' which will be further refined over the coming year. This report prioritises the major areas of Stewardship land in Southland and suggests a more suitable land classification for these areas. The Board is concerned that the Department does not have enough resources to bring about a timely re-classification of Stewardship Land in Southland.

SERVICED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
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Telephone (03) 211-2400, Fax (03) 214-4486

Other Functions:

By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the Southland Conservation Board will have liaised with Southland Fish and Game Council.

The SCB has hosted members of Southland Fish & Game staff at two of our Board meetings where items of mutual interest were discussed.

The Southland Conservation Board will have reviewed National Park Plans as necessary to ensure they are being adhered to in the intent of the document(s).

The SCB has reviewed the implementation reports for both the Rakiura National Park & the Fiordland National Park and found no outstanding issues.

The Southland Conservation Board will have liaised with NGOs such as the Fiordland Marine Guardians and support their work where appropriate.

The Board has liaised with NGOs both formally and informally through out the year when the opportunity has arisen.

Encourage the adoption of the Te Anau wetlands Ramsar proposal.

The Board has advocated for the formulation of a Te Anau wetlands Ramsar proposal to the Department whenever possible. The proposal has been included in the new draft CMS.

The Department has indicated that it does not have the resources to take this proposal forward in the short term. The Board considers that this proposal has merit in highlighting the national and international importance of the Te Anau wetlands.

Advocacy:

The Board recognises it is a voice of the community.

The Southland Conservation Board will have liaised with Southland Regional Council (Environment Southland) and other local bodies where Conservation issues need advocacy.

The Southland Conservation Board will have liaised other community groups as necessary to raise the profile of the work of the Board and to enhance the value of conservation.

The SCB has had a busy year:

- (1) Giving advice to the Department on concessions and mining access agreements.
- (2) Submitting on various RMA consents and planning documents advocating for the best environmental and conservation gains.
- (3) The Board has held one of its meetings at the Murihiku Marae where we liaised with the Waihopai Runaka.

3.

- (4) Written letters of support to the Gore and Districts Amenity Trust, and The South Catlins Charitable Trust.
- (5) Board meetings usually contain a public forum session where a wide range of groups and individuals have brought their concerns to the Board and the Department.

Measuring Progress:

Progress on this work programme will be able to be measured in the Southland Conservation Board's Annual report, 2014 / 2015 when the above criteria will be reported on. Partnership's Director Barry Hanson will also be in a position to measure progress when he attends Board meetings during the year.

This review of the Board's work programme will be appended to the Southland Conservation Board Annual Report 2014 /2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Whitehead', written in a cursive style.

John Whitehead  
**Chairman**



*Appendix 5: Rakiura National Park Management Plan implementation monitoring report 2015*

# Rakiura National Park Management Plan – Implementation Monitoring Report 2015

# Rakiura National Park Management Plan – Implementation Monitoring Report 2015

## Introduction

The Rakiura National Park Management Plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 9 February 2011. The plan directs the day-to-day management of the National Park in line with the Conservation Management Strategy.

It contains 'Primary Objective' and 'Policy' statements and includes five places: Ulva Island; Northern; Mason Bay; Southern; and Port Pegasus / Pikihatiti. The plan also contains a considerable number of implementation statements to give effect to the policies, objectives and outcomes for each place.

The attached report is a summary of the work undertaken historically by the Rakiura office and is the first report the Southland Conservation Board has received from the Department regarding progress on the implementation of this plan.

## Recommendation

<p>That the Board receives this report at its 18 June 2015 meeting and provides the Department with its comments at the following meeting.</p>
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Report compiled by Department of Conservation staff from the Stewart Island / Rakiura Office.

Philip Melgren  
Conservation Partnership Manager  
Murihiku District



**RAKIURA NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**FIRST IMPLEMENTATION REPORT TO THE BOARD (JUNE 2015)**

\*A 'Rank' column has been added below. This is a rating system that will allow the reader to easily identify where National Park Management Plan policies are being implemented in Rakiura National Park. **Green** represents currently implemented policies and **Red** represents policies not currently in use and **Yellow** indicates policies that are partially in use within Rakiura National Park. A **Green** 'Rank' with the absence of 'Progress' comments indicate that we currently follow the policy.

Primary Objectives	Policies	Progress	Rank
<p><b>Part Two: Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities</b></p> <p>1. To manage Rakiura National Park in a manner that gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that the principles of the Treaty are compatible with the provisions of the legislation and General Policy.</p> <p>2. To give effect to the provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and the Deed of Settlement 1997 as they relate to Rakiura National Park including for Mt Anglem / Hananui, for taonga species and for place name changes</p>	<p>1. Should consult and work with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and papatipu rūnanga over:</p> <p>a) the preparation of any statutory or non-statutory plans, strategies or programmes for the protection and management of Mt Anglem / Hananui that relate to:</p> <p>i) and programme to identify and protect wildlife and indigenous plants or to eradicate and control pests / introduced species</p> <p>ii) any survey to assess current and future visitor activities or to identify the number and type of concessions which may be appropriate; and</p> <p>iii) the location, construction and relocation of any structures, huts, signs and tracks.</p> <p>b) making of policy decisions concerning the protection, management or conservation of taonga species found within the Park, including the transfer of taonga species into or out of the Park.</p>	<p>Yes, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and papatipu rūnanga are consulted on programmes effecting Mt Anglem/Hananui:</p> <p>i) Mount Anglem/Hananui is a culturally and ecologically significant site</p> <p>iii) Hunter hut construction and the development of campsites (and toilets) has taken place at Murray River and Lucky hunting blocks with potential effects being additional visitors to each of these sites close to Mount Anglem/Hananui.</p>	<b>Green</b>
	<p>2. May seek opportunities to provide for the active involvement of Tangata whenua and Te Rūnanga o</p>	<p>This is achieved through DOC partnering with</p>	

	Ngāi Tahu in taonga species management projects	Kaitiaki Roopū.	
	3. May support the considerations of Ngāi Tahu in seeking the recognition of Maori names for places within the Park from New Zealand Geographic Board	When we develop new interpretation we consult with Ngāi Tahu about Maori place names (current examples of this are: New Ulva Island interpretation panels and the Ackers Point, Lee Bay, and Rakiura Track signage).	Green
	4. <b>Will</b> consult with Tangata whenua regarding the management of Mt Anglem/Hananui, specifically regarding activities that may impact on Mt Anglem/Hananui		Green
	5. Should actively consult and work with Tangata whenua and where required or appropriate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, from the early stages of proposed undertakings that may affect Ngāi Tahu values. Ensure that consultation or conservation issues is early, ongoing, informed and effective.		Green
	6. Should support Kaitiaki Roopū as a forum to assist effective communication between paptipu runanga and the Department of Conservation.		Green
	7. <b>Will</b> enable Tangata whenua resident on Stewart Island/Rakiura to have the opportunity to attend Kaitiaki Roopū meetings held on Stewart Island/Rakiura	Kaitiaki Roopū meetings are held on Stewart Island/Rakiura approximately once per annum.	Green
	8. Should explore with Ngāi Tahu the means whereby customary Ngāi Tahu conservation practices such as rahui (restrictions on the use of resources) may be used and supported to achieve shared conservation	DOC permitting hunter huts to be built adjacent to the Mātaitai reserve may have an effect on rahui.	Yellow

	goals.		
<p><b>Part Three: Preservation of indigenous species, habitats, ecosystems and natural resources</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems</b></p> <p>1. To preserve and restore the full potential of indigenous biodiversity of Rakiura National Park so that all ecosystems within Rakiura National Park are self-sustaining with minimal management input</p> <p>2. To manage and restore threatened species, their habitats and ecosystems, having regard to national priorities, species recovery plans, local priorities and the provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.</p> <p>3. To encourage the involvement of the community and Tangata whenua in protection and conservation of the indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems of Rakiura National Park.</p>	<p>1. Should give priority to operations at locations where the greatest number of threatened species may benefit. Priority should also be given to operations that deal with a number of threats at one site.</p>	<p>The Stewart Island/Rakiura Forests Program is based around areas of the most ecological value and is ranked through Prescriptive Business Planning. Most biodiversity work is done in places of high ecological value &amp; where there is the greatest threat (examples include possuming, Mason Bay &amp; all dunes)</p>	<b>Green</b>
	<p>2. Should develop local species and ecosystem recovery plans at the operational level for the management of species and ecosystems that are not covered by national recovery plans.</p>	<p>If the species or ecosystem is not ranked highly nationally then it is not implemented on the Island (an example: DOC-driven yellow eyed penguin work does not happen here because it is not nationally supported or driven). We only receive funding for what is deemed nationally significant.</p>	<b>Red</b>
	<p>3. Should monitor management programmes for threatened species undertaken within Rakiura National Park to ensure their effectiveness.</p>	<p>We monitor any threatened species work we undertake.</p>	<b>Green</b>
	<p>4. <b>Will</b> manage a range of threatened and non-threatened indigenous species through management techniques including:</p> <p>a) compliance and law enforcement;</p> <p>b) survey of species distribution and habitats;</p> <p>c) fire control;</p> <p>d) habitat fencing;</p> <p>e) minimising the effects of human activity;</p> <p>f) education and community awareness;</p>		<b>Green</b>

	g) control of introduced plants and animals; and h) species translocation		
	5. Should monitor the changing status of threats to indigenous species so that knowledge of these threats remain accurate.		Green
	6. Should collect data and information on the distribution, population and habitat of indigenous species where there is currently insufficient information.	We do not actively collect indigenous species data where there is currently insufficient information although we have done so in the past (Harlequin gecko).	Red
	7. Should consult with papatipu rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu over projects and policies concerning taonga species.		Green
	8. <b>Will</b> encourage tangata whenua, the community, the general public, public agencies and conservation interest groups to become involved in the management of indigenous species and conservation activities in general.	Tangata whenua is involved in Kakapo recovery and we encourage volunteers to become involved at Mason Bay, where we are managing an ecosystem for indigenous species and conservation activities.	Green
	9. Should investigate option for the reintroduction of indigenous species which have a long-term likelihood of success without adversely affecting the values of the natural environment to which they are being introduced.	Robin and rifleman translocations to Dancing Star Foundation, kiwi to Ackers Point, and dune restoration planting and proposed gunnera translocation.	Green
	10. Should allow the use of trained and certified dogs by conservation staff and/or contractors where necessary for management purposes.	Gadget (the rodent detector dog) on Ulva Island, possum contractor dogs, predator dogs & kiwi dogs.	Green
	11. Should investigate the feasibility of the eradication	Rat plan on Rakiura and eradications on Pearl,	Green

	of introduced plants and animals from islands within Rakiura National Park in order to protect and restore these island environments.	Bench & Ulva Island.	
<p><b>3.2 Biosecurity and management of threats to indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems</b></p> <p>1. To control, and where possible, eradicate all introduced plants within Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>2. To prevent the spread of introduced plants into those parts of Rakiura National Park that are currently free of introduced plants.</p> <p>3. To give priority for introduced plant control to ecosystems that have high biodiversity, landscape values, or are presently threatened.</p> <p>4. To prevent the colonisation and establishment of new introduced plants in Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>5. To liaise with local authorities, the RMLT and the community to ensure the effective co-ordination of introduced plant control operations across jurisdictional boundaries.</p> <p>6. To develop an awareness of the threats that introduced plants pose to Rakiura National Park.</p>	1. Should establish and regularly review the priorities for introduced plant control. National ranking systems should be used and all operations carried out in accordance with national or conservancy plans and guidelines.	<i>Halfmoon Bay Weeds Project</i> including site and weed-led projects and Environment Southland <i>Pest Plant Programmes</i> .	<b>Green</b>
	2. Should control and eradicate, where practical, gorse, broom, Darwin's barberry, hieracium, tree lupin, and other problem species found within Rakiura National Park. Priority will be given to the eradication or control of threatening and introduced plant species as resources permit.		<b>Green</b>
	3. Should continue to prioritise the removal of marram grass from dune systems within Rakiura National Park, to restore the dune systems to a healthy and dynamic native dune system free of invasive species.		<b>Green</b>
	4. Should identify plants which have the potential to become biosecurity threats and monitor and record these on a local register.		<b>Green</b>
	5. Should prepare surveillance plans for introduced plants and continue to monitor the effectiveness of introduced plant control operations.	We have a surveillance plan in the Port Pegasus and Tin Range prescription areas. Environment Southland targets Darwin's Barberry. We currently pay Otago University for dune restoration monitoring at Mason and Doughboy Bay and plan to monitor at Smoky and Codfish/Whenua Hou in the future	<b>Green</b>

	6. Should continue to raise awareness of the threat of introduced plants to Rakiura National Park, including through publications and community involvement in control programmes.		Green
	7. Should take all practical steps to immediately remove any non-indigenous species not previously found in Rakiura National Park.		Green
	8. Should encourage integration and coordination between tangata whenua, user groups, local authorities, adjacent landowners (such as the RMLT) and the community to achieve an integrated approach to the eradication, control and management of introduced plants in Rakiura National Park.	We get permission from Rakiura Maori Land Trust to address DOC concerns on their land and inform them on the results.  In the future when we do work on The Neck, Native Island or Chew Tobacco (dune restoration) we will be working with the Rakiura Maori Land Trust as adjacent landowners.	Green
	9. Should ensure all machinery, boats, vehicles and equipment are properly cleaned before being taken into Rakiura National Park for management purposes. This should also apply to the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities and helicopter landings.	DOC, DOC contractors and concessionaires' machinery are properly cleaned and any materials brought into Rakiura National Park are taken from weed-free sources.	Green
	10. Should encourage Rakiura National Park users to clean recreational equipment prior to entering the Park.	Environment Southland has signage at the Bluff ferry terminal and DOC promotes biosecurity messages through a variety of mediums. DOC is currently developing new biosecurity signage for Ulva Island in the near future.	Green
	11. <b>Will</b> undertake all management activity including animal control, introduced plant control, facilities development and maintenance, and visitor		Green

	management in a manner which minimises the risk of spreading introduced plants.		
<b>3.2.2 Introduced Animals</b> 1. To eradicate, control and manage introduced animals in Rakiura National Park in accordance with national plans, statutory responsibilities, regional pest management strategies and Southland Conservancy priorities. 2. To prevent the colonisation and establishment of new non-indigenous species. 3. To acknowledge the community and stakeholder interests regarding introduced animals in Rakiura National Park. 4. To encourage integration and coordination between user groups, including the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group, the RMLT, local authorities and the wider community to achieve an integrated approach to the eradication, control and management of introduced animals in Rakiura National Park. 5. To increase public knowledge of introduction animals and their effects on Rakiura National Park. 6. To increase public awareness of	<b>Policies regarding public liaison</b> 1. Should liaise with, coordinate and inform local authorities, adjacent landowners such as the RMLT, tangata whenua, commercial and recreational hunters and the community through the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group to effectively eradicate, control and manage the impacts of introduced animals.		Green
	2. Will inform the community about the biosecurity risk associated with introduced animals not currently found within Rakiura National Park and their potential effects on the values associated with Rakiura National Park.		Green
	3. Should facilitate the wider distribution of information about the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group and Department of Conservation meetings and initiatives to a national audience through internet websites and other appropriate channels.	The Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group was set up when the Rakiura National Park was formed to provide input into possum control and dotterel monitoring. The group decided how pest control was going to work on Stewart Island/Rakiura which allowed community consultation, NZDA and other group attendance. The last meeting was held in approximately 2008 (usually held in May).  An example of a decision reached is that instead of aerial 1080 they decided on 1080 in bait bags for possum control	Red

potential biosecurity threat to Rakiura National Park.	4. Should work with the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group, the RMLT and other interested parties to formulate appropriate introduced animal control operations in accordance with national and Southland Conservancy priorities, plans, guidelines and statutory requirements, as well as those established under policy 15 below.	With DOC reviews, high staff turnover and the impact of the review this has been given a low priority but will be reinstated later in the year.	Red
	5. Should consult with the community, through the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group and tangata whenua, prior to undertaking introduced animal control operations where the operations involve the use of previously unused toxins or bio-control agents and methods.	Possum and dotterel project progress reports are presented to Kaitiaki Roopū yearly where what happened in previous and plans for the coming year are outlined. DOC must apply for permits for toxin use.	Red
	<b>Policies regarding monitoring</b>		
	1. Should prioritise a review of and continue to regularly review monitoring programmes to ensure that they are meeting the objectives of this Plan and the Stewart Island/Rakiura Are Biodiversity Action Plan	DOC monitoring programmes are in constant review (for example: the Stewart Island/Rakiura forest health study, which includes deer exclosures, vegetation monitoring and possum control).	Green
2. Should identify and monitor the impacts of introduced animals in Rakiura National Park.	Tier 1 - Monitoring for national context. This work includes a programme to regularly assess the native species, ecosystems and pests at 1300 sites spaced evenly across land managed by DOC. A selection of sites are monitored each year, on a five-year rotation.  Tier 2 - Monitoring for local management issues  Tier 3 - Monitoring to understand and interpret  Rakiura National Park is only funded for Tier 1	Yellow	



		work and must pay for additional monitoring (bird counts, vegetation monitoring, possum monitoring, and seed counts in deer exclosures). It is important that the deer exclosures remain intact because there is a risk of losing 30 years worth of data.	
	3. Should regularly monitor introduced animal densities and vegetation to ensure that trends in population and habitat condition are known.	DOC Rakiura executes possum monitoring while Environment Southland and Otago University perform dune monitoring.	Green
	4. Should continue to undertake monitoring, through the use of representative exclusion plots, with the aim of better understanding how deer, possums and rats interact to affect forest ecology.	Annual maintenance is performed on exclosure plots with no monitoring.	Red
	5. Should monitor the overall forest health of Rakiura National Park not less than every ten years (through existing methods identified on page 190) and/or other appropriate methods as they become available.	In 2010 there was a 30 year review of Stewart Island/Rakiura forest health so we should aim to do this again in 2020.	Green
	6. Should encourage the hunting community to provide accurate hunting returns as a means of increasing knowledge regarding the deer and possum populations within Rakiura National Park.		Green
	<b>Policies regarding control of introduced animals (general)</b>		
	1. Should take all practicable steps to immediately remove any introduced animals not previously found in Rakiura National Park.		Green

	2. Should undertake the eradication and control of introduced animals according to established priorities. Priority will be given to areas where eradication is possible, practical and sustainable and where reinvasion is manageable.		<b>Green</b>
	3. Should seek resourcing and/or funding for introduced animal control in areas of highest priority		<b>Green</b>
	4. Should establish and regularly review introduced animal control priorities with the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group. Priority areas of Rakiura National Park should be determined using nationally or locally developed ranking systems. High ranking areas are likely to be those with unique ecosystems, threatened species, areas of high damage or high susceptibility to damage and areas not yet colonised by introduced animals.	Recent major changes to possum control blocks moving from ecological units to prescription based control areas have not been communicated to the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group. This is a high priority at the next meeting.	<b>Red</b>
	5. Should actively pursue new technology or information that leads to an increased capacity to control introduced animals. Should new technology become available, only approved agents on native species and vegetation within Rakiura National Park.	Argo, quad, and trials for heli-spraying.	<b>Green</b>
	6. Should aim to control (where eradication is not possible) the impact of introduced animals within Rakiura National Park to a level where they are not having unsustainable effects on native species and vegetation within Rakiura National	Possum & cat control for dotterels work.	<b>Green</b>

	Park.		
	<p>7. Should encourage community initiatives and participation in appropriate introduced animal eradication and control programmes. Support for any programme should address the following matters:</p> <p>a) That it can be demonstrated that the programme will assist in achieving the biodiversity and/or biosecurity objectives of this Management Plan;</p> <p>b) That it can be demonstrated that the programme will assist in conserving and/or restoring the ecosystems of indigenous species within Rakiura National Park</p> <p>c) That the programme will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the objectives of the programme are being achieved.</p>	Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Environment Trust (SIRCET) and Ulva Island Trust partnerships.	<b>Green</b>
	<p>8. Should ensure that proposed eradication programmes meet the following criteria:</p> <p>a) All individuals of the target species are exposed to the eradication programme and/or the population is reduced at a rate exceeding the rate of increase;</p> <p>b) the probability of the introduced animals re-establishing can be managed;</p> <p>c) the community and Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group have been consulted; and</p> <p>d) the benefits of the projects outweigh the costs.</p>	<p>DOC currently has a proposed Marram and Barbary eradication programme and Spartina was eradicated at Mill Creek as part of a programme run through Murihiku.</p> <p>This document was written before the Predator Free Rakiura Group formed which has taken the lead on Stewart Island/Rakiura introduced animal eradication (rat, cat &amp; possum).</p>	<b>Yellow</b>

	<p>9. May authorise one-off permits for commercial recovery operations (including wild animal recovery operations or WARO). Operators should be encouraged to target those areas with higher densities of introduced animals. Permits should not be issued if the activity:</p> <p>a) Is during periods of high recreational use (periods of high recreational use cannot be defined as it is likely they will be specific to the location and may change throughout the lifespan of this Management Plan. The Department will consider what the periods of high recreational use are when the application is received);</p> <p>b) Is hunting blocks that have already been booked by recreational hunters; and</p> <p>c) Has an adverse impact on existing joint working programmes and/or introduced animal control programmes.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>10. Should consider joining working programmes with the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group, the community and parties with an interest in the eradication, control and management of introduced animals.</p>		<b>Red</b>
	<p>11. Should continue to encourage and facilitate recreational hunting within Rakiura National Park as a method of minimising the impacts of deer. Focus should be given to areas where monitoring has shown the greatest benefits to forest health can be attained.</p>		<b>Green</b>

	12. Should, through the review of the Stewart Island/Rakiura Biodiversity Action Plan, work with the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group to establish specific control measures for the purposes of implementing and achieving the objectives and policies in this section.		Red
	<b>Policies for specific introduced animal control</b>		
	1. <b>Will</b> , when implementing policies 26, 27, 28 and 29 have particular regard to the following: a) The protection of an ecosystem process; b) The protection of habitats, a threatened species and the prevention of a species from local extinction; c) The protection of natural values; d) The maintaining of representative forest types within Rakiura National Park; and e) Other areas of Rakiura National Park identified through monitoring as requiring introduced animal control in accordance with policies 25, 26, 27 and 28.		Green
	2. Should continue to undertake possum control within Rakiura National Park on a regular rotational basis. Focus should be given to achieving the protection of canopy and sub-canopy indigenous species.		Green
	3. Should continue to undertake feral cat control to achieve the protection requirements set out in	Cat control takes place in New Zealand dotterel	Green

	<p>policy 24, particular attention should be given to areas where feral cats are having an unsustainable effect on populations of threatened species</p>	<p>treatment areas.</p>	
	<p>4. Should undertake rat control in Rakiura National Park in line with the priorities below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Maintaining current rat free islands;</li> <li>b) Eradicating rats on other islands;</li> <li>c) Maintaining the general welfare of the Park's indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems and to maintain scenic and landform values; by controlling rats where necessary. Focus should be given to the protection requirements identified in policy 24.</li> </ul>	<p>Ulva Island &amp; Bench Island are currently maintained as rat-free islands.</p>	<b>Green</b>
	<p>5. Should undertake deer control in accordance with the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Maintaining current deer-free areas (such as existing deer-free islands);</li> <li>b) Preventing the colonisation and establishment of new deer species not presently found in Rakiura National Park; and</li> <li>c) Maintaining the general welfare of the park's indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems and to maintain scenic and landform values; by controlling deer where necessary. Focus should be given to the protection requirements identified in policy 24.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No</li> <li>b) Environment Southland's Regional Pest Management Strategy</li> <li>c) We do not currently do direct deer control but do support the Rakiura Hunter Hut Trust which has an impact on deer population</li> </ul>	<b>Yellow</b>

	6. Should consult with the Stewart Island/Rakiura Pest Liaison Group and the wider community to determine appropriate methods for control for those sites identified under policy 28c above.		Red
<b>3.3 Freshwater species, habitats and ecosystems</b> 1. To preserve the unique biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems in such a condition that they require minimal ongoing management input. 2. To manage threatened freshwater species having regard to national priorities, species recovery plans and local priorities. 3. To prevent the introduction of non-indigenous species (including fish and aquatic weeds) to freshwater ecosystems within Rakiura National Park. 4. To encourage the involvement of the community and Tangata whenua in the protection and conservation of freshwater species, habitats, and ecosystems.	1. Should give priority to conservation projects at locations where the greatest number of freshwater species may benefit. Priority should also be given to conservation projects that deal with a number of threats at one site.	Through CLC (compliance) DOC does not allow whitebaiting in the Rakiura National Park. DOC works with Southland Fish and Game and Environment Southland in monitoring salmonids in freshwater ecosystems.	Green
	2. Should collect data and information on the distribution, population and habitat of freshwater species where there is currently insufficient information. Monitor the changing status of threats to freshwater habitats and species so that knowledge of these threats remains accurate.	Have done this in the past.	Red
	3. <b>Will</b> encourage the community, local authorities, Tangata whenua and conservation interest groups to become involved in the management of freshwater species.		Red
	4. <b>Will</b> work with and advocate to the Southland Regional Council, Ministry of Fisheries and Fish and Game and the community to avoid the introduction of trout, salmon or any introduced plant or animal species to waterways within Rakiura National Park.		Green

	5. <b>Will</b> consider the eradication of salmonids and other introduced freshwater fish species should they become established in the waterways of Rakiura National Park.		<b>Green</b>
<b>3.4 Islands</b> 1. To restore and enhance the unique ecological characteristics of island ecosystems within Rakiura National Park 2. To maintain the introduced animal free status of islands within Rakiura National Park. 3. To raise awareness about island conservation and its role in New Zealand. 4. To involve the community in the protection and restoration of islands within Rakiura National Park where appropriate	1. <b>Will</b> manage islands as far as possible to avoid invasion of introduced species.		<b>Green</b>
	2. Should undertake further restoration work on islands to restore and enhance their ecosystems. Priority islands for introduced animal removal within Rakiura National Park include the remaining islands within Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera and the islands within Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti.	DOC doesn't currently do this but we should aim to in the future.	<b>Red</b>
	3. Should publish materials to educate and inform people about the value of island conservation.	DOC does this and Ulva Island Trust produced pamphlets	
	4. Should encourage the community, iwi, adjacent landowners, and concessionaires to become involved with island restoration and conservation.	When we have done translocations in the past (Ulva Island) Iwi and the community are invited and would continue to be invited in the future	<b>Green</b>
	5. May consider limited access and use of islands to achieve common goals for island appreciation, restoration and protection, where consistent with the island classification system.	Pearl Island, Codfish / Whenua Hou are restricted access islands.	<b>Green</b>
<b>3.5 Geological, landform and soil</b>	1. Should ensure that the adverse effects of any new facilities, structures, activities and utilities on the		<b>Green</b>



<b>features</b> 1. To preserve the landforms and landscapes including the soil and other abiotic features, of Rakiura National Park. 2. To protect and preserve geological sites of international, national and regional significance where they occur within Rakiura National Park. 3. To gain a better understanding of geological landform and soil features and the threats to these in Rakiura National Park in order to better prioritise the protection and active management of these values. 4. To increase the awareness and appreciation of local, national and international visitors on the significance of these features.	landforms and landscapes within Rakiura National Park are avoided or otherwise minimised.		
	2. <b>Will</b> work with local authorities to ensure activities adjoining the lands and waters of Rakiura National Park do not adversely affect the landforms and landscapes of the Park.		
<b>3.6 Fire</b> 1. To protect natural, cultural, historical and recreational values from fire and to control and manage the risk of fire within Rakiura National Park. 2. To increase the community and visitor awareness of fire danger.	1. <b>Will</b> give the highest priority to the control and suppression of wild fires within Rakiura National Park in accordance with the provisions of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 and other relevant legislation.	This is one of DOCs statutory obligations.	<b>Green</b>
	2. Should encourage all visitors to public conservation land to use portable cooking equipment rather than open fires.	Yes, especially in fire ban season.	<b>Green</b>
	3. May establish bylaws to control the use of fire within Rakiura National Park.		<b>Green</b>

<p><b>3.7 Facilities and access for management purposes</b></p> <p>1. To allow appropriate facilities and access for management purposes, provided they avoid or otherwise minimise impacts on the national park values.</p>	<p>1. Should manage any buildings or structures essential to support management activities according to the following criteria:</p> <p>a) that the form, design and placement of the building, structure, or facility should be such that its impact on the vegetation, topography, cultural values, ecological values and wildlife of the site is avoided, or otherwise minimised; and</p> <p>b) consideration should be given to alternative sites in order to determine the site with the least impact; and</p> <p>c) building material should be sensitive to the natural surroundings and any nearby or associated buildings, structures or facilities; and</p> <p>d) facilities should not visually affect the landscape except where high structural visibility is required for safety reasons; and</p> <p>e) facilities of a temporary and/or relocatable design should be preferred over permanent facilities; and</p> <p>f) all facilities will meet legal requirements.</p>	<p>DOC must adhere to building code which applies all criteria and adheres to conditions of building consent.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>2. Should avoid or otherwise minimise disturbance to other users and the environment, and consider other relevant planning documents when using aircraft, vehicles or boats to access Rakiura National Park for management purposes.</p>	<p>Planes and helicopters to try not to fly over track or land too close to huts and we let hunters know when DOC staff will be working in their area.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>3. Should consider authorisation requested for management activities by other Crown agencies, subject to policy 1 and 2 above.</p>		<p><b>Green</b></p>

<p><b>Part Four: Historical and cultural heritage</b></p> <p>1. To gain a better understanding of historical and cultural heritage and the threats to this heritage in Rakiura National Park, in order to better prioritise the protection and active management of that heritage.</p> <p>2. To protect historical and cultural heritage in Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>3. To preserve a representative range of historical and cultural heritage on public conservation land in Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>4. To increase the awareness and connection of local, national and international visitors to their historical and cultural heritage in Rakiura National Park.</p>	1. Should actively manage for conservation purposes the sites listed in Table 1 and should prepare a conservation plan for each of these sites.		<b>Green</b>
	2. Should consider the addition of further actively managed sites within Rakiura National Park, in consultation with tangata whenua, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the community, if resources allow.		<b>Green</b>
	3. Should implement the National Historic Heritage Protection Standard Operating Procedure to ensure the protection of historical and cultural sites.		<b>Green</b>
	4. Should maintain an up-to-date inventory of all historical and cultural heritage within Rakiura National Park		<b>Green</b>
	5. Should encourage Tangata whenua to take part in archaeological surveys of Rakiura National Park and provide opportunities for them to contribute knowledge of wahi tapu, wahi taonga and other values.	Stewart Bull took part in the relocation of the adze at Bungaree. Tangata whenua has also taken part in the repatriation of items found at Mason Bay such as the prow of a boat found at Kilbride.	<b>Green</b>
	6. Should work with the Historic Places Trust, Rakiura Heritage Trust and the community on the protection, conservation and management of historical and cultural heritage in Rakiura National Park.		<b>Green</b>
	7. Should work with Tangata whenua on the protection, conservation and management of any		<b>Green</b>

	wahi tapu or associated wahi taonga and encourage the management of these places by tangata whenua.		
	8. Should manage visitor facilities at actively managed historic places in accordance with the conservation plan for each site and the outcomes sought for each management Place within Rakiura National Park. These should avoid or otherwise minimise the impacts on historical and cultural heritage.	DOC previously achieved this through volunteer hut wardens stationed at Mason Bay. The wardens would discuss the cultural significance of nearby sites and significant areas. Currently there will be one historical volunteer trip per year lead by Andrew King and no volunteer hut wardens.	Red
	9. Should avoid or otherwise minimise impacts on culturally sensitive places through careful provision of information and education of visitors and the community who visit Rakiura National Park.		Green
	10. Should consult with Kaitiaki Roopū as a forum to assist the Department of Conservation when assessing concessionaire usage of culturally sensitive sites on a case-by-case basis.		Green
	11. Should work with Tangata whenua and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to ensure that there is an accidental discovery protocol which is kept up-to-date and applied where relevant.	This is applied to all DOC work including facilities upgrades.	Green
<b>Part Five: Public benefit, use and enjoyment of the Park</b> 1. To encourage public access to and use of Rakiura National Park while ensuring that the public use does not	1. Will continue to make available to the public recreation facilities within Rakiura National Park. Should provide these facilities in accordance with the recreational opportunity specified for each Place or part of each Place (see Part 8 – Places). Where booking systems apply these systems		Green

<p>adversely impact on natural, cultural and historic values.</p> <p>2. To manage a range of recreational opportunities within Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>3. To ensure that proposals for the maintenance, removal, further development or upgrading of public facilities within Rakiura National Park are consistent with natural, cultural and historical values and the outcomes, objectives and policies for the Place.</p> <p>4. To monitor the effects of recreational activities within Rakiura National Park with reference to the outcomes sought for Places within the Park.</p>	<p>should operate on an open and equal opportunity basis.</p>		
	<p>2. Should maintain existing recreational facilities within Rakiura National Park to their current standard (unless there is strong justification for their removal), and may upgrade these facilities as resources allow.</p>	<p>DOC has potential issues around future funding which means we will be challenged to maintain the facilities (huts and tracks) to standard (example: ceasing maintenance on Southern Circuit huts).</p>	<b>Yellow</b>
	<p>3. <b>Will</b> ensure that public access to and use of Rakiura National Park do not adversely impact on sites of cultural, historical, archaeological significance and indigenous species values.</p>	<p>DOC maintains and monitors visitor data and impacts.</p>	<b>Green</b>
	<p>4. May consult with adjacent landowners to determine appropriate access points from adjacent land.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>5. Should not allow the provision of concessionaire storage in recreational facilities as this is not consistent with the public use purposes for which these facilities are provided.</p>	<p>We do allow storage facilities at Mason Bay outside of the hut for concessionaires.</p>	<b>Green</b>
	<p>6. Should use the following criteria to guide the management of recreational facilities where recreational facilities are provided:</p> <p>a) Avoid or otherwise minimise the impact on the environment, including the ecological, historical, cultural and scenic values of the Park. An assessment of environmental effects will be required prior to building any new facilities;</p> <p>b) The maintenance of facilities should be undertaken in a way that avoids or otherwise</p>		<b>Green</b>

	<p>minimises effects on existing users, and national park values;</p> <p>c) All work should be undertaken according to national standards and consistent with the outcome statement for the Place in which the facility is located; and</p> <p>d) The use of volunteer resources to maintain or construct huts and facilities provided that the Department of Conservation's standards for the particular facility are met and that appropriate supervision of any activities is undertaken.</p>		
	<p>7. The following criteria should be used when considering applications for new facilities or extending or adding to an existing facility:</p> <p>a) Whether the facilities could reasonably be located outside public conservation lands and waters</p> <p>b) Whether the applicant could reasonably use or share an existing facility</p> <p>c) Whether there is an adequate assessment of the potential effects of the facility on the existing recreational experience, including potential conflict between visitors</p> <p>d) Whether there is an adequate assessment of the potential effects of the facility on the surrounding natural resources and historical and cultural heritage, including cumulative effects. Facilities should:</p> <p>i) Be consistent with the outcome planned for Places;</p>	<p>Murray River and Smoky hunter huts and also installing toilet facilities to minimise impacts at campsites.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) Minimise adverse effects on national park values and on the existing benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access;</li> <li>iii) Avoid proliferation of the built environment;</li> <li>iv) Complement existing accommodation and related facilities;</li> <li>v) Where possible be located close to existing facilities;</li> <li>vi) Be located, designed, constructed and maintained to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-preserve a sense of naturalness;</li> <li>-where possible be close to other buildings</li> <li>-meet all legal requirements and standards;</li> <li>-minimise risk from natural hazards; and</li> <li>-avoid adverse effects on natural surface and underground waters and all water bodies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>vii) be of scale, design and colour as to harmonise with the landscape and seascape;</li> <li>viii) Provide for disabled people in places to the extent required by law; and</li> <li>ix) Be available to the public on an open and equal basis</li> </ul>		
8.	Should continue to work with the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust in providing hunter huts for public benefit and enjoyment.		<b>Green</b>

	<p>9. Should undertake measures to prevent the building of illegal structures. Measures should include and not be limited to:</p> <p>a) Increasing awareness of the rationale for not constructing illegal structures within Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>b) Removing illegal structures from Rakiura National Park.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>10. Should undertake measures to prevent the leaving of rubbish and other materials at campsites within Rakiura National Park. Measures should include and not be limited to:</p> <p>a) Increasing awareness of the importance of removing rubbish from within Rakiura National Park;</p> <p>b) Removing rubbish from Rakiura National Park.</p>		<b>Green</b>
<p><b>5.4 Information and interpretation</b></p> <p>1. To enhance enjoyment through the provision of interpretation and visitor information that enrich visitor understanding and knowledge of Rakiura National Park and its natural and human history.</p> <p>2. To increase understanding of and support for the Department of Conservation's management of Rakiura National Park.</p>	<p>1. Should provide for a visitor information outlet in Oban/Halfmoon Bay as a key point of contact with Rakiura National Park.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>2. Should provide interpretation facilities and programmes in accordance with the Southland Conservancy Interpretation Plan 2007-2012 or its replacement, and policy 8.2 of the General Policy for National Parks 2005.</p>	<p>Mason Bay to Freshwater Landing, Ackers Point, Rakiura Track, Ulva Island completed but Southland Interpretation Plan requires updating. And various other mediums (brochures, internet, etc.).</p>	<b>Yellow</b>
	<p>3. Should ensure that signage for information and interpretation material is located and is of a scale, design and colour to harmonise with the</p>		<b>Green</b>



<p>3. To work with and involve tangata whenua, the community and tourism concessionaires in interpretation and visitor information initiatives.</p> <p>4. To manage information and interpretation in a way that harmonises with the landscape and seascape, except where for safety reasons, they should be clearly visible.</p>	landscape and seascape.		
	4. Should ensure that future interpretation material within Rakiura National Park is consistent with the visitor setting for that Place (see Part 8 – Places for more information on the visitor setting for each Place).		<b>Green</b>
	5. Should maintain interpretation facilities to an appropriate standard.	About to undertake Ulva Island biosecurity message update and placement.	<b>Green</b>
	6. May give support to interpretation providers working in Rakiura National Park as resources allow, in the form of training, advice or resource materials.	Volunteer rangers on Ulva Island provide interpretation.	<b>Green</b>
	7. Should work with Tangata whenua to ensure information regarding cultural values is appropriate and accurate.	DOC consults with Kaitiaki Roopū regularly (for example: the Ulva Island interpretive panels will also be taken to runanga).	<b>Green</b>
	8. Should work with concessionaires to ensure interpretation is appropriate and accurate.		<b>Green</b>
	9. May monitor interpretation provided by concessionaires to ensure it is appropriate and accurate.	We do not currently carry out concession monitoring.	<b>Red</b>
	<p><b>5.5 Hazards to people</b></p> <p>1. To ensure that the adverse effects of known natural hazards on facilities managed by the Department of Conservation within Rakiura National Park are avoided or minimised to suit</p>	1. <b>Will</b> ensure that the known adverse effects of natural hazards are avoided or mitigated for facilities and structures in accordance with the predominant visitor group and that legal responsibilities, and natural hazards are taken into account when constructing new facilities.	

<p>the predominant visitor group.</p> <p>2. To ensure that visitors to Rakiura National Park and concessionaires are informed about the hazards and risks where known and about their personal responsibility associated with entering Rakiura National Park</p> <p>3. To preserve as far as possible the range of recreational opportunities within Rakiura National Park.</p>	<p>2. Should record known natural hazards within Rakiura National Park including their site, frequency of occurrence, and potential severity. Visitors should be informed about hazards and risks present and the level of skill/competence necessary to cope with these.</p>	<p>All natural hazards are reported and recorded in AMIS.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>3. <b>Will</b> close a facility to public use in the event that it is unsafe, damaged by a natural hazard or in any way made unfit for purpose. The public should be notified about the closure of any facilities as soon as practical.</p>		<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>4. Should undertake an assessment in the event of closure of a facility, to determine the feasibility of replacement or repair. If replacement is not feasible, alternatives should be investigated to ensure that the outcomes for Rakiura National Park are met.</p>		<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>5. Should replace or repair any facility identified under policy 4 as being feasible, while ensuring the adverse effects of this replacement or repair are avoided or otherwise minimised. This may require the removal of vegetation – for example the re-routing of a track.</p>	<p>The Rakiura Track re-route is an example.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>6. Should consider the potential effects of climate change and sea level rise on facilities managed by the Department of Conservation.</p>		<p><b>Red</b></p>

<b>5.6 Sports fishing and game bird hunting</b>  1. To discourage sports fishing and game bird hunting within Rakiura National Park.  2. To protect Rakiura National Park from the establishment of populations of introduced sports fish and game birds	1. Should discourage fishing within the waters of Rakiura National Park.	DOC does not proactively discourage fishing outside of whitebaiting although we do respond to requests and advise the public that it is illegal.	Red
	2. Should discourage game bird hunting due to the lack of introduced game birds.	DOC does not currently discourage this but it is illegal.	Red
<b>5.7 Domestic animals</b>  1. To prohibit the taking of domestic animals (including dogs) into Rakiura National Park.  2. To allow for the use of dogs by conservation staff, contractors and/or search and rescue, subject to appropriate certification.	1. <b>Will</b> not permit the taking of domestic animals (including pets) into Rakiura National Park, except where particular types of dogs are provided for in policies 2 and 3 below.		Green
	2. May permit the use of dogs within Rakiura National Park by conservation staff, contractors and/or search and rescue workers for management purposes and search and rescue where these animals have been certified as being capable of undertaking the work required of them with minimal effect on the values of the Park.	One important consideration is that certification does not include kiwi aversion training.	Yellow
	3. <b>Will</b> allow certified guide and companion dogs in Rakiura National Park without a permit in accordance with section 56E(2) and (3) of the National Parks Act 1980		Green
	4. May work to develop certification standards to ensure the protection of wildlife when dogs are working within Rakiura National Park		Green

<p><b>5.8 Aircraft</b></p> <p>1. To manage aircraft access at a specific set of approved sites.</p> <p>2. To allow aircraft access to Rakiura National Park for management and emergency purposes.</p> <p>3. To monitor both the level of aircraft access in Rakiura National Park and its effects on visitors to Rakiura National Park.</p>	<p>1. <b>Will</b> require all aircraft operators landing in Rakiura National Park to have a concession, including aircraft landings to service utilities, but not, landings undertaken for management or emergency purposes.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>2. Should monitor effects of aircraft in, on, and adjacent to Rakiura National Park.</p>	DOC does not currently actively monitor the effects of aircraft beach landings. DOC monitors numbers of helicopter / plane landings and has monitored visitor experience in the past but not adjacent impacts such as weeds.	<b>Red</b>
	<p>3. Should avoid landings on the summit of Mt Anglem/Hananui, in recognition of the cultural values of this place.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>4. May approve landing at sites approved within the Rakiura National Park (see section 8.2.6 – Outcome, objectives and policies (Northern Place) and 8.3.6 – Outcome, objectives and policies (Mason Bay Place) for limits for aircraft landings). Approved sites are:</p> <p>a) Long Harry Hut site;</p> <p>b) East Ruggedy Hut site;</p> <p>c) Hellfire Pass Hut site; and</p> <p>d) Homestead Hunters’ Hut site.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>5. Should place restrictions on sites approved for helicopter landings. These restrictions can be found in the Place section for the particular site (see Part 8 – Places).</p>		<b>Green</b>

	<p>6. Should decline applications for the construction of facilities to land aircraft in Rakiura National Park.</p>	<p>A case similar to this was recently declined and is currently being challenged.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>7. <b>Will</b> consider the following when considering all concessions applications for the authorisation of helicopter landings within Rakiura National Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provisions relating to frequency and timing of activity and the number of landings;</li> <li>b) Provisions relating to restrictions on purpose of landing;</li> <li>c) Conditions allowing the review, suspension and/or termination of the concession should unauthorised landings be undertaken;</li> <li>d) Details of aircraft that the concessionaire intends to operate within Rakiura National Park;</li> <li>e) Provisions relating to managing any adverse effects on the visitor experience values and natural values;</li> <li>f) Activity return forms should be provided that include information on the date, timing, number, location, as well as the number of passengers carried; and</li> <li>g) Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987</li> </ul>		<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>8. May permit one-off landings and associated take-offs within Rakiura National Park. These should be managed in accordance with policies 5 and 6 of section 1.5.2 – Vehicles (including aircraft) of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS (one-off landings and associated take-offs are in addition to</p>	<p>DOC allows for one-off permits for activities such as maintaining the weather station at South Cape and Search and Rescue operations.</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>

	landings outlined in policy 4 above).		
	9. May permit aircraft wild animal recovery operations (see section 6.2 – Wild animal recovery operations (WARO)) where the adverse effects of the activity can be avoided or otherwise minimised. These landings will be subject to the requirements of the particular concession and policy 7 above.		<b>Green</b>
	10. <b>Will</b> work with local authorities, aircraft operators and other government agencies to avoid or otherwise minimise any adverse effects of aircraft activity adjacent to or over the park on the national Park values, natural quiet, and the remote and wilderness recreational opportunities of the Park.	Visitor experience was monitored and DOC will work with authorities to develop a coastal plan.	<b>Green</b>
<b>5.9 Water craft</b>			
1. To allow for powered recreational water craft (excluding hovercraft, jet skis and other personal water craft) on rivers within Rakiura National Park.	1. May permit the limited use of the lower Freshwater River by concessionaires operating powered and non-powered water craft if appropriate, subject to the criteria specified in the Northern Place (see section 8.2 – Northern Place).	Written in National Park Plan.	<b>Green</b>
2. To allow for commercial water craft on certain rivers within Rakiura National Park.	2. Should undertake an investigation into the environmental and/or social effects of water craft use of lower Freshwater River.	DOC does not monitor environmental effects such as bank erosion along the Freshwater River since there was no monitoring before water taxi operations began it would be impossible to accurately measure the effects of the boats. DOC does monitor social effects.	<b>Yellow</b>
3. To manage the effects of water craft on rivers within Rakiura National Park.	3. May consider introducing bylaws under the National Parks Act 1980 to manage the effects of	Bylaws exist applicable to Freshwater River.	<b>Green</b>

	recreational and commercial water craft on the lower Freshwater River.		
	4. Should not permit the use of hovercraft, jet skis, jet boats and other personal water craft on waters within Rakiura National Park.		Green
<b>5.10 Other vehicles</b>			
1. To minimise the use of vehicles within Rakiura National Park	1. Should not permit use of land-based vehicles and other forms of land-based motorised transport within Rakiura National Park except where necessary for management purposes.		Green
	2. Should not permit the use of mountain bikes and other similar vehicles within Rakiura National Park		Green
	3. Should not permit the construction of any formed and/or unformed roads within Rakiura National Park.		Green
<b>Part Six: Uses requiring authorisation not covered elsewhere</b>			
1. To enable a range of appropriate activities to be provided within Rakiura National Park through the granting of concessions.	1. Should only grant authorisations (including variations to existing concessions) if they are consistent with the outcomes, objectives and policies sought for particular Places within Rakiura National Park and any other relevant sections of this Plan.		Green
2. To recognise that both independent and authorised use of the National Park have impacts and to manage these impacts and to manage these impacts with respect to one another.	2. Should only grant authorisations that do not have adverse effects on national park values and are consistent with the outcomes sought for Place.		Green
	3. Should keep authorisations at levels that do not detract from other visitors' use and enjoyment and national park values. This may mean limiting the number of operators, party size, and frequency of		Green

	operations, particularly where opportunities being provided are toward the remote end of the recreational opportunity system.		
	4. Should decline new applications where the impacts of increasing visitor numbers to a place are unknown, unless the applicant can show that it can avoid or otherwise minimise the adverse effects of any activity, structure or facility.	Adverse effects are generally unknown.	<b>Red</b>
	5. Should include in conditions on all concessions, where relevant, the following: a) Limits on the number of guides/vessels/aircraft allowed to operate at any one time; b) Maximum party sizes (refer to Part 8 – Places); c) Clearly defined spatial areas of operation; d) Clearly defined maximum permitted frequencies of use; e) Concession monitoring requirements; f) Required behaviours to avoid adverse impacts on national park values; and g) Requirement to provide information at least annually detailing the time, frequency, location, number of clients and purpose of any activity approved by the concession.	With the exception of concession monitoring.	<b>Yellow</b>
	6. Should only grant authorisations for structures, facilities and services ancillary to commercial recreation/tourism activities where they are consistent with the following:		<b>Green</b>



	<p>a) Section 6.7 – Accommodation and related facilities;</p> <p>b) The outcome, objectives and policies sought for Places;</p> <p>c) The facility cannot be provided outside Rakiura National Park;</p> <p>d) The adverse effects of the facility on the national park values and biodiversity values are avoided or otherwise minimised; and</p> <p>e) The activity cannot be provided for through the use of existing Rakiura National Park facilities.</p>		
	<p>7. Should permit concessionaires and their clients to share public facilities on an open and equal opportunity basis but concessionaire usage may not exceed more than 50 per cent of available sleeping capacity in huts at any time.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>8. May monitor concessions to assess whether:</p> <p>a) There is compliance with concession conditions;</p> <p>b) The adverse effects (including cumulative effects) on natural, cultural or historical values or on the recreation opportunities and experience of other visitors are being avoided or otherwise minimised; and</p> <p>c) The total commercial use is within any limits set for the area. Priority areas for this type of monitoring include Mason Bay, Port Pegasus, the North West Circuit and Ulva Island.</p> <p>The results of this monitoring should be available to</p>	<p>b) adverse effects have recently been requested from concessionaires around Freshwater River Landing regarding pre-monitoring and erosion which will show the cumulative effect</p>	<b>Yellow</b>

	concessionaires.		
	<p>9. Should develop specific conditions to be included in any concession applications concerning encounters with wildlife. As a minimum these conditions should cover:</p> <p>a) The protection of populations of protected species – concessionaire activity should only be permitted at a few selected sites where such plants or animals exist and adverse effects of the activity can be avoided or otherwise minimised.</p> <p>b) The protection of populations of endangered species – concessionaire activity should not be allowed at sites of importance to these species; and</p> <p>c) The selection of site suitability – this may take into account local features and factors that increase or decrease risk of disturbance and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>	This is generally considered. Examples could include placing conditions on concessionaires around dotterel viewing at Mason Bay and kiwi spotting at Ocean Beach, Mason Bay and Ulva Island.	Yellow
	10. <b>Will</b> require concessionaires to provide evidence that their safety plan has been audited by an approved auditor unless it is determined by the Department of Conservation that the activity does not require this. Concessionaires will take primary responsibility for the safety of their clients.		Green
	<p>11. May consider the following options in areas where it is determined authorised opportunities need to be limited:</p> <p>a) The right to make an application may be</p>		Green

	<p>tendered;</p> <p>b) Applications may be invited; and</p> <p>c) Other actions that may encourage specific applications may be carried out.</p> <p>If guidance/criteria is not provided within this Plan or the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS for the allocation of limited opportunities, relevant guidance/criteria will be identified</p>		
	<p>12. <b>Will</b> consult with the Southland Conservation Board and papatipu rūnanga regarding the processing and management of significant authorisations. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu will be consulted on authorisation applications where the area the application applies to involves the use of places with a deed of recognition (see section 2.2 – Responsibilities under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998).</p>		<b>Green</b>
<p><b>6.2 Wild animal recovery operations (WARO)</b></p> <p>1. To manage wild animal recovery operations within Rakiura National Park to provide for conservation benefits.</p>	<p>1. May restrict authorisations for wild animal recovery operations in order to avoid conflict with recreational users within Rakiura National Park.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>2. <b>Will</b> consider all applications for wild animal recovery on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with legislative requirements.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>3. May consider other provisions restricting activity on concessions for wild animal recovery operations where the benefits of such operations for the preservation and protection of indigenous species and attainment of desired outcomes of</p>		<b>Green</b>

	this Plan are outweighed by the adverse effects of such operations.		
<b>6.3 Mining and extraction</b> 1. To prohibit access arrangements in Rakiura National Park unless an arrangement is consistent with section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991	1. Should not enter into access arrangements for Rakiura National Park unless an arrangement is consistent with the Crown Minerals Act 1991, the National Parks Act 1980, the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and any other legislative requirements.		<b>Green</b>
<b>6.4 Indigenous freshwater fishing</b> 1. To preserve freshwater fish species including whitebait and eels, and their habitat within Rakiura National Park	1. <b>Will</b> not permit commercial eeling in Rakiura National Park. Consideration should be given to policy 4.4(g) of General Policy for National Parks 2005.		<b>Green</b>
	2. Should not permit recreational fishing for eels in Rakiura National Park.	Refer to above comments discussing the lack of information signage on the banks or posted at the huts about fishing inside Rakiura National Park.	<b>Yellow</b>
	3. May authorise the customary harvest of indigenous species in Rakiura National Park in accordance with the policies set out in section 6.6 – Customary use and the following: a) It is consistent with all relevant Acts and regulations and the purpose of national parks; b) There is an established tradition of such fishing in those national park waters; c) The preservation of the indigenous freshwater fisheries and maintenance of stocks within those waters are not adversely affected; and d) The application is supported by tangata whenua.	This has not occurred within Rakiura National Park, but could.	<b>Green</b>

	4. Should not grant authorisations for whitebait fishing within Rakiura National Park.		Green
<b>6.5 Utilities</b> 1. To avoid or otherwise minimise the effects of utilities on landscape features and natural, recreational, cultural and historical values.	1. Should apply the following provisions to all utilities: a) Should not be sited on areas that have been identified as having significant Maori spiritual and cultural values; b) Should be sited away from prominent skylines where practicable to avoid or otherwise minimise visual effects and should be of a scale, design and colour that harmonises with the landscape; c) Should require operators of telecommunication facilities to remove and/or update facilities if new technology enables existing effects to be reduced or eliminated; d) Should require, on the termination of a utilities concession, the concessionaire to remove all structures and material associated with the facility and to landscape and restore the site to a reasonable natural state. Department of Conservation facilities should also be removed if they are no longer required or used; and e) Should require the co-siting of facilities to reduce the adverse effects of the facilities and the access to them.	This is covered by resource and building consent process (and discussed above), tracks not included in these regulations.	Green
	2. Should require new utilities and associated infrastructure to be located outside Rakiura National Park in the first instance. If it is determined that there is no suitable location	This is not considered as when a need within Rakiura National Park is identified, the appropriate infrastructure is built within the park (Rakiura is a special case as most of the Island is National Park	Red

	outside of Rakiura National Park, utilities and associated infrastructure should be located where the potential adverse effects have been adequately avoided or otherwise minimised.	land).	
	3. Should apply policies 1 and 2 to any telecommunications facilities required by the Department of Conservation within Rakiura National Park.	Rakeahua repeater site, South Cape weather station and Peterson Hill repeater unit.	Green
<b>6.6 Customary use</b>	1. Should use the guidelines <i>Allocation of cultural materials guidelines for the takiwa of Ngāi Tahu Whanui 2007</i> to assist with decision making on applications for the collection, use and allocation of cultural materials from Rakiura National Park.		Green
1. To provide, where possible, for the customary use of traditional materials from Rakiura National Park by Ngāi Tahu, consistent with kaitiakitanga, the relevant legislation, regulations and general policies, and the purpose for which the land is held.	2. May where considered useful, develop and implement guidelines and conditions to help define levels of customary use of specific cultural materials within Rakiura National Park. This process will be based on tikanga for harvesting, which ensures the sustainability of the resource for future generations.	The legislation exists and this has not happened.	Green
2. To protect and enhance the tuna (eel) population within Rakiura National Park.			
3. To work with paptipu runanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to give effect to the Deed of Settlement protocol for cultural materials and subsequent guidelines developed between the Department of Conservation and iwi in respect to those protocols.	3. May approve an application by Tangata whenua for the customary take of cultural materials from Rakiura National Park where: a) There is an established tradition of such use; b) The use is consistent with all relevant Acts (including fisheries legislation), regulations and this Management Plan; c) The preservation of the species involved is not	A general agreement exists with tangata whenua that DOC does not harvest or source cultural materials but will be happy to provide these if the sought after items are available.	Green

	<p>adversely affected and the preservation of the indigenous species at the place is not affected; in the case of eels and other indigenous freshwater fish species, the effects of the harvest are understood, and adverse effects on indigenous species or ecosystems within those waters are avoided or otherwise minimised;</p> <p>d) The effects on national park values are not significant; and</p> <p>e) Tangata whenua support the application.</p>		
	4. May work with the <b>papatipu rūnanga</b> to develop a protocol regarding the use of rahui (customary restrictions) within Rakiura National Park.		
	5. Should work with the <b>papatipu rūnanga</b> regarding any freshwater fishing harvest and management issues within Rakiura National Park.		
	6. Should provide for the opportunity of a long-term permit for collectors of Hall's totara as recommended by Kaitiaki Roopū using the <i>Allocation of cultural materials guidelines for the takiwa of Ngāi Tahu Whanui 2007</i> . Guidelines for the Allocation of Cultural Materials.	Totara used for carving and bark was historically used for titi bags and totora has recently been removed from Whenua Hou to be carved.	<b>Green</b>
<b>6.7 Accommodation and related facilities</b>	1. Should not authorise new private accommodation and related facilities or the exclusive private use of accommodation facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters.		<b>Green</b>
1. To ensure that unauthorised accommodation facilities including encampments are not established on			

<p>public conservation land</p> <p>2. To ensure that no new private accommodation and related facilities are established on public conservation land and waters.</p> <p>3. To remove unauthorised private accommodation facilities including encampments from Rakiura National Park.</p> <p>4. To ensure any existing accommodation facilities permitted under an authorisation or concession do not detract from the values of Rakiura National Park.</p>	<p>2. Should ensure that any application for a concession or an authorisation to establish accommodation and related facilities in a place, or to extend or add to an existing structure or facility, meets the following criteria:</p> <p>a) The accommodation or related facility cannot reasonably be located outside of the national park</p> <p>b) The accommodation or related facility cannot reasonably be built elsewhere in the national park where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less; and</p> <p>c) The applicant cannot reasonably use or share an existing structure or facility.</p>		<b>Green</b>
<p>5. To ensure any new accommodation facility authorised and established in Rakiura National Park is consistent with the outcomes, objectives and policies of the Place in which it is to be located.</p> <p>6. To monitor new and existing authorised accommodation facilities to identify any adverse effects of these facilities on national park</p>	<p>3. Should (unless otherwise provided for in the existing lease) only authorise new accommodation and related facilities including replacements, additions and extensions and signage where these:</p> <p>a) Are consistent with the outcome planned for the Place;</p> <p>b) Minimise adverse effects on national park values and on the existing benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access;</p> <p>c) Avoid proliferation of the built environment;</p> <p>d) Complement existing accommodation and related facilities;</p> <p>e) Are located, designed, constructed and maintained to:</p>		<b>Green</b>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) preserve a sense of naturalness;</li> <li>ii) be close to another building (where possible);</li> <li>iii) meet all legal requirements and standards;</li> <li>iv) minimise risk from natural hazards; and</li> <li>v) avoid adverse effects on natural surface and underground waters and all water bodies.</li> <li>f) are of a scale, design and colour that harmonise with the landscape and seascape;</li> <li>g) provide for disabled people in places to the extent required by law;</li> <li>h) are available for use by the public;</li> <li>i) meet the policy requirements for the management of public accommodation facilities in section 5.3 – Public access and facilities; and</li> <li>j) avoid or otherwise minimise adverse effects on the existing track network, and do not adversely affect users of the existing track network.</li> </ul>		
	<p>4. Should ensure that applications for additional hunter huts are consistent with section 1.6 – Accommodation and related facilities, of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>5. Should ensure that existing accommodation facilities that are open to the public remain consistent with the outcome, objectives and policies sought for Places within Rakiura National Park.</p>		<b>Green</b>

<p><b>6.8 Filming</b></p> <p>1. To allow commercial filming in Rakiura National Park only where the adverse effects on national park values and other users of Rakiura National Park can be avoided or otherwise minimised.</p>	<p>1. <b>Will</b> ensure filming permitted within Rakiura National Park is consistent with the following:</p> <p>a) The outcomes sought for Place, section 5.3 – Public access and facilities; and the provisions of sections 5.4 – Concessions, 5.8 – Aircraft, 5.9 – Water Craft, 5.10 – Other vehicles, 6.1 – Authorisations and 6.7 – Accommodation; and</p> <p>b) Adverse effects of the activity on the park values are avoided or otherwise minimised.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>2. Should only grant concessions for small-scale filming operations which are inconsistent with sections 5.3, 5.4, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 6.1 and 6.7 of this Management Plan if:</p> <p>a) The activity does not involve bringing animals into Rakiura National Park;</p> <p>b) The adverse effects of the activity on the park values are avoided or otherwise minimised.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>3. Should ensure that in addition to policy 1, large-scale filming permitted under the provisions of this Management Plan, in order to minimise adverse effects on other park users.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>4. May permit national news media to film in Rakiura National Park at short notice for the purpose of breaking news stories, if the media contact the area manager and receive a permit.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>5. Should require applicants to be aware of the guidelines for filming developed by Te Rūnanga o</p>		<b>Green</b>

	Ngāi Tahu and the Screen Production and Directors Association 2002.		
	6. Should require application to comply with the Code of Practice for Filming on Public Conservation Land developed by Film New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.		Green
<b>Part Seven: Other matters</b>			
<b>7.1 Additions to Rakiura National Park</b> 1. To ensure that additions to Rakiura National Park remain consistent with the National Park Act 1980 and the General Policy for National Parks 2005. 2. To recognise that other lands adjacent to Rakiura National Park are of high natural value and would be suitable additions to Rakiura National Park.	1. Should seek the inclusion of the following land in Rakiura National Park: a) Road reserves in the lower Freshwater River Valley: i) Sec 1, SO 303725; ii) Sec 2, SO 303725; and iii) Sec 3, SO 303725. b) Road reserve at Big Bungaree Bay (Sec 1, SO 303708); c) The reclamation associated with the former fish factory site and wharf at North Arm, Port Pegasus; and d) Bishops and Clerks islands.		Yellow
<b>7.2 Bylaws</b> 1. To enact a process to establish bylaws for Rakiura National Park where they will provide a further degree of control over activities or the effect/s of a specific	1. May investigate bylaws for Rakiura National Park through a separate public consultation process.		Green

activity			
<p><b>Part Eight: Places</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Ulva Island</b></p> <p>1. To provide for the continued protection of native species, habitats and ecosystems on Ulva Island as an open island sanctuary free of introduced animals.</p> <p>2. To provide a safe sanctuary for key species for future release back onto the main island of Stewart Island/Rakiura and other locations in New Zealand.</p> <p>3. To sustain Ulva Island as an open island sanctuary free of introduced animals with appropriate biosecurity controls and policies.</p> <p>4. To encourage and facilitate scientific study and research consistent with the outcomes for Ulva Island.</p> <p>5. To manage concessionaire opportunities to Ulva Island at appropriate levels consistent with the outcomes for Ulva Island.</p> <p>6. To further increase public awareness of the natural, historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, on Ulva Island</p>	1. Should manage Ulva Island as an open island sanctuary for indigenous species, free of introduced animals and plants.		Green
	2. Should take all possible steps to remove any future introductions of introduced animals and plants from the Ulva Island Place.	DOC does this for incursions.	Green
	3. Should work with local authorities, landowners, the community and other interested parties to remove introduced plants from the Ulva Island Place.	Does does this itself and leaves large historically introduced plants (pines, beech, Cyprus). Small scale areas and dangerous conditions make it difficult to include community groups. It is not in the community's interest to do something this small-scale.	Red
	4. Should continue to manage the public conservation land within the Ulva Island Place in order to protect and restore its native species, habitats and ecosystems.		Green
	5. Should work with the community, boat operators (including the cruise ship industry) landing on Ulva Island, concessionaires, local authorities, as well as other stakeholders to develop a code of practice to include but not limited to:	DOC should work to reform relationships. In the past DOC has supplied traps and bait for the boats as well as around the wharf.	Red
	<p>a) Biosecurity measures to minimise the risk of pest invasions from boats; and</p> <p>b) Management measures to ensure that the quality of the visitor experience is maintained.</p>	Visitor satisfaction survey was run twice on Ulva Island for one or two months showed that visitors were highly satisfied but further work is required on biosecurity messaging for proper understanding.	

<p>7. To provide for the protection and management of historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, on Ulva Island.</p> <p>8. To facilitate and encourage integrated conservation management between the different agencies, private landowners, and community organisations, which have a role in the management of Ulva Island and the surrounding environment.</p>	6. May initiate bylaws in the event that the code of practice established under policy 5 above is not effective.		<b>Red</b>
	7. Should require concessionaires to ensure that all members of their party are aware of and implement appropriate biosecurity measures to protect Ulva Island as an island sanctuary.	DOC has monitored using visitor surveys but has not carried out any concession monitoring.	<b>Red</b>
	8. Should manage Ulva Island as a frontcountry recreational opportunity.		<b>Green</b>
	9. Should ensure that all concessions issued for the Ulva Island Place are consistent with the outcome sought for Place, such as adding no obtrusive artificial noise to the Ulva Island environment.	This may be difficult to manage in the future but is not an issue currently.	<b>Green</b>
	10. Should limit party sizes to a maximum of 13 (including guides). May allow for tour parties, which should be limited to 30 (including guides).		<b>Green</b>
	11. Should encourage concessionaires to operate in the west end zone of Ulva Island.	DOC only allows concessionaires to use the Western track network (with Ruggedy Range as an exception).	<b>Yellow</b>
	12. Should generally allow the public to have free access to the Rakiura National Park on Ulva Island. A restriction on access during the hours of night should be investigated as well as a restriction on overnight stays and/or camping within the Rakiura National Park on Ulva Island. Bylaws may be an option for achieving these access restrictions.	DOC allows public access but discourages hours of access and overnight camping.	<b>Green</b>

	13. Should not authorise any new accommodation facilities within the Ulva Island Place.		<b>Green</b>
	14. Should, as resources allow, undertake research and monitoring to ensure that the facilities currently in Place on Ulva Island are adequate to handle the current and forecast levels of visitor use and that the visitor experience available on Ulva Island is being sustained and is consistent with the outcome sought for Place.	DOC keeps track of numbers, toilets, and tracks.	<b>Green</b>
	15. May develop education and interpretation programmes and materials to raise awareness about conservation management on Ulva Island, consistent with the outcomes sought for Place, while showcasing its natural heritage and its status as an example of successful island management. The education programme should include information on the marine environment surrounding Ulva Island.	New panels are currently being developed and DOC used to do a visitor programme.	<b>Yellow</b>
	16. Should ensure that any facilities such as signage, are not excessive and are consistent with the outcome sought for the Place.		<b>Green</b>
	17. May undertake further work to identify, protect and manage historical and cultural heritage, including archeological sites, on Ulva Island	Nothing required so far.	<b>Red</b>
	18. May undertake further work to identify, protect and manage historical and cultural heritage on private land on Ulva Island.	Nothing required.	<b>Red</b>

	19. Should work alongside landowners, local authorities, central government agencies and community organisations to ensure that an integrated approach to conservation management is undertaken across jurisdictional boundaries, recognising the Ulva Island Trust as a key partner in the management of the Island.		Green
<b>8.2 Northern Place</b> 1. To provide for the continued protection and restoration of native species, habitats and ecosystems within the Northern Place. 2. To preserve and perpetuate the remote values and natural character of the Northern Place. 3. To provide for the protection and management of historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, within the Northern Place. 4. To recognise the relationship of Ngāi Tahu to My Anglem/Hananui and to provide for the consideration of Ngāi Tahu values. 5. To manage the recreational opportunities within the Northern Place consistent with the outcome sought for the Northern Place. 6. To manage the Northwest and Southern circuits for their unique	1. Should continue to manage the Northern Place in order to protect and restore its native species, habitats, ecosystems, natural character and outstanding landscape values.		Green
	2. Should continue to manage and restore the nationally significant dune systems within the Northern Place.		Green
	3. Should continue to manage the Freshwater River, to preserve its natural character as a large unmodified freshwater wetland ecosystem.		Green
	4. <b>Will</b> consult with tangata whenua regarding the management of the Mt Anglem/Hananui area due to its status as a Deed of Recognition under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.		Green
	5. May undertake further work to identify historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, in the Northern Place and to undertake protection, monitoring and management where appropriate.	Port William is generally deemed a 'no dig site' and when the hut was extended an archaeologist was on site to monitor the digging. An adze was discovered near Bungaree Hut.	Green
	6. Should manage the Northern Place for its remote recreational opportunity, with the exception of the		Green

<p>character as long and remote tramping opportunities.</p> <p>7. To manage concessionaire opportunities consistent with the outcome sought for the Northern Place.</p> <p>8. To allow a restricted number of aircraft landings at specified sites within the Northern Place, to facilitate access to some parts of this Place (see section 5.8 – Aircraft for more information on aircraft landings).</p>	<p>track corridor from Freshwater Landing to Mason Bay, which should be managed according to the outcome sought for Mason Bay Place (see section 8.3 – Mason Bay Place) and part of the south western shore of Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera which should be managed according to the outcome sought for the Oban/Paterson Place (see section 2.2 – Oban/Paterson Place in the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS).</p>		
	<p>7. Should manage the Northwest Circuit to preserve its character as the longest remote tramping track available within New Zealand.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>8. Should limit concessionaire opportunities for multi-day guided tramping on the Northwest Circuit between Port William/Potirepo and Mason Bay to a maximum party size of nine (including guides).</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>9. Should limit concessionaires authorised to provide guided hunting on the Northwest Circuit to a maximum party size of nine (including guides).</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>10. Should limit other concessionaire activities within the Northern Place, excluding commercial activities on the Freshwater River, to a maximum party size of nine (including guides) consistent with the remote recreational zoning of this Place.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>11. Should decline applications for guided day walking on the Northwest Circuit, excluding the track between Mason Bay and Freshwater Landing, as this is not considered consistent with</p>		<b>Green</b>



	the outcome sought for Northern Place.		
	12. May consider applications for concessionaire opportunities on the Southern Circuit. Applications need to be consistent with the outcome sought for Northern Place and must be limited to a party size of four (including guides).		<b>Green</b>
	13. May consider guided day walking concessions opportunities from Mt Rakeahua landing up Rakeahua, where these are consistent with the outcome sought for the Northern Place.		<b>Green</b>
	14. Should undertake a precautionary approach to the management of concessionaires on the lower Freshwater River between Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera (above mean high water spring) and Freshwater Landing. Consideration should be given to the following prior to a full assessment of the effects of water craft on bank erosion, visitor use, hut capacity (Freshwater and Mason Bay hut) and river safety:  a) Powered water craft operators, excluding personal powered water craft:  i) All powered craft used for commercial purposes on the lower Freshwater River will require a concession;  ii) there should be a minimum of five operators authorised to operate powered water craft on the lower Freshwater River for commercial purposes;  iii) each concession should be limited to one trip up		<b>Green</b>

	<p>and down the lower Freshwater River per day;</p> <p>iv) concessionaires should be limited to a maximum party size of nine (not including the skipper) while on the lower Freshwater River;</p> <p>v) consideration will be given to the adverse effects of the application; and</p> <p>vi) consideration should be given to the safety of other river users, including commercial and non-commercial powered and non-powered recreational water craft.</p> <p>b) Non-powered water craft operators:</p> <p>i) Concessionaries should be limited to a maximum party size of 12 (including guides), while on the lower Freshwater River; and</p> <p>ii) consideration should be given to the safety of other river users, including commercial and non-commercial powered and non-powered recreational water craft.</p>		
	<p>15. Should give priority to undertaking an investigation to determine the following environmental and social effects in and around the lower Freshwater River:</p> <p>a) The effect of all boats on the Freshwater River environment;</p> <p>b) The visitor capacity and associated effects on the Freshwater Hut;</p> <p>c) The cumulative effect of visitor numbers on the social experience on the track between</p>	<p>While the social effects have been monitored through visitor surveys undertaken, environmental impacts have not been monitored.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>

	Freshwater Landing and Mason Bay and any flow-on effects into the Mason Bay Place; and d) The effect of visitor numbers on the track network in the Freshwater Landing area, including the track to Rocky Mountain.		
	16. Should work with the Southland Regional Council to ensure that the management of the Freshwater River is integrated with respect to navigation safety bylaws and the amount of activity provided for in policy 14 above.		Green
	17. Should allow concessioned helicopter landings and associated take-offs at Long Harry, East Ruggedy and Hellfire Pass. When actual use exceeds 60 landings and associated take-offs per site per annum at any site, monitoring should be undertaken and this limit and any concessions (for any of the above sites) should be reviewed.		Green
	18. Should encourage the adoption of flight paths that avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of aircraft noise on the remote values of Northern Place and the public within it.	No, but there haven't been issues detected in previous visitor surveys.	Red
<b>8.3 Mason Bay</b>	1. Should undertake measures at Mason Bay to restore the dune systems to a healthy and dynamic native dune system free of invasive species, recognising that this is a long-term project that extends beyond the lifetime of this Plan.		Green
1. To provide for the continued and active protection and restoration of native species, habitats and ecosystems within the Mason Bay area.			
2. To provide protection for and management of historical and cultural	2. Should continue to manage the Mason Bay Place in order to protect and restore its native species,		Green

heritage including archaeological sites within the Mason Bay area.	habitats, ecosystems, natural character and outstanding landscape values.		
3. To manage the recreational opportunities for Mason Bay Place consistent with the outcome sought for the Mason Bay Place.	3. Should share information and liaise with the community regarding ecosystem restoration projects being undertaken by the Department of Conservation.		<b>Green</b>
4. To preserve the backcountry and remote values of the Mason Bay Place.	4. Should continue to monitor and report on any ongoing environmental protection or restoration work.		<b>Green</b>
5. To provide appropriate interpretation of natural, cultural and historical values in the Mason Bay Place.	5. Should manage the Mason Bay Place as a backcountry recreational opportunity consistent with the outcome sought for the Mason Bay Place.		<b>Green</b>
6. To facilitate information sharing and liaison with the community with regard to the Mason Bay Place.	6. Should maintain the Freshwater-Mason Bay track as a key access route to Mason Bay, while also having regard to the Northwest Circuit and the Southern Circuit.	Southern Circuit budget constraints may reduce access in the future.	<b>Yellow</b>
7. To facilitate and encourage integrated management between those agencies that have a statutory role in the management of the Mason Bay area, to achieve the outcome sought for the Mason Bay Place.	7. Should manage kiwi viewing within the Mason Bay Place in accordance with section 1.5.6 – Wildlife viewing in the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS.	There are only 2 operators holding concessions for Mason Bay therefore there is limited opportunity for kiwi viewing. DOC will be ending its volunteer hut warden programme at Mason Bay but staff will be present on occasion.	<b>Green</b>
	8. May investigate the use of bylaws to formalise the existing Wildlife Viewing Code of Conduct to avoid or otherwise minimise the adverse effect on wildlife, in particular kiwi.	No need at this stage.	<b>Red</b>
	9. Should manage concessionaire opportunities consistent with the outcome sought for the Mason Bay Place, including low-impact activities that do		<b>Green</b>

	not require the development of infrastructure and that focus on an appreciation of the national park values present in the Mason Bay Place.		
	10. Should limit concessionaires authorised to provide guided day walking and overnight walking between Mason Bay and Freshwater Landing to a total allocation of 490 visitors per annum.		Green
	11. Should restrict concessionaires to a maximum party size of nine (including guides).		Green
	12. May consider the construction of new commercial accommodation facilities in the Mason Bay Place. The following conditions will apply: a) Must be consistent with the outcome sought for Place; b) Adverse effects on the national park values must be avoided; and c) Must be consistent with the provisions in section 6.7 – Accommodation and related facilities of this Management Plan.	No new applications have been received.	Red
	13. Should consider undertaking research and monitoring to ensure that the facilities in the Mason Bay area are capable of sustaining the numbers of visitors and that the recreational values present in the Mason Bay area are maintained.	DOC does not currently do this but has surveyed Visitors in the past (surveys taken for 2 years up to 6 years ago).	Yellow
	14. Should undertake measures to restore the visitor experience, if it is identified by research and	There are opportunities for concessionaires to use the Mason Bay Homestead when it is not being	Yellow

	<p>monitoring that the visitor experience in the Mason Bay area is no longer consistent with the outcome sought for Mason Bay Place. Measures may include:</p> <p>a) Working with commercial operators to better manage the flow of visitor through the Mason Bay Place; and/or</p> <p>b) Reconsideration of the concessionaire allocation.</p>	used by DOC staff between April and September.	
	<p>15. Should ensure that any facilities, such as signage, are not excessive and are consistent with the outcome sought for the Mason Bay Place. Measures should be concentrated in the vicinity of the hut/homestead areas in the first instance.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>16. Should develop materials to better inform those who visit Mason Bay about what to expect when visiting this Place.</p>	Northwest Circuit brochure & website information promoting it as a backcountry experience along with Stewart Island flights.	<b>Green</b>
	<p>17. Should encourage and support concessionaires, water taxi operators and other commercial operators to provide information to visitors. Information developed in accordance with policy 16 above may aid in achieving this.</p>	DOC developed the Freshwater to Mason Bay coast to coast brochure. Additionally, track update forms are sent to concessionaires monthly.	<b>Yellow</b>
	<p>18. Should allow concessioned helicopter landings and associated take-offs at the homestead hunters' hut. When actual use exceeds 60 landings and associated take-offs per annum, should monitor and review this limit and any concessions.</p>	Operators must apply for one-off permits to land at Homestead Hunters' Hut, Mason Bay.	<b>Green</b>

	19. Should not permit access for land-based vehicles, including mountain bikes (as they are not considered appropriate) in the Mason Bay Place except where required for management purposes.		Green
	20. Should actively manage the Island Hill homestead, woolshed, associated implement sheds, adjacent fences, macrocarpa and other significant plantings for their historical values.		Green
	21. Should permit the maintenance of the privately-owned Kilbride homestead for its historical values in accordance with the conservation plan prepared for this site.		Green
	22. Should investigate, in consultation with iwi, an appropriate Maori name for Mason Bay.	Unsure whether DOC has consulted with iwi regarding an appropriate name for Mason Bay.	Red
	23. May undertake further work to identify historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites in the Mason Bay area and, where appropriate, should undertake preservation and/or restoration measures.	If any digging happens at Mason Bay Homestead, an archaeological permit is required. We work with the Historic Places Trust, ICOMOS NZ heritage guidelines and the Conservation Plan	Green
	24. Should work alongside local authorities, central government agencies and the community to ensure an integrated approach to conservation management across jurisdictional boundaries in the Mason Bay Place.		Red
<b>8.4 Southern Place</b> 1. To provide for the continued protection	1. Should continue to manage the Southern Place in order to protect and restore its native species, habitats, ecosystems, natural character and		Green

<p>and active restoration of native species, habitats and ecosystems within the Southern Place.</p> <p>2. To preserve and perpetuate the natural wilderness qualities and natural character of this Place with minimal human interference.</p> <p>3. To manage the Southern Place for its wilderness recreational values prior to any formal wilderness area investigation.</p> <p>4. To provide for the protection and management of historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites within the Southern Place.</p> <p>5. To ensure that aircraft landings within the Southern Place are consistent with the high natural values and unmodified nature of the Southern Place.</p>	<p>outstanding landscape values.</p>			
	<p>2. Should manage the Southern Place to provide wilderness recreation opportunities that are consistent with the outcome sought for it as a Place within the National Park and as follows:</p> <p>a) To preserve and perpetuate the solitude, peace and natural quiet of the Place;</p> <p>b) People should not expect to encounter more than one party per week; and</p> <p>c) A maximum party size of six should be encouraged.</p>		<b>Green</b>	
	<p>3. Should only grant authorisations to develop facilities and build structures, huts, tracks and signage if they are consistent with the outcome sought for the Southern Place.</p>	Not required.		<b>Red</b>
	<p>4. Should not grant concessions for tourism within the proposed wilderness area (see section 2.1 – Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS area of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS) within the Southern Place, as they are not considered to be consistent with the outcome sought.</p>			<b>Green</b>
	<p>5. Should only grant concessions for tourism within the Southern Place buffer zone, if they are consistent with the outcome sought for Place.</p>			<b>Green</b>
	<p>6. Should actively manage the tin-mining site on the flanks of the Tin Range as a historic site.</p>			<b>Green</b>



	7. Should not permit aircraft landings within the proposed Southern wilderness area except for management purposes, maintenance and/or co-siting of utilities and search and rescue.		<b>Green</b>
	8. Should continue to permit concessions for existing utilities including radio transmission structures and weather stations within the Southern Place as long as the adverse effects are avoided or otherwise minimised.		<b>Green</b>
	9. Should require the co-siting of any further radio communication facilities within the Southern Place at one appropriate location.	Not required, as yet.	<b>Red</b>
	10. May undertake further work to identify historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, in the Southern Place and may undertake protection, monitoring and management measures where appropriate.	Not required.	<b>Red</b>
	11. Should work with local authorities and aircraft operators to ensure that the wilderness character and values of the Southern Place are not diminished. In particular, low-impact flight paths over the Place and landings away from the Place should be encouraged.	Not required.	<b>Red</b>
	12. Should work with local authorities to ensure that any future energy-, oil- and minerals- related activity and infrastructure located adjacent to Southern Place do not have adverse effects on national park values and the wilderness recreational opportunities of the Southern Place.	Not required.	<b>Red</b>

<p><b>8.5 Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place</b></p> <p>1. To provide for the continued protection and restoration of native species, habitats and ecosystems within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p> <p>2. To provide for the continued preservation, protection and recognition of the nationally significant landforms, geology and remote natural character of the Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p> <p>3. To manage the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place consistent with the outcomes for the Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p> <p>4. To provide a limited range of visitor facilities and tracks within the remote zone of the Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place, consistent with the outcomes sought for the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p> <p>5. To provide vessel-based trips to a limited number of sites, having a party size and frequency different to that of the surrounding remote visitor setting, where it does not have adverse effects on other users of the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place or the natural, historical, social and cultural values.</p> <p>6. To provide for the protection and management of historical and cultural heritage including archaeological sites in</p>	1. Should continue to manage the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place in order to protect and restore its native species, habitats and ecosystems, natural character and outstanding landscape values.		Green
	2. Should continue to manage the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place as being free of introduced plants.		Green
	3. Should continue to manage the islands within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place as island sanctuaries.	No predator monitoring or control is undertaken; no landing on islands and Pearl Island sanctuary is used for Kakapo.	Yellow
	4. Should continue to give a high priority to possum control in the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.		Green
	5. Should recognise the special relationship of Tangata whenua with regard to the management of the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.		Green
	6. Should continue to liaise and consult with Tangata whenua with regard to the protection, monitoring, and maintenance of historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, in the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti place.	There is one main Maori site where DOC does not enter unless it is with representatives and don't normally do any work there	Red
	7. Should manage the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place as a remote recreational opportunity. The following should be used to guide the Department of Conservation on the placement of any limits to preserve this:		Green
	a) people appreciate that they will encounter few if		

<p>the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p> <p>7. To provide for the appropriate interpretation of natural, cultural, and historical values in the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p> <p>8. To recognise the special relationship of Tangata whenua with the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place and to liaise and consult with regard to its management.</p> <p>9. To facilitate and encourage integrated conservation management between those agencies having a statutory role in the management of Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti as a Place.</p>	<p>any facilities;</p> <p>b) people have a reasonable expectation of experiencing isolation from the sights, sounds and activities of humans and interact with few other groups;</p> <p>c) only essential signage is erected within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place; and</p> <p>d) six or fewer group encounters with other groups during an entire trip is generally considered acceptable.</p>		
	<p>8. May investigate formalisation of the following recreational facilities in the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place:</p> <p>a) a tramping track to the summit of Bald Cone;</p> <p>b) a tramping track from Disappointment Cove to Broad Bay;</p> <p>c) a tramping track from South Arm to Broad Bay.</p>	<p>No investigating being undertaken, informal tracks currently exist.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>
	<p>9. Should not permit the development of further facilities other than those stated in policy 8 as they are considered to be inconsistent with the outcome sought for the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p>		<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p>10. <b>Will</b> ensure that any concessions granted are consistent with the outcome sought for Place. Concession activities that may be consistent with the outcome sought for Place are low impact activities that do not require the development of infrastructure and that focus on an appreciation of the national park</p>		<p><b>Green</b></p>

	values present in the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.		
	11. May undertake research and monitoring to determine the impact on ecosystems of visitor use within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.	Nothing being undertaken recently.	<b>Red</b>
	12. Should restrict concessionaire party sizes within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place to one party per week per concession with a maximum party size of nine (including guides) unless otherwise provided in policy 14 and 18.		<b>Green</b>
	13. Should encourage concessionaires to visit the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place during periods of low use.	For new applications this will be considered.	<b>Green</b>
	14. May consider periodic tour parties for the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place. These should a) be consistent with the outcome sought for Place; b) be limited to a maximum party size of 13 (including guides); and c) be encouraged to take place during the months of June, July and August.	New applications will be considered under these guidelines.	<b>Green</b>
	15. Should restrict guided parties within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place to the following sites: a) Shore sites: i) Belltopper Falls; ii) North Arm old hotel site; iii) Cook arm shipbuilders' base;		<b>Green</b>

	<p>iv) Broad Bay settlement;  v) North Port Pegasus Hunter Hut;  vi) South Port Pegasus Hunter hut; and  vii) Small craft retreat.</p> <p>b) Walk sites:  i) Diprose Bay tramline and Surveyors Track (access to Tin Range);  ii) Disappointment Cave to Broad Bay;  iii) South Arm to Broad Bay; and  iv) Bald Cone.</p>		
	<p>16. Should limit concessionaire access for all sites (excluding Cook Arm shipbuilders' base) listed in policy 15, to 225 guided visitors per annum per site, excluding additional boat tours identified in policy 18 below.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>17. Should limit concessionaire access to the Cook Arm shipbuilders' base to 100 guided visitors per annum.</p>		<b>Green</b>
	<p>18. May permit five additional boat tours (a boat tour is defined as a single journey to the internal waters [managed by the Southland Regional Council] of the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti place and includes landing at a site or multiple sites of those listed above per cruise. Unused site visitor numbers cannot be carried over to another boat tour) per year to the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place. These boat tours permit an exemption to the remote daily party size limit and are</p>		<b>Green</b>

	<p>excluded from the annual allocation for the sites listed in policy 16 (excluding Cook Arm shipbuilders' base) above.</p> <p>Table 2 lists sites available for these five boat tours. The boat tours will only be available during the months of June, July and August and the operator will be required to notify the Southern Islands Area Office of the exact dates within three months prior to the cruise.</p>		
	<p>19. May investigate a booking system or similar for the allocation of visitor numbers within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place.</p>	<p>The Hunter Hut database keeps track of hunting block bookings and therefore number of hunters in the Por Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place at any given time.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>
	<p>20. Should actively manage the following places for their historical and cultural values:</p> <p>a) the Port Pegasus tin-mining site, including the tramway, the surveyors' track, the settlement sites, and mining remains;</p> <p>b) the Port Pegasus shipbuilding base at Cooks Arm; and</p> <p>c) the Port Pegasus Maori occupation site at Cooks Arm.</p>	<p>DOC currently does this and will continue to do this with the exception of c).</p>	<p><b>Yellow</b></p>
	<p>21. Should undertake further work to identify historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, in the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place, and undertake protection, monitoring, and management measures where appropriate.</p>	<p>We currently do not undertake work to identify new historical and cultural heritage sites.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>
	<p>22. Should work alongside local authorities and central government agencies that have a role for the</p>	<p>Have not received any applications.</p>	<p><b>Red</b></p>

	<p>management of the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place to ensure that an integrated approach to achieving the outcomes for the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place is undertaken across jurisdictional boundaries. Particular focus will be placed on avoiding and mitigating adverse effects on the values of Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) aircraft activity;</li> <li>b) boating activity (including personal water craft);</li> <li>c) anchorages and moorings;</li> <li>d) accommodation facilities (on private land and water-based);</li> <li>e) the use of the Old North Arm fishing base site; and</li> <li>f) marine pest incursions.</li> </ul>		
	<p>23. Should work with local authorities to ensure that the adverse effects on national park values and the remote recreational values from any future energy, oil and minerals related activity and infrastructure located adjacent to or within the Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti Place are avoided or mitigated.</p>		Green
<p><b>Part Nine: Implementation, monitoring, reporting and review</b></p> <p><b>9.1 Implementation</b></p> <p>1. To implement the outcomes, objectives and policies of the Rakiura National Park Management Plan.</p>			

<b>9.2 Monitoring, reporting and review</b> 1. To annually monitor and report on the implementation of the Rakiura National Park Management Plan and, if necessary, to review and/or amend the Plan in response to increased knowledge and changing circumstances.	1. <b>Will</b> report at least annually to the Southland Conservation Board on the implementation of the Rakiura National Park Management Plan.	Report completed and submitted to the Southland Conservation Board on the 17 <sup>th</sup> June, 2015.	<b>Green</b>
	2. <b>Will</b> make available the report in policy 1 above to the community, through the Southland Conservation Board.		



***Appendix 6: Fiordland National Park Management Plan 2007  
Implementation Issues***

**Implementation Issues  
Update Report for the Southland Conservation Board  
October 2014**

September 2010 Report Prepared by: Rebecca Heenan (Community Relations Officer – Planning)  
October 2014 Update Prepared by: Michelle Crouchley (Partnerships Ranger)

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## **1.0 This report**

*September 2010* - The Te Anau and Murihiku Area Offices had raised a number of implementation issues with the Fiordland National Park Management Plan (the Plan). A number of these issues had already been discussed with the Southland Conservation Board (the Board) at a Board meeting in Te Anau. The original report details all those issues raised, identifying those that are considered enabled or open for consideration within the Plan, those issues that should be considered during the review of the Mainland Southland – West Otago Conservation Management Strategy 1998 (extended to 2012), and those that have been discussed with the board.

*October 2014* – The Te Anau Area Office have re-evaluated the implementation issues with the Fiordland Park Management Plan. This is reflected in this update report by the addition of sections highlighting issues still outstanding as of October 2014 and new issues than have been identified since 2010.

## **2.0 Issues that are considered enabled or open for consideration within the Plan**

Taken from the original documents (see Appendix A for the issues in more detail) presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

1. Jet boating on the Wairaurahiri River;
2. Pomona Island;
3. Wisely Hut Takahe Specially Protected Area;
4. Filming;
5. Helena Falls Track;
6. Sinbad Valley;
7. Hollyford Track – Aircraft;
8. Southern Historic Sites; and
9. New recreational opportunities / infrastructure.

Further consideration was given to these issues during this process, consequently it was determined that the above issues were open for consideration and/or enabled within the plan.

## **3.0 Issues that should be considered during the review of the Mainland Southland-West Otago CMS 1998 (extended to 2012)**

Taken from the original documents (see Appendix A for the issues in more detail) presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

10. SILNA land in the context of Fiordland National Park; and
11. Acknowledgment of the complexity of the Waitutu area.

## **4.0 Issues already discussed by the Board**

Taken from the original documents (see Appendix A for the issues in more detail) presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

12. Mountain biking  
Action: The Board advised the department that the General Policy for National Parks 2005, contains enough guidance/flexibility to consider applications for mountain biking within the park. Accordingly the department has considered this

advice and will inform the Fiordland Trails Trust that their application is required to meet the criteria for new formed roads (section 5.7).

13. Meridian Hostel

Action: The Board advised that the intent of the plan should be retained, therefore no new commercial accommodation should be permitted in the Meridian Hostel. Accordingly if the department receives an application for such an activity, the department will advise the applicant the activity is currently prohibited within the plan and assess the application (including consultation with the Board).

14. Lake Poteriteri – boating.

Action: The Board advised that Implementation 32 (restriction of commercial boating on Lake Poteriteri) of the Plan remains as stated until public consultation on the proposed wilderness area has been undertaken. Accordingly the department should investigate this further during the wilderness proposal process.

## 5.0 Those issues still considered to be outstanding as of October 2014

### Aircraft

#### Irregular and One-off landings/take offs

*“Section 5.5.1 implementation 14 (a) A combined maximum of 50 irregular and one-off landings / take-offs within Fiordland National Park per annum should be permitted.”*

The Anau area were involved in discussions prior to the Plan being signed off and argued that the existing level of one off aircraft landings was potentially 50 permits per annum. Each permit could allow up to 10 landings, depending on the user requirement. There was a misunderstanding during the development of the FNPMP that led to the total limit of 50 being incorporated into this implementation (see Fiordland National Park Management Plan – implementation issues raised at the February 2010 Southland Conservation Board meeting, for more information on this). The current situation means that we have been using a supplementary landings system as we have reached our limit.

#### General Aircraft Issues

In Section 5.5.1, the tables 7, 8, 9 and 10 are very prescriptive and would be impossible to monitor. The numbers in these tables don't appear to have scientific reasoning behind them, if they do this reasoning is not presented in the plan.

The numbers dictated in these tables are also very limiting for new operators and thus doesn't allow a competitive environment to exist.

The prescriptive nature of the plan does not allow it to keep up with changes in the tourism industry.

The lack of capacity to process re-issues has led to many rolling on concessions and thus they have become inconsistent with the operative plan.

### Takahe Specially Protected Area (Murchison Mountains)

#### Landing Sites

Section 5.3.4 of the plan stipulates *“The Area Manager is permitted to review the limits established in Implementation 3 on a case by case basis. Should at any time the access permitted in Implementation 3 pose any risk to species management, or other effects, the conditions of the access and the access itself will be reassessed. The Area Manager holds discretion to reassess this access at any time.”*

With the increased use of the Lake Te Anau there is increased demand for a landing site for boats at Garden Point

### Wisely Hut

Section 5.3.4 states *“All groups will be required to use the following biodiversity huts only (unless specifically permitted to camp in accordance with point (iii): Te Au, Robin Saddle, Wisely and Junction Burn”*

This is an error as Wisely hut is located in a Takahe sensitive area. The Takahe Team require the Woodrow Bivy to be used instead. This has been done in operation but technically goes against the plan.

## **Boating**

### Water Taxis

*“Water taxis to backcountry areas are only allowed one pick-up or drop-off”*

Table 11 in Section 5.6 prescribes the number of pick ups and drop offs in various Visitor Settings. In backcountry settings only one drop off or pick up is allowed per day which means day trips are not allowed. The numbers prescribed in these tables is very limiting for future growth in the industry.

The interpretation of the plan around the area of water taxis and charter boats is made difficult by the need to consult many parts of the plan. The definition of water taxi versus charter boat is also unclear as many operations don't fit neatly into one or other of the categories.

### Jet boating on the Wairaurahiri River

*“Section 5.6 Implementation 23 provides for up to three boats for commercial jet boating and up to 140 trips per annum. Currently there are three operators with varying trip limits all of which have sought an increase in the total number of trips allowed... No adverse effects have been reported to the Department of this activity. Previous DOC research regarding the impact of jet boats in this area was inconclusive. All three operators have expressed to DOC staff that the small allocation (maximum of 50 trips for any single provider) is not economically sustainable. The Murihiku Area Office would like to see the allocation of commercial jet boat trips on this river raised to a higher level to enable business and to allow for more people to access this part of the Park.”*

The current limits for jet boating on the Wairaurahiri River are not viable for a business which makes the likelihood of concessionaires taking shortcuts higher. This is very difficult to police.

### Pomona Island

*“The plan currently states that concessionaires can have one trip only to Pomona Island a week; this allows for a drop off and no pick up. This clause impacts on the Pomona Island Trust's ongoing conservation work on the island so their access is currently managed under a management agreement. The aim of making these islands predator free is not to restrict access to the public and concessionaires but to provide an opportunity to allow people to experience the return of bird life to the National Park.”*

## **Filming**

*“Section 5.13 Implementation*

- (1) *“1 d) where an application for a small-scale operation is received which is inconsistent with sections 5.3-5.6, a concession should be granted only if:
  - ii) It does not involve bringing animals into Fiordland National Park;
  - iii) The activity occurs during off-peak periods; and
  - iv) The activity is of a short duration.”*

Staff were originally unaware of the provision to allow more landings and visitors should a large film project meet certain criteria. They only became aware of this when it was tested in 2009 by the film industry, and a declined permit application was reversed.

### **Hollyford Track – Aircraft**

*“Hollyford Track-Aircraft activity, Section 5.5 (table 8) page 217 does not allow for the servicing of concessionaire facilities such as Hollyford Guided Walks. Currently, Hollyford guided walks can not technically access their lodges by air as they are located within the Hollyford High Use zone and no aircraft activity is permitted.”*

### **Southern Historic Sites**

Section 5.3.6.7, table 5 is very restrictive for allocations at Southern Sounds Historical Sites and the limits do not appear to be set at the right level for these sites.

*“Southern Fiords Historic Sites – a vessel of 50 might anchor off shore but group numbers to the island are restricted to remote zoning”*

The sites are currently over-allocated with many rolling on concessions, however the actual use of the sites is under the maximum allocation level. Creating buffer zones around the landing sites for these locations would allow more visitors and landings while maintaining the remote setting status of the surrounding areas.

### **New recreational opportunities / infrastructure**

*“Generally the plan does not provide for new recreation opportunities and/or infrastructure. The ability of the Department to be agile and take up new opportunities has not necessarily been optimised in the current plan. An example of this is a possible route from Poteriteri Hut to Waitutu Hut.”*

This issue is due to the prescriptive nature of the plan which restricts the Departments ability to keep up with changes in the tourism industry. There should be more engagement with concessionaires during the planning process to allow an understanding of where various industries are headed.

### **Mountain Biking**

*“Mountain Biking is not allowed in the plan unless on formed roads. The Trails Trust has requested a change in this policy.”*

### **Milford Sound**

The plan is out of date and very prescriptive for Milford Sound. There is a need to engage with concessionaires in the early stages of planning when developing the next Fiordland National Park Management Plan.

### **Triggers for Conservation Board Involvement**

The Conservation Board may wish to re-evaluate the criteria that trigger their involvement to ensure they are relevant. The triggers are currently (Appendix C):

1. *Activities not anticipated in the relevant CMS or National Park Management Plan.*
2. *Activities where it is unclear if they are consistent with outcomes for a "Place" or "Visitor Setting".*
3. *Activities which will have significant adverse effects.*
4. *All publicly notified applications.*
5. *Where there is significant public concern or interest in a proposed activity.*

6. *Where the CMS or NPMP may fetter the Minister and require advice on how the decision maker should exercise discretion.*
7. *Where applicant is seeking to invoke the "research clause" in a planning document.*

## **5.1 New issues identified as of October 2014**

### **Research clauses**

An example of the research clause can be found in 5.3.6.4 Doubtful Sound remote setting, page 130: *'Should an applicant seek changes to these limits, the applicant should be required to undertake appropriate research approved by the Department of Conservation that addresses physical and social carrying capacity effects'*

This clause requires more guidance on implementation and scope of the research required; it often involves much consultation with other teams within the Department and yet this process is not defined. Also this clause favours large businesses as small businesses would be unable to afford this expense.

There is also a question as to whether the research should be the Department's responsibility.

### **Unused Allocations**

While there is a recommendation from Shared Services regarding management of unused allocations, an agreed process would help to ensure consistency in dealing with this situation.

### **Allocation Limits**

Having prescribed limits within the plan can be helpful if they are sensible, clear and have a good basis, as it gives concessionaires clear limits to the activities allowed. However, it would be helpful to include the reasoning behind these so, should circumstances change, the intent of the plan can be applied to the new situation.

It would also be helpful to have more guidance around what effects should be monitored and how this would be done. This needs to be a feasible system.

### **Wilmot Pass Road**

Section 5.3.9.3 Implementation 14 states *'Parking of vehicles and trailers at West Arm (other than vehicles parked in the concessionaire owned facilities), will be limited to 70 spaces'*.

In the future the Department may want to increase parking at West Arm, however the plan currently would not allow this and the wording 'will be' leaves no room to move on this.

Section 5.3.9.3 Implementation 20a *'Vehicle movements should be 15 minutes apart so as to ensure key attributes of the road are protected. For coach traffic (a passenger vehicle of over 30 seats) a movement can comprise up to three vehicles'*

This section is both too prescriptive and impractical. Should four operators need to drive over Wilmot Pass to get back to West Arm for the same return boat trip across Manapouri they would need to have a 15 minute gap between the two vehicle movements; meaning passengers would have to wait for 15 minutes for the other vehicles to arrive. Also, the definition of coach traffic (vehicles seating 30 or more) disadvantages small operators unfairly and seems to be an arbitrary number; should three vehicles seating less than 30 want to travel over the pass at the same time there would need to be 15 minutes between each vehicle.

## Intent of the Plan

The plan is not worded well to allow clarity of the intent behind it, and the reasoning behind the implementations is often not included. This makes interpretation of the plan difficult when circumstances have changed since the plan was written. If the reasoning behind the plan was present the intent could be followed more easily.

## Wording in the Plan

Wording like “shall not” and “will not” should not be in the plan as it is not meant to fetter the minister – just guide. The wording “should” would be more appropriate as this allows some movement if circumstances change.

An example of this wording can be found in 5.3.9.3 Implementation 13.

*Parking of vehicles and trailers at West Arm (other than vehicles parked in the concessionaire owned facilities), will be limited to 70 spaces’.*

## Inconsistency between National Park Plans

There are inconsistencies between the Aspiring and Fiordland National Park plans regarding the Routeburn Track. Conservation Boards should work closely together around boundary areas to prevent this occurring.

## 5.2 Irregular and One-off landings/take-offs

Taken from the original documents presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

### Issue

*“Section 5.5.1 implementation 14 (a) A combined maximum of 50 irregular and one-off landings / take-offs within Fiordland National Park per annum should be permitted.*

*Te Anau area were involved in discussions prior to the Plan being signed off and argued that the existing level of one off aircraft landings was potentially 50 permits per annum. Each permit could allow up to 10 landings, depending on the user requirement. The current situation means that we have been declining applications, and hence recreational access, to the Park since December as we have reached our limit.”*

### Current implementation (section 5.5.1)

Taken from the Plan:

*“14. Irregular and one-off landings/take-offs within Fiordland National Park should be managed as follows:*

- a) A combined maximum of 50 irregular and one-off landings/take-offs within Fiordland National Park per annum should be permitted.*
- b) In addition to a) above, up to 50 regular landings/take-offs per property may be permitted to those who own freehold land at Martins Bay where these landings are associated with accessing their land for recreational purposes (not commercial). Permits should only be issued to those who are the owner(s) of the land or owners’ immediate family. this being defined as the grand parents, parents, partner, children or grandchildren of the holder;*
- c) All landings/take-offs (except those authorised by point b of this implementation) should be managed in accordance with the visitor settings defined in section 5.3 Visitor Settings of this plan;*
- d) Non commercial aircraft landings/take-offs should be managed in accordance with this Implementation, tables 7, 8, 9 and 10 and Maps 16a to 16C.*

15. *All concessions granted for irregular and one-off landings/take-offs will be required to provide activity returns that will include information on the timing, number and location of landings, the number of passengers in the aircraft and the purpose of landings. The total number of irregular and one-off landings/take offs will be monitored through activity returns and they should occur at locations, times and frequencies that minimise the impact on natural values or visitors to Fiordland National Park. In addition to this, where relevant, irregular and one-off landings/take-offs may be subject to the requirements of Implementation 2 (shown below)."*
2. *Where relevant, matters including, but not limited to, the following should be included on concessions for aircraft landings/take-offs:*
- a) Provisions relating to frequency and timing of activity and the number of landings;*
  - b) Provisions relating to restrictions on purpose of landing;*
  - c) Provisions relating to noise mitigation measures;*
  - d) Details of all aircraft that the concessionaire is entitled to possess and operate within Fiordland National Park (including the type, registration and number of aircraft);*
  - e) Provisions specifying specific access points;*
  - f) Maps detailing the catchments and/or sites at which landings are permitted;*
  - g) A special condition allowing the review, suspension and/or termination of the concession should unauthorised landings be undertaken;*
  - h) The requirement to provide activity return forms that should include information on the timing, number, location of landings, number of passengers in the aircraft and purpose of all aircraft landings. This information should be required on a monthly basis in an agreed format;*
  - i) The requirement for all operators to record the location of landings using an approved Global Positioning Systems recorder, or a similar device. This information may be required by the Department of Conservation at agreed intervals;*
  - j) Provisions relating to managing any adverse effects on visitor experience values and natural values;*
  - k) The requirement that a minimum of 50% of all allocated landings in the concessions may be charged for at the start of the concession year regardless of whether they are used. The number of landings that are used above the first 50% may be charged for at a set time that should be detailed in the concession; and*
  - l) The requirement that concessionaires should be required to contribute to the cost of monitoring and research to determine the effects of aircraft access in Fiordland National Park.*

## **Opinion**

The effects of aircraft access are primarily related to the presence of aircraft, frequency of aircraft activity, the behaviour of aircraft and the noise characteristics of the aircraft.

The overall intent of this section is to allow for a limited number of irregular<sup>1</sup>/ one-off landings for those users (commercial / recreational) that are not of a regular nature. This implementation states that a maximum of 50 irregular/one-off landings/take-offs should be permitted within Fiordland National Park. The 'should' in this policy allows for discretion, 'should' is used in a policy where there is a "*strong expectation of an outcome, without diminishing the constitutional role of the Minister and other decision-makers, state that a particular action or actions 'should' be undertaken.*" (2005, *General Policy for National Parks*).

In my opinion there is merit in applying discretion for this implementation. The reasons for this are:

- that there was a misunderstanding during the development of the FNPMP that lead to the limit of 50 being incorporated into this implementation (see *Fiordland National Park*

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<sup>1</sup> An irregular aircraft operator is defined in the glossary as "*an operator landing at / taking off within Fiordland National Park up to and including 10 times per annum*".



*Management Plan – implementation issues raised at the February 2010 Southland Conservation Board meeting, for more information on this);*

- this policy was raised during Board consideration after the submission and hearing processes, it was not in the notified draft and was incorporated after the submission and hearing process therefore was not subjected to public consultation;
- section 5.5.1 has not been implemented therefore the effects of this section can not be assessed. It would be prudent to wait until this section is implemented before carrying out any plan change if it is considered that one is required;
- the Minister of Conservation is currently carrying out a review of the concession allocation process for the Milford Aerodrome. There is potential for the outcome of this to impact upon other aircraft sections within the plan.

### **Criteria**

NOTE: the below criteria has not been considered by area and legal staff therefore may be subject to review before final implementation.

It is my opinion that the discretion should be used to allow the consideration of irregular/one-off landings above the 50 limit identified in the plan, for the reasons outlined in the opinion above. However careful consideration needs to be given to the effects of the activity to ensure that the adverse effects of aircraft activity with the park are not at unacceptable levels. Furthermore it is my opinion that this criterion should be reconsidered following the release of the Minister of Conservation decision on the Milford Aerodrome and the implementation of section 5.5.1. This reconsideration should take into account the effects of the Ministers decision and section 5.5.1 to enable long term limit to be established for irregular/one-off landings within the park.

Criteria below should be further assessed by experts, area and legally checked before finalized.

- 1) The total number of irregular/one-off landings should be limited to 100<sup>2</sup> landings/take-offs.
- 2) The adverse effects of the application on biodiversity and its ability to self-sustain itself should be avoided.
- 3) Irregular/one-off landings should not be permitted in a wilderness area, specially protected area or within 500 metres of any high use track, as this is not considered consistent with the purpose of these areas.
- 4) For remote, backcountry and front country settings the following should be considered:
  - a) consistency with tables 7-10 of section 5.5.1 – Aircraft Access to Fiordland<sup>3</sup>;
  - b) the adverse effects on existing users have been avoided or otherwise minimised (seek advice from TS – Recreational planning);
  - c) consistency with section 5.3 – Visitor Settings and the adverse effects on the values of the setting have been avoided or otherwise minimised (seek advice from TS – Recreation planning);
  - d) the proposed application will not increase the cumulative impact (for example landings within the park or coastal environment) of all aircraft within the proposed location to an unacceptable level (seek advice from TS – Recreation planning);
  - e) alternative locations for the landing/takeoff with less potential adverse effects have been considered; and
  - f) whether there are existing concessionaires that can accommodate the irregular/one-off landing/takeoff.

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<sup>2</sup> This limit will need be reviewed by technical services and area, prior to any implementation. This limit is an estimate that has been based on past permits issued for one-off landings in Fiordland National Park.

<sup>3</sup> Consistency with these tables means consideration needs to be given to the overall number (irregular, one-offs, regular) of landings within the park and the limits identified in Tables 7-10, overall limits should not be exceeded. Irregular and one-off landings should not be permitted in areas where regular landings are not permitted.

The above criterion has been developed in accordance to the general intent of the Plan. Relevant rational from within the Plan is located in Appendix B.

### 5.3 The Takahē Specially Protected area

Taken from the original documents presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

#### Issue

*“Martin to add angler’s access to Ettrick Burn to list of implementation issues for consideration at August meeting.”*

#### Current implementation (section 5.3.4)

Taken from the plan

*“The Area Manager is permitted to review the limits established in Implementation 3 on a case by case basis. Should at any time the access permitted in Implementation 3 pose any risk to species management, or other effects, the conditions of the access and the access itself will be reassessed. The Area Manager holds discretion to reassess this access at any time.”*

#### Opinion

It is my opinion that the consideration of extending access up the Ettrick Burn is consistent with the intent of the Plan, this consideration lies at the discretion of the Area Manager.

It is my opinion that no further criteria are necessary for the consideration of extending angler’s access to the Ettrick Burn.

### 5.4 Water taxis to backcountry areas

Taken from the original documents presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

#### Issue

*“Water taxis to backcountry areas are only allowed one pick-up or drop-off”*

#### Current implementation

27. The following provisions for concessions relating to the drop-off and/or pick-up of passengers (water taxis) should apply:

- a) That up to ten concessions be granted on Lake Manapōuri;
- b) That up to eight concessions be granted on Lake Te Anau;
- c) That up to five concessions be granted per lake for lakes Monowai and Hauroko;
- d) Unless specified in Implementation 28, not more than one boat be permitted to operate under each concession at any one time; and
- e) That water taxis be managed in accordance with the visitor settings for the area (as defined under the provisions of section 5.3 Visitor Settings of this plan) and that each water taxi operator be restricted to the use levels set out below in Table 11 for these visitor settings.

TABLE11 –WATER TAXIS WITHIN THE FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK AREA - GENERAL

Drop-offs or pick-ups to the boundaries of Wilderness Areas	Drop-offs or pick-ups in, or to, the boundaries of Remote Areas	Drop-offs or pick-ups in, or to, the boundaries of Backcountry Areas	Drop-offs or pick-ups to the boundaries of Frontcountry Areas
3 per month for the purpose of wilderness recreation opportunities only (refer to section 5.3 Visitor Settings)	8 per month for the purpose of remote recreation opportunities only (refer to section 5.3 Visitor Settings)	1 per day for the purpose of backcountry recreation opportunities only (refer to section 5.3 Visitor Settings)	Only permitted at the sites and frequencies identified in Implementation 28

28. A number of sites on lakes Te Anau and Manapouri are recognised as ‘access nodes’. While these sites are critical to providing access to Fiordland National Park this should be managed in accordance with the spectrum of opportunities provided. Drop-offs and pick-ups to/from access nodes should only be permitted up to the frequencies outlined below in Tables 12 and 13. Should an application seek changes to these limits, the applicant should be required to undertake appropriate research approved by the Department of Conservation that addresses social carrying capacity effects.

### Opinion

It is my opinion that amending the number of pick-up/drop-offs for concessioned vessels to back-country areas would require a full plan change, as it is my consideration that this will be in the interest of the public which is the second trigger of a plan change (see paragraph two, below). Furthermore it is recommended that if such a process was to be run it should be focused on adding further access nodes to implementation 28 (paragraph four, below) as an alternative to increasing concessioned boat access to backcountry areas across the whole park. As this will enable the activity and associated effects to be focused in specific areas, rather than a potential adverse effect across all backcountry areas within the park.

There are two tests to determine whether or not a full or minor plan change is required for any plan change considered under s46(1) of the National Parks Act 1980; first whether or not the change will materially affect the objectives or policies expressed in the plan and secondly whether or not the change will materially affect the public interest in the area concerned. If it is considered by both the board and the Director-General that the change will not materially affect either aspect then full public consultation is not required (minor plan change).

It should be noted Implementation 28 of section 5.6 has a research clause that may be instigated at any time by any applicant. This research clause enables an applicant to undertake research approved by the Department and if it is considered to be acceptable the limits may be increased. However this research clause relates on to the limits in Tables 12 and 13 and not the locations present.

With the exception of an application invoking the research clause (which would not allow the addition of new sites) the only way this issue can be addressed is through a Plan change. As any change would be more than minor, a full process under the National Parks Act 1980 would need to be commenced.

Taken from the original documents presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

**1. Jet boating on the Wairaurahiri River**

*“Section 5.6 Implementation 23 provides for up to three boats for commercial jet boating and up to 140 trips per annum. Currently there are three operators with varying trip limits all of which have sought an increase in the total number of trips allowed... No adverse effects have been reported to the Department of this activity. Previous DOC research regarding the impact of jet boats in this area was inconclusive. All three operators have expressed to DOC staff that the small allocation (maximum of 50 trips for any single provider) is not economically sustainable. The Murihiku Area Office would like to see the allocation of commercial jet boat trips on this river raised to a higher level to enable business and to allow for more people to access this part of the Park.”*

**2. Pomona Island**

*“The plan currently states that concessionaires can have one trip only to Pomona Island a week; this allows for a drop off and no pick up. This clause impacts on the Pomona Island Trust’s ongoing conservation work on the island so their access is currently managed under a management agreement. The aim of making these islands predator free is not to restrict access to the public and concessionaires but to provide an opportunity to allow people to experience the return of bird life to the National Park.”*

**3. Wisely Hut Takahē Specially Protected Area**

*“Takahē Specially Protected area, Wisely Hut is one of the huts named in Implementation 3 to be used by the public. The Takahē Team require the Woodrow Biny to be used as Wisely hut is located in a more Takahē sensitive area.”*

**4. Filming**

*“Section 5.13 Implementation*

- (1) *“1 d) where an application for a small-scale operation is received which is inconsistent with sections 5.3-5.6, a concession should be granted only if:*
- v) It does not involve bringing animals into Fiordland National Park;*
  - vi) The activity occurs during off-peak periods; and*
  - vii) The activity is of a short duration.”*

*The issue with this is that there could for example be potentially unlimited landings (section 5.5) in what would normally be a no go or restricted area simply because it is part of a filming operation.”*

*“(2) Another issue with this implementation is that it does not allow for any large scale film projects to occur in Fiordland where the effects might be assessed as acceptable. For example an aircraft operator could potential use up all one-off irregular landings for one year in one day.”*

**5. Helena Falls Track**

*“Helena Falls Track is an example of a remote zone adjacent to a frontcountry setting where concessionaires would like access to but are restricted in numbers because of the zoning.”*

**6. Sinbad Valley**

*“Sinbad Valley conservation project has led to a demand in visitor use.”*

**7. Hollyford Track - Aircraft**

*“Hollyford Track-Aircraft activity, Section 5.5 (table 8) page 217 does not allow for the servicing of concessionaire facilities such as Hollyford Guided Walks. Currently, Hollyford guided walks can not technically access their lodges by air as they are located within the Hollyford High Use zone and no aircraft activity is permitted.”*

**8. Southern Historic Sites**

*“Southern Fiords Historic Sites – a vessel of 50 might anchor off shore but group numbers to the island are restricted to remote zoning”*

## **9. New recreational opportunities / infrastructure**

*“Generally the plan does not provide for new recreation opportunities and/or infrastructure. The ability of the Department to be agile and take up new opportunities has not necessarily been optimised in the current plan. An example of this is a possible route from Poteriteri Hut to Waitutu Hut.”*

## **10. SILNA land in the context of Fiordland National Park**

*“In the southern portion of Fiordland there are three large tracts of land adjacent to the park, management of which will have impacts on the park. These three areas are the Dean and Rowallan Forests and the Southland Island Landless Natives Act (SILNA) land. Much of the SILNA land is now protected under covenants, providing for the land to be managed as if it were national park. Given the status of this land, it would be useful to acknowledge the Department’s responsibilities within the context of Fiordland National Park.”*

## **11. Acknowledgment of the complexity of the Waitutu area**

*“The Waitutu area of Fiordland National Park is somewhat complex given the adjacent South Island Landless Natives Act (SILNA) Land, the type of visitor use and changing conservation work in the area. Increased acknowledgement of the complexity of this area within the plan may assist management.”*

## **12. Mountain biking**

*“Mountain Biking is not allowed in the plan unless on formed roads. The Trails Trust has requested a change in this policy.”*

## **13. Meridian Hostel**

*“Meridian Hostel, no activity [accommodation] is allowed unless it is associated with the power station. Te Anau Area office considers that the intent of the plan would not be compromised if commercial use of the hostel was allowed.”*

## **14. Lake Poteriteri - boating**

*“Section 5.6 Implementation 32 states Lake Poteriteri (and others) in remote visitor settings should be managed for non-commercial boat use only. Small, limited commercial access by boat to these areas would enable business as well as provide visitor access to this area.”*

## **7. Appendix B - Relevant rationale within the Plan**

Taken from the original documents presented to the Board by the Area Manager for Te Anau (16 February 2010) and the Area Manager for Murihiku (15 April 2010):

### Section 4.3 – Preservation of Indigenous Species and Habitats

This section outlines the management direction for indigenous species and habitats in the park. The maintenance of the natural biodiversity and retention of biodiversity within the park to enable self-sustaining ecosystems are two of the objectives in this section that should be considered during the assessment for irregular/one-off landings/take-offs within the park.

### Section 5.3 – Visitor Settings

This entire section outlines the different visitor groups that the department manages the park for. Furthermore this section identifies the different recreational opportunities within the park. These recreational opportunities are wilderness, remote, backcountry, high use tracks, frontcountry and South West/Cameron Remote (managed as wilderness).

Detail is identified in this section outlining specific management direction for each of the different recreational opportunities within the plan. This detail identifies objectives and implementations aimed at protecting the recreational values of each of the areas identified.

#### Section 5.3.4 - The Takahe Specially Protected Area (Murchison Mountains)

This area has been identified as a Specially Protected Area pursuant to the National Parks Act 1980 to protect the Takahe population in Fiordland. The only access permits likely to be granted are those that will not adversely affect the purpose of this area. Aircraft landings and take-offs are not generally consistent with this specially protected area.

#### Section 5.3.5 – Wilderness Visitor Setting

The primary purpose of wilderness areas is to provide recreation opportunities for highly experience hunters, trampers and climbers seeking solitude and challenge in a natural environment free from facilities. Aircraft landings and take-offs within this setting are generally not permitted (with the exception of search and rescue and management purposes).

#### Section 5.3.6 – Remote Visitor Setting

The purpose a remote setting is to protect the remote values, the natural quiet and the relatively unmodified natural environment. The large expansive remote experiences coupled with the wilderness areas and the fiords are what make the park unique. Access to remote areas is generally non-mechanised and visitors to this setting expect to be away from sights and sounds of human influence.

#### Section 5.3.7 – Backcountry Visitor Setting

Backcountry areas are expected to absorb the greater part of any increased use of the park. These areas generally have well-marked tracks and bridges and huts. These areas are generally quite popular and are becoming more popular. There is some reliance on mechanised access, aircraft access in this zone is generally acceptable dependant on the effects (including cumulative) of the activity.

#### Section 5.3.8 – High Use Track Corridors

This setting identifies the hut and track systems associated with the three Great Walks, these tracks cater for Backcountry Comfort Seekers who are looking for a moderately challenging but safe, multi-day walking experience within a natural environment. There is pressure for increasing the level of use on some tracks, the potential effects of this increase is noise, overcrowding and proliferation of facilities. It is considered that aircraft access within this zone can have negative impacts on the visitor experience and potentially gives rise to conflict between users. (Note specific high use settings state that: *Aircraft landings should not be allowed within 500 metres of the track for other than the servicing of the track and accommodation or park management purposes.*)

#### Section 5.3.9 – Frontcountry Visitor Setting

These areas are easily accessible by vehicles or within easy access of such areas and generally have a lot of infrastructure. This is where the majority of visitors to the park are found. These areas allow for an instant immersion in nature.

#### Section 5.5.1 – Aircraft Access to Fiordland (General)

Outlines the provisions for aircraft access to the park (excluding the Milford Aerodrome), the objective of this section is to facilitate aircraft access to the park to a level where it does not have unacceptable effects on the natural values or visitors to the park. This section splits the park up into different management zones outlining limits for each of these zones. Any one-off/irregular landings/take-offs permitted within the park need to be consistent with these tables.

## 8. Appendix C – Conservation Board Concession Triggers

The current Southland Conservation Board Concessions Subcommittee members are:

- Andrew Bowmar [ajbowmar@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ajbowmar@xtra.co.nz) Chair CSC
- Helen McPhail (SCB Chair) [t.hmcphail@xtra.co.nz](mailto:t.hmcphail@xtra.co.nz)
- Fiona Black [fblack@realjourneys.co.nz](mailto:fblack@realjourneys.co.nz) CSC
- John Whitehead [jdwhitehead@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jdwhitehead@xtra.co.nz) CSC
- Alison Broad [alison@ihug.co.nz](mailto:alison@ihug.co.nz) CSC
- Lloyd Esler [esler@southnet.co.nz](mailto:esler@southnet.co.nz) CSC

Concession applications meeting the following triggers are to be sent by email, to the Chair, Southland Conservation Board Concessions Subcommittee:

A copy also needs to be sent to the Board Chair, who is currently Helen McPhail.

The applications should be sent as soon as possible after receipt so as to give the Subcommittee the maximum available time to provide comment. 10 days or 20 days if complex application should be given for responses to be provided.

1. Activities not anticipated in the relevant CMS or National Park Management Plan.
2. Activities where it is unclear if they are consistent with outcomes for a "Place" or "Visitor Setting".
3. Activities which will have significant adverse effects.
4. All publicly notified applications.
5. Where there is significant public concern or interest in a proposed activity.
6. Where the CMS or NPMP may fetter the Minister and require advice on how the decision maker should exercise discretion.
7. Where applicant is seeking to invoke the "research clause" in a planning document.

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