

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: BALMORAL

Lease number: PT 021

Fish & Game Report

As part of the process of tenure review Fish & Game councils may provide advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease, and the information may be incorporated in the conservation resources report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

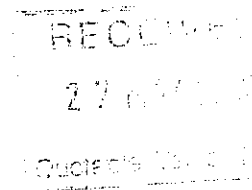
The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

January 05



24 May 2002

Barry Dench
QV Valuations
PO Box 13-443
CHRISTCHURCH



Dear Barry

TENURE REVIEW – BALMORAL

The following provides an assessment of the Fish and Game values associated with the Balmoral Property.

1. Irishman Creek is a stream with high water quality and it is an important spawning tributary of the Tekapo River system. It offers values of scenery and solitude to the wilderness angler. The 1994/96 National Angling Survey estimates that 20 angler days per season are spent on Irishman Creek
2. Forks Stream is also a quality waterway that is an important spawning tributary of the Tekapo system. However the fishery has declined markedly in recent years as fish passage from the Tekapo River is impeded. We hope to rectify this situation shortly. The 1994/96 National Angling Survey estimates that 40 angler days per season are spent on Forks Stream.
3. The Old Man Range has a population of the Chukor upland gamebird.
4. Chukor were first introduced to New Zealand in the mid 1920's. They were released from Marlborough to Central Otago. In the Central South Island chukor flourished from the 1940's through to the early 1960's with numerous birds present on most high country stations.
5. From the 1960's onwards chukor numbers decreased considerably. This decline has been attributed to being a non-target kill species of rabbit poisoning operations. Today in the Central South Island there is a limited distribution of chukor.
6. In the 1940's to 1960's with high numbers of birds available and access to the favoured habitat readily available chukor hunting was popular. With chukor now less numerous and access harder to attain (not necessarily the case on this property) hunter interest has fallen. However, there are individuals and groups of hunters who hunt

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

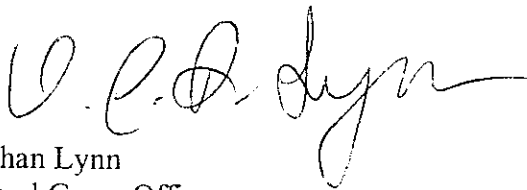
Central South Island Region

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chukor and quail extensively and often exclusively. This hunting is largely confined to the high country of the Omarama and McKenzie areas.

7. The favoured habitat of chukor is high up on the dry, sunny faces amongst rocky outcrops. The birds are highly mobile and numbers have begun to again increase as the rabbit poisoning operations have reduced since the release of the rabbit RCD virus.
8. With numbers of chukor again increasing the future is looking promising for this highly valued upland gamebird. Hunter interest has already begun to increase and access to traditional hunting areas is very important.
9. The tarn at map reference I37:005850 and wetland area at map reference I37:006860 provide habitat and hunting areas for Canada geese.
10. For the above listed reasons Fish and Game requests that the following be negotiated in the tenure review process:
 - a) Marginal strips on Forks Stream and Irishman Creek.
 - b) Foot access to the Old Man Range Chukor hunting area (as indicated on attached map) from Braemar Road at or about map reference I37:010895 for hunters during the gamebird season.
 - c) Foot access to the Canada geese hunting area (as marked on attached map) from State Highway 8 at or about map reference I37:020853, for hunters during the gamebird season.
 - d) Foot or vehicle access to Irishman Creek.

Yours faithfully



Vaughan Lynn
Fish and Game Officer