

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : Ben More

Lease number : Pc 109

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.

Copied August 2003

Fish & game resources of the Benmore Pastoral Lease, North Canterbury

Prepared by the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council as a Contribution to the Drafting of a Preliminary Proposal for a Tenure Review Project Plan

January 2000

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Preamble

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act (1998), Part 2, Tenure Review.

Part 1- Introduction

1.1 Benmore.

Benmore Pastoral Lease (PL) consists of a medium sized run. The run is situated on the Ben Mountain Range to the east of Lake Lyndon. The run consists primarily of mountain ranges. The mountains have significant amounts of native *Hebe* vegetation covering them. Patches of beech forest characterise the stream valleys. All of the streams within Benmore Station have short, steep and unstable riverbeds. The area reviewed in this report is the north eastern section of Benmore PL shown on Attachment 1. For the remainder of this report Benmore PL refers to the north eastern section of the PL (refer attachment 1) unless otherwise specified. The north eastern section is characterised by one stream catchment (Macfarlane Stream).

1.2 Physical Description.

1.2.1

The eastern boundary of Benmore PL is located 80 kilometres north west of Christchurch and adjoins the Kowai River to the north and the Thirteen Mile Bush Stream on the southern boundary - both of which are tributaries of the Waimakariri River Catchment.

A four wheel drive track goes up the base of the Macfarlane Stream Valley.

1.2.2 Geology.

The mountains on either side of Macfarlanes Stream are composed of undifferentiated greywacke. The stream floor is comprised of alluvial outwash from the adjoining mountain sides.

1.2.3 Climate.

Rainfall predominantly comes from easterly and southerly directions. Snowfall is common from May to August. North westerly winds predominate.

1.2.4 Topography and waterways.

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The north eastern section of Benmore PL consists of one stream valley (Macfarlanes Stream) situated between two mountain sides on the eastern boundary of the Ben Mountain Range. The valley floor is situated at 620 m.s.l with adjoining mountains of up to 1063 m.s.l

Macfarlanes Stream has five ephemeral tributaries within the area being examined, the largest of which is Parker Stream. In addition there are also two ephemeral streams on the southern boundary of Benmore PL which flow into the Thirteen Mile Bush Stream.

There are no wetland environments situated within the area examined.

1.2.5 Vegetation.

The mountainous section of the station is primarily a combination of fescue tussocks, *Hebe* species and Matagouri. There are also patches of broom and gorse. The valley floor has some improved pasture comprised of introduced grass species.

Part 2- Fish and game values on the Benmore Pastoral Lease- North Canterbury fish and game region.

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2.1 Sports Fish.

The north eastern section of Benmore PL has no waterways of fisheries values. The waterways run off steep mountain sides and do not support any notable introduced salmonid populations. Macfarlanes stream may support the occasional rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) or Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) smolt, both species of which are known to occasionally spawn in the lower section of the Kowai Stream.

Macfarlanes Stream also contributes little towards the total flow of the Waimakariri River, so it is unlikely that land use activities in the catchment of Macfarlanes Stream would result in any deleterious effects on the Waimakariri River.

2.2 Gamebirds

Paradise shelduck, mallard and grey ducks all frequent, in low numbers, the Macfarlane Stream Valley.

The remainder of Benmore PL is comprised entirely of steep mountain sides with no habitat for waterfowl. It is possible that the area supports low numbers of Californian Quail (an upland gamebird species).

2.3 Recreational Values

Benmore PL has no recreational fisheries.

Gamebird hunting information is lacking for the Benmore Pastoral Lease. Benmore PL is not a targeted gamebird hunting area and this relates to the relatively low numbers of gamebirds on the station compared to other areas within the Waimakariri Catchment.

Macfarlanes Stream is likely to attract attention from the occasional waterfowl hunter, notably for paradise shelducks.

Part 3 - Recommendations

To promote the ecological management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable (as per Sec 24 (a) (i) of the *Crown Pastoral Land Act* (1998)) and to enable the protection of significant inherent values on reviewable land (as per Sec 24 (b) of the *Crown Pastoral Land Act* (1998)), the council makes the following recommendations.

3.1 Sports Fish

Riparian buffers of twenty metres should be established along Macfarlanes Stream which is part of the Waimakariri River Catchment (refer Attachment 2). Macfarlanes Stream is a tributary of the Kowai River which has some fisheries value for spawning rainbow trout and Chinook salmon.

3.2 Game Birds

Provision should be made for shooters to use firearms and dogs up the Macfarlanes Stream Valley for waterfowl hunting. Access should be made available for hunters up the Macfarlane Streambed (refer Attachment 2)

Concluding Statement

This report summarises the sports fish, game bird habitat and recreational values identified as significant on the north eastern section of Benmore Pastoral Lease. It also presents the recommendations of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council for the protection of these values.

Attachments:

- 1- Area review in this report
- 2- Area identified for riparian protection buffers of 20 metres.
- Access for shooters- Macfarlanes Stream

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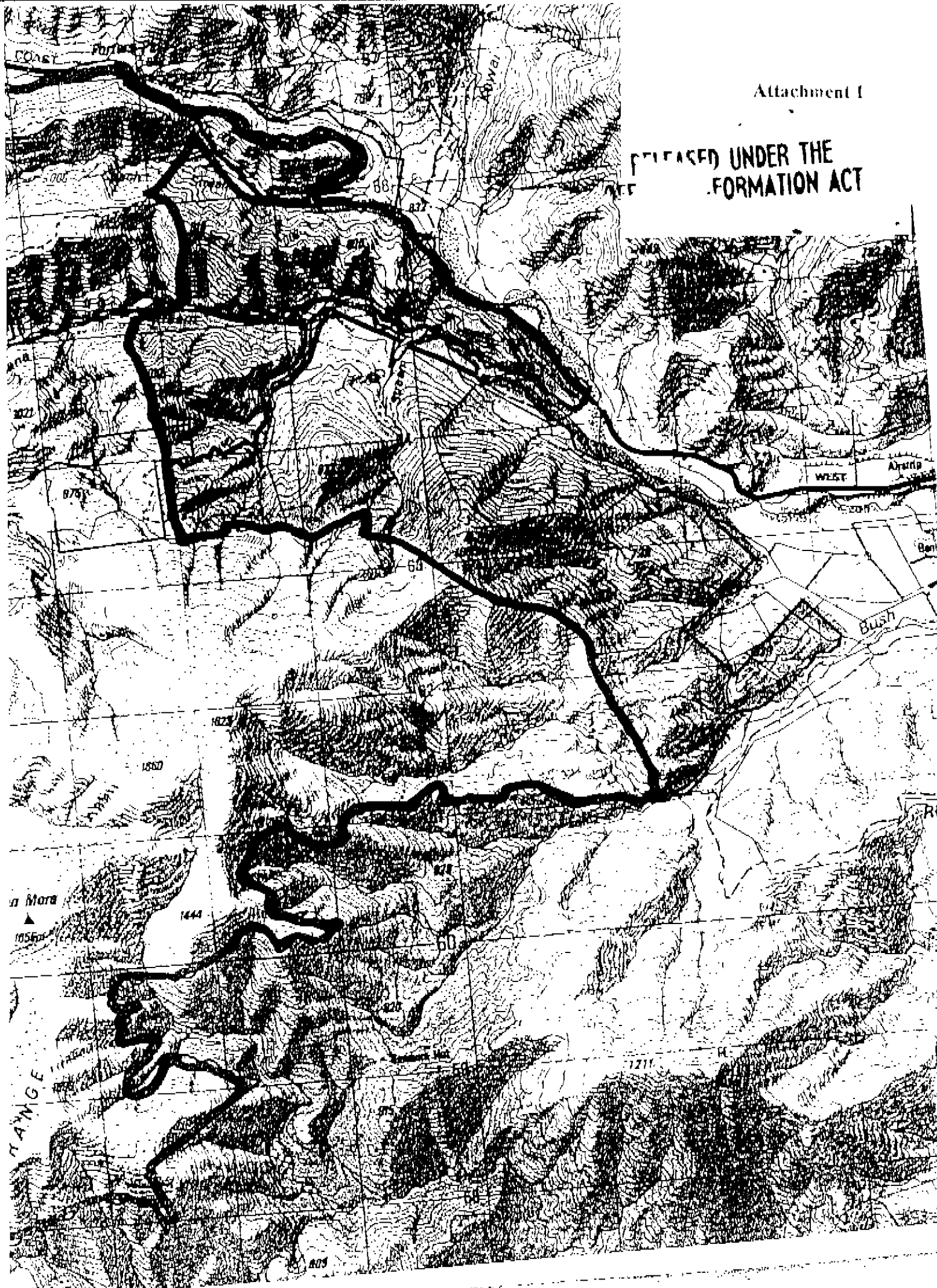
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Attachment 1:


1- Area examined in this report [REDACTED]

Attachment I

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Attachment 2

- Area identified for riparian protection buffers of 20 metres on either side of the streambed. 

-Access for shooters- Macfarlanes Stream / / / /

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