

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: THE HERRONS**

**Lease number: PO 141**

### **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.

**February 05**



P0141/1



## Herrons Station Crown Pastoral Lease

**Resource Report prepared by John Hollows  
for the Otago Fish and Game Council**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game values present on the land included in the Herrons Station Crown pastoral lease. The lease is being considered for land tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As well as habitat values the report covers angling and hunting values and associated access issues.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by Otago Fish and Game Council staff.

### **2. General Description**

Herrons Station is a parcel of land located above Shingle Creek Tavern and runs from Lake Roxburgh to the top of the Old Man range. The property consists of some sloping terrace land with the largest proportion being steep hill country. The gullies through which water flows are generally steep sided. Many waterways on the property are ephemeral in nature from a combination of natural low flows and/or in the case of some streams water extraction.

### **3. Sports Fish Values**

The steep nature of the waterways and the culverts under State Highway 8 indicate that sports fish would have difficulty penetrating very far upstream from where they enter from Lake Roxburgh. No fish were found during Electric Fishing surveys.

No recreational sports fish values were identified for this property.

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

**Otago Region**

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#### 4. Game Bird Values

The Briar and Matagouri covered faces of Chasm Creek provide excellent habitat for California quail (*Lophortyx californicus*) with many birds noted during the survey.

Higher up, above the tussock line, good habitat for chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) was noted with one pair sighted and others identified by their distinctive call (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Broken, rocky, high country habitat suitable for chukar on Herrons Station.

The Herrons lease property provides good upland game hunting opportunities with good numbers of California quail and low numbers of chukor known to inhabit the property.

#### 5. Access

Hunting access on the Herrons property in at the lease holders discretion.

#### 6. Fish & Game Perspective

The vegetation on the true left bank of Chasm Creek requires some form of protection that prevents burning, spraying or clearing. This would not exclude the current level of stock grazing continuing. This is required to keep some areas around the Matagouri and Briar open and suitable for California quail habitat.

The upper barren country requires some form of protection that excludes cultivation and burning to protect Chukar habitat.

Dated: March 2 2004.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hollows".

John Hollows  
Resource Officer  
Otago Fish & Game Council