

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: WOODSTOCK

Lease number: PC 124

Fish & Game Report April 2000

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

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Fish & game resources of the Woodstock 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

April 2000

Preamble

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

Part 1- Introduction

1.1 Woodstock.

Woodstock Pastoral Lease (PL) consists of a narrow section of land along the eastern side of the Waimakariri River Gorge. With the exception of a flat river terrace at Horseshoe Bends the remainder of the PL is steep relief along the western slopes of Fosters Hill. The southern boundary of the PL is situated at the entrance of the Waimakariri River Gorge. Of the three main tributary streams within the PL, Coal Creek, Foster Stream and Kinobrooks Stream all flow into the Waimakariri River.

1.2 Physical Description.

1.2.1 Location

The eastern boundary of Woodstock PL is located 80 kilometres north west of Christchurch on the true left bank of the Waimakariri River. All of the catchments within Woodstock PL flow in to the Waimakariri River gorge.

The property is bounded by Oxford Forest to the east and the Waimakariri River Gorge to the west. The northern boundary is situated just south of Black Hill. The southern boundary is situated at the entrance of the Waimakariri River Gorge onto the Canterbury Plains.

A shingle road provides access to the Waimakariri River on the southern boundary of the PL. Three disconnected farm tracks provide limited access within the PL.

1.2.2 Geology.

The mountainous northern section of Woodstock PL is comprised of undifferentiated greywacke. Alluvial river terraces characterise the southern boundary immediately to the south of Coal Creeks' confluence with the Waimakariri River.

1.2.3 Climate.

Rainfall predominantly comes from a north westerly and south-westerly directions. Snowfall is common from May to August. North westerly winds predominate.

1.2.4 Topography and waterways.

Most (about 90%) of Woodstock PL consists of high relief topography from 400 to 1100 m.s.l. The remainder of Woodstock PL is comprised of two river terraces on either side of Latter Hill

There are numerous small mountain creeks flowing from the western side of Woodstock PL into the Waimakariri River gorge. These mountain creeks are ephemeral waterways flowing off steep mountainsides. Three small creeks have permanent flow (Coal Creek, Foster Stream and Kinobrooks Stream).

1.2.5 Vegetation.

The mountainous section of the station is primarily a combination of fescue tussocks, and introduced grasslands. Significant patches of a combination of manuka, broom and gorse shrub characterise the lower slopes of Fosters Hill. Patches of mountain beech forest adjoin the three tributary catchments (Coal Creek, Foster Stream and Kinobrooks Stream). The river terrace at Coal Creek and on the PL Southern boundaries have improved pasture of introduced grasses with conifer shelter belts.

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

2.1 Sports Fish.

Woodstock PL adjoins the true left hand bank of the Waimakariri River. The Waimakariri River is recognised as being one of the five most important rivers in New Zealand for Chinook salmon angling. The gorge pools adjoining Woodstock PL provide important holding water for migrating Chinook salmon (from January to April) with several thousand fish holding in these pools. The Waimakariri Gorge also has significant populations of brown and rainbow trout. The three tributary streams situated on Woodstock PL all provide spawning habitat for small numbers of Chinook salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout in the lower reaches (500 metres of their confluence with the Waimakariri). These streams are not known to support any resident adult salmonids but may have some importance as a habitat for Chinook salmon, brown and rainbow trout smolts.

2.2 Gamebirds

Canada geese, paradise shelduck, mallard and grey ducks all frequent, in low numbers, the river terraces on the southern boundary and at the confluence of Coal Creek. These waterfowl species also frequent, in low numbers, the adjoining Waimakariri River. The most prevalent waterfowl species on the PL is the paradise duck. The PL adjoining the Waimakariri River provides nesting sites for paradise shelducks.

Woodstock PL has a modest population of Californian quail to the south of Coal Creek (an upland gamebird species).

2.3 Recreational Values

Woodstock PL has no significant recreational fisheries values on the streams within the PL. Woodstock PL provides an important access route to the Waimakariri River gorge which attracts high recreational fishing usage and is also used by fishing guides. The gorge is recognised as being an important site for Chinook salmon angling. Large rainbow trout are caught as a bycatch to salmon angling. The occasional angler also targets rainbow trout in the gorge. The gorge also has a population of brown trout.

Given the steep relief on the mountainsides on the western side of Woodstock PL adjoining the Waimakariri River all angler access into the river gorge is by jet boat. The track at on the southern boundary of Woodstock PL (Attachment 2) provides an important site for anglers to launch jet boats and access the recreational fishing opportunities within the gorge.

The consultant is not aware of any other tracks on Woodstock PL which are used by anglers for river access.

Technical gamebird hunting information is lacking for the Woodstock Pastoral Lease. Woodstock PL is not a targeted gamebird hunting area and this relates to the relatively low numbers of gamebirds on the PL compared to other areas within the Waimakariri River catchment. The southern half of the PL is likely to attract attention from the occasional waterfowl hunter, notably for paradise ducks. The occasional hunter may target Californian quail in the vicinity of Latter Hill.

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 Coal Creek, Foster Stream and Kinobrooks Stream as these mountain creeks flow in to the upper Waimakariri River catchment (Attachment 1).

To facilitate angler access the shingle track on the southern boundary needs to be kept open to allow anglers to launch jet boats.

Changes in landuse such as pine plantation forestry may also impact by reducing the amount of drainage into the three tributary streams. These streams contribute to the Waimakariri River catchment. This is another reason for ensuring that riparian buffers are established and maintained.

3.2 Game Birds

Provision should be made for shooters to use firearms and dogs on the PL for paradise duck and Californian quail hunting.

Although Canadian geese occur in low numbers it is important that the Fish and Game Council secures the right of access for gamebird hunters to cull Canada Geese over the entire property, if deemed necessary under the South Island Canada Goose Management Plan. Goose culling may take place from either the ground or shooting from helicopters.

For these purposes public access to the defined paper road dissecting the lease, or if unformed, formed equivalents, should be provided. Access to this paper road should also be provided. Hunter access to Kinobrooks's Hut is also sought for game bird hunters and anglers.

Concluding Statement

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

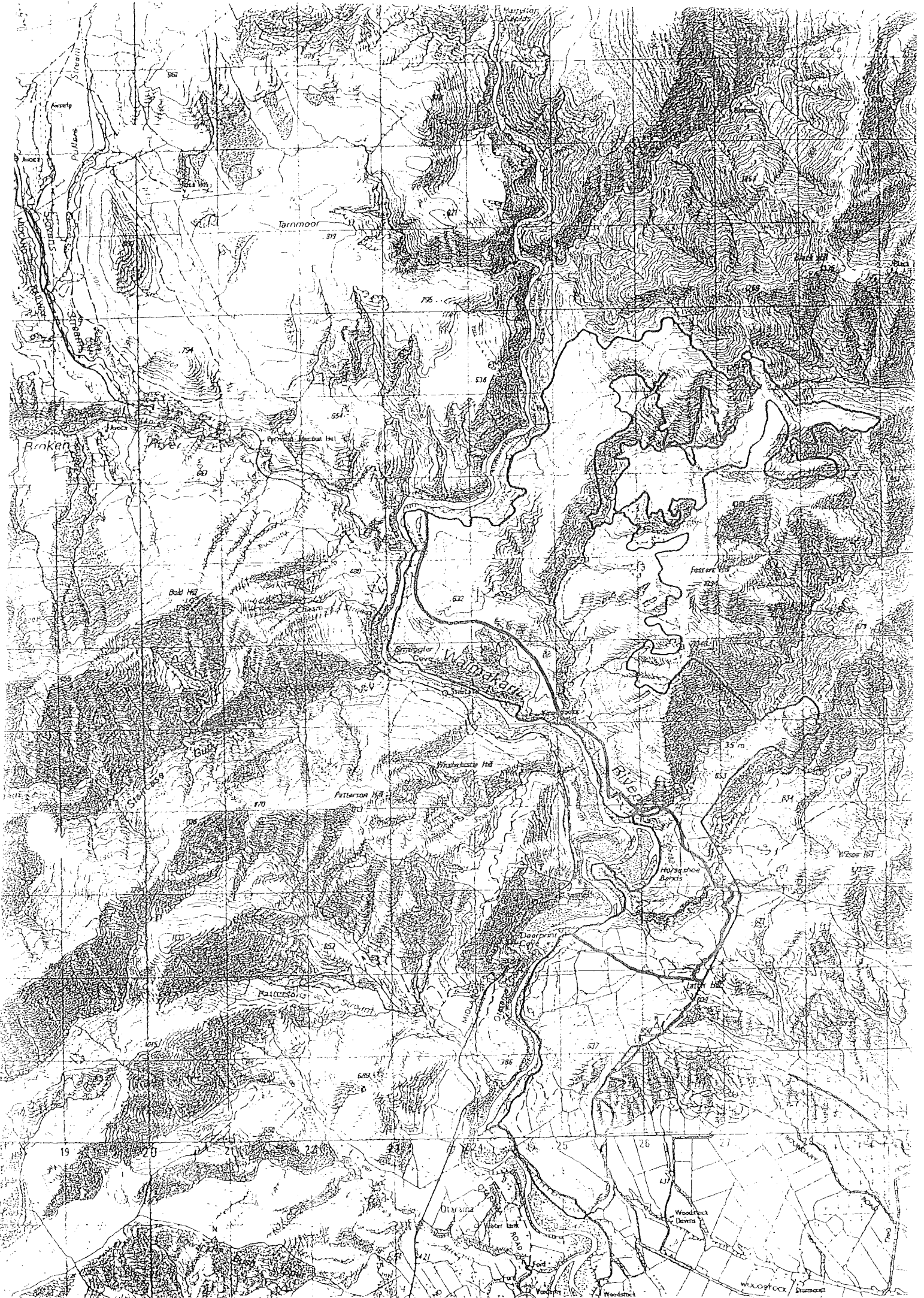
Attachments:

- 1- Map showing - sites recommended to have a 20 metre riparian strip on both sides of the water course.
- 2-Track access for jet boat launching.

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North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

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**Attachment 1 -
Map showing - sites recommended to have a 20 metre riparian strip
on both sides of the water course.**



Attachment 2-

Access Recommendations

Jet boat launching access

Paper road access

Access to paper road

Hut access

