

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : BLUE MOUNTAIN

Lease number : PT 031

Conservation Resources Report - Part 2

As part of the process of Tenure Review, advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease is provided by Department of Conservation officials in the form of a Conservation Resources Report. This report is the result of outdoor survey and inspection. It is a key piece of information for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

Note: Plans which form part of the Conservation Resources Report are published separately.

These documents are all released under the Official information Act 1982.

February

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2.5.5 Notable Fauna

Table 5 Notable fauna recorded from Blue Mountain Pastoral Lease.

Animal Species		Known Distribution on Property
Common name	Scientific name	
Nationally Endangered		
blue duck	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>	Faecal sign recorded on the property boundary in the upper Waihi River. Numerous historic records from streams on and adjacent to the property.
Gradual Decline		
New Zealand falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i> "eastern"	Between Mt Catherine and Blue Mountain, and at bottom of Hat Spur.
spotted skink	<i>Oligosoma lineocellatum</i>	Possible observation on Tripps Peak.
Sparse		
black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	Orari River and Andrews Stream.
Notable Invertebrates		
corylophid beetle	<i>Aenigmaticini</i> sp. indet.	South of Tripps Peak. Previously unknown; probably belongs to an undescribed genus in a tribe that has not been recorded from New Zealand.
weevil	<i>Anagotus</i> sp.	South of Tripps Peak. Rare in collections; probably a local endemic.
chalcodryid	<i>Chalcodrya</i> sp.	Mt Frances. Relict survivor; usually associated with mature forest.
scale insect	<i>Eriococcus montanus</i> Hoy	Throughout. Local endemic; only two previous collections, both from South Canterbury high country; type locality Opuha Catchment, 1540 m.
ribbonwood anthribid	<i>Hoherius meinertzhageni</i> (Broun)	Mt Frances; Hat Spur. Range extension; apart from one collection from Southland, not previously known south of the Rakaia River.
ground beetle	<i>Mecodema fulgidum</i> Broun	Head of Totara Stream. At its southern limit.
ground beetle	<i>Megadromus temukensis</i> (Bates)	Four Peaks Range. Local endemic.
weevil	<i>Stephanorhynchus costifer</i> Broun	Mt Frances. Rare in collections.
hydrophyllid	<i>Tormus nitidus</i> Sharp	Mt Frances. Rare in collections.

2.5.6 Problem Animals

Introduced animals that may have an important effect on indigenous plant or animal communities on the property, and that can be controlled or contained, are listed and discussed below. Other ubiquitous naturalised species for which containment or control are probably impractical (such as rodents and mustelids), or domesticated animals that are grazed on the property, are not discussed here.

Brushtail possum

Brushtail possum sign was observed at a number of locations on the property. Possums are predators of birds and lizards, as well as foliage browsers. Brushtail possum control is likely to be necessary to maintain conservation values.

Feral pig

Feral pig rooting and droppings were observed throughout the property. Feral pig control may be necessary to maintain conservation values.

Rabbit and hare

Rabbits and hares were seen in relatively low numbers on the property. Control of rabbits and hares may be required to protect conservation values on the property and on adjoining farmland.

Larger mammals

Red deer and chamois are likely to be present in low numbers on the property. Control of these species may be required to protect conservation values on the property. Populations of thar and wallaby are present in the wider area. Control of these species, if present on the property, would be a high priority for conservation management.

2.6 HISTORIC

Blue Mountain Pastoral Lease was originally part of the large Orari Gorge Station that covered all the country between the Orari and Hae Hae Te Moana rivers. This area was first taken up for grazing by Charles George Tripp and John Barton Acland in the mid 1850s (Acland, 1951).

There are three huts on Blue Mountain Pastoral Lease that have high historic values, for their age (1860's), their character and social history. These are in Totara Stream, beside the track from Basin Stream up Mt Frances and near the Mt Edith summit. The Totara Stream hut and the hut on the track up Mt Frances are both of stone construction, but with corrugated iron replacing the roof thatching. Both these huts are well constructed in random rubble walls with squared rubble corner stones, held together with clay pug and half a metre thick. The fireplaces have brick-arched lintels and each hut has at some point in time had a lean-to storage room.

The Totara Stream hut appears to have been whitewashed in the past. Recent maintenance has provided both weather and bird protection for this hut, with its two bunks having the sacking also replaced. The hut beside the Mt Frances track is in a worse state of affairs, large holes provide bird access, the stone walls have collapsed in places and a tree is starting to grow into the side of the hut. This eight bunk hut has a hipped roof at one end.

The other historical hut is an early bivvy near Mt Edith. This corrugated iron, two bunk hut with a stone chimney appears to have been constructed as an emergency shelter as it only

contains the low-slung beds and a fireplace. None of these huts are located on boundaries, and the stone masonry is much more detailed than what is normally found in mustering huts.

Adjoining the pastoral lease, on areas of freehold held by Blue Mountain and other landowners, are several other huts, including a run down stone hut in Bernard Stream, similar to the two mentioned and some corrugated iron huts which appear to be boundary huts in the Mowbray River and Andrews Stream.

There are also the remains of a portion of pack track. This runs from Blue Mountain Pass to the Waihi River, predominantly on unformed legal road.

2.7 PUBLIC RECREATION

2.7.1 Physical Characteristics

Blue Mountain Pastoral Lease lies within the 'pastoral' recreation opportunity class in the Recreation Strategy for Canterbury Conservancy (Department of Conservation, 1994). A recent amendment nationally to the ROS classification system puts the pastoral lease predominantly within one ROS class, Backcountry Accessible (Motorized). The property can be divided into two main recreation settings:

Mountains

This recreation setting covers the higher altitude parts of the property, on the Four Peaks Range and on the higher hills around Mt Frances and Mt Edith. The setting is characterized by moderately-steep slopes and broad ridge crests. High-altitude slopes, especially south- and west-facing slopes are dominated by relatively intact indigenous vegetation (mostly tussockland) and provide a setting of high natural value for recreation. Ridge crests and mid-altitude slopes are more modified, but retain a cover of indigenous vegetation and have high naturalness and aesthetic values for recreation. Four-wheel-drive tracks provide access to the range tops, and most ridges and slopes are readily accessible to moderately fit and experienced trampers. The summits of Tripps Peak (1653 m), Blue Mountain (1642 m), Mt Edith (1089 m) and Mt Frances (1025 m) provide good views across the upper Orari Basin and of surrounding mountain ranges including the Mt Peel Range. Ridge crests and upper slopes are snow-covered in winter.

Valleys

This recreation setting covers the lower-altitude parts of the property in the Orari, Mowbray, Bernard and Andrews valleys. It is characterized by gentler slopes, terraces and flats. Vegetation is more modified, though large parts of the area remain relatively undeveloped and have some naturalness values. The area provides a setting of moderate natural value for outdoor recreation, though the attractiveness of the Orari River Gorge accentuates the value of that part of the property. The main farm tracks lie within this area, including a well-formed and readily-accessible vehicle track following the Orari River between the property boundary at Andrews Stream and Lochaber Road in the upper valley.

2.7.2 Legal Access

Legal public access is available to all property boundaries via unformed legal roads and from the Orari River. A well-formed public road provides good access to the Andrews Stream-Orari River confluence near the southeast property boundary. This is the most

practical, accessible and popular access to the area. The road continues up the Orari River through the property, though it does not appear to follow the legal alignment in some areas. Practical vehicle and foot access through the property is available via farm tracks.

2.7.3 Activities

The higher altitude parts of the property provide opportunities for walking, tramping, scenery appreciation, nature study and photography. Lower altitude parts of the property provide opportunities for walking, mountain biking, swimming, kayaking, fishing, picnicking, nature study, horse-riding and four-wheel-drive vehicle use. Importantly, the existing vehicle track through the property along the banks of the Orari River provides very good opportunities for through-trips by mountain-bike or four-wheel-drive vehicle.

PART 3 OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS AND PLANS

3.1 CONSULTATION

Information-gathering meetings were held with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at Renwick on 6th September 2004, Christchurch on 8th September 2004 and at Geraldine on 9th September 2004. Comments made at those meetings are summarised below.

- There is very high recreational interest in this area and it is used a lot. Important areas are Tripps Peak, Mt Frances and Mt Catherine.
- A popular route is up Tripps Peak via the old pack track up the Waihi River, then across the property.
- Access up Andrews Stream is important, especially for climbing Mt Frances and Mt Edith.
- There are high landscape and vegetation values in the Tripps Peak area.
- The property has high landscape values as it is visible from the highway.
- An old pack track still exists in places.
- There has traditionally been an annual mountain bike trip up the Orari Gorge using the formed vehicle track.
- Orari Gorge is important for recreation and is used for kayaking, fishing and access to water. Access is being charged for at present.
- There are many scenic qualities in Orari River area.
- The high peaks on the property should be protected.
- There is wild bird hunting on the slopes of Blue Mountain.
- Adjoining freehold blocks should be included in tenure review if possible, including blocks along the Orari River.
- Values are currently high because there has been little burning over the past 30-40 years.
- The area is used for environmental education (Peel Forest Outdoor Education), mainly along the Orari River.

3.2 DISTRICT PLANS

Blue Mountain Pastoral Lease lies within the Rural Zone of the Proposed Mackenzie District Plan. There are restrictions on earthworks, buildings, vegetation clearance and tree planting in riparian areas, and restrictions on tree planting at higher altitudes.

Two areas on the property are listed in the plan: Bernard Stream is listed as a Site of Natural Significance, and an area of patterned ground on Mt Edith is listed as a Geopreservation Site. Earthworks, buildings, vegetation clearance and tree planting are restricted in these areas.

3.3 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Blue Mountain Pastoral Lease lies within the Pareora Place Unit of the Canterbury Conservancy. Relevant priority objectives for this unit are listed in the CMS (Department of Conservation, 2000) as:

- To identify the significant indigenous vegetation and threatened plant and animal species of the Pareora Unit.
- To use a range of effective methods to protect the indigenous biodiversity of the Pareora Unit.
- To protect and enhance the viability of priority threatened species' populations and their habitats in the Pareora Unit.

PART 4 ATTACHMENTS

4.1 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1.1 Scientific Names of Species

Plant Species

Species names follow the published volumes of New Zealand Flora (Allan, 1961; Moore and Edgar, 1976; Webb, Sykes and Garnock-Jones, 1988; and Edgar and Connor, 1999), Brownsey and Smith-Dodsworth (1989) for ferns, Allison and Child (1971) for mosses, the name changes listed in Connor and Edgar (1987) and recent names (for shrubs) listed in Wilson and Galloway (1993). Maori names are included for taonga species listed in Schedule 97 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Naturalised species are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Common name..... Scientific name

Naturalised species are indicated by an asterisk (*).

alder*	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
bittersweet*	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
blue tussock	<i>Poa colensoi</i>
blue wheatgrass	<i>Elymus solandri</i>
bog rush	<i>Schoenus pauciflorus</i>
bracken	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
broadleaf/kapuka	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>
broom*	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
browntop*	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
cabbage tree/ti rakau	<i>Cordyline australis</i>
Californian thistle*	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Canterbury broom	<i>Carmichaelia torulosa</i>
catsear*	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>
cocksfoot*	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
common broom	<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>
coral broom	<i>Carmichaelia crassicaule</i>
cotton daisy/tikumu	<i>Celmisia spectabilis</i>
crack willow*	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
creeping buttercup*	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
creeping mapou	<i>Myrsine nummularia</i>
creeping pohuehue	<i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i>
crested dogstail*	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
cutty grass	<i>Carex coriacea</i>
Douglas fir*	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
dwarf turpentine shrub	<i>Dracophyllum prunum</i>
edelweiss	<i>Leucogenes grandiceps</i>
elderberry*	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
everlasting daisy	<i>Helichrysum bellidioides</i>
false speargrass/taramea	<i>Celmisia lyallii</i>

false tamarisk*	<i>Myricaria germanica</i>
fescue tussock	<i>Festuca</i> sp.
foxglove*	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
fuchsia/kotukutuku	<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>
giant speargrass/taramea	<i>Aciphylla scott-thomsonii</i>
glaucous sweet grass*	<i>Glyceria declinata</i>
golden speargrass/taramea	<i>Aciphylla aurea</i>
gooseberry*	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>
gorse*	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
grey willow*	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
harebell	<i>Wahlenbergia albomarginata</i>
haresfoot trefoil*	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>
hawkweed*	<i>Hieracium</i> spp.
Himalayan honeysuckle*	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>
inaka	<i>Dracophyllum longifolium</i>
jointed rush*	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
kahikatea	<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>
kanuka	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>
king devil hawkweed*	<i>Hieracium praealtum</i>
kohuhu	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>
kopiti	<i>Anisotome aromatica</i>
korokio	<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>
koromiko	<i>Hebe salicifolia</i>
kowhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>
lawyer	<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i>
lemonwood/tarata	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>
lily of the valley shrub	<i>Gaultheria crassa</i>
little hard fern	<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>
lotus*	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
lowland ribbonwood	<i>Plagianthus regius</i>
Maori onion	<i>Bulbinella angustifolia</i>
matagouri	<i>Discaria toumatou</i>
matai	<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>
mingimingi	<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>
monkey musk*	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>
mountain akeake	<i>Olearia avicenniifolia</i>
mountain beech	<i>Nothofagus solandri</i> var. <i>cliffortioides</i>
mountain clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium fastigiatum</i>
mountain flax/wharariki	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>
mountain kiokio	<i>Blechnum montanum</i>
mountain oat grass	<i>Deyeuxia avenoides</i>
mountain ribbonwood/houhi	<i>Hoheria lyallii</i>
mountain toatoa	<i>Phyllocladus alpinus</i>
mountain totara	<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>
mountain wineberry	<i>Aristotelia fruticosa</i>
mouse-ear hawkweed*	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>
narrow-leaved lacebark	<i>Hoheria angustifolia</i>
narrow-leaved snow tussock	<i>Chionochloa rigida</i>
native jasmine	<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>
necklace fern	<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>
nodding thistle*	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
onion-leaved orchid	<i>Prasophyllum colensoi</i>
patotara	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>
pearlwort*	<i>Sagina procumbens</i>
plume grass	<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>

pohuehue.....	<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>
pokaka.....	<i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i>
porcupine shrub	<i>Melicytus alpinus</i>
prickly shield fern.....	<i>Polystichum vestitum</i>
pukio	<i>Carex secta</i>
purging flax*	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
radiata pine*	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
red tussock.....	<i>Chionochloa rubra</i> ssp. <i>cuprea</i>
red woodrush	<i>Luzula rufa</i>
retoreto.....	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>
scabweed.....	<i>Raoulia australis</i>
Scotch thistle*	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
scrub pohuehue.....	<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>
selfheal*.....	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
sheep's sorrel*	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
short tussock.....	<i>Festuca</i> sp.
silver birch*	<i>Betula pendula</i>
silver tussock/wi.....	<i>Poa cita</i>
silvery hair grass*.....	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>
slender spike-sedge.....	<i>Eleocharis gracilis</i>
slim snow tussock.....	<i>Chionochloa macra</i>
snowberry	<i>Gaultheria depressa</i> var. <i>novae-zelandiae</i>
snow daisy	<i>Celmisia laricifolia</i>
snow gentian.....	<i>Gentiana corymbifera</i>
snow tussock.....	<i>Chionochloa</i> sp.
soft rush*	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Spanish heath*	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>
spike sedge.....	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>
sun orchid	<i>Thelymitra</i> sp.
sweet brier*	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>
sweet vernal*	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
tall oat grass*	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
tall tussock.....	<i>Chionochloa</i> sp.
tauhinu	<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>
thistles*	<i>Cirsium</i> spp.
thousand-leaved fern.....	<i>Hypolepis millefolium</i>
three finger.....	<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i>
totara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>
tumble grass.....	<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>
turpentine shrub.....	<i>Dracophyllum uniflorum</i>
tutu.....	<i>Coriaria sarmentosa</i>
viper's bugloss*	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
wall lettuce*	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>
watercress*	<i>Rorippa</i> spp.
water forget-me-not*	<i>Myosotis laxa</i> ssp. <i>caespitosa</i>
weeping mapou.....	<i>Myrsine divaricata</i>
white clover*	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
white fuzzweed.....	<i>Vittadinia australis</i>
willow*	<i>Salix</i> sp.
willow weed*	<i>Polygonum</i> sp.
wineberry	<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>
wire moss.....	<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>
woolly mullein*	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
yarrow*	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yorkshire fog*	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Animal Species

Species names follow King (1990) for mammals, the June 2003 version of the New Zealand Recognized Bird Names list (compiled by C.J.R. Robertson and D.G. Medway for the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.) for birds, Whitaker (1998) for lizards and McDowall (2000) for fish. Maori names are included for taonga species listed in Schedule 97 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Naturalised species are indicated by an asterisk (*).

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
alpine galaxias	<i>Galaxias paucispondylus</i>
Australasian harrier/kahu.....	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Australian magpie*	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
banded dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>
black-billed gull.....	<i>Larus bulleri</i>
blackbird*	<i>Turdus merula</i>
black cicada	<i>Maoricicada</i> sp.
black-fronted tern	<i>Sterna albobriata</i>
black mountain ringlet.....	<i>Percnodaimon pluto</i>
black shag/koau	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>
blue duck/kowhiohio	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>
brown hare*	<i>Lepus europaeus occidentalis</i>
brown trout*	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Canterbury galaxias	<i>Galaxias vulgaris</i>
Canterbury gecko.....	<i>Hoplodactylus</i> aff. <i>maculatus</i>
chaffinch*	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
chamois*	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra rupicapra</i>
chukor*	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
common gecko.....	<i>Hoplodactylus maculatus</i>
common skink	<i>Oligosoma nigriplantare polychroma</i>
dunnock*	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
European rabbit*	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus cuniculus</i>
feral pig*	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
goldfinch*	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
grey warbler/riroriro	<i>Gerygone igata</i>
hare*	see brown hare
jewelled gecko	<i>Naultinus gemmeus</i>
longfin eel/tuna.....	<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>
long-toed skink	<i>Oligosoma longipes</i>
McCann's skink.....	<i>Oligosoma maccanni</i>
marsh crane.....	<i>Porzana pusilla affinis</i>
New Zealand falcon/karearea	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>
New Zealand pigeon/kereru.....	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>
New Zealand pipit/pihoihoi.....	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>
paradise shelduck/putakitaki.....	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>
rabbit*	see European rabbit
Rangitata skink	<i>Oligosoma</i> sp.
red deer*	<i>Cervus elaphus scoticus</i>
redpoll*	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
scree skink	<i>Oligosoma waimatense</i>
silvereye.....	<i>Zosterops lateralis lateralis</i>
skylark*	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
song thrush*	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Southern Alps gecko.....	<i>Hoplodactylus</i> aff. <i>maculatus</i> "Southern Alps"

southern black-backed gull/karoro	<i>Larus dominicanus dominicanus</i>
South Island fantail/piwakawaka.....	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>
spotted skink.....	<i>Oligosoma lineoocellatum</i>
spur winged plover	<i>Vanellus miles novaehollandiae</i>
upland bully	<i>Gobiomorphus breviceps</i>
welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica neoxena</i>
white-faced heron	<i>Ardea novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>
yellowhammer*	<i>Emberiza cintrenella</i>

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