

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : Braeside

Lease number : Po 122

Fish & Game report

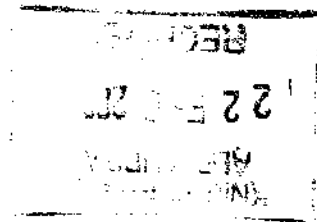
As part of the process of tenure review advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease may be provided by Fish & Game councils, and the information may be incorporated in the conservation resources report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development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

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

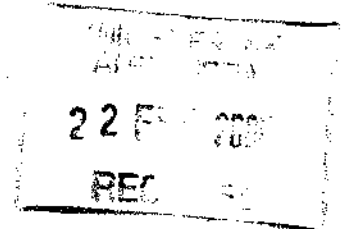
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Fish and Game Resources Report for the Braeside Pastoral Lease.



Prepared by the
Otago Fish and Game Council

Section One - Introduction

1.1 Purpose

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 Braeside 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.

1.2 Location

Braeside pastoral lease is located at the north end of the Ida valley and stretches over the Hawkdun Range to the headwaters of the Otematata River (Clear Stream). Sections of the lease rise up to over 1600 metres.

Section Two - General Resources Information

2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values

The sports fisheries habitat values are confined to three main areas

- Catchments draining toward Falls Dam

Johnstones Creek is the main tributary that flows through the property. This creek was electric fished several times in the early and mid 1980's both above and below the Ida valley irrigation raceway. Results showed that large numbers of Brown trout and Brook Char were present above the irrigation channel. The Brown trout average length was approximately 70 mm while the Brook Char average length was approximately 120mm in length. This length for Brook Char suggests that most of these fish are at sexual maturity.

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

Otago Region

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A recent visit to the pastoral lease has confirmed the health of the aquatic system. Visual inspection confirmed the presence of invertebrate species such as delatidium which are considered indicators of high water quality.

- *Catchments draining toward Ida Valley*

Hills Creek was surveyed for spawning in 1980 and 1981. The survey showed that spawning rates at the upper end (in the pastoral lease) were low, in the order of 5-6 redds per kilometre. However spawning further down stream was significant with the spawning rates increasing to between 15-30 redds per kilometre.

- *Catchments draining toward Otematata River*

This area lies within the Central South Island Fish & Game Region. Due to difficult access to this area, little is known about Clear stream on this part of the lease. It is thought that a waterfall further downstream restricts the passage of trout, therefore trout may not be present on the lease. It is thought that this part of the lease supplies high quality of the water to the Clear Creek catchment which below the waterfall restriction is noted for its spawning.

2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values

The health of this fishery would allow reasonable angling opportunities. Although Johnstones Creek has low angling pressure, if water currently used by the Ida Valley irrigation scheme was allowed to re-enter the creek, angling opportunity would be considerably enhanced.

Clear Stream has no recreational values.

2.3 Gamebird Habitat Values

This area has been well known an upland gamebird habitat in the past. There is limited information available as to the numbers of birds on the property, but numbers of Californian quail are low. Chukor numbers appeared to have declined over the years leaving only a remnant population. The reasons for this decline are unclear.

2.4 Gamebird Recreation Values

Chukor and California quail are still hunted in the area.

The north facing slopes provide excellent upland game habitat and moderately easy access.

2.5 Other Recreational Values

No other recreational values identified.

2.6 Access Information

A public road runs through the property to Falls Dam.

Section Three - Consultation

3.1 Consultation Undertaken

N/A

3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation

N/A

Section Four - Fish and Game Perspective

4.1 Fisheries Habitat Views

Johnstones Creek has a high habitat value, with good numbers of brown trout and brook char. This creek plays an important role in restocking and maintaining sports fisheries levels for Falls Dam and some Manuherikia tributaries. It allows restocking of these area if there is serious flooding in the Manuherikia catchment. Johnstones Creek and tributaries should be protected by marginal strip, including the areas where the width is less than 3 metres.

It is likely that an area above the Ida Valley Race intake on Johnstones Creek is incised enough that it would not qualify yet has considerable flow. A conservation area in the form of a riparian strip should be created for this and any area on Johnstones Creek where the river width does not qualify for a marginal strip.

4.2 Fisheries Recreation Views

If there were increased flows the recreation value would improve. Ensuring public access via the public road would met any future requirements.

4.3 Gamebird habitat Views

The decline in population is not well understood but it is not thought to be attributed to habitat requirements. No special arrangements are required.

4.4 Gamebird Recreation Views

Due to the low population numbers no further arrangements are required

4.5 Access Views

It is possible that the public road goes off alignment in areas through the lease. Where this is the case it should be recognised and rectified so that public access to Johnstones Creek is ensured.

Section Five - Bibliography

Tenure Review Document


Crown Pastoral lands Act. (1998)

Land Status Report for Braeside.

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Dated: Monday, 21 February 2000

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Nelson', written in a cursive style.

Mark Nelson
Resource Officer
For: The Otago Fish and Game Council