

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: BRANCH CREEK**

**Lease number: PO 052**

### **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.



## **Fish and Game Resources Report for the Branch Creek 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 bird values present on the land included in the Branch Creek 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*

The Branch Creek property is located in the Cardrona Valley, to the north of the Cardrona Ski field. The lease land runs from the Cardrona Riverbed up to an altitude of approximately 1600 masl.

### **Section Two - General Resources Information**

#### *2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values*

The three main waterways through the property are Branch creek, Macdonalds Creek, and Boundary Creek. There are many other creeks on the property, but in general these flow down steep gradients and contain little sports fish habitat.

Branch creek, Macdonalds Creek, and Boundary Creek contain valuable spawning habitat and some juvenile rearing habitat for brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Adult sports fish migrate upstream from the Clutha and Cardrona rivers to spawn in these tributaries. In addition, tributaries of the Cardrona River have been suggested as important spawning habitat for adult rainbow trout from Lake Dunstan.

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

**Otago Region**

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*2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values*

There are limited angling opportunities present on the Branch Creek property.

*2.3 Game-bird Habitat Values*

The property contains habitat suitable for California quail (*Lophortyx californicus*) and Chukor (*Alectoris chukar*). There is no information on their presence or otherwise.

*2.4 Gamebird Recreational Values*

None identified.

**Section Three - Fish and Game Perspective**

*3.1 Fisheries Habitat Views*

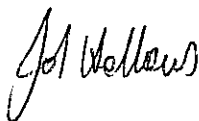
All existing marginal strips should become moveable section 24 strips if they do not already have this status. In addition, marginal strips should be applied to all waterways that qualify.

*3.2 Access Requirements*

Provisions should be made for the transportation of dogs and firearms for recreational purposes over freehold land to land returned to crown ownership.

Fish & Game employees require access to areas of freehold land for sports fish and game management purposes. This relates exclusively to access to waterways for activities such as spawning surveys, fisheries surveys or ranging.

Dated: 20 June 2006



John Hollows  
**Environmental Officer**