



## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name : CattleFlat/Henroost**

**Lease number : Ps 071**

### **Conservation resources report**

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.

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

**Copied November 2002**

DOC REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS  
ON THE TENURE REVIEW OF  
CATTLE FLAT PASTORAL LEASE AND HENROOST SPECIAL LEASE

PART I

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Cattle Flat is a medium sized pastoral lease of 3263 ha and the Henroost Special Lease comprises 2003 ha. Both leases are run as one property and have been assessed for tenure review accordingly.

DOC staff have inspected the property on 12 March 1997, and their assessments have been incorporated into this conservation resources report.

The special lease was formerly a pastoral occupation licence which was reviewed in 1990. Conservation resource information obtained from that review has been utilised for this report and updated where necessary. The POL review resulted in the issue of the special lease in exchange for the surrender of part of the pastoral lease comprising part of the RAP Nokomal 4 (Mataura Range). This land was combined with several areas of conservation land to create the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve. The RAP (recommended area for protection) was identified in the PNAP survey report of the Nokomal Ecological District which was undertaken in 1986/87.

The property is located on the Ardlussa-Cattle Flat Road, 23 km north of Balfour in Eastern Southland. A public access easement provides access from the end of the legal road to the reserve boundary.

## PART II

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AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## 2.1 LANDSCAPE

**Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease**

In a regional landscape context, this pastoral lease is situated in a sensitive location being at the interface between the fertile Waimea Plains and the Northern Southland range lands.

This edge to the range lands provides the plains with a dramatic backdrop that is conspicuous from many parts of Southland.

Cattle Flat is where the setting for the Mataura River changes markedly from being within the confines of a valley to more open alluvial flats. The landscape values contained within this pastoral lease complement the similar values found on the adjacent Glenlapa pastoral lease, collectively represent a high country landscape which is of regional significance. The Southland Regional Council Regional Landscape Survey states: "The major rivers rise in the Northern Southland mountains and the upper reaches meander through the valley flats with areas of extensive river terraces and steep mountain slopes. The natural character of these valleys with the rivers as a central focal point provide a vivid and coherent image and are an essential aspect of the Northern Southland landscape experience. The rivers provide a focus for angling and other recreational experience and make a significant contribution to the Southland lifestyle."

Although not all of this pastoral lease was inspected, the main visual corridor as seen from the most common viewing points has been assessed. From a landscape perspective most of this significant area of this pastoral lease has previously been surrendered and now forms the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve.

Only one other tract of land was considered worthy of describing and evaluating which encompasses land between the Ardlussa-Cattle Flat Road and the adjoining scenic reserve where the front country consists of long sloping hills primarily covered in exotic grasses and short tussock with beech forest still found in the darker gullies. The prominent scarp overlooking the Mataura River is clad in a diversity of both forest/shrublands, some of the species represented include broadleaf, Fuchsia, wineberry, koromiko, totara, Coprosma, and Corokia. Around the edge of the scarp both Himalaya honeysuckle and broom are present.

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This scarp forms a natural lead-in to the more wild and scenic range lands and as well provides anglers with a back country experience. The advanced regeneration of the native shrublands would suggest that there is little economical value placed on these steep faces, while the high terrace and hill country above the scarp have been developed to about 800 m.

#### **Henroost Special Lease**

No separate report is available. As the 1990 POL review identified no specific landscape interest, no further landscape assessment has been undertaken.

#### **Significance of the Landscape**

The most significant natural landscape is that area which has previously been surrendered from the pastoral lease and now forms part of the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve. A small area south of the reserve has a high natural character and is part of the visual character of the gorge landscape. An additional narrow tract of scarp face covered in regenerating forest species overlooking the Ardlussa-Cattle Flat Road is of high landscape value as a natural lead-in to the more wild and scenic range lands beyond and as a contributing element to the river setting.

#### **Landforms and Geology (Both Leases)**

The alluvial flats of the Mataura Valley are flanked to the west by steep, moderately to deeply incised colluvial slopes. These rise to the Mataura Range, a prominent fault controlled ridge. Southern and western slopes drain into the Tomogalak Stream catchment.

The Henroost lease comprises mostly north-west facing colluvial slopes forming two catchment systems of Dome Creek. Extensive sheet and scree erosion surfaces occur along the upper slopes of the Mataura Range.

Altitude range of the property varies from 230 metres to 1125 metres.

Soils of the valley floors are Waikaia soils with a parent material of greywacke colluvium with a thin loess cover. These soils are shallow, stony and of low to very low natural fertility.

Mataura soils occur on river terraces. These alluvial soils are derived from greywacke and schist and have a high natural nutrient level.

On the hill slopes are Fairlight soils, consisting of silt loams and stony silt loams with a parent material of greywacke, argillite and sub-schist. Natural fertility is generally very low, and the soils are prone to severe sheet and scree erosion.

## 2.2 CLIMATE

The Nokomai Ecological District experiences a cool temperate climate. Rainfall figures from the nearby Mid Dome average 971 mm pa, and is generally well-spread throughout the year. Heavy snowfalls are infrequent, however periodic light falls will occur most winters to the valley floor. Uplands are exposed to strong north-westerly winds.

## 2.4 VEGETATION

### Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease

#### Introduction

An inspection of this property was undertaken on 12 March 1997. During this inspection a brief overview of the station concentrating on the upper altitude areas was undertaken. During the PNA survey report for the Nokomai Ecological District a large RAP was identified. This RAP consisted of the majority of Black Hill Forest (which consists of several forest stands) and part of Cattle Flat Station between these forest stands. This part of the property has since been protected and gazetted as Mataura Range Scenic Reserve. This area represents the most significant natural area on Cattle Flat Station.

#### Additional areas with Ecological Values on Cattle Flat Station:

##### Area south of Mataura Range Scenic Reserve

This includes most of the remainder of the southern-most catchment of the Scenic Reserve. The vegetation of the upper portion of this catchment is dominated by shrublands. These shrublands represents stages of succession from tussockland through various shrublands back into forest. Beech forest would have been the original climax vegetation for this area. The shrublands are more developed on shady faces. The youngest shrublands in the sequence are a cottonwood *Cashtria vauvilliersii* - *Hebe odora* (*H. anomala* type) shrubland, with some grass and occasional narrow-leaved snow tussockland (*Chionochloa rigida*). The mid aged shrublands consists of a tall dense cottonwood shrubland, which contains *Coprosma ciliata* and *Hebe odora*. There are also localised areas of shrubland dominated by *Coprosma ciliata*, turpentine shrub (*Dracophyllum longifolium*) or manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*). The older shrublands tend to contain emerging forest species including broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*), red and silver beech.

Also within this area are some small areas of the lower altitude broadleaf dominated forest. A farm access track crosses these areas as well as parts of the lower altitude scenic reserve. The total

Forest margin is unfenced and is accessible to stock. Stock browsing of forest species is removing palatable species and affecting regeneration and forest health. Ideally stock should be excluded from the reserve and forest margin. The presence of the existing farm access track and lack of forest margin fencing need careful consideration. The possibility of relocating parts of the farm access track should be assessed.

#### **Head of the southern-most tributary of Tomogalak Stream**

This area south of Black Hill, adjoins the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve along a 600 m frontage. The area identified contains the most natural and intact vegetation in this tributary. The area contains a cap of good condition narrow-leaved snow tussockland, below this is a shrub - tussockland, which merges into shrublands in the gullies and at lower altitudes, with some pockets of beech forest in the gullies. The shrublands are dominated by *Cassinia Vauvillierii* (cottonwood) with some *Hebe odora*, turpentine shrub and *Coprosma ciliata*. There are some areas of bare or scree/rubble slopes. These rubblefields contain an abundance of *Celmisia densiflora*, along with *Gaultheria crassa*, *Raoulia subsericea*, and other species which are less common than in the surrounding vegetation. The nationally threatened hook grass *Uncinia purpurata* was observed adjacent to Black Hill (within the Henroost special lease). There is no reason why this hook grass will not also be found within this Tomogalak catchment as well. This species is a Category I (Indeterminate) Species for Conservation (Molloy and Davis 1994, 2nd edition). The category includes species about which little information exists but which are considered threatened. The species is likely to be downgraded to Local at the next review. This record however is of interest as it expands the species known range in Southland.

A farm access track along the ridge between this area and the scenic reserve provides access between the Upper Tomogalak Creek part of the pastoral lease and the Henroost special lease and the balance of the property.

#### **Lower section of the southern-most tributary of Tomogalak Stream**

This area contains a beech forest remnant with associated extensive shrublands at a lower altitude than elsewhere on the property. It has high naturalness.

#### **Head of the northern-most tributary of Tomogalak Stream**

This area has similar values to those in the southern-most catchment of Tomogalak Stream. The area adjoins the Tomogalak conservation area (upstream). The vegetation consists of cap of good condition narrow-leaved snow tussockland which extends down some of the ridges, below this is a shrub - tussockland, which merges into shrublands in the gullies and at lower altitudes, with some pockets of beech forest in the gullies. There are also some areas of bare ground or

tree/rubble slopes. The shrublands are dominated by cottonwood and turpentine shrub with some *Hebe odora* and *Coprosma ciliata*.

This area contains a scattering of *Pinus contorta* seedlings and saplings.

### Henroost Special Lease

The following plant communities occur within the lease.

#### Snow Tussock

Intact snow tussockland (*Chionochloa rigida*) communities are found along much of the summit and upper slopes adjacent to the southern boundary of the Henroost. In the south-west corner of the lease the composition of this snow tussockland was *Chionochloa rigida* 60-70% cover with *Cassinia vauvilliersii* (cottonwood), 10% and *Dracophyllum longifolium* 50%. Other minor components are *Hebe odora*, *Brachyglottis revoluta*, *Gaultheria depressa*, (snow berry), *Leucopogon fraserii*, *Colmisia densiflora*, *Poa colensoi*, *Aciphylla aurea*.

#### Shrubland

This community was dominated by *Hebe odora*, with much cottonwood and smaller amounts of *Hebe prostrata*, *Dracophyllum longifolium*, *D. uniflorum*, *Coprosma cheesemanti*, *Coprosma ciliata* and snow tussock.

#### Rocky Gully

This rocky area was found in the south west and contained a wide variety of species. Most significant is the presence of mountain beech (*Nothofagus solandri*) and broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*). Also noteworthy are native broom (*Carmichaelia petriei*), *Olearia bullata*, *Coprosma rugosa*, tutu (*Coriaria sarmentosa*), *Anisotome haastii*, *Aciphylla glaucescens*, *Blechnum procerum*.

#### Modified Fescue Tussockland

This community dominated the lower and mid altitudes. The fescue component decreases with altitude. A typical composition is browntop 45%, sweet vernal 15%, moss 15%, catsear 8%, hawkweed 5% (2-15%), fescue 5%, *Elymus rectisetus*, along with small amounts of snow tussock, *Colmisia gracilentia*, *Helicbrysum filicaule*, *Raoulia glabra* and sheep sorrel. White clover is only found in seepage areas where there is higher natural fertility. The river flats are generally similar but with the higher natural fertility contain more clover. The gravelly areas contain some specialised plants, notably *Raoulia tenuicaulis*, *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*, *Acaena inermis*, *Scleranthus brockettii* and *Coprosma petriei*.

The area of conservation value represents a minor portion of the whole lease (~15%) and consists largely of high altitude and summit crest snow tussockland with areas of shrubland (principally *Hebe odora* with *H. propinqua* and cottonwood) and a steep, rocky gorge area with a diverse mixture of species (including mountain beech and broadleaf). The subalpine shrublands are represented adequately elsewhere in the Mid Dome area and within the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve. The majority of the lower and mid altitude slopes contain a grass sward, this is dominated by browntop with much sweet vernal, fescue tussock, moss, catsear and hawkweed and only occasional snow tussock. This community is of relatively low naturalness, however does have high water and soil conservation values. These low and mid-altitude slopes are still in a relatively delicate balance. The maintenance of the vegetation cover is essential to maintain the soil and slope stability.

#### **Problem Plants**

Wilding pines (*Pinus contorta*) have spread onto the southern and western sides of the Henroost from the conservation plantings on Mid Dome and Cupola. Their spread onto the lease has been partially controlled by the lessee through obligatory conditions contained within the lease. If not controlled, these trees will pose a threat to the uplands of the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve and adjoining lightly stocked pastoral lands downwind.

Hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*) is present in the modified fescue tussockland - 15% as well as the snow tussockland, but does not appear to have increased in frequently significantly since the review of the pastoral occupation licence was undertaken. Some broom was recorded along the 4WD track north-west of Black Hill. Gorse is a significant problem plant on the flats adjoining the Mataura River.

#### **Significance of the Vegetation**

Three different levels of ecological importance have been identified on the two leases and are ranked accordingly as follows. Their location and extent is indicated on Map 2 attached, and is based on the above descriptions.

#### **Very High Value**

- The existing Mataura Range Scenic Reserve, formerly part of Cattle Flat pastoral lease.

#### **High Value**

- Area south of the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve
- Head of the southern-most tributary of Tomogalak Stream.



**Moderate Value**

- Lower section of the southern-most tributary of Tomogalak Stream
- Head of the northern-most tributary of Tomogalak Stream

**2.5 FAUNA**

**CATTLE FLAT PASTORAL LEASE**

**Invertebrate Terrestrial Fauna**

No survey was undertaken as part of this assessment. The previously acquired Mataura Range Scenic Reserve adequately protects species and habitats of note identified on the pastoral lease during the Protected Natural Areas Survey of the Nokomai Ecological District.

**Vertebrate Terrestrial Fauna**

Birds noted during the inspection include Australian Harrier, New Zealand Pipit and New Zealand Falcon. The latter is a Category B species for conservation (Molloy and Davis 2nd Edition 1994), a 2nd priority Species for Conservation.

**Lizard Species of Cattle Flat Station (as determined by this survey)**

	Distribution	National Status
* <i>Oligosoma inconspicuum</i>	Southland/Otago	Widespread
* <i>Oligosoma maccanni</i>	Inland Southland - Canterbury	Common
* <i>Hoplodactylus</i> sp.	Eyre Mountains,	Common,
"Southern mini"	Remarkables	Localised distribution
* <i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	North Stewart Island - Central	Common
(Unconfirmed sighting)	North Island	

Cattle Flat Station has a unique lizard assemblage. *Hoplodactylus* sp. "Southern mini" is a gecko with a very restricted distribution (known previously from several sites in the Eyre Mountains and The Remarkables) and thus its occurrence on Cattle Flat Station is significant (it was unknown from this area prior to this survey). The species appeared common and widespread within the search area, however suitable habitat (stable rock piles, scree) is sufficiently scarce within the area as to limit the gecko to a "localised" status here. 'Southern mini's', or evidence of them (shedded skins) was found at sites A, C, D and F.

*Oligosoma inconspicuum* is widespread in Southland, however is now rare or localised due to habitat destruction. It was abundant at two sites in the search area, in alpine habitats. At site C individuals were sighted amongst ground vegetation and open ground. At site E most were

habiting vegetation (such as *Aciphylla* spp.) on a rock outcrop. An unconfirmed sighting was made at site F.

*Oligosoma maccanni*, a common inhabitant of Otago/Inland Southland tussocklands, was present at all sites (except site D), and generally appeared to be common.

One unidentified skink, thought to be *Oligosoma polychroma*, was seen basking in grass near site F. This species appears to be rare on Cattle Flat Station.

Several other lizard species are likely to be present on Cattle Flat Station, however insufficient time precluded thorough investigation of several habitat types (forest, scrub, lowland rock outcrops, rock bluffs). *Oligosoma chloronoton* and one member of the *Hoplodactylus maculatus* gecko species complex (most likely *H.* sp. "Western Otago") maybe present in some unsurveyed areas. The forest and scrub habitat appears suitable for 'green gecko' (genus *Nautilinus*).

## AQUATIC FAUNA

### Introduction

Sampling focused on the Tomogalak Stream and a major tributary at the south end of the station. A single site on the Mataura River side of the station was also sampled. A total of 9 sites were fished (Table 1).

### Results

Three fish species were recorded i.e. *Galaxias brevipinnis* (Koaro), *Galaxias depressiceps*, and *Salmo trutta* (brown trout) and a fourth, long finned eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) is expected to be present.

### Tomogalak Stream

Two sites were fished in the mainstream (sites 1 and 2) Brown trout predominantly juvenile fish (<100 mm) were abundant at both sites. Flathead galaxiids (*G. depressiceps*) and possibly koaro (*G. brevipinnis*) were present in low numbers. Long finned eels are also likely to be present, but in deep water habitat that was not fished.

### Black Hill Tributary of Tomogalak Stream

In the lower reaches, sites 3 and 4, small numbers of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and koaro were present. The koaro were all large fish (up to 180 mm) although a single post whitebait was also collected. This may have been a flathead galaxiid. The large koaro are significant as it is a Category C species (3rd Priority Species for Conservation, Molloy and Davis, 2nd Edition 1994).

koaro probably extend further up river although they were not recorded at site 5. By site 5 both the trout and koaro have dropped out to be replaced by flathead galaxiids. Flatheads are relatively common, although higher numbers are present in small side branches at both sites 4 and 5. Similarly higher numbers appear to be present in the head water streams at sites 7 and 8.

Flathead galaxiids are part of the Taleri group of galaxiids, listed as Category I, Molloy and Davis 2nd Edition 1994 (Species about which little information exists, but based on existing evidence, are considered to be threatened).

Flatheads were particularly abundant in the small stream at site 5. This stream shows signs of cattle damage. It is small (<400 mm wide) and flows across a small boggy flat. The stream banks are prone to collapse if trampled by cattle. The densities of flatheads was significant higher than the mainstream and these small side branches may be important spawning and larval rearing sites.

**Unnamed Stream (Southeast side of Matura Range Scenic Reserve )**

A single headwater site was fished in this stream (site 9). Brown trout (60-150 mm length) were common, as were the freshwater crayfish or koura. The present of trout this far up the stream means they are probably almost throughout this system hence it is likely to have a limited native fishery.

**Table 1 : Sampling sites and relative abundance of all fish recorded on Cattle Flat Station**

12 March 1997 - Abundance is given by : R - rare (1 fish caught)  
O - occasional (2-4 fish)  
C - common (5-10)  
A - abundant (>10)  
P - likely to be present

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Galaxias brevifinnis</i>	?R	?R	C						-
<i>Galaxias depressiceps</i>	R	O	R	A	C	A	C	A	-
<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>	?P	?P							
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	A	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	C

**Other Points**

No sampling was carried out in Henroost, Upper Matura or Upper Tomogalak areas. In the latter, a similar pattern to Black Hill tributary could be expected with koaro present in the lower reaches

being replaced by dense populations of flathead galaxiids, depending on how far up the trout extend. Similar patterns could be expected in the Henroost and Upper Mataura blocks. Again some fencing to keep cattle out of the stream and off the banks might be beneficial.

## **HENROOST SPECIAL LEASE**

### **Invertebrate Terrestrial Fauna**

No survey was undertaken as part of this assessment. The generally modified vegetation present over most of the lease was concluded to contain no habitats or species of note. Considerably better diversity and condition of habitats occurs within the adjacent Mataura Range Scenic Reserve.

### **Vertebrate Terrestrial Fauna**

Birds recorded during this assessment include Australasian Harrier, New Zealand pipit and New Zealand Falcon. The latter is a category B species for conservation (Molloy and Davis, 2nd Edition, 1994), a 2nd priority species for conservation.

### **Problem Animals**

Rabbits are present in the lower sunny country in the Henroost and along the Mataura River flats but numbers are low and are controlled as required.

Feral pigs and red deer occur throughout in low numbers. Deer numbers are moderate within the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve and frequently browse around forest margins on the pastoral lease. Recreational hunting of pigs and deer is providing adequate control.

Possums are widespread throughout the two leases with moderate populations occurring in forests and shrublands.

Feral sheep have in the past been a problem in the Henroost special lease but no evidence of their existence were seen during the latest inspection.

None of the above animal species are at population levels where any significant conservation values are threatened.

### **Significance of the Fauna**

The record for New Zealand Falcon, a Category B species, is of significance.

*Topodactylus* sp. "Southern mini" is a rare gecko species confined to restricted areas of stable rock piles and scree. Its presence here is an important extension of its distribution. Its presence is very localised and is dependent on suitable habitat. Site C has the most natural habitat tall tussockland/shrubland present.

The lower Black Hill tributary of Tomogalak Stream and its small side branches is particularly significant for the presence of koaro and flathead galaxiids, the latter present at high population levels with likely spawning and larval rearing sites.

## 2.6 HISTORIC

### HISTORIC SITES

#### **Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease**

The only historic site known to be on the lease was a flax mill shown on a 1915 survey plan. However Cattle Flat is a few miles downstream of the Nokomal River which was a centre of gold mining for more than 70 years. One area of gold sluicing is present on the true left bank of the Mataura River north of the Cattle Flat boundary so there was a possibility of some gold mining sites being present along some of the river terraces.

#### **Survey Results**

The site of the old flax mill is now occupied by a number of fishermen's cribs. The 1915 map shows a shed and a cottage on the Cattle Flat side of the Mataura River and a further shed and cottage on the Glenlapa side. The only obvious remains of the mill is a low earth bank, roughly "L" shaped approximately 45 metres long and about 1 metre high at its highest. This was the wall of a reservoir or pond where the cut flax was soaked prior to the removal of the exterior to expose the internal fibres. About 25 metres south of the wall is a possible drain which runs from the toe of the hill to the edge of the terrace. A water race brought water from the unnamed tributary just north of the site to the vicinity of the mill. This presumably was to power a pelton wheel which drove the mill machinery.

There was no obvious sign of the cottage marked on the map but two rows of large macrocarpa trees about 15 metres apart south of the mill site may mark the site of the cottage.

The date of the flax mill is unknown. Such small operations were often short lived and it is likely that the site does not predate 1900. Therefore it is not protected under the 1993 Historic Places Act. The only remains are the water race and reservoir wall.

## Tenroost Special Lease

There are no known historic sites on this lease.

### 2.7 PUBLIC RECREATION

#### 2.7.1 Physical Characteristics

The pastoral lease straddles the Mataura Range. Catchments to the north and east drain into the Mataura River and to the south and west into Tomogalak Stream. The property surrounds the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve, a large reserve containing beech forests shrublands and shrub/tussocklands. The reserve is located on the eastern faces of the Mataura Range and extends to the summit ridge which rises to 1125 m from the Mataura River terrace. Some small grassy clearings occur at the bottom of the large catchment at the southern end of the reserve which are utilised as a permanent campsite by the Scout Association.

The river flats are used to gain access for angling on the Mataura River. The special lease lies to the west of the Mataura Range and extends from the summit ridge down to Dome Creek.

#### 2.7.2 Public Access

The property has formed public road access (the Ardlussa-Cattle Flat Road) which extends part way along the true right flats of the Mataura River. A public access easement over a 4WD access track extends to the scenic reserve boundary, from the end of this legal road. There are no other legal roads contained within the pastoral lease or special lease. There is a marginal strip along the Mataura River which extends upstream to the northern boundary of the scenic reserve. This strip is a former Section 58 Land Act strip which does not move with changes in the river.

A marginal strip exists along the pastoral lease boundary adjacent to the Tomogalak Stream and along the north-western boundary adjacent to Dome Creek but does not extend along the Dome Creek boundary with the special lease. This latter section of Dome Creek may require a marginal strip to be laid off if tenure review of the special lease is concluded.

#### 2.7.3 Activities

The Mataura River is an internationally renowned brown trout fishery. Cattle Flat is a very popular section of the river for angling and there are a large number of anglers cribs located on the pastoral lease at the end of the Ardlussa-Cattle Flat Road. The river flats are crossed at various points to gain access to the riverbank. The Scout Association established a permanent campsite in a small clearing at the southern end of what is now part of the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve.

Hunting for deer and pigs occurs occasionally on the two leases but most hunting activity (for deer) occurs either within the scenic reserve or on its forest margins. Limited recreational use is made of the station hut in the Dome Burn.

There are no known commercial recreation activities occurring on the two leases. It is likely that commercial fishing guides operate across the Cattle Flat section of the Mataura River.

The 4WD farm access track along the river flats provides good potential public access to upstream parts of the scenic reserve, eg for hunting and also has potential for a public foot and mountain biking route through to Nokomal Station. This route may also provide alternative public access for trampers and hunters willing to cross the Mataura River to reach the adjoining East Dome Scenic Reserve. The river is usually safely forded downstream of the gorge when river levels are low.

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## PART III

## CONSULTATION AND DISTRICT PLANS

## 3.1 CONSULTATION

An early warning meeting between representatives of NGOs (ie Public Access New Zealand, Forest and Bird Society and Federated Mountain Clubs) occurred on 30 April 1997. Key points raised at that meeting by the representatives were as follows:

**Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease**

- Shrublands adjacent to the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve should be reserved.
- Identified a need for public access along the river terraces between Cattle Flat and Nokomal Stations, to provide for public foot, mountain bike and horse trekking along the existing farm access track.
- FMC sought the provision of public vehicle use along this track by arrangement with the landholder. PANZ endorsed this vehicle access request linking it to as of right public access along the riverbank for angling and for improving public access to East Dome Scenic Reserve.
- PANZ saw a need to ensure that riparian access is restored with Fish and Game Council possibly taking an active management role.

**Henroost Special Lease**

- Primary concerns related to sustainable management.
- There was an acknowledgement that conservation recreation interests were very limited and related to potential for restoration/regeneration of shrublands to a state comparable to those shrublands adjacent to the southern boundary of the Mataura Range Scenic Reserve.
- Both these concerns resulted in a suggestion that the upper eroded slopes of the Henroost be fenced off and destocked.

Additional written comment was supplied by Mike Floate for FMC. A copy of this comment is appended.

## 3.2 DISTRICT PLANS (Matters of National Importance)

Within the Southland District Plan (notified), no part of Cattle Flat pastoral lease or Henroost special lease is noted as being of significant importance. However some surrounding areas, in particular Black Hill, have been noted as high value areas by the Department of Conservation.



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Under the rules listed within this plan these areas have no protection with regards to Section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991. There are therefore no key provisions within the Southland District Plan (notified), to recognise and provide for matters of national importance with regard to this section. Recent attempts to introduce Rule HER3, Indigenous Flora and Fauna, which would have provided some protection, was declared ultra vires by the Environment Court. The High Court disagreed with the Environment Court and has referred the matter back to the Environment Court for its consideration.

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The native shrublands along the river scarp, which provides the range lands with a natural lead-in.

**CATTLE FLAT STATION**

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The Maraura Range Scenic Reserve, looking north; along with the Maraura River and East Dome, collectively form a regionally significant landscape. The foreground slopes are relatively modified to about 800 m.

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Proposed western addition to Mataura Range Scenic Reserve

CATTLE FLAT STATION

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**Above:**

Upper part of proposed southern addition to Maitaura Range Scenic Reserve

**Below:**

Part of Tomogalak Conservation Area and proposed addition.

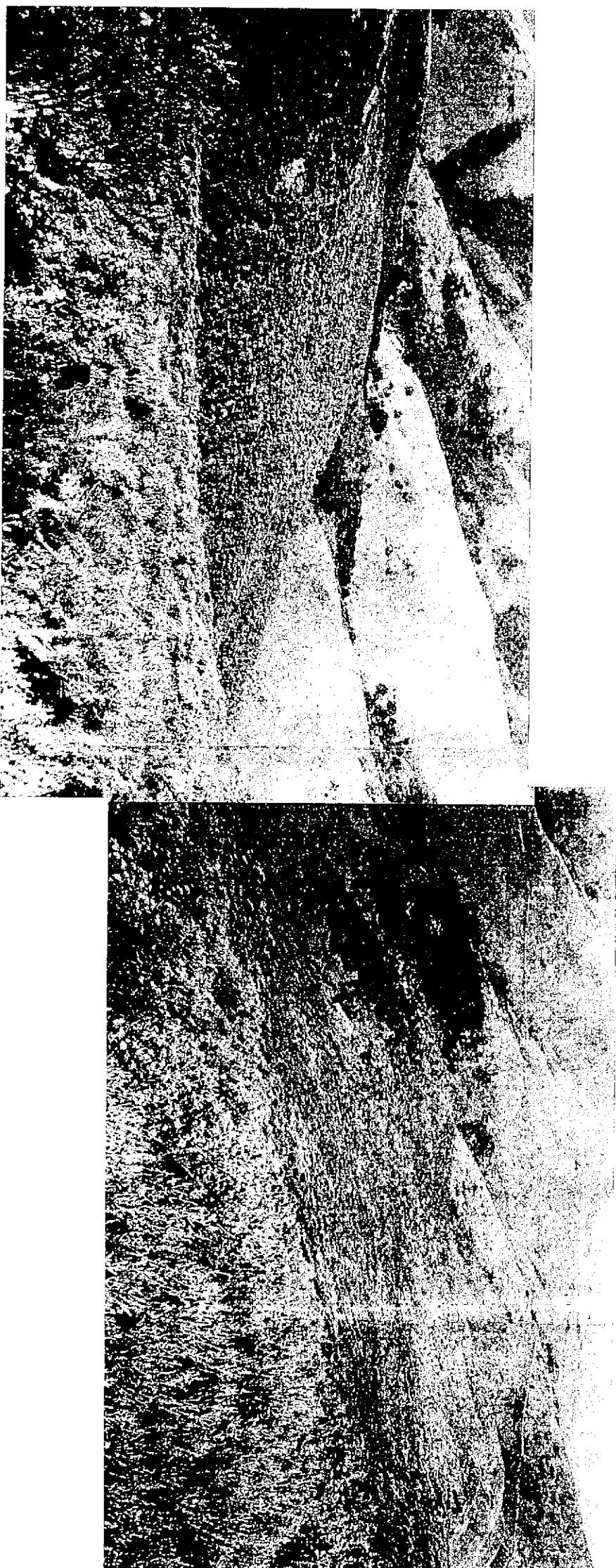


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Southern addition to Mataura Range Scenic Reserve. Successional shrublands dominated by *Cassinia/Hebe* species

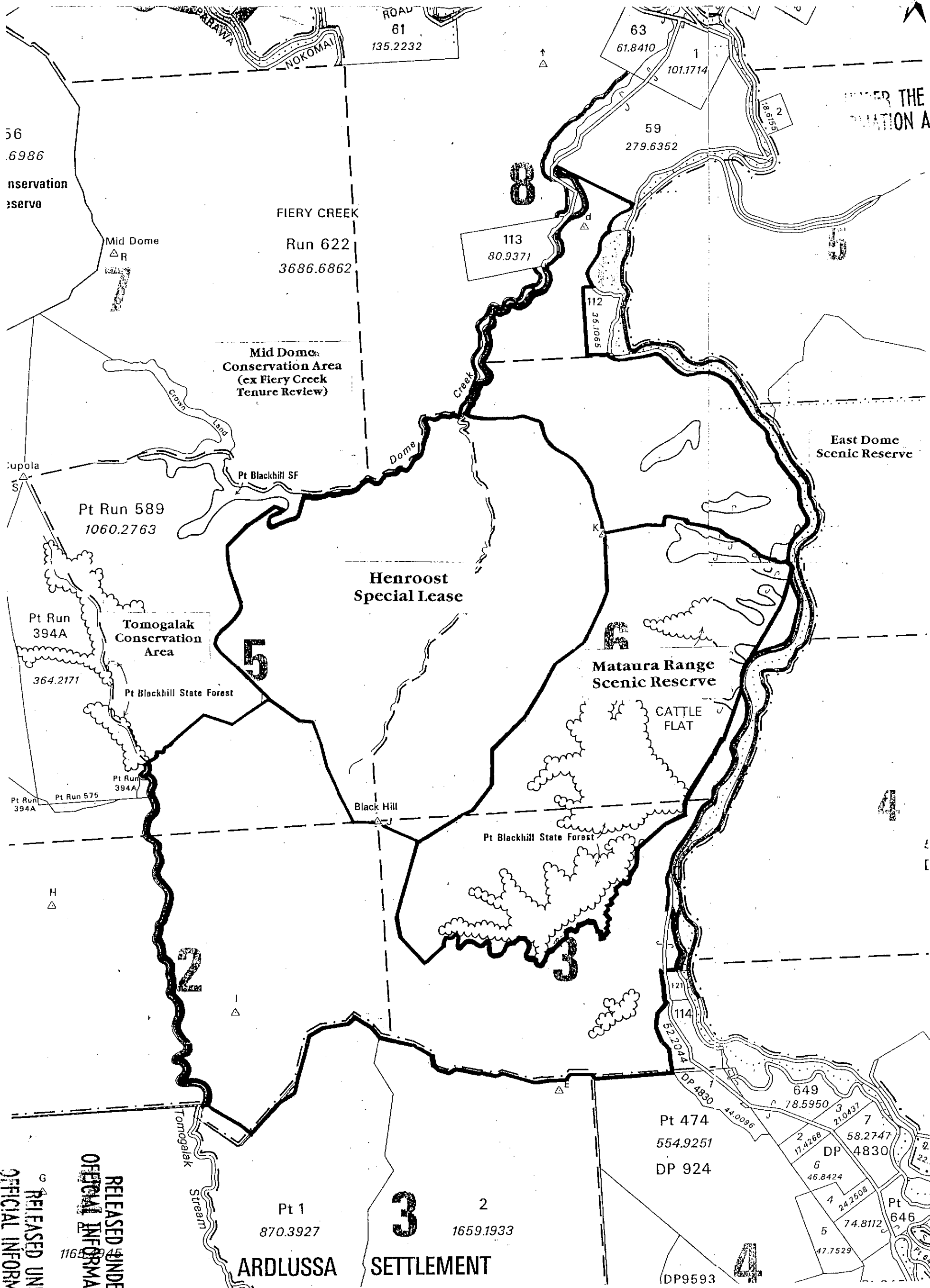
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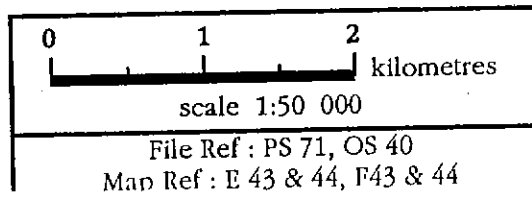
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Marginal Strip



**Map 1**  
**Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease**  
**Henroost Special Lease**  
**Cadastral**

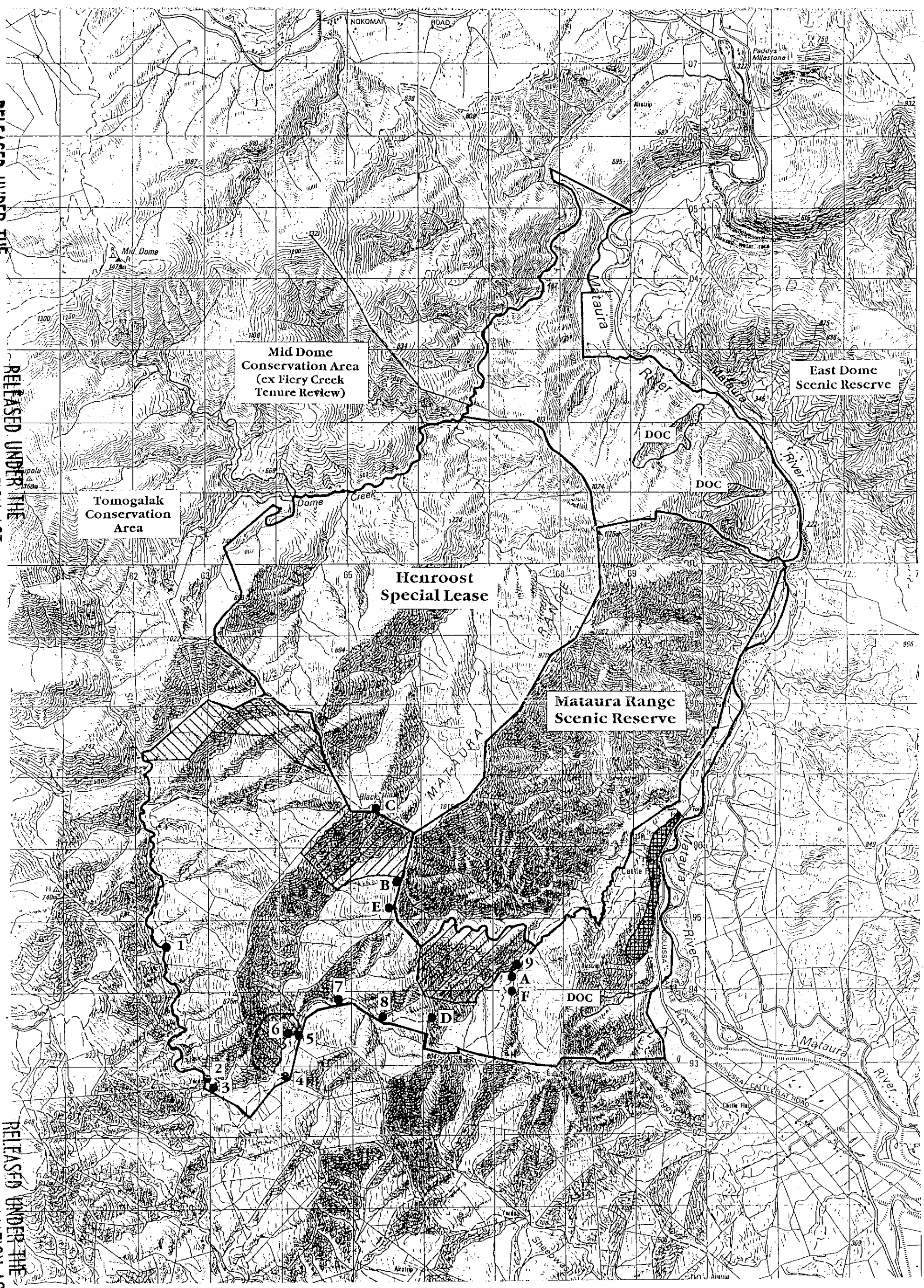









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-  High Landscape Values
-  High Botanical Values
-  Moderate Botanical Values
-  A-F Lizard Search Sites
-  1-9 Fish Search Sites

0 1 2 kilometres  
scale 1:50 000  
File Ref : PS 71, OS 40  
Map Ref : E 43 & 44, F43 & 44

**Map 2**  
**Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease**  
**Henroost Special Lease**  
**Conservation Values**







**HIG COUNTRY  
CONSULTANCY**

Dr Mike Floate  
SH 8 Tarras, Central Otago, New Zealand  
Telephone and Fax 0-3-445 2829

KNIGHT FRANK  
ALEXANDRA

13 MAY 1997

RECEIVED

Pastoral Lease Tenure Reviews

Preliminary Report on  
Recreation and Public Interest Values

Southland Properties

April 1997

Compiled for Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)

by Dr Michael J S Floate  
High Country Consultancy

Prepared for Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)  
with financial assistance from  
New Zealand Lottery Grants Board

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Notes for Early Warning Meeting 16 April 1997

CONTRIBUTION FROM MIKE FLOATE FOR FMC

<u>Station</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>LUC Map(s)</u>
<b>SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO AREA</b>			
Cattle Flat	Licence Po 597 Lease Po 598	Waikaia/Nokomai	S 151 (north part) S 160 (south part)
Glen Nevis		Kingston/Nevis	S 142 (west part) S 143 (east part)
Hukarere	Lease Po 9	Pomahaka/West Otago	S 152 (north part) S 161 (south part)
Waterloo	Lease Po 198C	Takitimu/Ohai	S 150 (south part) S 159 (north part)

MATTERS OF RECREATIONAL CONCERN

GENERAL OVERALL ISSUES

Unlike other groups of properties considered at recent Early Warning Meetings, these four properties are isolated from each other and are not mutually interdependent. However, the recreational and other public interest values of each of these properties should not be considered in isolation, but in relation to other opportunities on neighbouring properties.

Such issues will be mentioned where appropriate, but an example would be through access from the north end of Cattle Flat to the Nokomai River and Nokomai Road, and tramping or X-C ski traverses of the Remarkables/Hector Ranges.

NOTES ON RECREATIONAL ISSUES ON SPECIFIC PROPERTIES

Commentary on the issues and concerns on the 4 individual properties are presented on the following pages.

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Cattle Flat: Licence Po 597 and Lease Po 598

Cattle Flat consists of 3 main land areas: the Mataura valley (Figs 1 and 2), the hill country to the south of Black Hill and in the Tomogalak catchment (Figs 3 and 4) and the Hen Roost Block (Fig 5) which is an associated POL.

Access through from Cattle Flat to Nokomai is important and should be improved. At present this is not possible for a variety of reasons: in part because of non-conformity between the end of the legal road at the Fishermen's Huts and the marginal strip along the Mataura River (Fig 6), in part because of the attitude of the runholder of Nokomai Station (the Nokomai Road bristles with "Foot access only" and "Trespassers will be Prosecuted" signs (Fig 7), and in part because of the physical difficulties in crossing the Mataura River (except at low flow). It is recommended that every opportunity in the tenure review process be taken to improve the situation. Tenure review should provide for foot and mountain bike access via the Mataura River track to Myrtle Flat and out to Nokomai. If this is not possible to the Nokomai/Mataura confluence, then an alternative using Dome Creek could be negotiated. There is a low saddle over the ridge between the Mataura River and Dome Creek at "Gooseberry Saddle" at the northern end of the Cattle Flat property (Fig 8).

Public use of the road to Myrtle Flat should be available with the runholder's permission (Fig 9).

Foot and mountain bike access over existing tracks to Black Hill and beyond there, along the crest of the Mataura Range, to Cupola, and through the Hen Roost Block to the Hen Roost Hut, Dome Creek and out to Nokomai would be desirable (Fig 10). A possible, longer, mountain bike trip might include Mid Dome and provision should be made for this.

There are 3 huts on the property. Those huts which are on land to be transferred to DOC should automatically become available for public use. This should be made clear. Remaining hut(s) which are on proposed freehold land should be available for public use with the owner's permission.

There is a large area of Pastoral Occupation Licence on the Property. This is known as the Hen Roost Block (Fig 11). Presumably this was not included in the lease because of its severely eroded condition (Fig 12). It is very likely that this land is classified LUC Class VIII but I have not had an opportunity to check the maps. It is not clear when the POL expires. The erosion is severe and the land should be permanently retired from grazing and no burning permitted if it has any chance of recovery before it suffers the same disastrous erosion as Mid Dome. The timing of retirement should be as soon as possible: ie. whichever comes first, tenure review, or expiry of the POL (Fig 13).

It is not only the POL land which is eroded but there are high faces on the blocks in the Tomogalak catchment which are also severely eroded (Fig 4). Such land should be identified, fenced off and added to the Mataura State Forest to allow it to recover and start to revert to native bush. Note that there is already some land of this sort at the southern end of the State Forest (Fig 14).

Wilding pines are not common but they do occur and need to be controlled as a matter of urgency. Wildings were seen in the vicinity of Black Hill at about 1000m (Fig 15) and had presumably spread from Mid Dome. Wilding pine control should be a condition of freeholding, and an important management action for DOC.

There is much forestry development in the area (Earnslaw One) and there will be increasing pressure or temptation to plant on Cattle Flat (Fig 16). This would have a serious impact on the value of the Mataura Range State Forest. Protection against the adverse effects of afforestation should be a condition of freeholding (through Covenant or stronger protection). FMC does not believe that District Plans under the RMA provide sufficiently robust or enduring protection.

Where possible new DOC land acquired through this Tenure Review should be added to the Mataura State Forest and scrub land allowed to revert to native bush (Figs 13 and 14).

Natural and recreation values in the lower blocks in the Tomogalak catchment and at the north end of the property on blocks facing NE to the Mataura River do not appear to be high, and freeholding would be appropriate.

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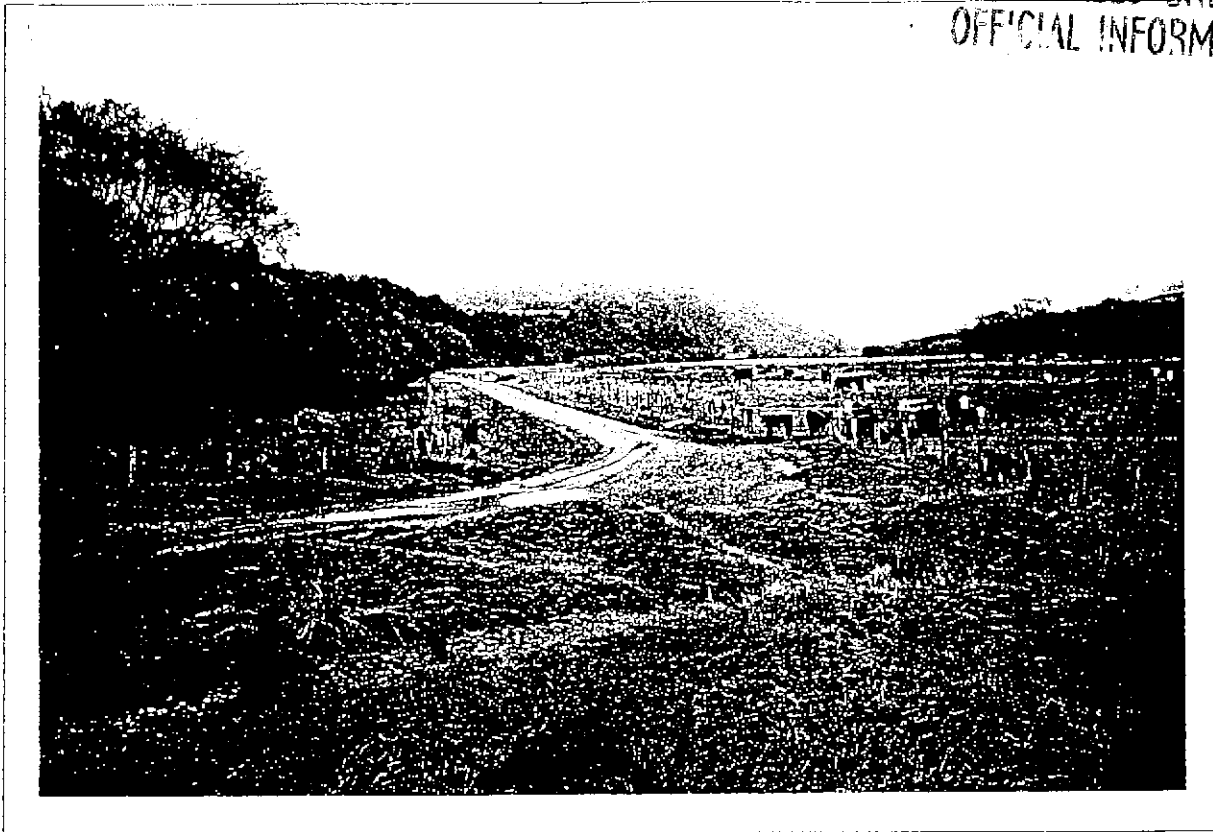


Figure 1. Cattle Flat Station includes extensive river flats which extend for about 10 km up the Mataura River. These could become freehold so long as access provisions are adequate.

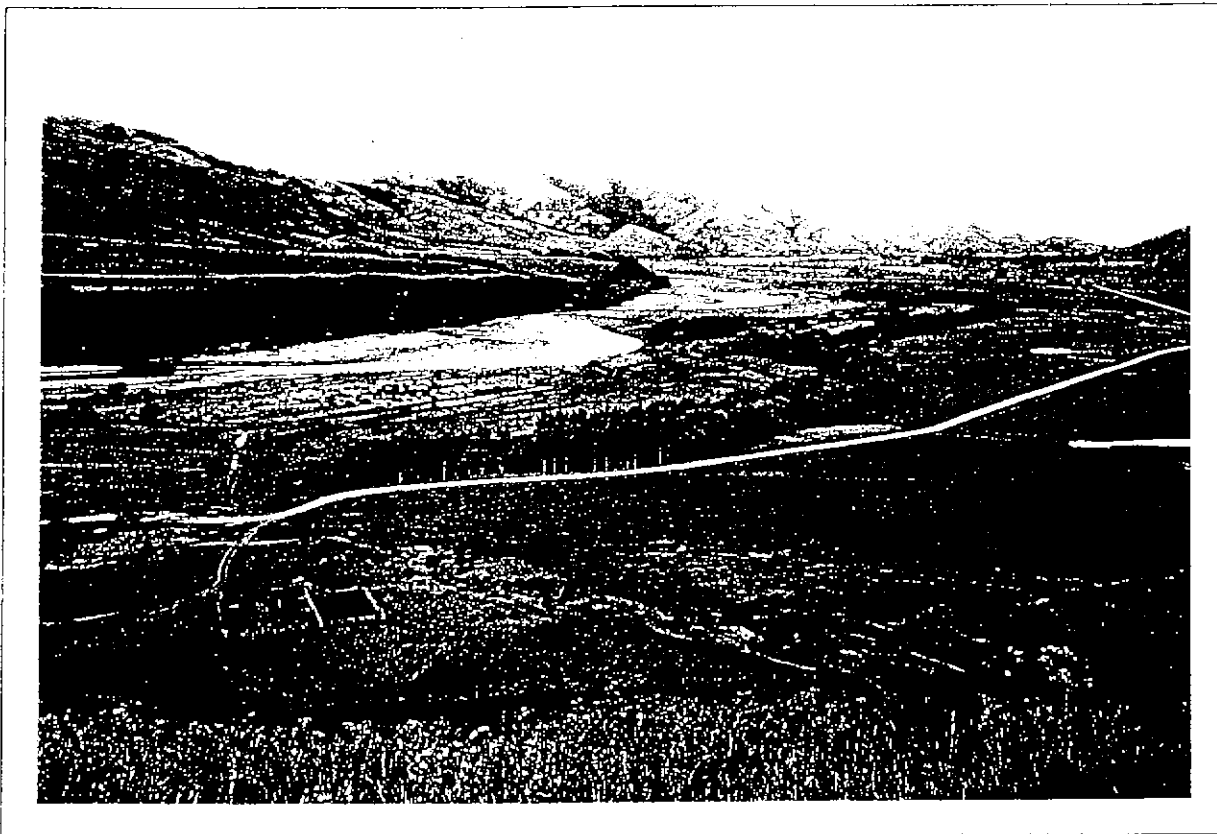


Figure 2. Looking down over the cattle yards and the Mataura River to the homestead at far right. Glenlapa Station is across the river.



Figure 3. The southern end of the property consists of hill country to the south of the Mataura Range seen here overlooking the Mataura River, and hill country south of Black Hill, most of which appears to have little conservation value and is likely to become freehold farmland.



Figure 4. The southern end of the property also includes the Tomogalak catchment which is severely eroded at higher altitudes.

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Figure 5. The Hen Roost Block consists of an extensive area of severely depleted country bounded to the east as seen here by the Mataura Range. This block should be retired from grazing as soon as possible and transferred to DOC.



Figure 6. The legal road up the Mataura ends here at the Fishermen's Huts. There seems to be a discontinuity with legal access on the marginal strip. This anomaly needs to be resolved during tenure review.

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Figure 7. There are problems with access to the northern end of Cattle Flat from Nokomai. The Marama River flows through the gap between Paddy's Milestone and the hill mass to the right (west).

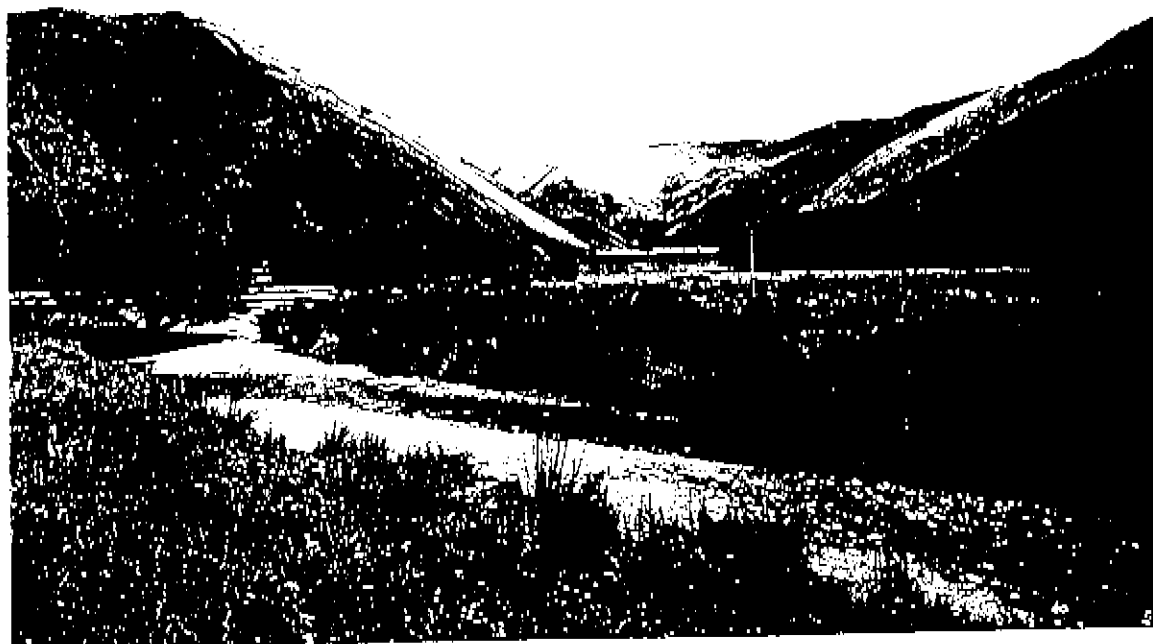


Figure 8. One solution could involve access via Dome Creek and crossing to the Marama valley by the low "Gooseberry Saddle", middle distance, left.

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Figure 9. Public use of the road up the Mataura should be available with the occupier's permission.

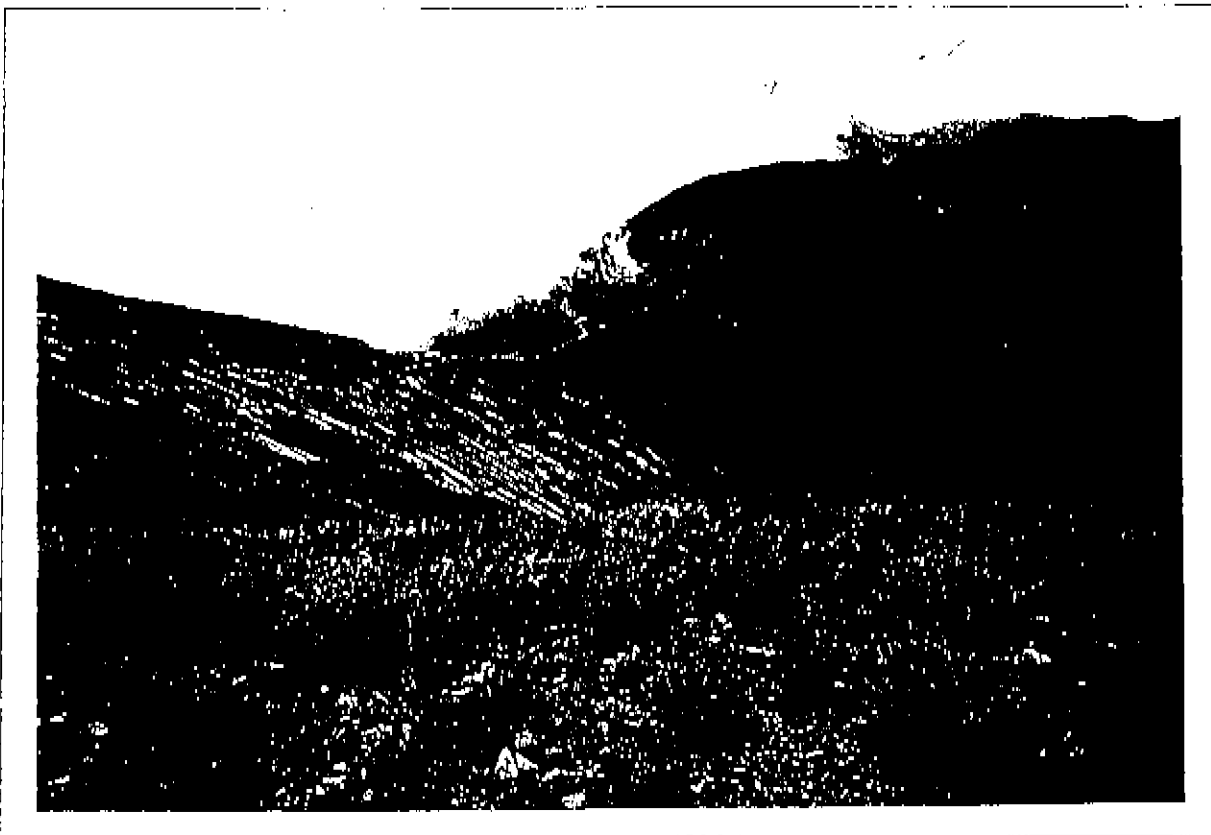


Figure 10. Foot and mountain bike access should be negotiated up the track to Black Hill and on to Cupola or the Hen roost country.

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Figure 11. The Hen Roost Block is Pastoral Occupation Licence and is severely depleted land which should be retired as soon as possible. This photo shows the western boundary along the crest of the Mafaura Range, with East Dome beyond.



Figure 12. Severe erosion at the head of Dome Creek in the Hen Roost Block.

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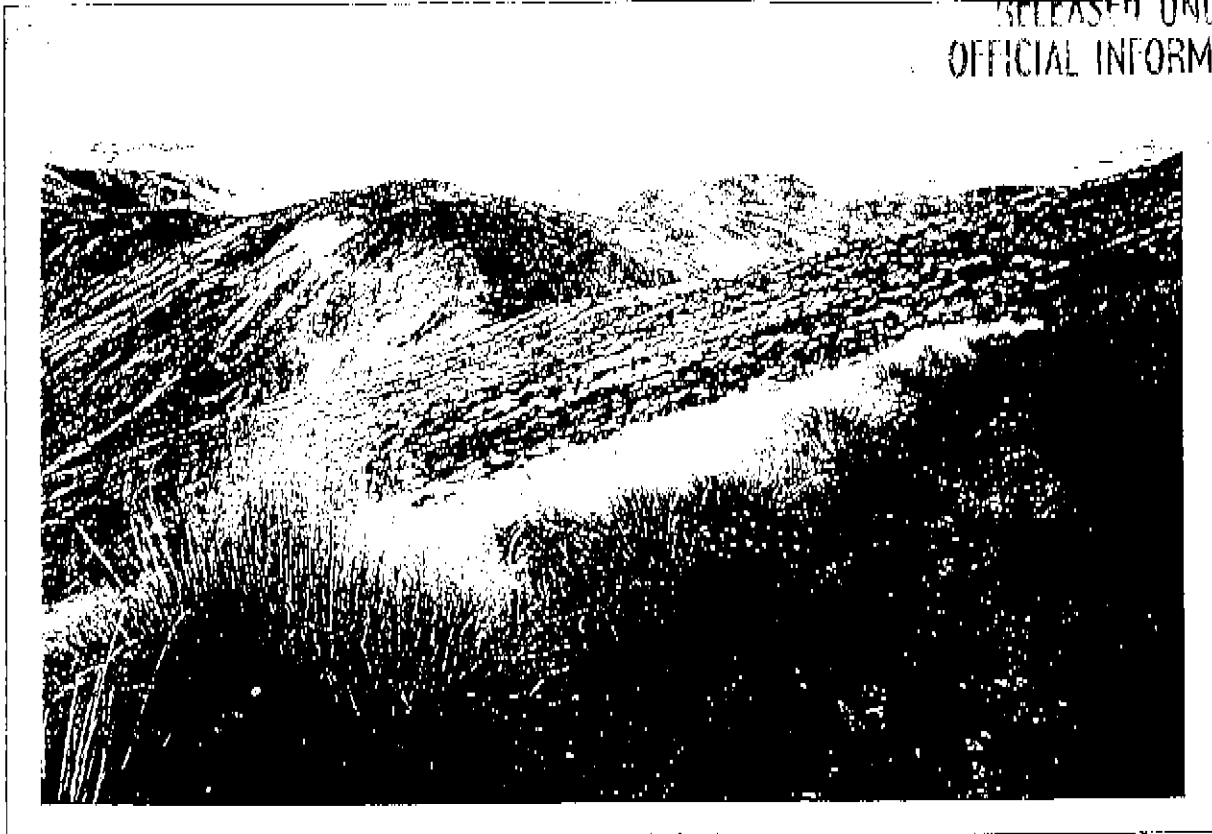


Figure 13. There is some good tussock cover, especially near the Black Hill Trig. The tussock should be given an opportunity to recover by removing all stock.



Figure 14. There is formerly eroded land at the southern end of the Matura Scenic Reserve which shows signs of recovery with development of shrub cover.

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Figure 15. There are occasional wilding pines in the Black Hill/Tomogalak catchment area which should be controlled by the occupier whether that be DOC or the freehold owner. If the latter, control should be a condition of gaining freehold title.



Figure 16. Forestry planting on the neighbouring property. Forestry development poses threats to landscape and natural values of the Matura Scenic Reserve which need to be addressed during tenure review.

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