

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: CLENT HILLS

Lease number: PC 076

Fish & Game Report - Pt 1

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.

April

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25 May 2006

Opus International Consultants Limited
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Attn: Tim Broad

CLENT HILLS TENURE REVIEW
FISH AND GAME RESOURCES REPORT: 25 MAY 2006
Prepared by Central South Island Fish and Game under the provisions of the
Crown Pastoral Land Act (1998)

Introduction:

The Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) purchased approximately 10 000ha of land in June 2004 at Lake Heron. The land, to be managed by the Department of Conservation, was originally part of the Clent Hills lease.

The remaining part of Clent Hills covers approximately 2000ha and includes some upland gamebird habitat and an important spawning stream that requires protection through the tenure review process.

Fish and Game values:

Gentleman Smith Stream and its tributaries are the only spawning streams available to resident trout in the Maori Lakes and as the headwaters of the stream are located in the Clent Hills property it is important that the stream gains formal protection from the effects of landuse and stock access, to protect current values and prevent impacts any further down the stream. The stream has been severely impacted by illegal diversion works and then reinstatement around 2001, and some stock damage has occurred to the stream. (photos attached). Fish and Game see the tenure review process as an opportunity to protect the stream from any future adverse impacts, considering the importance of the stream to the Maori Lakes fishery.

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

Central South Island Region

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Gentleman Smith Stream is a significant spawning stream for the Maori Lakes. Long term annual trout spawning surveys, conducted over a period of 25 years, confirm the presence of high use spawning habitat. The reach used in the surveys is representative of the stream capacity for spawning and was selected for accessibility for conducting the survey. Annual spawning counts are an indication of the intensity of spawner use of only the lower 4km of Gentleman Smith Stream and are used as an index of variation in catchment wide spawning between years. The reach selected does not cover all spawning provided and spawning habitat throughout the stream is evident.

From 1978 to 2001 the number of trout redds in the selected reach (downstream from the Hakatere Heron Road) has ranged from 40-110 and has averaged 72 redds per year. Juvenile trout production is estimated to average approximately 90 000 fry per year in this 4km reach alone. Trout spawning streams characteristically have high quality water of stable flows and a silt free bed. These conditions appropriately describe Gentleman Smith Stream.

Any future cattle/deer access to this stream has the potential to reduce water quality and break down banks leading to increased levels of silt deposition. The productivity of the spawning habitat is a risk from any silt inputs, and although they may be minimal each year, would be significant over a longer time scale. In time, reduction in hatching success from silt inundation and the effects of stock trampling and water quality decline would manifest itself in reduced spawning runs and a decline in the Maori lakes trout fishery.

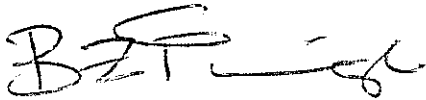
Setting off marginal strips and fencing of the stream will maintain the natural qualities of the stream bank and bed to ensure that degradation is avoided and effects on the fishery are minimised. Wetlands and seeps contributing flow to the Gentleman Smith Stream and Clent Hills Stream (where continuously flowing) must be included in protection work.

Upland gamebird habitat exists on Ricki Spur however current utilisation of the area for upland gamebird hunting is not known.

This report is intended to provide agents with an idea of what Fish and Game need to see in order to best represent our licence holders. It is recognised that issues surrounding practicality need to be worked through and we would like to be involved in further consultation.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Z Pringle'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'B' and 'Z'.

B Z Pringle
Resource Officer

