

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: COMPENSATION RUN

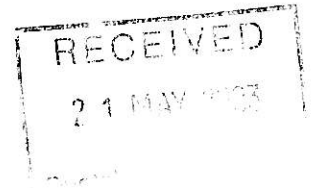
Lease number: PM 017

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.

February 05



7 May 2003

QV Valuation
PO Box 13 443
CHRISTCHURCH

Attention: Barry Dench

Dear Barry

TENURE REVIEW COMPENSATION PASTORAL LEASE

Fish and Game has undertaken a site inspection of the Compensation property as part of the tenure review process. The Fish and Game values associated with the Compensation property are as follows.

- 1) The Branch and Leatham Rivers, flanking the Compensation run, are tributaries of the Wairau River system, which is a sports fishery of regional importance. Brown trout are present throughout the entire system, along with rainbow trout and chinook salmon in low numbers. The Branch and Leatham Rivers in the vicinity of Compensation are characterised by clear water and large pools that are rich in invertebrate life. They both provide more than 46 km of angling water upstream of their confluence. Access to all 21 km of the upper Branch is only available via the publicly formed 4WD track. When combined with the scenic and solitude values the wilderness angler is provided with an enjoyable backcountry angling experience. Access to this backcountry fishing resource is a key issue for anglers and Fish and Game.

Of all the small watercourses within the Compensation property only one has direct sports fishery value. This is the largest stream on the property, which is a tributary of and enters the Leatham River at map reference N29:253399. This stream is not named on the topographical map, but is believed to be known as Camp Creek. It has limited trout/spawning and juvenile rearing habitat available in its lower reaches, depending upon river flows. Brown trout juveniles have been recorded in its lower reaches on two occasions.

Fish and Game is currently involved in a research program in conjunction with Trustpower, which runs the Branch hydroelectric power scheme, to investigate and monitor the abundance of trout in the Leatham and Branch Rivers. This involves undertaking fish surveys of the Branch and Leatham Rivers and their major

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

Nelson/Marlborough Region

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tributaries. For this Fish and Game needs access across the lease from the road to the river at two formed vehicle access points.

- 2) Upland Game in the form of Californian Quail are scattered in low numbers over the entire property, more so along the scrubby creek beds and sunny open faces at lower elevations. Low numbers of Canada Geese and Paradise Shelduck also frequent the Leatham and Branch river valleys. The presence of these species provides some, albeit limited, opportunity for gamebird hunting.
- 3) As part of the tenure review process Fish and Game requests that the following items are provided for.
 - a) All marginal strips are retained along the Branch and Leatham Rivers, and their tributaries where they bound or are within the property.
 - b) The public right of access is retained over all present roads to safeguard access for anglers and hunters to the Leatham and Branch rivers, both adjacent to the Compensation run and to extensive areas further upstream.
 - c) Vehicle access for anglers and hunters along the formed track up the true right of the Branch River along the western side of the property to the adjacent Public Conservation Land.
 - d) Vehicle access from the track in (c) above to the Branch River along formed vehicle access tracks at approximate map references N29:213387 and N29:219399 for anglers, hunters and wildlife and fishery management purposes.

Please feel free to contact me if anything is unclear or if you need further information.

Yours faithfully



Neil Deans
Manager