

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : GLEN LYON

Lease number : Pt 007

Lease name : Huxley Gorge I

Lease number : Pt 106

Lease name : Huxley Gorge II

Lease number : Pt 139

Conservation Resources Report - Part 2

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.

They are released under the Official information Act 1982.

February

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PART 3

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS AND PLANS

3.1 Consultation

A NGO meeting was held with representatives of FMC, Forest and Bird, South Canterbury Deerstalkers, Tramping Clubs, Public Access New Zealand, a Fish and Game representative and the Aoraki Conservation Board on 28 November 1996 to discuss Huxley Gorge and Glen Lyon along with other properties under tenure review.

The discussion centred around the high recreation use on the property, and the popularity of the area for hunting as well as problems with grazing of parts of the property such as the beech forest. There were several calls to buy the whole lot and sell back the grazeable pieces and the consequences of this in terms of economics of the block and what would happen if grazing was taken away.

In a meeting in August 1999 NGO members raised further issues on Huxley Gorge and Glen Lyon. One of the issues was future road access. Some sort of contingency was recommended to ensure continued access into the Hopkins as far as Monument Hut as this has been "pressing problem" for some time with the road being washed out.

There was also concern about the unsustainability of grazing of forest margins and the critical nature of stock impact. It was also noted that the quite distinct line on the western faces of the Ben Ohau Range which marked the extent of oversowing and topdressing was a good line for proposed freeholding with the upper mountains tops being taken out of the lease.

This discussion was followed up by a letter from Allan Evans on behalf of FMC where he outlined the high inherent values of Glen Lyon and Huxley Gorge from its spectacular landscapes, mountain peaks, and wetlands through to its importance to recreation as well as overseas visitors. Allan also suggested considering the areas that were to be taken out of Glen Lyon and Huxley Gorge as well as land under tenure review on other properties be made into an enlarged Conservation Park stretching south from Mount Cook and including the Ben Ohau Range, the Dobson and Hopkins Valleys, Huxley, Ahuriri and Dingleburn.

3.2 District Plans

All of Glen Lyon and that part of Huxley Gorge on the eastern side of the Hopkins River are within the Mackenzie District Council and that part of Huxley Gorge on the west is within the Waitaki District. In the schedule of sites of natural significance are the Dobson/Hopkins Rivers and Irishman Stream. In the schedule of geopreservation sites the Mt Glenmary debris-covered glacier has been listed.

For sites of natural significance, geopreservation sites, riparian and alpine environments (areas above 900m) the Mackenzie District Plan has a number of rules:

- No earthworks to exceed 20 metres³ in volume and/or 50 metres² in area in any one hectare in any continuous period of five years, or to be located on slopes greater than 25 degrees.
- No clearance of indigenous vegetation to exceed 100m² in area in any one hectare in any continuous period of five years; and no clearance of indigenous vegetation with an average maximum canopy height of greater than 3m and exceeds 500m² or more than 100m² of tall tussock. (Clearance of more than 10% of the total area of indigenous vegetation cover on any site of natural significance is a controlled activity).
- No tree planting, other than restoration of native plantings.

For sites of natural significance, pastoral intensification (subdivisional fencing and/or topdressing and oversowing) shall not exceed 5% of any site.

Forestry is a controlled activity up to a maximum of 2 hectares per certificate of title or where it is within a wetland, within 100m of a lake, within 20m of a bank of a river or within 50m of a wetland.

Most of Huxley Gorge lies within the Waitaki District. The Waitaki proposed plan was publicly notified in December 1996. Under this plan Huxley Gorge is zoned RS (rural scenic). The Rural Scenic Zone contains areas of the District which have significant scenic values - the high country, rangelands and inland basin areas.

There are no significant sites identified on Huxley Gorge by the Council in the plan i.e. none of the SSWI's identified from Wildlife Service surveys have been recognised in the plan.

In this 1996 plan there are controls on buildings, earthworks, indigenous vegetation clearance and forestry - in areas within 20m of a lake, river or wetland. There are also some controls on earthworks (including tracking) on slopes greater than 20° and controls on clearance of indigenous bush.

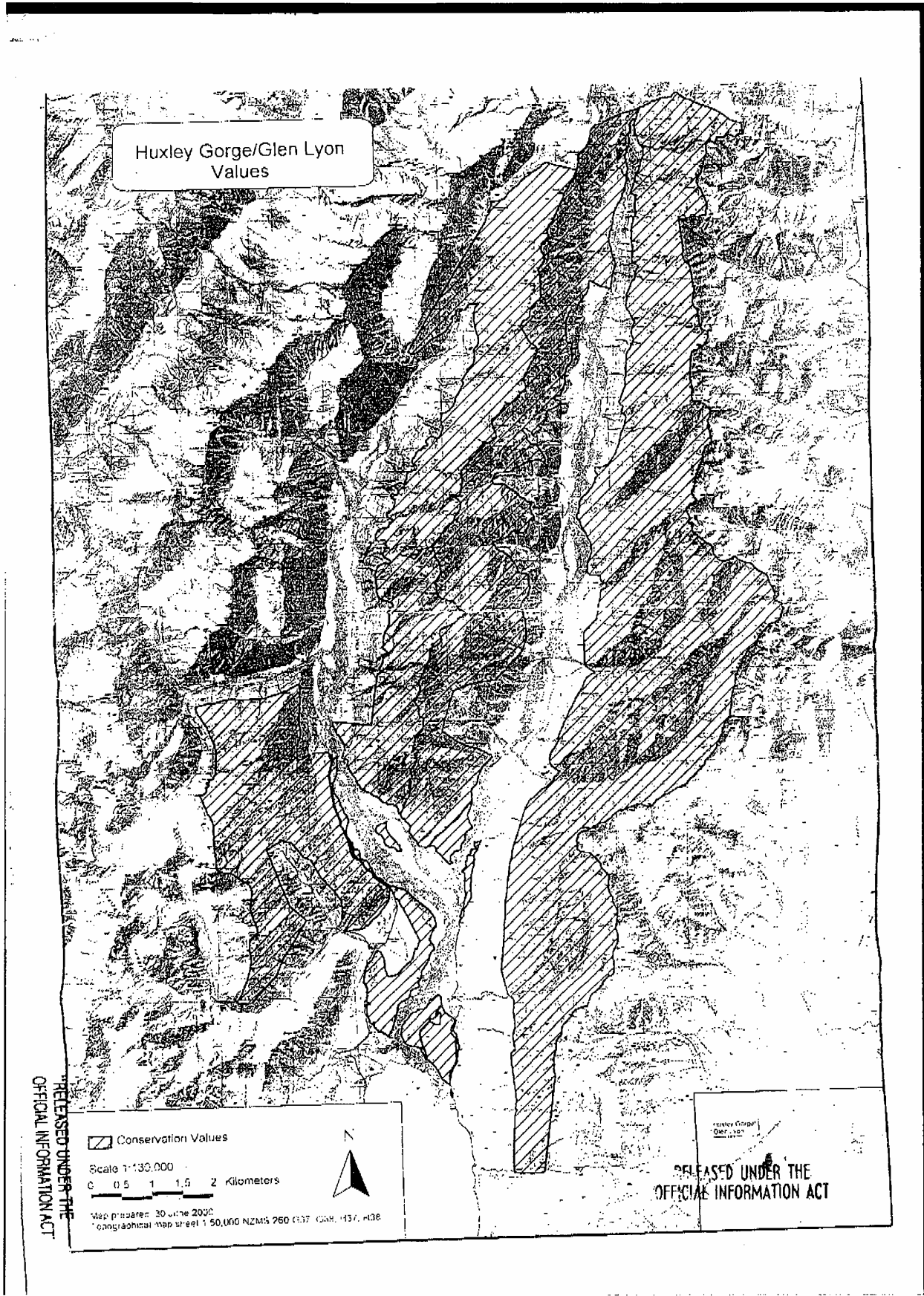
After calling for submissions and going through a series of hearings the Council has just released its Proposed Plan Amended by Decisions. These decisions have deleted controls on activities on land over 900m, clearance of indigenous bush, and earthworks within rivers and lake beds. The Department of Conservation, along with several other submitters, has referred these matters to the Environment Court advocating the inclusion of 4 sites in the plan. Until this is settled (possibly 1-2 years away) both versions of the “proposed” plan have some status in law.

3.3 Conservation Management Strategies

The Waitaki section of the CMS has several sections relevant to tenure review on Huxley Gorge/Glen Lyon. Under Waitaki Ecosystems and species an objective is to protect a representative range of indigenous biodiversity of the Waitaki unit, and to negotiate with landholders to protect areas of native vegetation/wildlife habitat.

For Project River Recovery the objective is to improve the range of viable riparian habitats for indigenous species and to implement this they have recommended seeking the gazettal of key areas of Crown riverbed with high wildlife value as

conservation areas. Relevant recreation objectives include providing new facilities where natural and historic resources are not compromised and to liase with adjacent landowners to help resolve conflicts regarding access to land managed by the Department of Conservation for recreation.

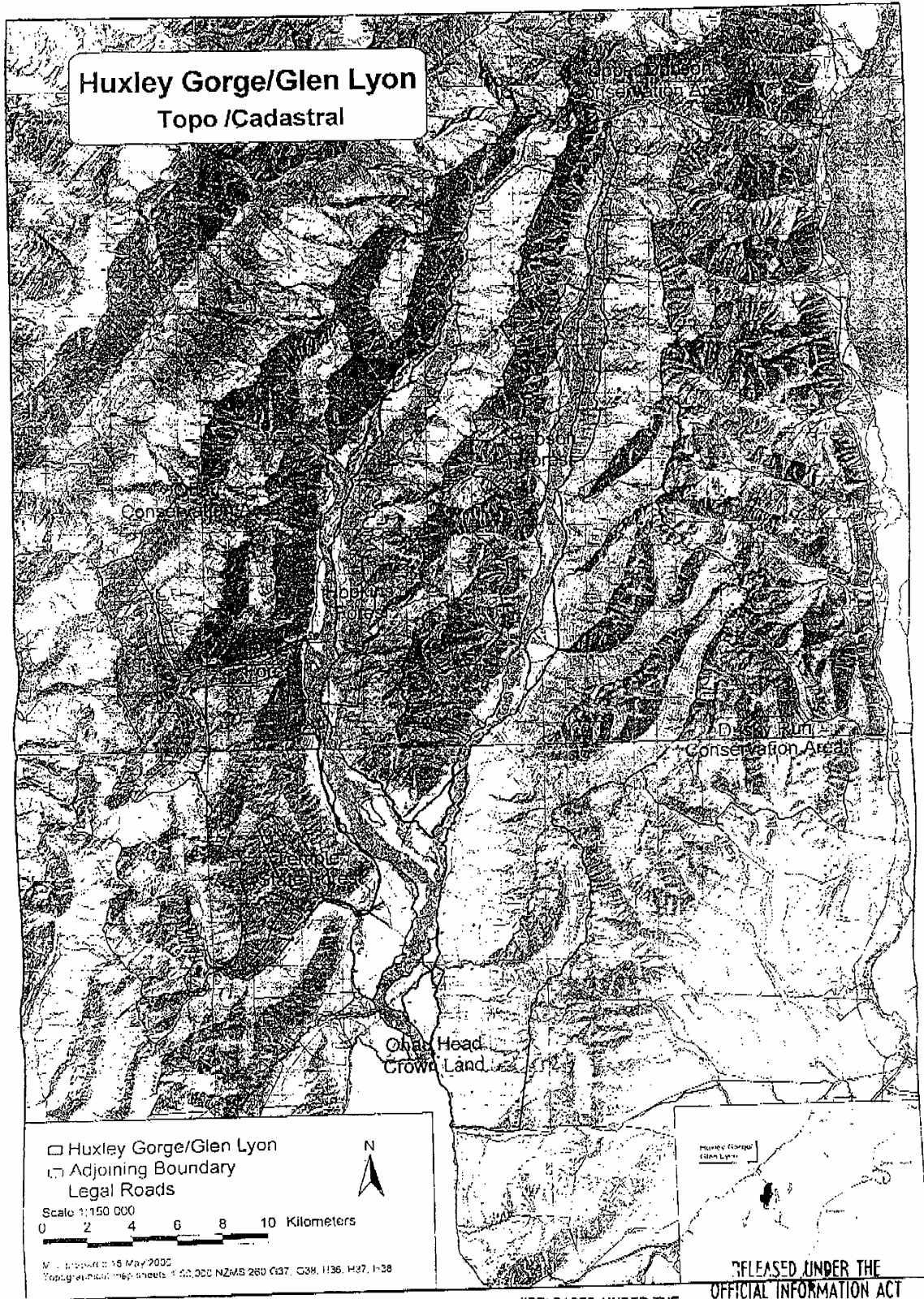


Huxley Gorge/Glen Lyon
Values

Conservation Values
Scale 1:130,000
0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers
Map prepared: 30 June 2000
Geographical map sheet 1:50,000 NZMS 260 (337) (G48, H37, H38)

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