

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: HAPPY VALLEY

Lease number: PO 361

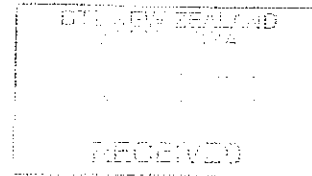
Fish & Game Report

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.

August

06



Fish and Game Resource Report for the Happy Valley Crown Pastoral Lease

Prepared by the Otago Fish and Game Council

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game values present on the land included in the Happy Valley 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.

2. Location

The Happy Valley Crown Pastoral Lease is located on the eastern face of the Carrick Range, to the south of the Nevis Road. The lease land comprises of mid to high altitude rolling hill tussock grasslands with land developed for agriculture on the lower faces.

3. Habitat values

The property largely encompasses the headwaters of Bannock Burn, which provides areas of spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for brown trout. Bannock Burn is a spawning stream for both stream resident and Lake Dunstan trout. Both water extraction and natural summer low flows result in elevated water temperatures which may limit sports fish habitat values found within the property.

The property contains good habitat for both Chukor and California quail. Otago Fish & Game have no information on the densities of game birds on the property but anecdotal evidence indicates the presence of both species.

4. Recreational Values

Within the property, Bannock Burn has little recreational value. However, outside the lease property Bannock Burn contains some good seasonal angling opportunities.

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

Otago Region

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There is little information on recreational game bird hunting although anecdotal evidence suggests hunting occurs.

5. Access

We have no information on current access but anecdotal information indicates that the lessee allows people access for recreational pursuits. The Nevis Road running adjacent to the property allows vehicle access to a level where foot access into the upper areas of the property is easily achieved.

6. Fish & Game Recommendations

6.1 Habitat Protection

Marginal strip protection should be placed on all sections of Bannock Burn that qualify if they do not already exist.

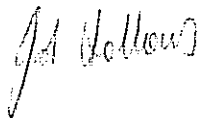
A covenant should be included on any land transferred to freehold, which prohibits any activities that may negatively impact on sports fish spawning, juvenile rearing and fish passage in Bannock Burn or its tributaries.

6.2 Access

There should be access to area of freehold and crown land for management purposes by Otago Fish & Game staff.

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

Dated: June 7 2005



John Hollows
Environmental Officer
Otago Fish & Game Council