

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : KELVIN GROVE

Lease number : PO 280

Conservation Resources Report - Part 3

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.

Note: Plans which form part of the Conservation Resources Report are published separately.

These documents are all released under the Official information Act 1982.

December

10

APPENDIX 6

NGO Reports

- **Federated Mountain Clubs**
- **Supplementary Report from Federated Mountain Clubs**
- **Dunedin Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society**
- **Central Otago Lakes Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society**
- **New Zealand Deerstalkers Association**



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PASTORAL LEASE TENURE REVIEW

**Preliminary Report on the Recreational, Landscape, Historic
and other Conservation Values, and Recommendations
for the Outcomes of Tenure Review**

KELVIN GROVE

March 2010

**Compiled for Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) of NZ (Inc.)
by Dr Michael J S Floate, High Country Consultancy**

**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE RECREATIONAL, LANDSCAPE, HISTORIC
AND OTHER CONSERVATION VALUES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE OUTCOMES OF TENURE REVIEW ON KELVIN GROVE**

**A Report for FMC based on Field Inspections and other research
to assist in the Crown Pastoral Lease Tenure Review Process**

March 2010

CONTENTS

Contents	page
List of Figures	2
Introduction	4
Methods of survey and assessment	5
General description of Kelvin Grove	5
Recreational activities and potential	6
Significant inherent values and their importance for recreation	7
Areas to be protected	8
Access requirements	8
Conservation Management Strategy for Otago	9
Issues and Recommendations	9
Acknowledgements	11
References	12
Figures	Follow page 12

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 Kelvin Grove homestead is situated at the foot of the Rock and Pillar Range at about 240m above sea level. The pastoral lease extends up to 1,100m at a prominent tor called 'The Castle' before dropping to about 1,000m on the back boundary on the Old Dunstan Road. This view is from the main zig zag track which climbs close to the boundary with Stonehurst which adjoins Kelvin Grove to the south.

Fig. 2 With increasing altitude there is increasing tussock cover. The skyline here, at about 1,000m conceals the snowline fence which is just above the break in slope. The fence could be used as the upper boundary of intended freehold land as it would line up with a similar boundary next door, and because it would minimise any adverse landscape effects of stock camping along the boundary fence.

Fig. 3 The landscape of the eastern face of the Rock and Pillar Range is prominent for all travellers on State Highway 87 through Middlemarch, and for users of the Otago Central Rail Trail. This Trail is becoming increasingly popular and some users may be tempted by the prospect of elevated views from The Rock and Pillar Range. Access from the Rail Trail across Kelvin Grove needs to be available for such people.

Fig. 4 The Rock and Pillar front face is equally visible from the highway over the Matarae Hills so care needs to be taken with the siting of the boundary between new freehold and conservation land. Boundaries also need to match on adjoining properties so that any adverse landscape effects of stock camping along the new freehold boundary fence are minimized.

Fig. 5 There are three major landscape units on Kelvin Grove — the gently sloping apron at the foot of the range, the steep front face (seen in this view), and the gently rolling upland plateau surface. The zig zag track up the steep front face affords increasingly broad vistas across StrathTaieri as it climbs towards the snowline fence at about 1,000m.

Fig. 6 The plateau surface only rises from about 1,000 to 1,100m but contains many rock tors, wetlands, bogs and tarns. Much of the landscape drains westward into what was the Great Moss Swamp. Soils are High Country Yellow Brown Earths assessed LUC Class VII, with serious limitations for pastoral use, so it is unlikely that the land can support ecologically sustainable pastoral production. Conservation values are high.

Fig. 7 The steep front face of the range is fretted with frequent creeks and little streams, some of which are deeply incised into the main slope. These incised gullies provide refuges (against the ravages of fires) for some impressive shrublands which include coastal lowland species such as broadleaf. The best of these gully shrublands should be protected under conservation covenant.

Fig. 8 Above the snowline fence the gently rolling plateau surface includes wetlands, tarns and rock tors. These tors are widespread over the plateau surface which extends some 8km northwards to Stonehenge and beyond. On Kelvin Grove the maximum altitude is about 1100m, while at Summit Rocks, beyond Stonehenge, the Rock and Pillar Range reaches its maximum height of 1,450m.

Fig. 9 Tarns and Tors, like Castle Rock, are typical of the upland plateau which is characterised by High Country Yellow Brown Earth Carrick and Teviot soils classified LUC Class VIIc and VIIe. Such soils are unlikely to be able to support ecologically sustainable pastoral production because it is uneconomic to apply the fertilizer required to replenish nutrients removed in animal products. Instead this should become conservation land.

Fig. 10 There is only one short, rough track above the snowline fence, and that leads towards 'The Window' and 'The Castle'. Beyond here exploration and recreation is on foot, especially to be enjoyed

by those who seek the passive pursuits of botanizing, bird watching, photography and painting. Access (and exit) is also possible via the Old Dunstan Road, some 5km away to the north west.

Fig. 11 The top block of Kelvin Grove can also be accessed on foot, from the Old Dunstan Road. This rolling plateau country is the catchment of Mc Hardies Creek, and is finely dissected by small streams and wetlands which make for difficult travel. McHardies Creek flows southwest through neighbouring Stonehurst, and eventually flows into the Loganburn Dam (formerly the Great Moss Swamp) as seen in this view at Howells hut.

Fig. 12 Walking access up the front face of Kelvin Grove would provide the start for round trips returning to the valley floor via neighbouring properties. One such trip might include the high country on Brookdale which offers a wide variety of landscape and vegetation types of interest to those seeking both active and passive recreational values.

Fig. 13 Those wishing to spend more time exploring the range might be tempted to spend the night in the historic P&T hut in the headwaters of McHardies Creek. Even though not now in good condition, the hut does provide basic shelter and does evoke memories of the days when P&T linemen struggled through winter storms to keep the phone lines open between Middlemarch and Galloway.

Fig. 14 The only other shelter on the southern end of the Rock and Pillar Range is at the Burgan Huts situated beside the Burgan Stream, some 10km south of the P&T hut on Kelvin Grove.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared following the Early Warning Meeting in September 2009 at which the properties entering the tenure review process in 2009 were introduced. An inspection of the property was carried out by the author of this report in January 2010, with the kind permission and co-operation of the runholder, Lindsay Geddes. This report is based on that inspection and other material listed below. The report is offered as a contribution to the statutory consultation process undertaken by the Department of Conservation.

The purpose of the report is to identify those features, resources and characteristics of this pastoral lease property which are relevant to tenure review and are important from a recreation and conservation perspective. The report will include an examination of the key issues and why they are considered important. The rationale underlying decisions related to the Crown Pastoral Land Act, future land tenure, protection of natural and historic values, and public access will be discussed. The final section of the report will deal with these issues and the recommended outcomes for the tenure review of Kelvin Grove from a recreation and conservation perspective.

Kelvin Grove (Po 280) is a small pastoral lease of about 2,400ha on the eastern side of the Rock and Pillar Range (Fig.1). It is one of the last pastoral leases on the eastern side of the Rock and Pillar Range to be considered in the tenure review process. It lies between Brookdale to the north and Stonehurst to the south. Both these neighbouring properties have completed tenure review. The consequence of this is that the critical boundary between new freehold land and conservation land has already been established on both these properties.

Snowline fences have been long established all along the front face of the Rock and Pillar Range, usually just above the break in slope at about 1,000m so the actual fence line is not visible from below. This is the case on Stonehurst where the new freehold boundary, and any associated landscape effects related to sheep camping effects, coincide with the snowline fence. The situation is a little different on Brookdale where the top of the new freehold approximates to the break in slope, somewhat below the old snowline fence.

Where to draw the line between freehold and new conservation land will be an issue in the tenure review of Kelvin Grove. It may be appropriate to utilise the existing snowline fence on Kelvin Grove, just above the break in slope at about 1,000m, (Fig. 2) and this will be discussed later in this report together with issues related to ecological sustainability of land use above the snowline fence.

Another consequence of this review will be that the objective of creating a Rock and Pillar Conservation Park will be nearing completion, especially on the eastern side of the range above Middlemarch.

The soils and their Land Use Capability (LUC) classification on the higher country above the snowline fence, and on the front face and flats at the base of the Rock and Pillars will be considered in the General Description of Kelvin Grove.

This report focuses on those features of Kelvin Grove which are important for public recreational interests. It should be noted that while some of this interest focuses on access (mainly across the property to the crest of the range), the natural and historic values and landscapes of the place have a fundamental impact on the recreational value of the property and greatly influence the quality of recreational experience enjoyed. It is for this reason that reference is made to these values in this report.

The landscape of the eastern face of the Rock and Pillar Range is prominent for all travellers on State Highway 87 through Middlemarch, and for users of the Otago Central Rail Trail (Fig. 3). The range forms the dominant skyline when viewed from as far away as the Matarae Hills (Fig. 4) between the Deep

Stream and Sutton Stream and from the Taieri Ridge. As such it is important that the fencelines between new freehold land and public conservation land on neighbouring properties are as harmonious as possible and minimise the development of a distinct break in the landscape. The higher country, above about 1,000m, includes areas of high natural and landscape value and which are part of the wider experience of traversing the length of the range.

METHODS OF SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

This report is based on the author's January 2010 field inspection and, in part on information gathered from other sources. These include studies of topographical and Land Use Capability (LUC) maps, consultation with recreational user groups and a knowledge of the landscapes seen from the State Highway 57 and Taieri Ridge.

A study of "Outdoor Recreation in Otago" was undertaken by Mason (1988) and published by FMC. Reference is made below to this Recreation Plan for Otago. The Conservation Management Strategy for Otago has also been used as a source of reference.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF KELVIN GROVE

Kelvin Grove pastoral lease (Po 280) covers some 2,400ha on the eastern face and rolling plateau surface at the southern end of the Rock and Pillar Range (Figs. 5 and 6).

Mason (1988) has described the Rock and Pillar range as follows:- "*The Rock and Pillar Range is the easternmost Central Otago range, being a fault-bound block mountain. The Hyde Fault forms the boundary between the moderately steep eastern escarpment and the Strath Taieri basin. The western back-slope is gentle but considerably dissected at lower elevations above the Maniototo basin. The broad, gently rounded range crests average 1,370m above sea level, with the summit at 1,450m. This is notably lower than other Otago block mountains*".

"Clusters of shaft and block tors of schist bedrock litter summit crests in random fashion; Stonehenge and 'Castle Rock' are among the more spectacular and better known examples. Small nivation cirques (caused by snow-patch erosion) developed along the lip of the leeward scarp during the Pleistocene, leaving short, steep headwall faces. Periglacial patterned ground features include earth hummocks, miniature stone stripes and nets, solifluction terraces and sliding boulders. A unique ice wedge tarn occurs in the vicinity of the summit".

Kelvin Grove does not reach much above 1,100m so excludes the higher altitude features of the higher parts of the Rock and Pillar Range. There are essentially three distinct topographic units on the property:- the gently rolling plateau surface lying between about 1,000 to 1,100m (Fig. 6), much of which drains into what was formerly the Great Moss Swamp; the steep slopes between about 400 and 1,000m with some impressive shrublands in the gullies (Fig. 7); and the gently sloping apron at the base of the range, which includes the freehold land around the homestead, between about 250 and 400m.

The main access track climbs a spur close to the southern boundary with Stonehurst. As it climbs it reveals significant shrublands in the gullies which have been protected from fire by the nature of the terrain. Some of these shrublands are impressive (Fig. 7) and should be considered for protection under covenant. The track zig-zags towards and gets closer to the Stonehurst boundary which it reaches at about 900m, just before the break in slope. As the track climbs, it affords increasingly expansive views of the Strath Taieri Plain (Fig. 5) before reaching the break in slope at which point the focus changes to the Rock and Pillar plateau surface (Fig 6) and the tors of Stonehenge some 8km north and 200m higher in elevation (Fig. 8).

The plateau is characterised by a gently rolling landscape, ranging from about 1,000 to little more than 1,100m at its highest point, and gently down to the back boundary on the Old Dunstan Road not far from the outlet of Loganburn Dam.

The plateau is an extensive area including some dramatic tor rocks (eg 'The Castle' and 'The Window') as well as many smaller tors. (Figs. 8 and 9). It covers some 1,200ha and extends about 5km from the snowline fence to the back boundary. This area also gets wider as it spreads westwards and takes in some 3km of the Old Dunstan Road along its back boundary. It gives a lot of scope for recreational visitors who will be able to enjoy walks among the tussock grasslands, sub-alpine shrublands and headwaters of the several creeks which have their origins in this area. Only the headwaters of a few creeks in the vicinity of 'The Castle' flow east down the face of the Rock and Pillar. Many of the streams and wetlands contribute to McHardies Creek and flow westwards past Howells Hut into what was once the Great Moss Swamp (now the Loganburn Dam) which provides storage for the irrigation and power generation schemes in the Upper Taieri.

There are also ephemeral wetlands and tarns near the snowline fence which add to the diversity of landscape and scenery for recreational visitors.

The higher country, or nearly two thirds of the property, lies above about 1,000m. It is characterised by High Country Yellow Brown Earth Carrick and Teviot Hill soils which have been classified in Land Use Capability (LUC) Class VIIc and VIIe. Such soils have severe limitations for pastoral production and it is unlikely that they can be managed in a way that promoted ecological sustainability (as required by the CPL Act) without replenishment of nutrients removed in animal products. Application of fertilizer to replenish nutrient reserves is generally uneconomic because pasture production is limited by the cold climate. On the other hand, this high country has high conservation and recreation values which suggest that it should be considered as a potential new Conservation Area, eventually to be added to the emerging Rock and Pillar Conservation Park.

The country on the lower slopes and flats at the base of the Rock and Pillar (some 600ha) consists of mainly east facing slopes below about 1,000m, characterised by Yellow Grey Earth Blackstone Hill soils (LUC Class VI) and alluvial soils (LUC Class IV) on the flats. With appropriate maintenance to replenish nutrients removed in animal products, this country should be capable of ecologically sustainable pastoral use.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND POTENTIAL

The main recreational uses of the Rock and Pillar Range in the past were for skiing and tramping. Skiing use declined as skifields in the Wanaka/Queenstown area were developed, but the range is still extensively used for Cross Country (Nordic) skiing, based around the summit plateau and Big Hut. Because Kelvin Grove is lower in elevation it is rarely used in winter except by intrepid skiers attempting to ski the length of the Range....."ski the tussocks" is sometimes the warcy!

There are no tracks on Kelvin Grove except the main zig-zag up the front face to the snowline fence. From there, there is a short track along the fence to a point amongst the wetlands and tarns near 'The Castle'. This provides the gateway for exploring the plateau on foot (Fig. 9). There is also a link to a public track on Stonehurst which evolved out of the tenure review on that property This could form a round trip for recreational users. The property can also be accessed from the Old Dunstan Road which also gives walking access to the plateau area with its network of bogs and streams which join Mc Hardies Creek and drain across Stonehurst to Loganburn Dam (Fig. 11). Those wishing to follow passive pursuits will find that there is much of botanical and landscape interest to explore and photograph on this unspoilt upland.

Kelvin Grove is not really suited to mountain bike use because its upland terrain is finely dissected by many small streams, and has no tracks which connect with neighbouring properties or lead along the range. The only exception to this is the track referred to above, near the snowline fence, which links with Stonehurst to create a round trip. Walking access up the front face would however, provide the start for round trips returning to the valley floor via neighbouring properties. One such trip might include the high country on Brookdale which offers a wider variety of landscape and vegetation types (Fig12)

Those wishing to spend more time exploring the range might be tempted to spend the night in the historic P&T hut in the headwaters of McHardies Creek (Fig. 13). Even though not now in good condition, the hut does provide basic shelter (see Historic Features section below). The only other accommodation on the southern end of the range are the Burgan Huts (Fig. 14) situated beside the Burgan Stream, some 10km south of the P&T hut on Kelvin Grove.

The Otago Central Rail Trail is becoming increasingly popular, and with more accommodation choices along the way there will be more demand for side trips. The Rock and Pillar Range dominates the skyline for much of the Rail Trail distance through the Strath Taieri Plain (Fig. 3). There will be those who are tempted by the elevated views to venture off the trail and explore such places as Kelvin Grove. For such people, easy access from the valley floor will be important.

SIGNIFICANT INHERENT VALUES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR RECREATION

This report focuses on those features of Kelvin Grove which are important for public recreational interests. It should be noted that while some of this interest focuses on access, the natural and historic values, as well as the landscapes of the areas concerned, influence the quality of recreational experience enjoyed. It is for this reason that significant inherent natural values, landscape and historical values, access and recreational use are all considered together in this section of the Report.

Gully shrublands

Reference has already been made to the shrublands in the gullies on the front face of the Rock and Pillar Range. These are of significant inherent value in themselves, and because they add to the biodiversity of the area and enhance its landscape appeal too. They occur in relatively small discrete units so protection under a conservation covenant (to provide protection from damage by grazing, spraying and fire) would be appropriate.

Upland landscape

The entire rolling upland area, above the snowline fence is largely unmodified, contains significant landscape features like 'The Castle', 'The Window' and many other smaller tors, and has a high degree of naturalness. The tors themselves are rich in lichens and shrubs which have survived in rock crevices, and the whole unmodified diversity of tussock grasslands, bogs, small tarns and tors is worthy of protection and addition to the Rock and Pillar Conservation Park.

Historic Features

Unlike many other properties on the Rock and Pillars, there is little of historic interest other than an old stone hut (P&T hut) and stable in the upper catchment of McHardies Creek, near the most northerly corner of Kelvin Grove (Fig. 13). This is situated at about 1,100m in a partially sheltered location in the headwaters of McHardies Creek which originates on the neighbouring Brookdale, below McPhees Rock. The P&T hut and stable were built in the 1930s to service the telephone line from Middlemarch to Galloway which had been constructed in 1917. The line was dismantled in 1964 and the hut deteriorated but was restored in the 1970s by Colin McKenzie who was still working as a telephone line technician in 2000. By 2000 even the old stable had been re-roofed. The hut is now not in good condition but would

still provide some shelter from the storms which are not uncommon on the Rock and Pillar Range. "It is a great destination - from the top of the ridge above the hut, virtually on top of the range, the views are forever".

A description by ex-District Engineer Bill White is more colourful:- ".....*Dunedin* [telephone line maintenance] parties had to travel via *Outram, Traquair, Rocklands* and finally, well ahead of the DCC waterworks intake, up the *Lammerlaw* ridge up the old miner tracks in those years well obliterated and ravaged by washouts."

AREAS TO BE PROTECTED

The discussion above suggests that there is a significant area of land above 1,000m on Kelvin Grove with significant natural, landscape and historic values which deserve protection in terms of the CPL Act 1998 (Figs. 6 and 9). The nature of those significant inherent and historic values has been described and discussed in the previous section and the fact that the front faces and skyline are important features of the Strath Taieri landscape was referred to in the introduction.

The siting of the possible boundary between potential freehold and new conservation land was also discussed and it was concluded that there are logical reasons why this should follow the line of the existing snowline fence (Figs.2 and 4).

One of the objectives of tenure review is "to promote the management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable". Two of the factors which influence whether this is likely to be achieved are the nature of the land resource, and the extent to which, if at all, nutrients removed in animal products are replenished through fertiliser use. It was noted above that all the land above about 1,000m is classified LUC Class VIIc or VIIe which means that it has limitations related to climatic factors or erosion hazards. Class VII land has severe limitations for pastoral production and climatic limitations on pasture growth are generally accepted as the reason why fertiliser use is not economically justified at this altitude. These factors all combine to suggest that continued pastoral use will not promote ecological sustainability as required by the CPL Act, 1998.

It is concluded that, for reasons related to the significant inherent values of the land above the fence (Figs 6 and 9), and because it is unlikely that this land could be managed in a way that would promote ecological sustainability, it is recommended that this area should be returned to full Crown ownership and control to be managed for conservation purposes.

It was also recommended above that the inherent natural values of the shrublands and fern communities in one or more of the gullies on the front face of the property (Fig. 7) are such that they should be considered for protection under a conservation covenant.

The landscape of the front faces (Figs 1, 5 and 7) may be threatened by inappropriate subdivision, use or development, as the District Plan may not be adequately robust and durable enough to ensure protection of its valuable features. It is recommended that these landscape features should be considered for protection under a binding landscape protection covenant.

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

The CPL Act 1998 requires "the securing of public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land", and this of course applies to Kelvin Grove. Public access is available from the Old Dunstan Road to the upland area recommended for return to full Crown ownership and control, and it would be ideal to be able to make through trips to the public road on the valley floor. This could be achieved by establishing an easement for public access (at least foot and mountain bike) over the zigzag track on the front face of the property. If intrusion of privacy in the vicinity of the homestead is a problem, it should be possible to

devise an alternative route across the flats to the bottom of the hill track, which preserves the privacy of the homestead area.

OTAGO CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Rock and Pillar Range was identified as a 'Special Place' in the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Otago. The declared objectives for the Rock and Pillar Special Place are as follows:-

"To nurture and encourage study of the natural processes to allow healing of the vegetation after grazing and fire and to improve landscape values. To continue to document the values and permit research where it will lead to conservation benefits. In the case of the Rock and Pillar Range, to extend the protected area along the summit and to take in altitudinal sequences and secure access where opportunities arise".

It was envisaged that these objectives would be achieved through a number of implementation statements which included the following which is pertinent to the tenure review of Kelvin Grove:-

"Pastoral lease tenure review on properties on the Rock and Pillar Range will provide opportunities to achieve protection of areas of significant landscape, scientific, natural and historic resource and recreational value.

Overall management of these new areas with the existing reserve will confer net conservation and management benefits (eg. fencing efficiencies), and will provide extensive recreational opportunities. Management of contiguous areas will be integrated and public awareness developed through the concept of a Rock and Pillar Conservation Park."

Finally, it is important to note that the priority for the Rock and Pillar Special Place is:- *"Negotiation, principally through pastoral lease tenure review, of an extended protected area along the crest of the Rock and Pillar Range will be a priority in this Special Place"*.

It is clear that the tenure review of Kelvin Grove presents an excellent opportunity to advance the objectives and priority stated in the CMS. It also presents an opportunity to make progress towards the completion of the Rock and Pillar Conservation Park. Only three (out of a total of eleven) properties on the eastern face of the range have yet to complete the tenure review process: Emerald Hills is at the 'information gathering' stage, while The Burgan and The Wandle appear to be currently not in tenure review.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, the resources described above, and the issues and options for their future management and allocation between freehold disposal and public interests are discussed in relation to the Crown Pastoral Land Act, 1998. The issues and recommendations are presented in sections related to Sections 24 of the Act as follows:-

S24 (a) (i) To promote the management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable

S24 (b) (i) To enable the protection of significant inherent values of reviewable land by the creation of protective mechanisms

S24 (b) (ii) To enable the protection of significant inherent values of reviewable land (preferably) by the restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control

S24 (c) (i) The securing of public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land [including recreation] and

S24 (c) (ii) The freehold disposal of reviewable land

S24 (a) (i) To promote the management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable

The soils and the Land Use Capability (LUC) Classification of Kelvin Grove have been considered

carefully. Arguments have been presented as to why Class VIIe and Class VIIc land cannot be managed in a way that is ecologically sustainable without the replenishment of nutrient reserves depleted by pastoral production and tussock burning.

The consequence of these arguments is that land above about 1,000m, or the level of the snowline fence at the top of the steep front face, should be considered for its high conservation values rather than be disposed as freehold.

The lower part of the property, on the front face below 1,000m and on the gently sloping apron at the base of the range, is characterised by soils and land units classified LUC Class IV and VI. This land appears to be capable of fulfilling the requirement to "*promote the management of reviewable land in a way that is ecologically sustainable*", so long as the soils are adequately maintained to replenish nutrients removed in animal products.

It is therefore concluded that this land should be suitable for freehold disposal.

S24 (b) (i) To enable the protection of significant inherent values of reviewable land by the creation of protective mechanisms

Environmental NGOs generally agree with the preference expressed in the CPL Act for "*protection of significant inherent values of reviewable land (preferably) by the restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control.*" However, small discrete areas may be suitable for protection "*by the creation of protective mechanisms*" [ie Conservation Covenant].

The analysis presented in an earlier section of this report indicated that some of the incised gullies on the front face of Kelvin Grove have acted as refuges for the protection and survival of significant shrublands. These shrublands have significant inherent values which contribute to the landscape value of the property and thus warrant protection.

It is therefore recommended that the best of these shrublands, (such as that illustrated in Fig. 7) should be designated for protection under a protective mechanism (Covenant) which should exclude grazing and prohibit burning and spraying.

The landscape of the front face of the range may be threatened by inappropriate subdivision, use, or development because the District Plan may not be adequately robust and durable to ensure protection of its valuable features. It is recommended that these landscape features should be considered for protection under a binding landscape protection covenant.

S24 (b) (ii) To enable the protection of significant inherent values of reviewable land (preferably) by the restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control

This report has focused on those features of Kelvin Grove which are important for public recreational interests. While some of this interest focuses on access, the natural, landscape and historic values influence the quality of recreational experience enjoyed. This is one of the reasons why these inherent values are considered for protection.

More than half of the property is situated above 1,000m and is characterised by significant inherent natural and landscape values which are worthy of protection by return to full Crown ownership and control. It has been argued that it is most unlikely that this area could be managed in a way that would promote ecological sustainability as required by the CPL Act.

The Rock and Pillar Range forms the dominant skyline when viewed from as far away as the Matarae Hills between the Deep Stream and Sutton Stream and from the Taieri Ridge. As such it is important that

the boundary between new freehold land and public conservation land minimise the development of a distinct break in the landscape. This can be achieved by using the existing snowline fence which is largely out of sight from the lower country. This fenceline also harmonises with the freehold boundaries on neighbouring properties.

It is therefore recommended that the existing snowline fence is adopted as the Conservation Area boundary on Kelvin Grove.

The significant inherent natural, ecological and landscape values of the area between the snowline fence (about 1,000m) and the back boundary at the Old Dunstan Road is considered worthy of protection by return to full Crown ownership and control. It should then be managed for conservation and recreation and added to the emerging Rock and Pillar Conservation Park.

It is therefore recommended that the all that land to the west of the snowline fence at 1,000m containing the significant inherent natural, landscape and historic values identified earlier in this report should be protected by "*restoration of the land concerned to full Crown ownership and control*".

S24 (c) (i) The securing of public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land [including recreation]

Access issues have been discussed in the "Access Requirements" section of this report.

The CPL Act 1998 requires "*the securing of public access to and enjoyment of reviewable land*". Public access is available from the Old Dunstan Road to the upland area recommended for return to full Crown ownership and control, and it would be ideal to be able to make through trips to the public road on the valley floor. This could be achieved by establishing an easement for public access (at least for foot and mountain bike use) over the zigzag track on the front face of the property. If intrusion of privacy in the vicinity of the homestead is a problem, it should be possible to devise an alternative route across the flats to the bottom of the hill track, which preserves the privacy of the homestead area.

It is recommended that a public access easement is established over the zig-zag farm access road up the front face of the range. If necessary, some diversion should be negotiated around the homestead area to avoid intrusion of privacy.

S24 (c) (ii) The freehold disposal of reviewable land

Freehold disposal of reviewable land follows as a logical consequence of the identification of those parts of Kelvin Grove which have been assessed to be capable of being managed "*in a way that is ecologically sustainable*".

Accordingly, it is recommended that land below the existing snowline fence at about 1,000m on Kelvin Grove is suitable for disposal as freehold, subject to protective mechanisms to protect the surviving shrublands, and subject to the establishment of an easement for public access as defined above.

Finally it is noted that the Conservation Management Strategy for Otago set out important objectives and priorities for the Special Place "Rock and Pillar" which included Kelvin Grove pastoral lease. If the recommendations made in this report are adopted and implemented significant progress will be made towards the achievements of those objectives. It also presents an opportunity to make progress towards the completion of the Rock and Pillar Conservation Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FMC is grateful for assistance from LINZ and their agent which made this assessment possible. The site inspection was carried out in January 2010 and FMC is grateful to the runholder, Lindsay Geddes for his



Fig. 1 Kelvin Grove homestead is situated at the foot of the Rock and Pillar Range at about 240m above sea level. The pastoral lease extends up to 1,100m at a prominent tor called 'The Castle' before dropping to about 1,000m on the back boundary on the Old Dunstan Road. This view is from the main zig zag track which climbs close to the boundary with Stonehurst which adjoins Kelvin Grove to the south.



Fig. 2 With increasing altitude there is increasing tussock cover. The skyline here, at about 1,000m conceals the snowline fence which is just above the break in slope. The fence could be used as the upper boundary of intended freehold land as it would line up with a similar boundary next door, and because it would minimise any adverse landscape effects of stock camping along the boundary fence.



Fig. 3 The landscape of the eastern face of the Rock and Pillar Range is prominent for all travellers on State Highway 87 through Middlemarch, and for users of the Otago Central Rail Trail. This Trail is becoming increasingly popular and some users may be tempted by the prospect of elevated views from The Rock and Pillar Range. Access from the Rail Trail across Kelvin Grove needs to be available for such people.



Fig. 4 The Rock and Pillar front face is equally visible from the highway over the Matarae Hills so care needs to be taken with the siting of the boundary between new freehold and conservation land. Boundaries also need to match on adjoining properties so that any adverse landscape effects of stock camping along the new freehold boundary fence are minimized.



Fig. 5 There are three major landscape units on Kelvin Grove — the gently sloping apron at the foot of the range, the steep front face (seen in this view), and the gently rolling upland plateau surface. The zig zag track up the steep front face affords increasingly broad vistas across StrathTaieri as it climbs towards the snowline fence at about 1,000m.



Fig. 6 The plateau surface only rises from about 1,000 to 1,100m but contains many rock tors, wetlands, bogs and tarns. Much of the landscape drains westward into what was the Great Moss Swamp. Soils are High Country Yellow Brown Earths assessed LUC Class VII, with serious limitations for pastoral use, so it is unlikely that the land can support ecologically sustainable pastoral production. Conservation values are high.



Fig. 7 The steep front face of the range is fretted with frequent creeks and little streams, some of which are deeply incised into the main slope. These incised gullies provide refuges (against the ravages of fires) for some impressive shrublands which include coastal lowland species such as broadleaf. The best of these gully shrublands should be protected under conservation covenant.



Fig. 8 Above the snowline fence the gently rolling plateau surface includes wetlands, tarns and rock tors. These tors are widespread over the plateau surface which extends some 6km northwards to Stonehenge and beyond. On Kelvin Grove the maximum altitude is about 1100m, while at Summit Rocks, beyond Stonehenge, the Rock and Pillar Range reaches its maximum height of 1,450m.



Fig. 9 Tarns and Tors, like Castle Rock, are typical of the upland plateau which is characterized by High Country Yellow Brown Earth Carrick and Teviot soils classified LUC Class VIIc and VIIe. Such soils are unlikely to be able to support ecologically sustainable pastoral production because it is uneconomic to apply the fertilizer required to replenish nutrients removed in animal products. Instead this should become conservation land.



Fig. 10 There is only one short, rough track above the snowline fence, and that leads towards 'The Window' and 'The Castle'. Beyond here exploration and recreation is on foot, especially to be enjoyed by those who seek the passive pursuits of botanizing, bird watching, photography and painting. Access (and exit) is also possible via the Old Dunstan Road, some 5km away to the north west.



Fig. 11 The top block of Kelvin Grove can also be accessed on foot, from the Old Dunstan Road. This rolling plateau country is the catchment of McHardies Creek, and is finely dissected by small streams and wetlands which make for difficult travel. McHardies Creek flows southwest through neighbouring Stonehurst, and eventually flows into the Loganburn Dam (formerly the Great Moss Swamp) as seen in this view at Howells hut.



Fig. 12 Walking access up the front face of Kelvin Grove would provide the start for round trips returning to the valley floor via neighbouring properties. One such trip might include the high country on Brookdale which offers a wide variety of landscape and vegetation types of interest to those seeking both active and passive recreational values. An easement, at least for public foot access, is required.



Fig. 13 Those wishing to spend moiré time exploring the range might be tempted to spend the night in the historic P&T hut in the headwaters of McHardies Creek. Even though not now in good condition, the hut does provide basic shelter and does evoke memories of the days when P&T linemen struggled through winter storms to keep the phone lines open between Middlemarch and Galloway.



Fig. 14 The only other shelter on the southern end of the Rock and Pillar Range is at the Burgan Huts situated beside the Burgan Stream, some 10km south of the P&T hut on Kelvin Grove.

Supplementary Report on Kelvin Grove

As observed in our Preliminary Report on Kelvin Grove, this pastoral lease is bounded to north and south by properties which have already completed tenure reviews, namely Brookdale (to the north) and Stonehurst (to the south). These 'done deals' establish the framework within which the tenure review, and especially its landscape considerations, should be viewed. Because the front faces of the Rock and Pillar Range are so obvious visually from throughout Strath Taieri it is important that the boundary between new freehold and conservation land does not create an artificial break in the landscape. Ideally the new boundary on Kelvin Grove should merge with the established boundaries on neighbouring properties and run along the break of slope between the steep front face and the gently rolling plateau surface.

The plateau area, above about 1,000m contains tussock grasslands and shrublands with significant inherent values. These have recently been confirmed and no fewer than 5 threatened species identified. Thus this part of the lease should be designated as a new Conservation Area, eventually to be added to the Rock and Pillar Conservation Park foreshadowed in the CMS for Otago. Not only does this area possess significant inherent values but it also provides important ecosystem services, particularly in the harvesting and storage of water, which in the Maniototo and Strath Taieri area is a valuable commodity. These ecosystem service values add to the arguments based on significant inherent values and the inability to support ecologically sustainable productive land use, that the area should be protected under Crown control.

The front faces also contain significant inherent values particularly in the shrublands and forest remnants in sheltered incised gullies. These shrublands and forest remnants are suitable for protection under covenant.

Public access would appear at first sight to be an issue on Kelvin Grove because there is none. However, the area likely to become Conservation Area can be accessed from Stonehurst to the south, and from the Old Dunstan Road which forms the back boundary of the property. Additional access up the zig zag farm track, via a route avoiding disturbance of the holders privacy, would be a public advantage to provide better access to the area of The Window and The Castle for day trips.

KELVIN GROVE

Preliminary Report on the Conservation , Recreation and Historic Values and Recommendations for the Outcome of Tenure Review.

This submission is written on behalf of the **Dunedin Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society** which has approximately 1000 members with strong interests in botany and natural history in general and in the High Country. Many of the members enjoy active recreation in the back country and are very aware of the need to ensure the protection of natural values, vegetation and landscape, historical sites and to improve public access through the tenure review process.

The submission is made on the basis of an inspection trip in January with the kind permission of the lessee, Lindsay Geddes and prior knowledge of the part of the lease bordering Old Dunstan Road and extending up to the Rock and Pillar Ridge beyond McPhees and to the P&T hut site from several botanical tramping day trips in the relatively recent past.

Introduction

Kelvin Grove is on the east side of the Rock and Pillar Range and the southern boundary extends over to Old Dunstan Road between Round Hill and the Styx creek boundary. It is bounded to the north by the Brookdale lease and to the south by Stonehurst; both of these leases have completed the tenure review process and the land above approximately 1000m on both runs has become conservation area and a part of the larger Rock and Pillar Conservation Area. On both leases there are further protected areas lower down; on Stonehurst to preserve the conservation values of narrow-leaved snow tussock and cushionfield above 900m and also low-mid altitude shrublands and regenerating broadleaf forest.

Landscape values are high on Kelvin Grove with the eastern face a part of the Rock and Pillar landscape as seen from the Outram - Middlemarch Road as well as from further afield. The tussock and tor country on some of the higher part of the lease is an integral part of the landscape as seen from Old Dunstan Road. The landscape can be logically divided into two units, LU1, the whole of the upper plateau above about 900m and LU2, the unit as seen from the eastern side of the Rock and Pillar range .

The tussock and tor country on the high plateau is very spectacular with outstanding natural landscape and also has high botanical and other ecological values. It is very attractive country for trampers and botanical trampers with a wilderness quality to it. In other words it has both high conservation and recreational values.

The completion of this review will be a valuable addition to the Rock and Pillar Conservation Area and will mean that the protection of the land with high conservation values on the eastern side of the range will be virtually complete.

Significant inherent values to be protected

Area up to about 600m

The main access route on Kelvin Grove is a zig-zag track up which runs close to the Stonehurst boundary from about the 900m level. Before the first gate at about 580m a gorse infestation is prominent in the gully to the north of the track, but above the gate this is replaced by shrubland, including broadleaf (Figures 1-3), which warrants protection through covenant and with access to the public allowed as has happened for shrublands on the adjoining Stonehurst lease.

The low-mid altitude shrubland and regenerating broadleaf should be protected by a Conservation Covenant with conditions, including monitoring, that will protect the conservation values and will allow public access as has been done on Stonehurst.

Beyond the next gate at approximately 650m there is a good cover of narrow-leaved snow tussock, *Chionocloa rigida*, *Aciphylla aurea*, *A. scott-thomsonii*, *Dracophyllum uniflorum* and *Carmichaelia petrei* are present and as the track climbs up to the snow fence at about 1052m there are numerous large tors (particularly above about 900m) with varied alpine vegetation and lichens both on the tors and as inter-tussock species.

This area, part of the eastern side slopes of the Rock and Pillar Range, between about 650m and the start of the high plateau at about 1000m, has high landscape value being part of the coherent and highly visible backdrop to the Strath Taieri.

The recreational value of this area is also high. The tors, tussock and inter-tussock species are very attractive to trampers and botanical trampers; it is a delightful area to explore and enjoy the landscape (Figures 4-7).

We believe that the landscape, ecological and recreational values of the area between the fence at 650m and the snow fence at about 1052m are worthy of protection, ideally as a Conservation Area, but at the very least as a Conservation Covenant with right of access, a set stocking rate and photo-monitoring in place. Such a covenant already exists on the ex-Stonehurst lease directly to the south of Kelvin Grove, on the ex-Brookdale lease to the north and on the po128 run 213d to the north of Brookdale.

The higher part of the lease above the snow fence.

The S/SW western part of this area borders the Conservation Land that has come from the Stonehurst lease and at its Western aspect comes right down to Old Dunstan road. The NW section of the boundary is with the Styx Creek run. The NE boundary above the snow fence parallels Conservation land ex the Brookdale lease. Above about 1000m, the land nearer to the snow fence is plateau like with tussock, *Chionocloa rigida*, and tor cover, including the prominent 'Window' and the 'Castle' tors and many wetland areas. We noted some *Chionocloa rubra* round the edge of some wetland areas and in the wetlands, *Oreobolus pectinata*, *Ranunculus* Sp., *Drosura arcturii*, *Gnaphalium paludosum*, *Celmisia* Sp., and a number of sedges and mosses were among the species seen.

The largely intact tussock grassland both here and below the snow fence also has *Dracophyllum uniflorum*, *Hebe propinqua*, *H. odora*, *Olearia bullata* and *Ozothamnus fulvida* as well as other plants and shrubs.

Towards the southern boundary and Old Dunstan Road there are a number of creeks, including McHardies Creek, which all drain to the Loganburn reservoir catchment (once the Great Moss Swamp). There are some steeply incised slopes with interesting mini-gorges and tors. There are also the P&T huts, an interesting old stone hut and stables tucked into an area of tall tors, built in the 1930s to service the telephone line from Middlemarch to Galloway which had been constructed in 1917. Although the line was dismantled in 1964 the hut was restored in the 1970s. The hut roof is visible if walking up the Styx Run - Kelvin Grove boundary and provided for an interesting side excursion when spotted on a trip some years ago. (Figures 13,14). The hut would still provide welcome shelter in inclement weather.

The soil type of the land above 1000m has been classified as LUC Class VIIc and VIIe. Thus it has severe limitations for pastoral production and it is unlikely that it can be managed in a way that promoted ecological sustainability as is required under the CPL Act.

Recreational values are high on this upper part of the lease for those on foot whether botanising or exploring, or as part of a traverse along the Range.

This area beyond the snow fence at about 1000m should undoubtedly become a Conservation Area and eventually a part of the evolving Rock and Pillar Conservation Area. Recreational values are high and the significant inherent values worthy of protection include landscape (backdrop to the Loganburn Dam area and to the southern end of the Rock and Pillar Range)

as seen from Old Dunstan Road, ecological biodiversity in the form of wetland communities, tor dwelling plants and intact tussock grassland and associated shrubs such as *Dracophyllum*, *Hebe*, *Olearia* and *Ozothamnus leptophyllus*.

Access

Access to the area above the snow fence on foot would be available from the conservation land to the South (a three-hour walk from the stile on Old Dunstan Road) and Northeast and from the track along the crest of the Rock and Pillar Range beyond McPhees Rock.

Mountain bike access to the upper part of the lease would be possible from the stile on Old Dunstan Road, initially across the track on the ex-Stonehurst lease to the Kelvin Grove Boundary at the snow fence, but the track on Kelvin Grove beyond the snow fence only goes a short distance.

The track that goes up the spur on the Middlemarch side of the lease would be suitable for walking and mountain bikes if it were possible to negotiate an easement from Gladbrook Road across the homestead flats and we recommend that this option should be pursued.

Figures



Figure 1. Shrublands as seen from close to the gate at about 600m looking north. The gully running down to the right has quite a lot of gorse below this point.



Figure 2. Looking lower down the gully seen Fig.1 at the boundary of the gorse infestation.



Figure 3. A patch of broadleaf close to the track at about 600m – worthy of protection of some sort.



Figure 4. General view over good quality tussock grassland at about 650m, looking north along the Rock and Pillar Range.



Figure 5. Scenic view at about 757m, tussock below and the start of the spectacular tor country on the top plateau.



Figure 6. At about 891m, wonderful tor country inviting exploration – looking north.



Figure 7. A very scenic lunch spot at 1019m. Tall tors, tussock and a Strathtaieri view.



Figure 8. Looking down towards the east at the snowline fence.



Figure 9. The snowline fence at right and views north showing some of the wetland areas.



Figure 10. Tors and associated plants above the snowline fence.

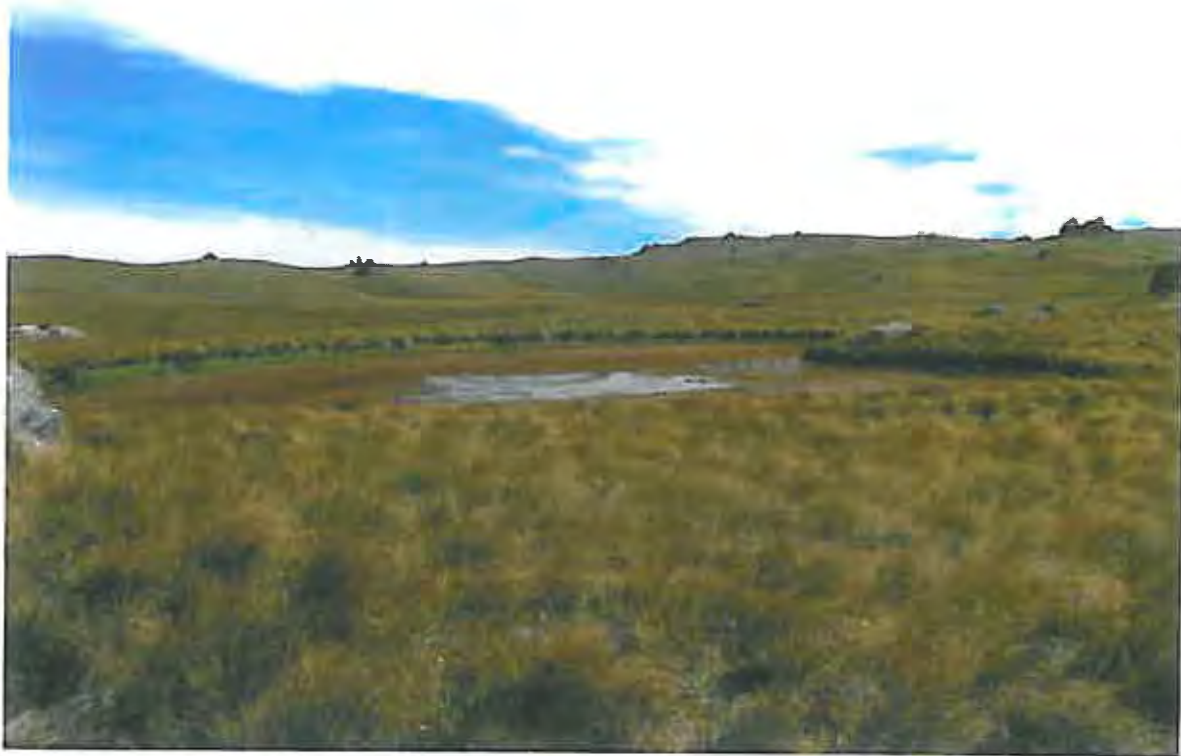


Figure 11. Wetland area above the snowline fence



Figure 12. Looking across to the Loganburn from one of the numerous rocky gullies between the Styx Creek boundary and the P&T Huts



Figure 13. The P&T Hut tucked into the shelter of a large tor. A welcome refuge in bad weather.



Figure 14. The P&T Hut and the stables at left - looking south.

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated

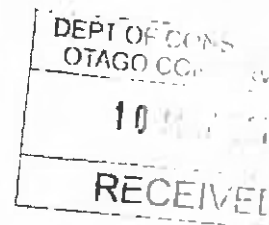
Denise Bruns (Secretary)
 4 Stonebrook Drive
 WANAKA 9305

7th May 2010

Mr Tony Perrett
 Department of Conservation
 Lower Stuart Street
 DUNEDIN

Dear Tony,

CONS	
A.M.	
C.R.M.	
R.S.M.	
H.R.A.	
H.C.T.R.M.	<i>[Signature]</i>
K.A.M.	
OTHER	



Tenure Review

At an early warning meeting of Non-Government Organisations held in September last year we were introduced to three new pastoral leases coming into the process. Please accept this report on, and our recommendation for Kelvin Grove – Po 280, the Significant Inherent Values it contains and other matters pertaining to tenure review.

This report is based on an inspection we carried out during January 2010. We wish to thank the lessees for allowing us to do so.

In preparing this report we consulted the Conservation Management Strategy for Otago and various other documents. Many of our members are familiar with the area, we called on their knowledge as well.

1.0 General.

- The Rock and Pillar Range is very visible from the Outram to Kyeburn Highway - SH87.
- Nearly all the Crown pastoral leases on the eastern side of the Rock and Pillar Range have been through the process of tenure review. Consequently a definite pattern is emerging; most of the land on each of these runs above about 900m (asl) having been returned to the Crown for protection.
- In most cases the existing snow-line fences are being used to separate the freehold land from that being returned to the Crown for protection.
- Seen from a distance, the east face of the range is uniform in appearance, it is a tussock landscape in mostly good order; although unfortunately somewhat modified in places with tracking and bulldozed fence lines. The tor rocks on the top of the range are an outstanding feature and give the range its name.

2.0 Kelvin Grove.

- This property is relatively small in relation to some of the other leases in the vicinity – about 2,400ha. Almost two thirds of the property is above 900m - all the high plateau country.
- Being south of the tor rock area known as Stonehenge it is on the lower end of the Rock and Pillar Range. The upper plateau falls short of 1200m (asl) and where it backs onto the Old Dunstan Road it is between 900m and 1000m.

-2-

- The, lower, or flat country, on the property between about 250m and 400m has mostly been cultivated and developed. The hill land above merges first into short tussock and higher up into tall tussock. It appears to have been over-sown and top-dressed at some time.
- Low down in the shady sides of the gullies or amongst rocky outcrops on this eastern hill slope there are some very good stands of woody species such as broadleaf and olearia.
- Although sparse on the lower hill country, the tussock is in relatively good order and when it reaches the upper plateau it is generally in good order. Most of the inter-tussock species are still present.
- Stonehurst to the south of Kelvin Grove has been through the tenure review process and the lower land which became freehold has a covenant over it to protect the landscape and the woody shrubs in the gullies.
- So too has Brookdale to the north of Kelvin Grove; it has a similar covenant.
- As Kelvin Grove is similar in aspect and has similar ground cover to the above mentioned two properties it will also require a covenant to protect the significant woody vegetation, and also the landscape, on any lower country that could become freehold.
- At the top of the eastern face where the steep ground slope abruptly ends and melds into the plateau country behind, there is an impressive group of tor rocks around which there is woody and other alpine vegetation – cassinia, dracophyllum, celmisia and gentians being the most prevalent. The conservation values in this area are significant and well worthy of being considered for protection.
- The extensive area of tall tussock on the plateau has the ability to harvest and store water for the catchment so is a valuable asset for irrigation and the generating of hydro-electricity and efforts must be made to keep it intact.
- There are some scattered wilding conifers on the property.

3.0 Access.

- There is a good dozed track going up the hill to the plateau starting at the foot of the hill land, then tending towards the Stonehurst boundary, which could be used for walking access.
- To reach this track a route marked with poles could be put in place to provide walking access alongside the boundary fence between Kelvin Gove and Stonehurst starting at the right angled bend on the Gladbrook road, between the entrances to these two properties.

4.0 Summary.

- *The main function of the CPL Act 1998 is to "Promote the management of reviewable land in a manner that is ecologically sustainable"*

-3-

- As the hill land between the cultivated land, at around 400m, and the plateau land at about 900m, is Class VI land it would respond, if economically viable, to the application of super-phosphate to replace the nutrients taken off the property in the shape of meat and wool, therefore could be considered to be disposed of as freehold land to the holder.
- However as there are significant inherent values on this hill slope – the tussock landscape, the woody shrubs in the gullies and rocky outcrops and the associated eco-systems that go with them, an enduring and adequately monitored covenant will have to be put into place to protect these values. This would be in keeping with the two properties to the north and to the south, and in keeping with the rest of the Rock and Pillar Range.
- The bulk of the property between about 900m, and 1170m, the plateau country, is Class VII land which would not be economically viable to topdress with super-phosphate to replace the nutrients taken out in the shape of meat and or wool, and, also as this area contains much in the way of minor stream and wetlands and the significant values in their associated eco-systems, it should be returned to the Crown for protection , *“The preferred method of protection”*
- The present snow-line fence is approximately half a kilometre, or more in some places, west from the abrupt escarpment containing the significant tor rocks. To include these rocks and the surrounding land containing much in the way of significant vegetation consideration should be given to shifting this fence east to take in the tor rock area if a suitable unobtrusive fence line could be found, without using a bull-dozer to make one, lower down on the east face of the steeper hill country.
- Walking access to the top of the range should be made available.

We thank you for the opportunity to make these comments, and await the outcome with interest.

Yours faithfully,



J L Turnbull

For Central Otago-Lakes Branch

PAL-14-04-280

45

Debbie Hogg

From: forsyths@clear.net.nz on behalf of Chaz I H Forsyth [forsyths@clear.net.nz]
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2010 3:12 p.m.
To: Debbie Hogg; Helen James
Subject: Tenure review meeting, Alexandra, 27APR2010

Dear Debbie and Helen,

Earlier, I signalled my intention and willingness to attend the meeting in Alexandra to discuss tenure review matters in person.

I have now decided that at the expense of some 5 hours of driving, and in light of only limited feedback from affected NZDA branches in the area, I shall not.

There is recreational hunting interest in the Beaumont Station area, but it has been closely circumscribed by changes in station management which have precluded public access to my knowledge, to date. In past years the station was subject to an agreement between the runholder and interested recreational hunting organisations which allowed, under conditions, recreational hunting there.

Accordingly, both legal and physical access is desired for vehicles for recreational hunting purposes, under certain conditions which will need to be reviewed by both parties to ensure fairness.

I have no personal knowledge of the recreational hunting interest in the Obelisk area, although I suspect that hares and sundry wild animals will exist there. Access both physical and legal would be desirable for vehicles for recreational hunting purposes, under certain conditions which will need to be reviewed by both parties to ensure fairness.

Kelvin Grove is believed to contain a 'nomadic' feral pig population, and again, the access provisions mentioned earlier in this signal are seen as being most desirable by recreational hunters.

Glencoe North Otago (Kakanui Ranges) is of considerable recreational hunting interest and again, the provisions referred to earlier will apply here. It is noted that some aspects of this run are already freehold in nature and so are beyond the purview of this tenure review.

Yours faithfully,

Chaz Forsyth
Executive member
South Island
New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (Incorporated)