

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: MT PROSPECT**

**Lease number: PS 085**

### **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.

**July 04**

# FISH AND GAME RESOURCES REPORT

## Ps 085, MOUNT PROSPECT

### PASTORAL LEASE

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Prepared by the  
Southland Fish & Game Council

#### **Section One – Introduction**

##### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game bird values present on the land included in the Mt Prospect Crown Pastoral Lease. The lease is being considered for tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As well as habitat values this report covers angling and game bird hunting values and associated access values.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by staff of the Southland Fish and Game Council.

##### **1.2 Location**

Mount Prospect Pastoral Lease is situated on the western side of Mt Prospect extending down the terraces across the river flats to its boundary with the Whitestone River. It extends south to Lake Thomas and includes Danby Hill. It is accessed from Te Anau (Approx. 20kms) via Kakapo Road. Most drainage is to the Whitestone River with some to the Mararoa River. Land development is largely of recent origin with the Whitestone river flats and the terraces above, now cultivated. Extensive land development is currently occurring in the head-waters of Stony Creek to the east of the previously mentioned land.

#### **Section Two – General Resources Information**

##### **2.1 Sports Fisheries Values**

###### *Whitestone River*

This river shadows the western boundary of the property. This stream is a fine brown fishery producing specimens up to 3kgs. It is also an excellent rainbow trout fishery and spawning stream. Trout migrate from the Mararoa and Waiau Rivers to the Whitestone to spawn and a number of these remain, joining the resident population and provide a good angling resource over the summer season.

###### *Prospect Creek*

On 12/11/01 stream sampling with electric fishing equipment was carried out at one site (Map Reference D43 125213) on an unnamed creek locally known as Prospect Creek. One brown trout specimen was obtained below the culvert on the road to the TV Repeater Station with numerous native fish above and below the culvert. Prospect Creek goes dry in its lower reaches during dry spells.

###### *Moat Creek*

Only one rainbow trout was located in Moat Creek at Map Reference D43 112195 in spite of three sites being sampled. These sites however contained some of the most outstanding indigenous invertebrate and fish communities ever encountered in 30 years of sampling with electric fishing equipment in Southland. A reason for the lack of trout became apparent when

the lower reaches of Moat Creek were investigated and it was found that the stream dissipates into a large wetland a considerable distance from the Whitestone River. The lack of a defined channel is an effective barrier to trout and it is assumed that access would only be possible in times of severe flood. Where Moat Creek disappears into the wetland it has an estimated flow of approximately 250 litres per second and ultimately makes a significant contribution to the Whitestone River. As the Whitestone has limited surface flow during drought periods, contributions from creeks such as this are vital to sports fish.



Moat Creek

*Stony Creek*

Stony Creek discharges into the Dawson City flood detention dam that protects the lower reaches from major flood events. A series of wetlands associated with the headwaters of Stony Creek still exist though recent drainage has occurred. These start at approximately D43 117175 and extend to the property boundary at D43 109162.

*Wetland north of Moat Creek Delta*

Low flows in the Whitestone impact on in-stream fisheries values and this is particularly evident immediately downstream of the Mt Prospect Bridge which is badly affected in dry years. Drainage work in the Whitestone catchment has removed much of the original wetland thus increasing the importance of remaining wetland areas especially during low flow periods when they supply much of the remaining flow. One such wetland situated just north of the

Moat Creek delta at D43 108197 and has been modified by drainage. In spite of this it delivers a useful flow of an estimated 100 litres per second.



Semi - drained wetland north of Moat Creek Delta

**2.2 Game bird values**

Game bird values within the lease are largely limited to flocks of paradise duck which frequent the developed river flats and some breeding pairs who raise their young in the wet areas on the property. Game bird hunting is at the discretion of the leaseholder but opportunities are limited.

The prime waterfowl habitats of Lake Thomas and Dawson City are located adjacent to the boundaries of the lease and but both appear to be separate from the lease and under the control of the Department of Conservation.

**2.3 Other Recreational Values**

Unknown

**2.4 Access Information**

It is likely that the Whitestone River has eroded into the lease area but this does not hinder angler access. Appropriately placed marginal strips would guarantee legal access

**Section Three – Consultation**

**3.1 Consultation Undertaken**

Robin Whelan - Opus International the Crown Agent  
Department of Conservation Field Inspection Team

**3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation**

Land development in the headwaters of Stony Creek continuing during the Tenure Review process.

**Section Four – Fish and Game Perspective.**

**4.1 Habitat Views**

In the view of Fish & Game it is imperative Moat Creek is retained in Crown ownership and protected in its current unmodified state. This will require the total exclusion of stock with fences erected on the top of the escarpments overlooking the stream.

It is Fish & Game's view that the partially drained wetland adjacent and north of the Moat Creek delta should also be retained and restored and reconstituted by filling in the outlet drain to the Whitestone River. It has good water retention possibilities and thus potential to make a significant contribution to the Whitestone especially during low flow periods.

The wetlands in the headwaters and adjacent to Stony Creek should be retained in Crown ownership for water retention and to filter agricultural run off from recent land development. We see an opportunity here too to add a portion of these wetlands to the adjacent Dawson City Reserve.

**4.2 Access Views**

Fish & Game seeks retention/creation of legal access for anglers and hunters along both banks of the Whitestone River.

Fish & Game seeks legal access for anglers where the current lease boundaries the water body known as Lake Thomas

Dated 10/11/2002.

Signed 

M. Rodway  
Manager  
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Southland Region

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**Photo Appendix**

*Moat Creek flow dissipates into swampland*



*Outflow from partially drained wetland north of Moat Creek delta*



*Area suitable for addition to Dawson City Reserve*

