

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: REES VALLEY

Lease number: PO 311

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



Rees Valley Station Crown Pastoral Lease

**Resource Report prepared by John Hollows
for 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 Rees Valley Station 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 game bird hunting values and associated access issues.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by Otago Fish and Game Council staff.

2. General Description

Rees Valley Station is a large rectangular parcel of land running from the western faces of the Richardson Mountains down to the Rees Valley floor. Temple Peak Station is located to the south of the property and Mount Cunningham defines the northern boundary. The property is mountainous with large areas of tussock grassland and native bush. A small amount of developed agricultural land exists on the river flats.

Sections of the Rees River are protected by the Kawarau Water Conservation Order (1997); for natural and physical qualities that contribute to people's appreciation of pleasantness of waters, and aesthetic coherence.

3. Sports Fish Values

The Rees River provides a backcountry river experience favoured by anglers for the feeling of isolation. Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are commonly caught in this river. The National Angler Survey (NAS) reported the Rees River attracted approximately 129 angler visits in 2001.

The Rees River and its tributaries (e.g. 25 Mile Creek) provide habitat for sports fish spawning and juvenile rearing. These waterways are important as a source of fish recruitment for Lake Wakatipu. Lake Wakatipu is the most visited lake fishery in the Otago region (17702 visits in 2001, NAS).

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

Otago Region

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Figure 1. 25 Mile Creek. Sports fish spawning and juvenile rearing habitat.

4. Game Bird Values

Paradise shelducks (*Tadorna variegata*) were noted on the Rees Valley River flats. No information is available on hunting pressure, but the valley floor provides good habitat for paradise ducks.

5. Access

There are Section 58 marginal strips in place on the Rees River, although the river has moved over time and now flows outside the marginal boundaries in some sections. Additionally, there is an unformed road reserve running along the river flats. Access presently exists along a farm track, but this does not always follow the road reserve. We are unaware of any difficulties with access through this property.

6. Fish & Game Perspective

The marginal strips on the Rees River should become Section 24 marginal strips if they are not already in place. Section 24 marginal strips should be placed on any tributaries that qualify to protect sports fish recruitment values.

Access for foot, mountain bike, and vehicle access needs to be secured, as currently the current track does not follow the legal road in many places. Included in this should be a "vehicle access easement for management purposes" for Otago Fish & Game staff or their successors.

Dated: March 31, 2004.

John Hollows
Resource Officer