

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: RUGGED RIDGES

Lease number: PO 145

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.

October

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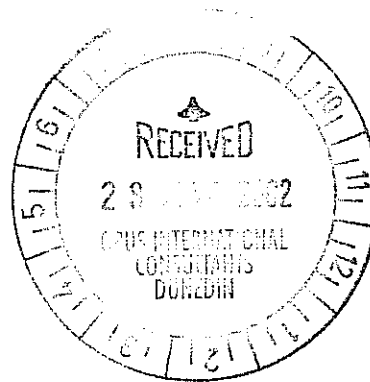


24 May 2002

Opus International Consultants Ltd

PO Box 1482

~~CHRISTCHURCH~~ *Dunedin Office.*



Attention: Mike Kerr

Dear Mike

TENURE REVIEW – RUGGED RIDGES

The following provides an assessment of the Fish and Game values associated with Rugged Ridges.

1. Parsons Rock Creek is an important spawning tributary for the rainbow and brown trout populations of Lake Aviemore.
2. The Otematata River is a highly valued fishery supporting resident populations of both brown and rainbow trout. It is valued for its scenery, solitude and great fishing. For the most part due to its rugged nature and difficult access it is a river visited by the fit angler seeking a rewarding wilderness experience.

National angling survey estimates that approximately 600 angler days per season are expended on the Otematata River. This figure should be higher but some landholders are known to create difficulties and prevent access even where they have no legal right to do so!

The Otematata River is also very important as a spawning river. It is the main spawning river of Lake Aviemore.

3. The upland game species of Chukor and Californian Quail are present on this property.
4. Californian Quail were first introduced to New Zealand in the mid 1860's to both main islands where they flourished.
5. Chukor were first introduced to New Zealand in the mid 1920's. They were released from Marlborough to Central Otago. In the Central South Island chukor flourished from the 1940's through to the early 1960's with numerous birds present on most high country stations.

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

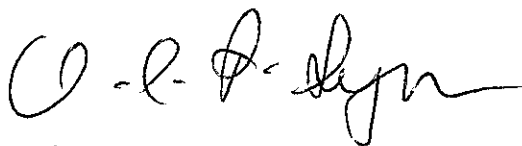
Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 615 8400 Facsimile (03) 615 8401

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6. From the 1960's onwards numbers of chukor decreased considerably. This decline has been attributed to being a non-target kill species of rabbit poisoning operations. Today in the Central South Island there is a limited distribution of Chukor.
7. In the 1940's to 1960's with high numbers of birds available and access to the favoured habitat readily available Chukor and Californian Quail hunting was popular. With Chukor now less numerous and access harder to attain (particularly on this property) hunter interest has fallen. However, there are individuals and groups of hunters who hunt chukor and quail extensively and often exclusively. This hunting is largely confined to the high country of the Omarama and McKenzie areas.
8. The favoured habitat of chukor is high up on the dry, sunny faces amongst rocky outcrops. Californian Quail favour a mixture of open grassland, scrubby gullies and vegetated riverbeds and margins. Both birds are highly mobile and numbers have begun to again increase as the rabbit poisoning operations have reduced since the release of the rabbit RCD virus.
9. With numbers of Chukor and Californian Quail again increasing the future is looking promising for this highly valued upland gamebird. Hunter interest has already begun to increase and access to traditional hunting areas is very important.
10. For the reasons outlined above Fish and Game requests the following be negotiated in the Tenure Review Process.
 - a) Marginal strips along Parsons Rock Creek. If this is not possible we request access for management purposes.
 - b) Marginal strips along the Otematata River where it bounds the property.
 - c) Vehicle access over the present track down to the Otematata River via Harrison Spur to the ford at approximate Map Reference H40:867070.
 - d) Vehicle access over the present track to where it ends near the property boundary with survey peaks at Map Reference I40:933963 and then foot access from this point down to the Otematata River for anglers.
 - e) Access for hunters to the entire property during the gamebird hunting season.

Yours faithfully



Vaughan Lynn
Fish and Game Officer