

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: WEST WANAKA

Lease number: PO 203

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.

January 05



Fish and Game Resources Report for the West Wanaka Station.

Prepared by the
Otago Fish and Game Council

Section One - Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the sports fish and game habitat present on the land included in the West Wanaka 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.

1.2 Location

The West Wanaka Station lies to the West of Lake Wanaka and takes in the south and eastern flanks of the Buchanan Mountain Range down to the north boundary of the Matukituki River.

Section Two - General Resources Information

2.1 Sports Fisheries Values

Within the lease area there are numerous streams originating from the Buchanan Mountains which flow into Lake Wanaka and the Matukituki River to the west and south. The streams are subject to seasonal flow variations, flood prone in spring and wetter months, with low flows in summer and winter. The moderately steep sections in the middle and upper reaches of these streams contain no sports fisheries values. The lower sections contain limited sports fishery opportunities, but there is some spawning in the lower section.

The Matukituki River is a major spawning tributary of Lake Wanaka, contributing significantly to the lake Wanaka fishery.

The West Wanaka Lagoons and adjacent wetlands hold juvenile and adult populations of Brown trout. The numerous drainage channels allow some inward and outward migration with incidental stocking during flooding.

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

Otago Region

2.2 Game-bird Values

West Wanaka Station provides a diverse range of habitats for several gamebird species including Grey, Mallard and Shoveller ducks, Paradise Shelducks and Canada Geese. The West Wanaka lagoons and remaining adjacent wetlands are important waterfowl feeding, nesting and moulting sites.

The Upper Matukituki Flats above Round Hill area has natural undeveloped wetlands containing numerous ponds.

Mallard, Grey and Shoveller ducks are common in lowland areas throughout the property, the numerous wetlands and drainage channels, and established pasture are important for breeding, rearing and feeding.

Paradise Shelduck numbers on the property vary from season to season with the West Wanaka Lagoons being traditional breeding and moulting sites. Although pasture depredation can be a problem, recreation hunting has proven to be a reliable method for Shelduck management. It is important that this method of control be allowed to continue into the future.

Canada Geese regularly visit the property with numbers peaking in the autumn. These birds annually establish themselves in Paddock Bay, a short distance from the property and feed on pastures generally in the late afternoon and evening. Crop depredation can be a problem, and controlled culls are required when recreational hunters cannot control numbers

2.3 Other Recreational Values

N/A

2.4 Access Information

Traditional access for game-bird hunters and anglers to the West Wanaka Lagoons and wetlands has been from the main track past the Homestead to Round Hill.

Access to West Wanaka bay and the mouth of the Matukituki River has traditionally been used by anglers and picnickers.

Section Three - Consultation

3.1 Consultation Undertaken

N/A

3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation

N/A

Section Four - Fish and Game Perspective

4.1 Habitat Views

The Upper Matukituki River flat wetlands above Round Hill should be protected by way of conservation covenant to prevent future drainage and development.

The three main wetlands on the Matukituki Valley floor should be retained in Crown ownership, and be reclassified as government purpose reserves under Section 22(2)

Reserves Act (1977) with the status of Wildlife Management Reserves. These areas should be fenced off.

4.2 Access Views

Fish and Game Otago consider that access to the West Wanaka Bay and mouth of the Matukituki River is of utmost importance. This is a difficult area of the lake to get to, except by boat, and an important recreational and angling area. The access could be via easement or realigning the existing track within the marginal strip.

Unrestricted game-bird hunter/dog and angler access to the West Wanaka wetlands should be guaranteed with the linking of Matukituki River marginal strip by extending the marginal strip or by appropriate access easements. Hunter/dog access should also be guaranteed to Conservation land but subject to issue of an approved permit without requiring the permission of the landowner or manager.

That Otago Fish & Game Council or its' successor should be granted an access easement over the 'main homestead to Round Hill' track for wetland reserve management purposes.

Section Five - Bibliography

Tenure Review Document
Crown Pastoral Lands Act (1998)
Land Status Report for West Wanaka Station

Dated: Friday, 29 October 1999

Signed



Mark Nelson
Resource Officer
for: Otago Fish and Game Council