

WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI* CONSERVATION BOARD

**Agenda & Meeting Papers
20th - 21st February 2024**

**Hotel Lake Brunner
34 Ahau St
Moana, Lake Brunner**

Joint Board Workshop

Hotel Lake Brunner
34 Ahau St, Moana, Lake Brunner

Wednesday 20th February 2024 – 3.45pm to 5.30pm

Agenda Item	Time	Agenda - Wātaka	Speaker
1. 1.1. 1.2. 1.3.	3.45pm	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karakia • Mihimihi • Site Health & Safety 	Danual Cattermoul Everyone BSO
2. 2.1. 2.2.	4.00pm	Confirmations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies • Confirmation of Agenda 	Chair
3. 3.1. 3.2. 3.3.	4.10pm	General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Coast <i>Tai Poutini</i> update • Canterbury/Aoraki update • Aoraki/Mt Cook NP management plan review update 	Mike Legge Heather Purdie Kingsley Timpson/Heather Purdie
4. 4.1.	4.45pm	Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellington Biodiversity Framework 	Barry Wards
5.	5.00pm	Open discussion	
6.	5.30pm	Close of Workshop/Karakia mutunga	



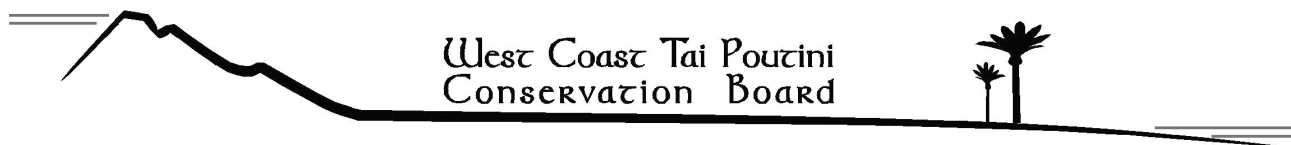
Meeting No. 185

Hotel Lake Brunner

34 Ahau St, Moana, Lake Brunner

Wednesday 21st February 2024 – 8.30am to 12pm

Agenda Item	Time	Agenda - Wātaka	Speaker
1.		Welcome	Chair
1.1.	8.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karakia/ Waiata 	BSO
1.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Health & Safety 	
2.	8.40am	Confirmations	Chair
2.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies 	
2.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of Agenda 	
2.3.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict of interest 	
2.4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of minutes from 30 Nov 2023 meeting 	
2.5.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters arising 	
2.6.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions arising from previous meeting 30 Nov 2023 	
3.	8.50am	Administration	Chair
3.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence Schedule 	Joy Comrie
3.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Report 	Chair
3.3.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Meetings 	Chair
3.4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press Release 	Chair
4.	9.00am	Advocacy	All Board members
4.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around the traps – networking reports from board members 	Metiria Turei
4.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NZCA update 	
5.	9.20am	Liaison with other groups	Chair
5.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish and Game 	Chair
5.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other South Island Conservation Boards 	
6.	9.30am	Planning and permissions	Joy Comrie
6.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning report 	
6.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permissions 	
7.	9.40am	Chair's Report	Chair
	9.50am	Morning tea	
8.	10.00am	Operations Report	Mark Davies
8.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status Report 	Chris Hickford
8.2.	10.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey District update 	
9.	10.45am	General Business	Chair
9.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of Board's workload 	
9.2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan 2023-2024 	
9.3.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Boards Working Group meeting 	
10.		Presentations	Jane Williams
10.1.	11.10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathurst Project Update 	
11.	11.30am	Public Forum	
12.	12.00pm	Meeting Close/Karakia mutunga	
	12.00pm	Lunch	



**UNCONFIRMED Minutes of the
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
30 November 2023
Fox Glacier Community Centre
51 Cook Flat Road, Fox Glacier**

PRESENT:

Board Members

Mike Legge

Katie Milne

Lisa Steenhauer

Barry Wards

John Taylor

Ashley Cassin

Robert Wilson

Veronica Baldwin-Smith (online)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Department of Conservation (DOC) staff

Mark Davies, Regional Director Operations, West Coast

Joy Comrie, Statutory Manager, Hokitika

Alisa Alspach, Board Support Officer, Hokitika

Wayne Costello, Operations Manager, South Westland

Suvi Van Smit*, Operations Manager, Buller (online)

Chris Hickford*, Operations Manager, Greymouth (online)

Other

Duncan Kay*, Operations Director, Predator-free South Westland (online)

Brendon McMahon, Local Democracy Reporter, Greymouth Star

(*denotes partial attendance)

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Mike Legge opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Wayne Costello gave a karakia.

The Health & Safety briefing was given by Alisa Alspach.

2. CONFIRMATIONS

2.1. Apologies and resignation

Board Members: Di Rossiter, Dan Cattermoul.

Liaisons: Metiria Turei

The Board resolved to receive the apologies.

A Cassin/R Wilson /CARRIED

Mike Legge advised that Board member Ariana Stevens had sent a letter of resignation to the Minister of Conservation due to other commitments; it has now been formally accepted.

Mike Legge informed the Board that Kopa Lee, Pou Tairangahau, has retired from DOC. Harvey Ruru, Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board (NMCB) Liaison, is now the liaison for the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board (CACB). Brian McGurk is our new liaison from the NMCB.

The Board resolved to receive the resignations of Kopa Lee and Harvey Ruru.

L Steenhauer/J Taylor /CARRIED

ACTIONS

- *Mike Legge to write thank you letters to Harvey Ruru and Kopa Lee.*

2.2. Confirmation of the agenda

Katie Milne requested an item around Land Swap Process be added to the agenda under General Business.

Barry Wards requested the Wellington Biodiversity Framework be added under General Business, if time allows.

Alisa Alspach requested Additional Chair's Expenses be added under General Business.

2.3. Conflict of interest

There were no conflicts declared for the items on today's agenda.

Mike Legge reminded everyone if they have any actual or perceived conflicts of interests relating to Board business, and the agenda today, these need to be recorded on the Board's Declaration of Interest Register. Members should contact the BSO to ensure their conflicts are current.

2.4. Approval of minutes of 21 September 2023

The minutes for the 21 September 2023 meeting were taken as read.

The Board resolved to confirm as a true and accurate record, the Public Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023.

J Taylor/A Cassin/CARRIED

2.5. Matters arising

Katie Milne noted in a couple of places biosecurity is written instead of biodiversity.

ACTIONS

- *Alisa Alspach to correct biosecurity to biodiversity prior to distributing confirmed minutes.*

There were no further matters arising.

2.6. Actions arising from previous meeting 21 September 2023

The action point schedule was taken as read. All completed actions were taken as done.

Mike Legge and Katie Milne are still having some Teams/SharePoint issues, discussion will continue with Alisa Alspach to resolve.

Joy Comrie confirmed information on National Park (NP) Management Plans, CMS monitoring reports and Board Triggers has now all been sent out to Board Members; these topics will be covered further in the workshop this afternoon.

The Board has received a verbal update on baches on public conservation land (PCL) in South Westland this morning on their field trip. The monitoring report for the Westland *Tai Poutini* NP Plan is on today's agenda.

The Board resolved to accept the action point schedule.

K Milne/L Steenhauer/CARRIED

3. ADMINISTRATION

3.1. Correspondence Schedule

The inwards correspondence schedule was taken as read.

Katie Milne requested, if possible, the items on the correspondence schedule are hyper-linked to the relevant email.

John Taylor asked if the Cockayne Nature Walk would be discussed at the joint Board meeting with the CACB. Mark Davies explained that while the Cockayne Nature Walk is within the West Coast Region (as it is in the Western sector of Arthur's Pass NP), it does not come under the jurisdiction of the WCTPCB. Mike Legge confirmed the Cockayne Nature Walk would be discussed at the joint meeting in February 2024.

The outwards correspondence was taken as read.

The Board resolved to accept:

- the inwards correspondence schedule.
- the outwards correspondence schedule.

A Cassin/J Taylor/CARRIED

K Milne/L Steenhauer/CARRIED

ACTIONS

- Alisa Alspach to investigate hyper-linking the correspondence schedule.
- Alisa Alspach to ensure Cockayne Nature Walk is on the agenda for the joint Board meeting in February 2024.

3.2. Finance Report

Joy Comrie gave a report on the 2023/24 finances year to date. The report doesn't show \$4000 in fees or \$1600 in travel/accommodation/meals. The updated figures are:

- Board member fees \$5,767.27
- Travel, accommodation, and meals \$7,422.12
- Total expenditure \$14,183.39

The budget is tracking to plan.

The Board resolved to accept the finance report.

L Steenhauer/K Milne/CARRIED

3.3. Future Meetings

Mike Legge reported planning is well underway for the joint meeting with the CACB 20-21 February 2024. If members have any topics they want discussed or suggestions for field trips, they should let Alisa Alspach know as soon as possible.

Mike Legge also spoke briefly about the other 2024 meetings:

- April 2024 – we are pencilled in at the marae in Bruce Bay.
- July 2024 – Hokitika.
- September 2024 – location to be decided.
- November – possibly in Westport.

3.4. Press Release

There is no press release for this meeting. The Local Democracy Reporter, Brendon McMahon, was present at the meeting.

4. ADVOCACY

Around the traps – CMS education resource

Lisa Steenhauer recently discussed the CMS education resource at a Biology Educators Meeting. She said it was good to get it on the radar, but a lot of teachers will need training in NZ biodiversity and also the West Coast region.

Around the traps – Hokitika Gorge

Ashley Cassin reported there is a lot of concern from tourism operators about how the Hokitika Gorge will perform this summer with an increase in visitors and congestion on the new bridge.

Ashley asked Mark Davies what the likelihood of getting a Hokitika Gorge Ranger was (like they used to have Glacier Rangers). Wayne Costello explained there isn't a need for Glacier Rangers now due to limited access; all the service work is done by district staff with seasonal staff helping over the summer months. Mark explained DOC has a contractor who services the toilet and carpark at the Hokitika Gorge. There are no plans for a Gorge specific ranger.

Around the traps – Reefton

John Taylor said there is a lot of concern in Reefton about tracks being closed. Mark Davies said Chris Hickford will give an update on these tracks after lunch.

Around the traps – Bain Bay Bridge

Katie said she was looking forward to getting an update on the Bain Bay Bridge from Chris Hickford; there are concerns about its closure especially with the cycle track getting closer to fruition.

Geoconservation & Mining Heritage Conference

John Taylor gave a summary on the Geoconservation & Mining Heritage Conference held in Reefton in October. There were lots of attendees from Australia, but also some from Japan and Canada.

A big issue discussed at the conference was what should go into mine closure plans (e.g. what should be retained on the site, safety issues, etc). There is less focus on heritage values of mine sites and there needs to be discussion around what is kept and how it can be used for heritage, recreation, and tourism to support local communities.

Mark Davies explained when sites are approved for mining the closure plans are fixed and future changes at the actual time of closure are minor. The Globe Progress Mine site is in the process of being rehabilitated and the intention is that it will be handed back to DOC by June 2025. Mark would like Chris Hickford to update the Board on the closure mid-2024. When formal closure and surrender of the access arrangement starts, DOC will be seeking the Board's advice.

Katie Milne commended DOC on their work around old heritage sites at the top of the South. She has recently done a trip there, and the number of sites and high level of preservation is outstanding.

Mark Davies commented that contamination on old mine sites is a challenge for DOC. It is a statutory responsibility to preserve heritage. The biggest concern for DOC is the ongoing legacy of acid mine drainage (AMD) and they need assurance the passive AMD is working at the Globe site before accepting full closure. AMD at the Stockton site is an ongoing issue and this is a Crown liability that needs to be managed; DOC is supporting this work.

NZCA liaison update

Metiria Turei was unfortunately unable to make the meeting.

ACTIONS

- *Alisa Alspach to invite Chris Hickford to update the Board on the closure of the Globe Progress Mine site mid-2024. The Board would like this to include an update on managing ongoing AMD.*

5. LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS

5.1. Fish & Game

Mike Legge said there is nothing new and Katie Milne hasn't heard anything either.

Barry Wards reported that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) had a presentation recently as part of their Animal Health Network from someone at Fish & Game. This included an explanation of what Fish & Game does. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was highlighted and their concerns around how this will impact NZ's native bird species. The critically endangered birds are at risk of extinction when HPAI reaches NZ.

The Board decided it would be good to get Dean Kelly, Fish & Game West Coast Regional Manager, to present on HPAI at the joint Board meeting in February.

Mark Davies notified the Board that with the change in Government and the addition of new ministers, Fish & Game's reporting line will change to the new Minister of Hunting and Fishing.

5.2. Other South Island Conservation Boards

Mike Legge reported he hasn't had recent communications with the NMCB or the Otago Conservation Board. The Southland Conservation Board are keen to keep in touch. We are having a joint meeting with the CACB in February 2024.

Mike Legge understands the CACB is slowly progressing the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Plan.

At the Chair's Conference Penny Nelson, DOC Director General, indicated she wanted to have a Chair's Hui to discuss issues raised at the Chair's Conference. This will be a Teams meeting in December and Mike Legge will participate; he will keep the Board updated.

ACTIONS

- *Mike Legge to invite Dean Kelly from West Coast Fish & Game to present on HPAI at the February meeting.*

6. PLANNING AND PERMISSIONS

6.1. Planning report

Joy Comrie updated the Board on the following items:

- Te Kuha Mine Appeal – is with the High Court and will not be heard until February 2024.
- West Coast te Tai o Poutini Resource Management Plan (WCTTPP) – in the middle of the hearings and these can be watched online. DOC made a submission and Joy will send this to the Board.
- Nationwide CMS partial reviews for biking – Charlie Parker will be giving an update on this in the workshop.
- Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan Review – Veronica Baldwin-Smith hasn't had any updates. We can ask at the joint meeting in February.

ACTIONS

- *Joy Comrie to send DOC's submission on the WCTTPP to the Board.*
- *Alisa Alspach to let the CACB know we're interested to have an update on the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan Review.*

6.2. Concession/Access Arrangements

Joy Comrie and Mark Davies informed the Board that the Kokiri Lime Company application is on hold, as the company hasn't yet supplied the additional information requested.

Joy also updated the Board on the permissions backlog; this is currently the focus of the Permissions and Regulatory Service team.

The Board resolved to accept the Planning and Permissions Reports.

J Taylor/R Wilson/CARRIED

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

The report was taken as read.

Ashley Cassin asked if Ariana Steven's position will be filled by co-opting. Mike Legge explained that this position will be filled in the next round of Board appointments.

The Board resolved to receive and accept the Chair's Report.

K Milne/L Steenhauer/CARRIED

8. OPERATIONS REPORT

8.1. Status report

The status report was taken a read.

Mark Davies commended the Operations Managers and their teams, for preparing such a great status report for this meeting.

Mark said DOC will now be working with three ministers under the new government. This week the DOC senior leadership team are briefing the new ministers.

8.2. Buller District – Cyclone Dovi recovery update

This item was presented following items 8.3 and 8.4.

Suvi Van Smit presented on the damage caused by Cyclone Dovi in the Buller District and the status of the repairs. Key points mentioned were:

- Heaphy Bridge some materials were able to be salvaged and reused.
- Gunner Bridge has been repaired, restored, and reinforced.
- Mackay hill track section had cracking and a large slip – this section has been repaired, though the repairs were complicated by further damage.
- Coastal section at Twins Beach sustained cracking and slips as well, which have been repaired.
- Everything was so saturated following the cyclone that further slips kept happening after the repairs.
- The replacement for Heaphy Bridge needed to be resilient. Therefore, replacement includes two bridges and a new track (on an old bench track). The new Heaphy Bridge was opened Labour Weekend and the bridge over the Lewis will be load tested on the 12th December and then opened.
- Conns Creek Road, Waimangaroa slips – now open as walking access to the public, but it remains unsuitable for vehicle traffic.
- Britannia track is eroding at the bottom and a geotechnical assessment has indicated it is unsafe. Another geotechnical assessment will be carried out in February 2024 and will also include the Charming Creek Walkway.
- For rebuilding the bridges there were increased costs looking at historic river data and climate change predictions, but it's worth the cost to ensure resilience is built into the repairs. The new Heaphy Bridge has a 50-year lifetime; a simple replacement was estimated to only last 10-years.

Mark Davies acknowledged the work of Suvi and the Buller team on their dedication to recovery work.

8.3. Greymouth District – Cyclone Dovi recovery update

This item was covered prior to 8.2.

Chris Hickford presented an update on the Cyclone Dovi repair work within the Greymouth District. Key points mentioned were:

- Paparoa track repairs are being carried out by WestReef and are about halfway through; repairs between the Emergency Shelter and Coal Creek have been completed. Work on the Croesus section has just started; completion is expected in Jan/Feb 2024.
- Kirwans track has had repairs completed on two slips. A third slip is a significant rockfall hazard, so the track remains closed. There is alternative access to Kirwans Hut using the Waitahu/Montgomerie track, but this takes a longer time.
- Lankey Creek Track has a significant rockfall hazard in the middle, but the track remains open from both ends. It is hard to know, at this stage, when the staircase section will reopen.
- Geotechnical assessment reports are imminent for both Kirwans and Lankey Creek tracks; alternative access is being considered.
- Bain Bay Bridge from the Mitchell's end sustained a significant washout. The team is working on this and expects it will be open by Christmas.

Mark Davies stressed the Cyclone Dovi recovery work had to be prioritised due to staff resources, contractors, and funding. The Heaphy Track was the priority. DOC has an ongoing challenge with climate change and can't go forward with like-for-like replacements when damage occurs.

8.4. Jos Divis Cottage restoration project update

This item was covered prior to 8.2.

Chris Hickford shared some photos showing the restoration process, which is nearing completion. It has been a complex but satisfying project. The opening is planned for 15th March 2024.

Mark Davies stressed it is neither practical or feasible to restore everything everywhere. The Friends of Waiuta have their own projects in the area.

8.5. South Westland District update

Due to time constraints, Wayne Costello didn't make a formal presentation to the Board. There is a comprehensive report in the Board papers and the Board members had no further questions.

Proposed budget cuts

Barry Wards asked Mark Davies if there was anything the Board could do to advocate for DOC with the new government in regards to the proposed budget cuts. Mark was unable to provide information on funding levels as that is work for the Minister of Finance, Minister of Conservation, and DOC's Director General to work through.

Mark reiterated that DOC has a set budget and there will always be prioritisations and choices that need to be made.

Mike Legge advised there has been discussions between some Board Chairs about approaching the Minister.

John Taylor asked about extending the Jobs for Nature (J4N) model. Mark said there is no intention to extend the funding after June 2024. J4N was a Covid-19 support package and the need for benefits and jobs is now past.

Wayne Costello commented that utilising the J4N model may be possible in the future.

The Board resolved to receive and accept the Operations Report.

L Steenhauer/K Milne/CARRIED

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1. Conservation Board Nominations

Mike Legge said requests for nominations will be coming out soon. If members know of any one suitable for the Board, please let them know. Closing date will be end of January. New members are usually on-boarded in July.

9.2. Westland Tai Poutini NP Plan 2001-2011 draft monitoring report

This item was delayed until after item 9.5.

Joy Comrie and Mark Davies explained the current National Park management plan doesn't have milestones to report on, so it's hard to monitor its implementation. DOC has a requirement to report on NP management plans so the Board can fulfil its statutory responsibilities. Mark described that DOC have turned what is in the plan into work and reported on that.

Mike Legge and Wayne Costello asked Board members to have a look over the report and inform Alisa Alspach of the key points they are interested in so the annual reporting requirement can be more concise in the future.

The Board resolved to receive and agree to the Westland Tai Poutini NP Plan 2001-2011 draft monitoring report.

B Wards/A Cassin/CARRIED

ACTIONS

- All Board members to review monitoring report and let Alisa Alspach know key points of interest for future reports.

9.3. Biodiversity Credit System submission

The Board has made a submission. The submission was taken as read.

Mike Legge thanked the Board members for their input.

9.4. Work Plan 2023-24

The Work Plan 2023-24 was taken as read.

There was a discussion around the Letter of Expectation (LOE). The current LOE stays in place until a new one is issued. The key areas are likely to be the same. The next LOE is due out mid-2024; it is unlikely the new minister will issue one prior to this.

Barry Wards remarked the Board's workload should be spread around the other Board members. Mike Legge commented it is easy for him to be the liaison and he is well known to other Boards. There will be further discussion on spreading the load at the next meeting. Mike stressed the importance of commitment if other members take on liaison roles etc.

The Board resolved to accept the Work Plan 2023-24.

J Taylor/L Steenhauer/CARRIED

ACTIONS

- Alisa Alspach to add distribution of Board's workload to February 2024 agenda.

9.5. Annual Report 2022-23

The draft Annual Report 2022-23 was taken as read.

Joy Comrie reminded the Board this is their report, and they should give input when it's being put together.

The Board resolved to approve the Annual Report 2022-23.

R Wilson/K Milne/CARRIED

9.6. Land swap process

This item was covered prior to 8.2.

Mark Davies said there are provisions in the Conservation Act for land swaps and historically there have been a lot of these done on the West Coast. In the Ruataniwha Dam decision in 2016 the court gave clear guidance on what can be taken into consideration, and the land needs to have low to no conservation value if it is going to be used to swap. The previous process around a net conservation gain was not appropriate. Since this decision, there have been no land swaps on the West Coast. DOC West Coast have made some purchases; one recently in the lower Punakaiki Valley and there are a couple more to be announced in the New Year.

The Stewardship Land review is a statutory process and is sitting with the two panels and the Minister of Conservation. This is included in the briefing to the Minister. Veronica Baldwin-Smith had nothing further to add.

9.7. Chair's additional expenses

This item was missed during the meeting but was covered in the workshop.

Alisa Alspach asked for the Board's approval of:

- Mike Legge's expenses (travel, fees, and accommodation) to attend the Ōparara waharoa unveiling.
- A 12-month approval for similar expenses incurred by the Chair.

The Board resolved to:

- approve the additional Chair's expenses for Ōparara, and
- gave approval for the next 12 months for similar expenses incurred by the Chair.

K Milne/R Wilson/CARRIED

9.8. Wellington Biodiversity Framework

We didn't have time to discuss this additional item today. It will be added to the agenda for the February 2024 meeting.

ACTIONS

- *Alisa Alspach to add Wellington Biodiversity Framework to February 2024 agenda.*
- *Barry Wards to send Wellington Biodiversity Framework information to the Board.*

10. PRESENTATIONS

Regenerative Tourism Principles

Jesvier Kaur and Dhritidyuti Bose, from DOC, presented on the findings of Regenerative Tourism Principles project. This has been a joint project with Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) to support the tourism sector since Covid-19 hit. The work focused on how to generate a more sustainable and resilient tourism system.

The principles are:

- Proactively engaging with hapū, iwi and local communities.
- Strengthening roots between host communities and te taiao.
- Weaving together to move forward.
- Regenerating te taiao through action.
- Enhancing the mauri of te taiao and communities by giving back fairly.

There was a discussion following the presentation around concern that tourism numbers will soon return to pre-covid numbers, which is not sustainable in Westland. It is well recognised that large tourism numbers can have a big impact on the local environment and communities. During Covid-19 there was lots of discussions about redefining the tourism industry, but there has been no action. It is uncertain how the new government will respond.

It was also acknowledged that local South Westland tourism operators are happy to have tourists back as they have been struggling financially during the last three years.

The Board asked for a copy of the documents with examples of regenerative tourism used around the world. Jesvier agreed to share them in confidence.

Mark Davies said there needs to be consideration on how these principles can be taken into statutory frameworks. He explained he wants the Board to understand regenerative tourism so this can be used in the new CMS.

ACTIONS

- *Jesvier Kaur to send Alisa Alspach the documents and Alisa to distribute to the Board in confidence.*

Predator Free South Westland

Duncan Kay and Katie Milne updated the Board on the Predator Free South Westland project (100,000ha). Key points mentioned were:

- Predator elimination vs suppression.
- Focus on rats, possums, and stoats.
- Areas that are managed to zero (Perth-Barlow, Whataroa-Butler and South Ōkārito) are now being managed for reinvasions.
- By the end of summer, the Burster and Price blocks will have their initial removal completed, and towards end of 2024 these two blocks will become managed to zero blocks.
- Detection network using various tools (e.g. cameras (including AI cameras), dogs, e-DNA, kill traps) within the project area.
- Management of invasions.
- Use of thermal drone to control rabbits in Te Manahuna Aoraki Project; this is starting to be used in Predator Free South Westland to control possums.
- Working with the public on private land in Franz Josef, Ōkārito, and Whataroa.
- Moving forward into the future and what managing these predator free areas might look like. Focus will be on boundary management.
- Engaging the community to help identify/manage invasions.
- Sightings of native birds in areas that have been controlled are increasing.
- Measuring carbon – an enhanced forest (i.e. one without predators) is thought to sequester more carbon. Zero Invasive Predators is studying this to see if our controlled forests do sequester more carbon. It's probably two to three years before results are available.

Mark Davies acknowledged Katie Milne's leadership as the Chair of Predator Free South Westland and a Board member of Predator Free 2050 Ltd. Mark also acknowledged Makaawhio's support for this project.

There was a discussion around the cost of elimination and while it has a greater upfront cost the long-term cost is similar and includes the benefit of thriving native species.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public presentations at the Fox Glacier meeting.

There was a public forum in Haast the previous evening, 29th November 2023. The following members of the public attended: Claudine Pelosi, Jon Fear, Simon Cameron, John Nolan, and Matt Nolan.

The discussion in Haast covered:

Stewardship Land review

Simon Cameron and John Nolan discussed their concern around the uncertainty for farmers. Mike Legge thanked them for raising their concerns. Unfortunately, there is nothing he can pass on about what the two panels are thinking about Stewardship Land review. Also, it is uncertain what will happen with the review now there is a new government.

Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The CMS is well out of date and is being reviewed. All the information gathered during the submission process for Stewardship Land review can be used for developing the new CMS.

The new CMS aims to take out the fine detail making it future proof and more flexible. There will be public consultations before drafting and there will be plenty of opportunity for members of the public to provide input.

It is hoped when the new CMS is drafted it will already contain well sourced public opinion. There will be a public submission stage on the draft CMS.

Pest Control

Deer, thar and wilding pines are starting to be a real problem around Haast. Deer in particular are impacting the farmers by “thrashing the grazing land”.

12. MEETING CLOSE

Wayne Costello closed the meeting with a karakia. Meeting Closed at 3.45pm.

UNCONFIRMED

WEST COAST TAI POUTINI CONSERVATION BOARD

Actions arising from meeting 30 November 2023

TOPIC	ACTION	PERSON TO ACTION	COMMENTS	STATUS
Thank you letters	Write thank you letters to Harvey Ruru and Kopa Lee.	Mike Legge		Completed
21 st Sept minutes correction	Correct biosecurity to biodiversity where required in 21 st September 2023 minutes.	Alisa Alspach		Completed
Hyper-linking correspondence	Investigate creating hyper-links for items on the correspondence schedule.	Alisa Alspach		Pending
Cockayne Nature Walk	Liaise with Ops Managers (Owen Kilgour and Leeann Ellis) regarding Cockayne Nature Walk for the joint meeting.	Alisa Alspach		Completed
Globe Progress Mine Closure update	Invite Chris Hickford to give an update on the closure of the Globe Progress Mine site mid-2024; include an update on managing ongoing acid mine drainage.	Alisa Alspach		Pending Mid-2024
Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	Invite Dean Kelly to present on HPAI at the February Board meeting.	Mike Legge	Email sent to Dean 19.12.23 – Dean declined invite.	Completed
West Coast te Tai o Poutini Resource Management Plan (WCTTPP)	Send DOC's submission to the Board.	Joy Comrie	Sent with weekly communications 22.12.23	Completed
Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan Review	Inform Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board we want an update on this at the joint meeting.	Alisa Alspach	Email sent 19.12.23. Kingsley will arrange for an update to be prepared.	Completed
Spreading the Board's workload	Add agenda item for February meeting regarding distribution of Board's workload.	Alisa Alspach		Completed
Additional Chair's expenses	Add review of additional expenses to Nov 2024 agenda	Alisa Alspach		Pending Nov 2024

Wellington Biodiversity Framework	Add Wellington Biodiversity Framework as an agenda item for the February meeting. Send information on the Framework to the Board.	Alisa Alspach Barry Wards	Sent 22.01.2024	Completed Completed
WTPPNP monitoring report key points	Members to review the Westland Tai Poutini NP draft monitoring report and let BSO know the key points of interest for future reports.	All Board members		Pending
Regenerative Tourism Principles documents	Jesvier Kaur to send Alisa Alspach documents and Alisa to distribute to the Board in confidence.	Jesvier Kaur and Alisa Alspach		Completed
Thank you Duncan and Katie	Mike Legge to write thank you letter to Duncan Kay and Katie Milne.	Mike Legge		Completed
Statutory requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Park Management Plans, and CMS Monitoring Reports. 	All Board members	Nov 2023: Information has been sent to the Board, awaiting Board's feedback.	Pending
Board Triggers	Provide feedback to Joy Comrie on the updated Board Triggers document.	All Board Members		Pending
Actions carried over from previous meetings				
Teams and SharePoint access	Investigate Board members issues with access to Teams and SharePoint.	Alisa Alspach	Nov 2023: Mike to investigate further with the University. Jan 2024: Alisa liaising with DOC IT and individual members.	Ongoing
Bathurst Biodiversity Project	Jane Williams to be invited to present the highlights of the Bathurst Biodiversity Project at a Board meeting.	Joy Comrie	Jane presenting at the Feb 2024 meeting.	Completed
Isaac Foundation	Invite for Isaac Foundation to attend a board meeting early next year.	Katie Milne	Roby Kinney and Rob Clarke to attend July 2024 meeting.	Pending Jul 2024

**West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
Inwards Correspondence Schedule
09/09/2023 to 17/11/2023**

Date	Sender	Subject	DOCCM	Copies to
24.11.2023	Mark Davies	Whio Forever annual report	DOC-7510903	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
24.11.2023	Mark Davies	Renewed partnership adds to long-term whio protection	DOC-7510904	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
24.11.2023	Mark Davies	Possible West wallaby sightings concern	DOC-7510905	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
24.11.2023	Mark Davies	2022-23 visitor insights report	DOC-7510906	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
24.11.2023	Barry Wards	New Cabinet Lineup	DOC-7510907	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
24.11.2023	Joy Comrie	Permissions process and Board triggers	DOC-7511729	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
06.12.2023	Barry Wards	New Paparoa Track video	DOC-7521815	All board, Joy Comrie, Mark Davies, Alisa Alspach
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Price Range Predator Elimination Phase 2 – non-toxic prefeed notification	DOC-7521798	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Epro Limited	Aerial Predator Control, Kākāpo - Consultation	DOC-7521799	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Conservation Volunteers NZ Punakaiki - Spring 2023 Newsletter	DOC-7521800	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Otago Conservation Board	Confirmed minutes of meeting – 13 October 2023	DOC-7521801	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Ōparara Arches Project – November newsletter	DOC-7521803	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Pounamu Pathway December Pānui	DOC-7521804	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Federation Mining	Federation Mining Update – November 2023	DOC-7521805	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Hollyford track lodges receive new names that reflect Ngāi Tahu's cultural heritage	DOC-7521806	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	Confirmed minutes of meeting – 19 October 2023	DOC-7521808	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Price Range Predator Elimination Phase 2 – non-toxic prefeed notification	DOC-7521809	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson

08.12.2023	Barry Wards	Conservation Blog – Hokitika project receives major boost from Jobs for Nature	DOC-7521810	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Paparoa Mountain Safety Council Video	DOC-7521811	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Deputy Director-General Briefing – Franz Josef Valley Options	DOC-7521812	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
08.12.2023	Mark Davies	Kea behaviour change programme	DOC-7521814	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
15.12.2023	NZ Game Animal Council	The Stalk - Summer 2023	DOC-7529750	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
15.12.2023	Mark Davies	Tohu Whenua e-newsletter Dec 2023	DOC-7529752	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
15.12.2023	Southland Conservation Board	Confirmed minutes 26th Oct 2023	DOC-7529753	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
15.12.2023	Otago Conservation Board	Annual report 2022-23	DOC-7529755	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
15.12.2023	Barry Wards	EDS Briefing for the Incoming Minister of Conservation and Minister for Hunting and Fishing	DOC-7529756	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
15.12.2023	Mark Davies	National Wild Goat Hunting Competition Results	DOC-7529757	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
19.12.2023	Alisa Alspach	WCTPCB Annual report 2022-23	DOC-7529850	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	NZ Game Animal Council	Briefing to incoming Ministers	DOC-7532531	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	NZCA	Public minutes October 2023	DOC-7532532	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	Joy Comrie	DOC submission Te Tai o Poutini Plan	DOC-7532533	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	Mark Davies	Christmas newsletter from the West Coast Penguin Trust	DOC-7532534	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	Mark Davies	Pounamu Pathway Pānui	DOC-7532535	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	NZCA	NZCA Chair's letter December 2023	DOC-7532536	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	Mark Davies	Heaphy track recovery updates newsletter 15	DOC-7532538	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	Mark Davies	Tohu Whenua monitoring survey 2022-23 report	DOC-7532540	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.12.2023	Mark Davies	Seasons Greetings from Conservation Volunteers NZ	DOC-7532541	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.01.2024	Mark Davies	Predator Free South Westland Newsletter December	DOC-7548126	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.01.2024	Federation Mining	Federation Mining Business Update December 2023	DOC-7548127	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.01.2024	Mark Davies	Landsborough Predator Control Prefeed	DOC-7548129	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.01.2024	Mark Davies	South Westland J4N Tourism Outcomes Assessment	DOC-7548132	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
22.01.2024	Barry Wards	Wellington Biodiversity Framework	DOC-7548134	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson

23.01.2024	Mark Davies	Whio release invite Thursday 25th Jan	DOC-7548384	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
29.01.2024	Mike Legge	AI-informed conservation genomics	DOC-7559403	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
29.01.2024	Mark Davies	Pike29 Memorial Track opening invite	DOC-7559407	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
29.01.2024	Edward Ellison, NZCA Chair	Acknowledgement of Annual Report 2022-23	DOC-7559411	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
29.01.2024	Mark Davies	Waitangi Day Commemorations at Te Tauraka Waka a Maui Marae	DOC-7559419	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
29.01.2024	Mark Davies	Franz Josef river shifts radically after storm	DOC-7559422	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
02.02.2024	Mark Davies	Landsborough Predator Control - Notification of Commencement of Toxic Bait	DOC-7559425	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
02.02.2024	Don Neale	Marine heatwaves devastate Durvillaea kelp beds	DOC-7559431	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
02.02.2024	Mark Davies	Briefings for incoming ministers	DOC-7559437	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
09.02.2024	NZ Game Animal Council	Council nominations open	DOC-7566713	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
09.02.2024	Federation Mining	Business update January 2024	DOC-7566719	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
09.02.2024	Mark Davies	West Coast Mayors and Chairs Briefing to Ministers	DOC-7566722	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
09.02.2024	Joy Comrie	Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or bird flu)	DOC-7566723	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson
09.02.2025	Joy Comrie	Actions from last meeting for your attention	DOC-7566708	All board, Joy Comrie, Ben Hodgson

**West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
Outwards Correspondence Schedule
18/11/2023 to 09/02/2024**

Date	To	Subject	DOCCM	Copies to
12.12.23	Kopa Lee	Retirement letter	DOC-7525925	Mark Davies, Mike Legge
12.12.23	Harvey Ruru	Thank you	DOC-7525926	Mark Davies, Mike Legge
12.12.23	Duncan Kay & Katie Milne	Thank you	DOC-7525928	Mark Davies, Mike Legge
12.12.23	Minister of Conservation, Tama Potaka	Invitation	DOC-7525932	Mark Davies, Mike Legge, Paul Madgwick, Francois Tumahai, Mayors and Chairs West Coast
14.12.23	Dion & Adele Arnold	Thank you	DOC-7525930	Mark Davies, Mike Legge
19.12.23	Neighbouring Conservation Boards (CACB, OCB, SCB, NMCB), Statutory Bodies Team, NZCA liaison, Hocken Library	Annual Report 2022-23	DOC-7529850	Mark Davies, Joy Comrie

Meeting Paper For West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

TITLE OF PAPER: Finance Report for 31 January 2024
AUTHOR: Lesley Wilson
SUBJECT: FINANCE REPORT: 1 July 2023 – 31 January 2024
DATE: 12 February 2024

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on expenditure for the period of the financial year 1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Conservation allocates funding each year for the servicing of statutory bodies. This allocation includes staff time dedicated to servicing the conservation board and an operating budget to cover the costs of such things as meetings and field trips and other expenses related to a conservation board lawfully exercising its functions and powers.

Budget for 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024 \$40,000

Board member Fees	5767.00
Travel, accommodation, and meals	12074.00
Advertising, Printing, Stationery	920.00
Other (Conference Room Hire, Koha)	1477.00
Total Expenditure	\$20,238.00

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board notes the above information.



SIGNED:
Lesley Wilson
Business Accountant
Western South Island



APPROVED:
Joy Comrie
Statutory Manager
Western South Island

Future Meetings

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 8-9 April 2024: | Te Tauraka Waka a Maui Marae, Bruce Bay |
| 23-24 July 2024: | Hokitika - TBC |
| 23-24 September 2024: | Murchison
Joint meeting with Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board |
| 20-21 November 2024: | TBC |



February 2024

Subject: Update on Statutory Management and RMA Planning within WSI region (* indicates no change since last update)

Prepared for: West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board and Regional Leadership Team

Prepared By: Charlie Parker (Management Planning) and Geoff Deavoll (RMA Planning)

Overview of RMA and Management Planning Processes in Western South Island region

West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS full review

We are currently prioritising project planning and matters of governance. We hope to publicly announce the CMS review in the near future. In the meantime, DOC is continuing to draft background reports covering terrestrial/landscapes, coastal/marine, historic/heritage, freshwater/wetlands, recreation, RMA, and permissions to support drafting of the CMS. (Laurien Heijs and Charlie Parker)

Stevenson Mining Ltd – Te Kuha Mine Appeal*

The Forest & Bird appeal against the 2017 council decision was heard in the Environment Court in Christchurch in the first two weeks of August 2022. DOC was an interested party in this appeal and presented legal submissions and called five ecology witnesses at the hearing. The evidence of the DOC witnesses and legal submissions were well received by the Court. The hearing has been closed and a decision will possibly be made before the end of this year. The Court issued its decision in April 2023 declining the consents. The company has now appealed the Environment Court decisions to the High Court which will not be heard until April 2024. (Geoff Deavoll)

West Coast te Tai o Poutini Resource Management Plan (WCTTPP)

The WCTTPP is in development, which will be a combined district plan for the West Coast. It was notified for public submissions in late July and the period for submissions closed on 11 November. The Director-General of Conservation lodged a submission generally in support of the plan in relation to matters of interest to DOC but has made detailed submissions seeking amendments where the plan could be improved. Areas of interest to DOC include land use controls on activities that affect biodiversity, natural open space and open space zone provisions, management of natural hazards, and management of activities in the coastal environment. Further submissions were lodged in July. Hearings have commenced, with individual topics to be heard through till next year. The D-G was represented by an RMA Planner and Lawyer at the Topic 1 and 2 hearing Strategic Directions and Introduction and Whole Plan hearing on 2 November. Brief evidence has been filed for the Natural Character of water bodies and surface water activities topics, and evidence regarding the landscape and natural features topic is due early February. The Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity topic has been delayed until October 2024 at the earliest. (Amy Young)

Reimagining Management Planning (RIMP)

The RIMP work programme aims to address systemic, long-standing issues with the development, implementation, and monitoring of statutory planning documents. We have:

- tested our assumptions of legislative, including Treaty settlement, and general policy requirements
- explored options for a new strategic approach to the number and type of statutory planning documents required. This included presenting options to the NZCA at their December 2023 meeting.

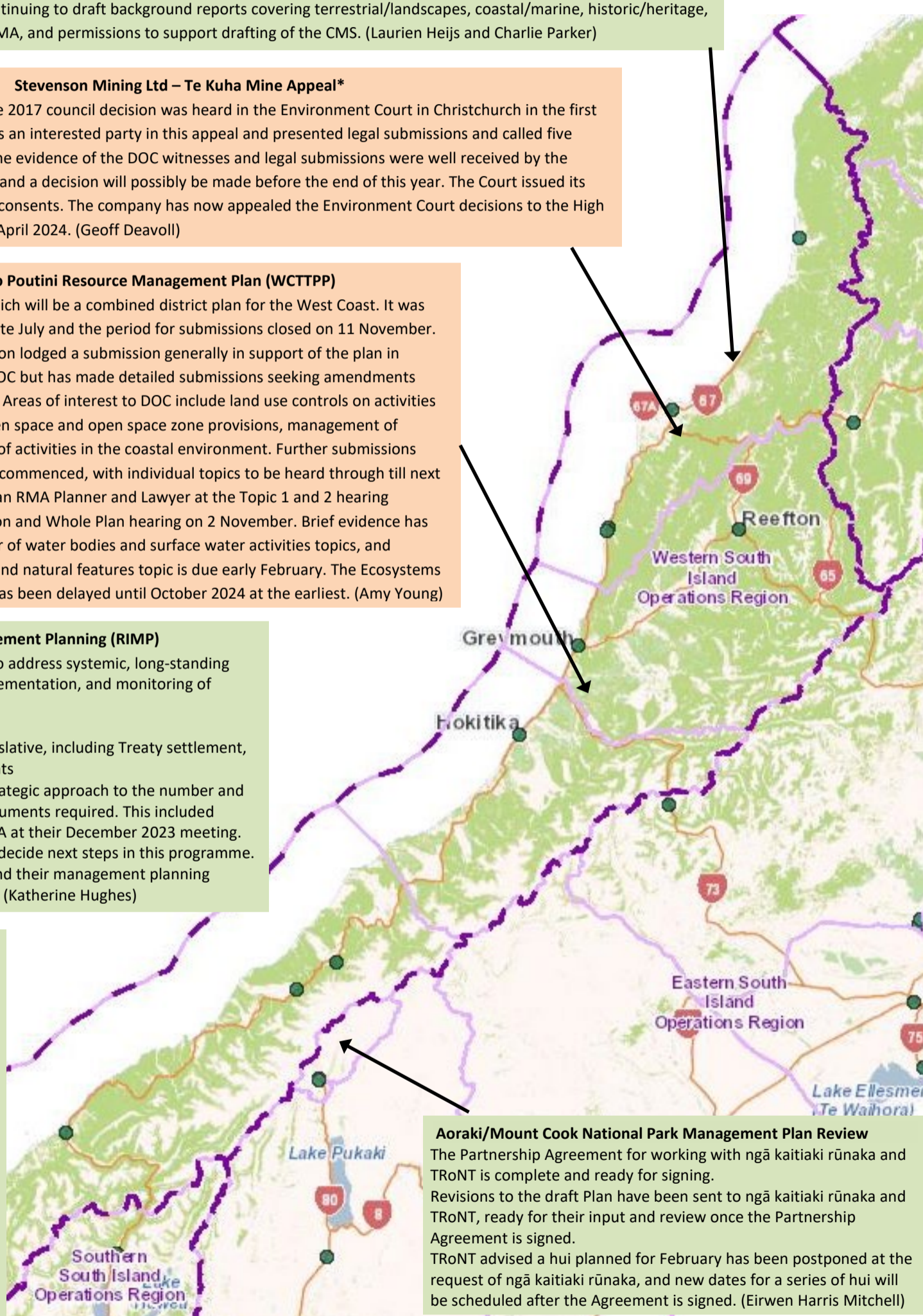
We will be meeting in February to decide next steps in this programme. We regularly report to the NZCA and their management planning committee on progress with RIMP. (Katherine Hughes)

Nationwide CMS partial reviews for biking

We are currently developing a new approach for biking to be included in CMS during full or partial reviews. We are not proposing to undertake additional reviews where there are current reviews occurring such as Te Tai o Poutini West Coast. Rather, the new approach will be incorporated into these existing processes. We are currently working through the feedback we received from stakeholders and conservation boards, including exploring the alternative approaches suggested. (Charlie Parker)

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review

The Partnership Agreement for working with ngā kaitiaki rūnaka and TRoNT is complete and ready for signing. Revisions to the draft Plan have been sent to ngā kaitiaki rūnaka and TRoNT, ready for their input and review once the Partnership Agreement is signed. TRoNT advised a hui planned for February has been postponed at the request of ngā kaitiaki rūnaka, and new dates for a series of hui will be scheduled after the Agreement is signed. (Eirwen Harris Mitchell)



Chairs Report: February 2024

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

Kia ora koutou katoa,

First, welcome to the first meeting of the New Year and I hope everyone had a good break and a chance to relax over the Christmas New Year period. Unfortunately, over the break period I was informed of the sudden death of Warren Parker, a Previous Chair of the NZCA. Warren became a strong advocate for the processes and style this Board undertook for the Paparoa National Park Plan, which he considered broke new ground for National Park Plans and frequently referred to this at various meetings. Although not directly engaged in conservation work since retiring, he made a significant contribution as Chair of the NZCA.

The start of the New Year is always quiet, and I am looking forward to getting the Work Plan underway. I was fortunate to take part in the release of whio in a predator free area in South Westland in late January. They seemed very happy to have a decent stream. At the end of January, I was invited to the opening ceremony of the Museum of Kawatiri in Westport which has had a significant upgrade to provide the pre-European story of the area. John Taylor and Di Rossiter also attended on behalf of the Board. Waitangi Day celebrations were spent as a guest at the Te Tauraka Waka a Maui Marae with Mark Davies and Owen Kilgour (DOC). This was a great day with good weather and the renovations at the Marae are outstanding. It was estimated that approximately 100 people attended the Marae.

On Friday, February 9th, I attended the Otago Conservation Board meeting via Teams. This helps to maintain contact between the two boards especially as we move into the CMS review. February 16th was a major event with the opening of the Pike29 Memorial Track. This was well attended, and as well as me, Board members Katie Milne, John Taylor, and Veronica Baldwin-Smith were also in attendance. Looking ahead for this year we will be engaging in the development of the CMS Review. This will be a major work item for the Board. Although Mark Davies has not left yet, a reminder that during the year we will be working with a new Director Regional Operations. I am hopeful that Mark will attend the Board meeting in April at the Te Tauraka Waka a Maui Marae. In due course, I will be briefing the incoming Director Regional Operations about the Board's Work Plan.

Finally, national applications for representatives for the Conservation Boards has closed and we should be notified of new appointments in July. I am looking forward to working with the Board, DOC, the various Councils, and associated conservation organisations in the coming year.

Mike Legge (Dr)
Chair
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Status Report – 21 February 2024

Purpose of Status Report

The Status Report provides Board members with updates on operational matters in the region since 30 November 2023. The updates are grouped according to CMS places. For reference November's status report is [DOC-7480510](#)

Operational updates

CMS Place	Update	Contact
Marine Place	<p>West Coast Marine Reserve Operational Plan – DOC is continuing to develop an operational plan to guide future management of the West Coast's five marine reserves. Plans are progressing for an intertidal monitoring baseline survey of the Kahurangi Marine Reserve.</p> <p>Rimurapa (bull kelp/<i>Durvillaea</i>) die-off – DOC continues to work with Canterbury University and others on the Coast Road kelp die-off (see previous Board updates, and the poster recently circulated to Board members). South Westland Jobs for Nature workers are helping to analyse some 2009 photos of kelp beds, which will help us to see if the die-off on the coastline north between Greymouth and Westport has also occurred in northern Buller and South Westland.</p> <p>Marine wildlife incidents – a beachcast (dead) 12-metre baleen whale was buried at Neil's Beach in South Westland in January. The first record of a beachcast turtle in the Western South Island was responded to in Greymouth (an Olive Ridley turtle) and the shell was offered to Ngāti Waewae in November.</p> <p>Marine biosecurity – DOC has provided advice to the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) diving contractors who started to monitor Jackson Bay in January, to help ensure the West Coast Region remains entirely free of marine pest species.</p>	Don Neale
Freshwater	<p>Arahura – Completed baseline eDNA survey for the main stem and tributaries of the Arahura Catchment. eDNA will pick up on plant and animal species, expecting results in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Wadeson Island – First baseline survey for īnanga in the new channels created by the Jobs for Nature Sustainable Wild Whitebait Fishery project was completed with Conservation Volunteers NZ (CVNZ). Nearly 1400 īnanga were measured and released, representing a significant success for the project.</p> <p>Biosecurity surveillance – The annual Lakes Biosecurity Programme lead by WCRC and co-funded by DOC and Manawa Energy is currently underway. SCUBA divers are surveying submerged plant transects and recording observed pest fish species, also taking eDNA samples in nine lakes along the coast.</p>	Suze Harris

	<p>Biosecurity control - Lakes Paringa and lanthe were treated with herbicide (diquat) in November to reduce <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> around the access areas. Cordons are due for installation this summer, which will provide a clean zone for boats to dispel the weed (which reduces spread to neighbouring lakes).</p>	
Kawatiri	<p>Biodiversity (Bathurst Project)</p> <p>Tracking tunnel results (small mammal indices) in the Lower Heaphy in November were the highest recorded for rats since 2015 at 90% (+/-6%) rats and 29% mice (+/-6%). This is a rise of 24% since June 2023. The most recent Heaphy Lowland aerial predator control operation took place in February 2023 and the next is scheduled for November 2024 on National Predator Control Programme technical advisory group advice. The Heaphy Valley is notorious for high rodent numbers due to the high seed production from nikau, beech and mixed hardwood forest and warm lowland temperatures.</p> <p>Tracking tunnels and trail cameras were installed amongst the invertebrate pitfall traps at Scotts Beach and in the Heaphy Valley to give small mammal indices for comparison in the current study of ground dwelling invertebrates. Pitfall trap checks of 98 traps began in November and will continue to April in the second year of the study.</p> <p>Acoustic kiwi recorders were set and collected in December for the annual kiwi call count monitoring. Results pending.</p> <p>Sooty shearwaters were found to be living in burrows at Wekakura point.</p> <p>Pig hunting took place at Big Bay and around the Heaphy River. In the Heaphy River pig control block, there was the most sign encountered over the past 7 years. This sign was concentrated in the lower four kilometres of the northern side of the Heaphy River, particularly on the river flats. Older sign was encountered around the lower reaches of the Gunner River, these pigs looked to have moved out of the area and most likely back to the northern side of the Heaphy River. The damage on the northern side of the Heaphy was extensive. Four large boars and a sow with eight piglets were controlled.</p> <p>Staff were trained in freshwater fish identification for future work in the Heaphy streams.</p> <p>Weed control contractors on the Denniston Plateau have been focussing on heath rush and gorse control.</p>	
Paparoa Place	<p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>Work continues towards the opening of the Pike29 Memorial Track on 16 February. Track construction and grooming is complete, with some finishing touches going into the carpark and road.</p> <p>The Paparoa Track continues to be a popular option for visitors, with high numbers of overnight and day users utilising the track. Contractors have made great progress restoring damage caused by Cyclone Dovi on the historic Croesus section of the track, with work expected to be completed in the coming month.</p>	

<p>Inangahua</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>With improved weather the team have started weed control in parts of the Maruia Valley including the Maruia River, Springs Junction and Rahu Creek. Aerial spray work is set to commence in the coming days while there is a stable weather window with a focus on crack willow down the Maruia River. This work is being done in conjunction with LINZ in efforts to reduce impacts on the natural processes of the river.</p> <p>In terms of predator control, just before Christmas diphacinone was deployed in bait stations to reduce rat numbers within a known long tailed bat maternal roosting area. Baits were removed after a week. Our work with DOC200 traps for stoats is ongoing and data shows a surge in stoat catch in some isolated patches. Our Goodnature A24 network appears to be holding rats to low numbers where they are established, but it is worth remembering beech mast events can quickly change this and trap infrastructures can be rapidly overrun as rat populations increase exponentially.</p> <p>Attempts were made pre-Christmas on cat control which had limited success, because cats were proving to be a bit cagey about entering our traps. However, efforts will continue each year and a close liaison with locals will continue.</p> <p>Monitoring of possums last year showed that they are building in numbers and are posing a threat to native mistletoe within the area, not to mention other species such as kaka. While the mistletoe recruitment is showing positive signs, it is an extremely slow recovery for all three species and possum numbers must be controlled to stop any reverse of this trend. Planning is currently underway for a proposed control of possum numbers within the Maruia River – Alfred River catchment and communications with locals will begin shortly.</p> <p>Species work continued with support from Auckland Zoo to carry out mark/recapture on Alborn Skink in the Big River area. There are some positive signs, but recapture rates are remarkably low, and we need to see this lift to have a higher confidence in determining current population figures. This year saw DOC150 kill traps placed around the perimeter of the known habitat to reduce any impacts stoats may be having on the surviving skink population. Discovery of a skink by staff in the Snowy River area recently is currently being assessed to determine what species it might be.</p> <p>In January 2024, the West Coast hunting team and contractors completed a combined total of 92 days of ground hunting with dogs in the Te Maruia area between Station Creek and the Glenroy River. This is to prevent the spread of goats south into the Lake Daniell’s area and to prevent spread into Nelson Lakes National Park. This area has a long history of goat control, and we are continuing to intensify hunting effort, with the aim to reduce goats to very low densities. The team will return to the area for further hunting in Autumn 2024.</p> <p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>The Jos Divis Cottage Restoration Project is winding to an end, with some painting, landscaping and interpretation signage installation left to complete before the opening event in March. This has been a long and complex project, with the team doing an incredible job restoring the significant heritage values of the site.</p> <p>The Capleston Carpark to Kirwans Hut track remains closed due to significant</p>	
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	<p>rockfall, however an alternative access route to Kirwans Hut via the old Waitahu 4WD track and Montgomery track has been reopened providing people access to this popular location. Montgomery Hut also received some attention while working in the area, including replacing lead head nails in the roof, painting, relocating the toilet, and fixing the louvre window.</p> <p>Lake Stream Hut received some work as part of the deferred maintenance programme. This included refixing piles, replacing mouldy mattress covers, replacing lead head nails in the roof and painting. A track cutting team worked at the same time, removing windfallen trees and scrub baring.</p> <p>A spate of vandalism has plagued the area recently, with 80 panes of glass being smashed at the historic Big River Winding Engine Shed, toilets blocked, and doors smashed at Waiuta; Kirwans Hut was damaged with swastikas carved on internal walls and painted on the roof, and board walk, toilet seat and water tank plumbing smashed.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Our statutory work keeps us busy as we continue to process a considerable number of concessions, mining access arrangements and affected party approvals.</p> <p>Oceana’s Globe Progress Mine is progressing through mine closure and the handover process with the construction of a multi-purpose trail from Reefton and the mine site due to start in Feb. Interpretation signage and final design of a visitor experience at the mine site is also progressing.</p>	
<p>Mawhera</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Over the months and continuing, weed control has been carried out with a focus on yellow flag iris, broom, gorse, and chocolate vine within the Grey Valley. Willow control in the Lake Brunner area is soon to commence.</p> <p>Predator control in Pike Valley continues in efforts to protect whio from stoat impacts. Traps in the area were replaced last year as the previous ones had reached end of life and were not performing to the best standards.</p> <p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>Along with the vandalism in Inangahua Place, Mawhera experienced two trees deliberately felled on to a historic locomotive, signs destroyed and 4WD damage at Woods Creek, a brick wall at the Brunner Minesite Memorial damaged, and gates damaged on the Point Elizabeth Walkway. Repairing the damage caused by these needless acts of destruction is costly and takes time and resources away from delivering other conservation work around the area.</p> <p>On a more positive note, the memorial at the Brunner Minesite got a bit of a refresh with brickwork repointed and caps replaced on the corner columns while repair work was completed following the vandalism. This Tohu Whenua site has been very popular over summer with high numbers of tourists and locals visiting the site.</p>	

	<p>Community</p> <p>Our statutory work keeps us busy as we continue to process a considerable number of concessions, mining access arrangements and affected party approvals.</p> <p>We have been working on items around the Pike29 Memorial Track opening including processing applications for concessionaires who want to use the new Pike29 Memorial Track carpark for shuttle and car relocation services, and alongside the project team to organise the official opening event for the track.</p>	
<p>Hokitika Place</p>	<p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>The heritage and visitor team have been busy delivering the ‘fit for purpose’ maintenance programme with work being completed on backcountry huts in the Taramakau, Hunts and Arahura Valleys.</p> <p>The Building Team completed the upgrade of the Lake Mapourika Jetty, prior to the Christmas break. They are now completing the installation of new visitor facilities at the Pike Valley track before heading to Lake Paringa to construct a cooking shelter at the campsite. They have also been assisting with the district hut maintenance programme.</p> <p>The District’s front country tracks and campsites were very popular over the summer break with several of the campgrounds at capacity.</p> <p>The Hokitika Gorge is very busy. Large coach visits are becoming more frequent, with often several per day.</p> <p>The Hokitika backcountry has seen high numbers over the summer break with huts, such as Cedar Flat Hut having over 70 parties for the year to date.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Hokitika District has completed monthly trapping in the Styx Arahura, Taipo and Deception who security sites. A survey of who numbers and distribution in the Deception, Minga and Taipo valleys was completed in Dec 2023. There were good results with Taipo holding steady with about eight to nine pairs. Deception results confirming at least seven to eight pairs in the valley. This is an increase from two to three pairs five years ago when the trapline was upgraded.</p> <p>Work is progressing on establishing a Rocky-Griffin trapline, filling in a gap in our security site trapline.</p> <p>12 captive reared juvenile who were released into the predator free valleys of South Westland in the Perth and Whataroa.</p> <p>The following weeds projects have been undertaken since the last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of work on the large weed infestations at Otira (Cotoneaster, broom, lupin, and gorse). • Aerial control of gorse and willows in Grove Swamp. • Yellow Flag Iris control in Totara Lagoon. • Gunnera control in the Hokitika riverbed. 	

	<p>Jobs for Nature weed free Te Tai Poutini teams continue to complete great work in the weed control space in the Hokitika District.</p> <p>In December 2023, the West Coast hunting team and two Contractors spent a combined total of 38 days hunting the goat population in the Griffin Range focussing on Rocky and Griffin Catchments. An aerial hunting operation was also carried out over the steeper parts of the area. This area is hunted to prevent goats spreading east into Arthur’s Pass National Park.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Work is well advanced on the District Office’s annual concessions monitoring plan. As well as the usual efforts to get around grazing licences there has been a focus on easements. The first easements to be monitored are the largest, being the power generation easements held by Manawa Energy for the Kaniere and Dillmanstown Power schemes and by West Power for transmission line corridors.</p> <p>One-off concessions for the Ten Events True West adventure race and South Island wakeboard championship event on Lake Kaniere were monitored. Both held very successful events and were fully compliant.</p> <p>Business as usual work continues with alluvial gold mines on public conservation land (PCL). There are currently eight approved mines on PCL in the district at various stages of operation.</p> <p>Freshwater and Ngā Awa</p> <p>Our Arahura River Ngā Awa ranger left her role in December and the position is currently vacant. The field work required to complete eDNA sampling of the Arahura funded by the Ngā Awa budget was completed by our Freshwater Ranger over January/February. This will provide baseline data across the catchment.</p>	
<p>Te Wāhi Pounamu</p>	<p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p><i>Front country work</i></p> <p>The team was busy getting our front country campsites and toilets in good condition in the lead up to Christmas. Our volunteer camp hosts started for the summer at Lake Mapourika, looking after the Otto’s/MacDonalds campsite.</p> <p>Routine track maintenance has been undertaken across the district, scrub cutting vegetation and clearing drains and culverts. Sites worked at include Ōkārito, Peters Pool, Douglas Walk, Roberts Point, Lake Wombat, Lake Matheson, Ship Creek, Moraine Walk, Minnehaha, Roaring Billy, Hapuka, Monro Beach, and Ship Creek.</p> <p>The Hokitika based building team have replaced the old jetty at Lake Mapourika. The jetty is open for use, but there are some finishing touches still to go, including an interpretation panel and four pou that Makaawhio have designed.</p> <p>The carpark at Roaring Billy is currently being upgraded in partnership with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. The carpark had proven to be too small for the number of visitors stopping there, with cars spread out along the highway. This had led to a few minor accidents so to ensure visitor safety the carpark is being enlarged.</p>	

Back country work

The team did a trip into Scone Hut before Christmas. This focussed on maintenance work to nearby structures over the Perth River and Scone Creek, hut maintenance and cutting and marking the tracks to and from Scone Hut.

The route up Mt Adams has had a vegetation cut and markers replaced where necessary.

A trip was also undertaken in the Whataroa Valley. Work was undertaken on the bridge and hand chain at Rocky Creek, the track was cut and marked up to Whymper Hut and maintenance work on the hut was done as well.

Welcome Flat Hut and the Wardens' quarters have been painted, to keep this popular site looking good.

Heritage work

The team have done routine maintenance work on a couple of our actively managed historic assets in the last couple of months. The equipment where work was undertaken were the Douglas Suspension Bridge, Defiance Hut, Blowfly Hut, and the Ōkārito School Hostel.

Defiance Hut is now open to visitors at its new site in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley carpark. Visitors are now able to better get a sense of the hut and hear the stories of people who used the hut when it was in its original location up the Franz Josef Glacier Valley.

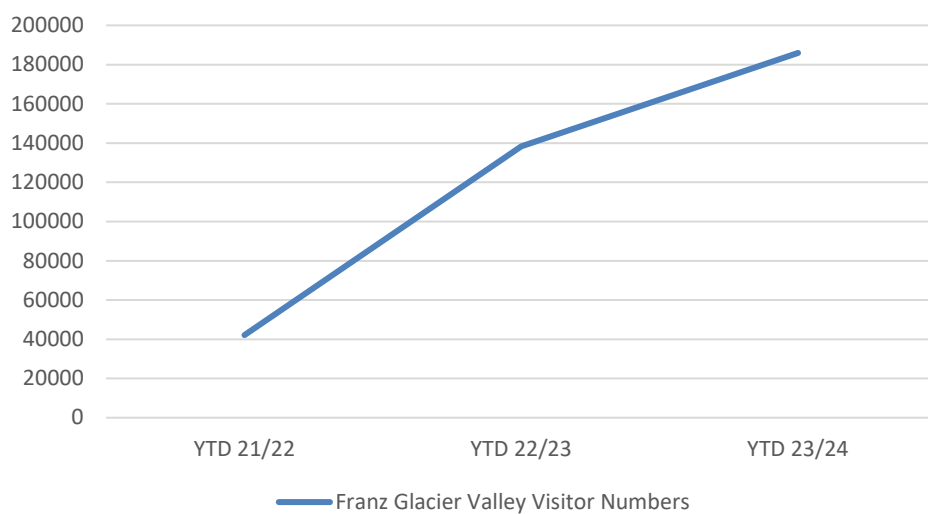
There is also some significant maintenance work being planned for Almer Hut over the autumn. The hut is in an exposed location; the planned work on the roof and cladding should help to keep the hut, which is 70 years old, in good condition for the future. Work is planned to happen in mid-late February and will be led by the Backcountry Trust.

Visitor numbers

Visitor numbers in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley have continued to increase, with the year-to-date figures to end of December showing a clear trend across the last three years.

Site	YTD 21/22	YTD 22/23	YTD 23/24
Franz Josef Glacier Valley	42,112	138,278	185,948
% change		228	34

Franz Glacier Valley Visitor Numbers



Biodiversity Assets

Lizards

Ōkārito forest is home to a very rare skink, the 'Ōkārito skink' which is listed as 'data deficient' and has less than 20 known individuals. Mice are known to negatively impact our native lizards. With the next phase of the Predator Free South Westland project (PFSW) moving into North Ōkārito we have increased the lizard detection network in the area to monitor trends alongside this work.

Rowi

There are currently 14 chicks being monitored in Ōkārito forest using transmitters to understand survivorship alongside the PFSW programme of work. Five eggs have also been ONE'd (taken for captive rearing) so far this season, selected for based on their genetic representation and location (outside predator protected areas). The rowi breeding season is expected to start winding down now, but there are still a handful of nests due to hatch, and in-situ chick monitoring will continue until each kiwi is at least six months old. From February through to May adult kiwi health checks will be undertaken on all monitored pairs. Thirteen sub-adult rowi were successfully translocated from Motuara Island and released to the Omoeroa Ranges above Fox Glacier on 16 November. One remaining rowi remained on the island due to dodging capture on the 'round up' day and has recently been joined by three new juvenile 2023/24 ONE rowi translocated from Willowbank 17 January. In mid-January a monitoring trip for rowi on Blumine Island in the Marlborough Sounds was also undertaken. Breeding was observed on the island with two young rowi chicks caught which were health checked and fitted with transmitters.

Haast tokoeka

Three kiwi that have reached stoat safe weight, were transferred from Rona Island and released back into the Haast Sanctuary on 25 January. There is one more bird due to come off the island and be returned to the sanctuary in the coming weeks. A dog team is required to locate the bird due to a transmitter failure. In the Haast Sanctuary, the breeding season is coming to an end with only three monitored birds still actively nesting. Five chicks are still currently being monitored in situ as part of

the long running study to measure chick survivorship with the predator control measures (periodic 1080 and year-round trapping network). Ten eggs have been ONE/ONC this season. Eggs lifted are from pairs outside the predator control area or have genetics not yet captured in the Kohanga sites. Of the ten eggs, eight have successfully hatched. Of those, four so have been transferred to Orokonui ecosanctuary, where they have put on weight and are due to depart for the creche islands. Another two are due to arrive at the ecosanctuary soon. Especially notable is the hatch of an egg from the Junction Hill population, the first ONE egg to hatch from this location in the five years of monitoring. As breeding season concludes, adult kiwi health checks and transmitter changes will begin in February.

Kea

Late last year two dead kea were collected from Fox and Franz townships. One had been seen days earlier acting sick, drinking water and vomiting. Post-mortem and tissue testing showed both kea suffered from lead poisoning. The kea from Fox sadly had the highest ever recording of lead found in a kea (at 250 mg/kg). A dead kea was also recovered with suspicious wounds and post-mortem confirmed it died from projectile/gunshot injury. This is a serious incident and follow up is being undertaken with DOC's compliance team. DOC would like to hear from anyone who has knowledge of this or similar incidents.

Whio

Twelve three-month-old whio (blue duck) from the Whio ONE programme were translocated from Isaac Conservation & Wildlife Trust on 25 January and released into two groups in the Perth (Abel Lake), and Whataroa (Top Butler) valleys within the footprint of the Predator Free South Westland Project. The ONE programme has been a huge success since the early 1990's, with these birds being a surplus to the Trust's exclusive South Island Whio species breeding programme which has been running since 2017.

Biodiversity Threats

Predator pests

Landsborough Aerial operation January 2024

As reported in the November report, an urgent response was planned from late September in reaction to large unpredicted stoat and rat numbers, planning including personal communication with Roar block holders. The operational delivery was contracted to Vector Control Services (VCS), with prefeed bait applied on 15-16 January. The prefeed operation applied just over 50 tons of non-toxic bait, the toxic bait was applied on 29-30 January with again just over 50 tons applied. Both application periods had excellent weather conditions and we are anticipating an effective control as a result. Follow up monitoring post operation will take place in the coming months to indicate how successful the result has been.

Wallaby monitoring update

To date follow up detection work (camera “traps” and hunters/trained wallaby dogs) have discovered no trace of wallaby in the Knights Point area.

There were two reported wallaby sightings in Westland last year. Both were made by people travelling State Highway 6 south of Knights Point.

South Westland Operations Manager Wayne Costello:

“We brought a wallaby detection dog in with its handler. They searched the area for two days with a DOC ranger and his hunting dog but did not find any signs of wallabies.

“We also had seven cameras out in places where wallabies might like to graze but they did not detect any either.

“The area where the sightings were is full of dense vegetation, particularly kiekie and supplejack, which made the search more challenging.

“It’s not conclusive but for the moment we have done all we can to find them – if they are there.

“The sightings last year were the first serious wallaby sightings we’ve had on the Coast. It’s a concern as wallabies are capable of causing significant environmental damage. In native forests they eat seedlings and graze the understory, changing the structure of the forest, which destroys the homes and food of our native wildlife.”

“Should anyone see a wallaby on the Coast we’d urge them to report it to Biosecurity New Zealand. This can be done online at [Report Wallabies](#)

It’s illegal to have, hold, move, or transport wallabies without a permit. Anyone who breaches this law can face up to five years in prison and/or be fined up to \$100,000.

Pest plants

The Biodiversity Threats team recently filled a vacant ranger position and the team have been focusing on willow and Himalayan honeysuckle around the shorelines of Lakes Paringa and Mapourika and will move onto Lake Ianthe.

Recent follow-up visits to the 5 Mile and 3 Mile coasts indicated effective control of marram grass. Marram grass is a pest plant because of the effect it has on dunes.

Producing large steep-faced dunes which are a different shape from the dunes created by native plants such as pingao, these dunes are more prone to erosion, leading to coastal recession and loss of beach nesting sites for shoreline birds.

Conversely, the pingao were observed to be flourishing, with heavy seedfall gathering on the rolling dunes.

Community

Over the last quarter we have supported community events such as the Franz Josef Christmas Market and plan to attend the South Westland A&P Show, in collaboration with ZIP at the end of February. This will focus on supporting predator free efforts and messages surrounding invasive plants (weed free), native species, and outdoor safety and etiquettes.

School visits have included a variety of activities for students to look at marine environments, lizards, native species, and predators. This has included a visit to Lake Matheson to check a trapline with Franz Josef Glacier School and a visit to Whataroa School from one of our detection dogs, Brew (kiwi conservation dog). Haast School completed a final beach litter audit and successfully gained their Bronze Award as an Enviro School. Franz Josef Glacier School and Fox Glacier School have also assisted with the creation of a new interpretation sign about glowworms for both the Terrace and Minnehaha walks, which will be completed and installed this year.

It has been a busy summer period with visitor numbers increasing at both key visitor sites and in the Visitors Centres. A ranger was based by Defiance Hut in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley in the mornings to assist visitors with track and safety information and to help develop understanding of a Predator Free New Zealand. This was received well and allowed for healthy conversations about native flora and fauna, predator free strategy, and climate change and the glaciers.

The biodiversity team have offered Avian Aversion Training in both the Haast and Franz Josef community. There has also been some ongoing kea work within the Franz Josef community about living with kea. The Franz Josef Community have also been looking at viable options for more kea proof public bins, which will hopefully be trialled soon.

Processing of one-off concessions along with monitoring of grazing and bach licences continues. On the whole compliance has been good. Community trapping groups across the District continue to achieve promising work in the predator control space. We are pleased to announce that in collaboration with Fulton Hogan and DOC, the New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association has recently installed an additional trapline in the Landsborough Valley, further strengthening the remarkable conservation successes we have celebrated in this area. To date the New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association members have caught over 150 stoats and close to 30 rats.

DOC is also working closely with other agencies to address ongoing pressures stemming from severe weather events and the unauthorised placement of beehives along road corridors.

	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Jan 2022	Jan 2023
Franz Josef	4449	5010	5555	7838	6481	7424	7424	9082
Haast	2 815	3 374	4577	5946	4391	5124	5667	6203

Total visitors this financial year so far

Franz: 40,839

Haast: 27,298

	<p>South Westland Jobs for Nature Conservation and Tourism</p> <p>With an increase in tourism and a busy summer with visitors to South Westland, there has been a slight reduction in J4N hours completed by our business partners. However, projects continue to be worked on proficiently, such as digital archiving, acoustic analysis and assisting the biodiversity assets team with species work.</p> <p>J4N staff continue to make significant contributions to conservation in South Westland in all these projects. Some projects including video analysis and transcripts for Northern Albatross have now been completed and have been valuable to inform future species management.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing other project outcomes over the next few months before the project winds-up in June.</p>	
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Recommendation

That the Board notes the information in this report

Mark Davies
Director, Operations
WSI Region



West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Work Plan 2023-2024

The Work Plan has been developed in response to the Minister of Conservation's Letter of Expectation dated May 2023. This plan and progress will be reported on at each Board meeting using the Red Amber Green (RAG) traffic light system and with a description of progress and achievements.

Context

The board's workplan aligns with the priorities and expectations from the Minister of Conservation and the Board's Statutory Functions as set out in Section 6M. These have guided the detail of the work plan, as well as the measures and milestones that were chosen to report on the Board's performance.

Government and Minister of Conservation's (MOC) priorities as set out in the 2023 Letter of Expectation (LOE):

For the 2023-24 year, the Minister's priorities for conservation boards are to:

- *Support the implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao - The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy*
- *Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of section 4 of the Act in all aspects of work*
- *Support the transition to a lower-carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.*

Board specific priorities

For the 2023-24 the Minister's priorities for West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board are to:

- *Support and maintain the co-governance and co-design of the West Coast Te Tai Poutini Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) review project and process with Poutini*
- *Maintain the close trusted relationships with the Poutini Ngai Tahu Papatipu Runganga of Tai Poutini West Coast, being Te Runanga Ngati Waewae and Te Runanga o Makaawhio, and the West Coast community leadership (Mayors and Chairs)*
- *Continue to increase Board engagement and networking with the community, in particular to understand and reflect their interests and work of the board.*
- *Build capability within the board maintaining the focus of its work primarily at a governance, strategic and advisory level.*
- *Build on the positive team culture and approach across the board table.*
- *Monitor the implementation and delivery of the West Coast components of the Himalayan Thar Control Plan and review the annual Thar Control Operational Plan.*
- *Monitor by receiving reports on the milestones within the West Coast National Park Management Plans and the West Coast CMS.*
- *Engage in monitoring the performance and delivery of the Department's National Predator Control programme and the Predator Free South Westland project.*

The Minister has been informed by her officials that your priorities for the 2023-24 year include:

- *Further progressing and cementing the board/iwi partnership and relations across Tai Poutini West Coast and increasing the board's understanding of how they perform their functions under section 4 of the Act.*
- *Progress a full review of the Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy*
- *Progress the review of the Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan.*
- *Working in partnership with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board to progress the full review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan.*

General expectations in the Minister's Letter:

- *Our community – be active and visible in your communities, so that you bring a well-informed community voice to the board table. To continue to encourage, nurture and facilitate the public's interest in conservation and the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment.*
- *Working with the Department of Conservation – to work collaboratively with the Operations Manager to maintain a strong working relationship with the Department. This relationship is important in providing advice to the Department on conservation matters within your area. The expectation is that you report on what is working for the board, and areas that require improvement.*
- *Work with adjoining conservation boards, the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and other conservation boards. Continue to develop effective ways of working together with other conservation boards to establish a consistent and efficient approach and avoid a duplication of efforts. The NZCA is a source of support for boards to draw upon in relation to national and policy context for conservation issues.*
- *No surprises – inform the Minister well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the Board, whether positive or negative, including but not limited to, imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract media comment, or any matters on which the Minister could be asked to express a view.*
- *Understanding conservation board's legal obligations – fully understand your legal obligations under conservation law, including the hierarchy of priorities that should be taken into account when making decisions. Conservation board's legal obligations are covered in section 5 of the Conservation Board manual [Section 5. Conservation Board statutory functions and powers: Conservation Board Manual \(doc.govt.nz\)](#) .*

The work plan should consider statutory obligations, measures and milestones to demonstrate what success will look like for each priority and how the Board will be able to support the Department's priorities. Work with your Operations Director and other key staff to establish these performance indicators and monitor and measure progress.

Measures and review Monitoring method for this work plan

Status Indicator	Indicates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good progress being made and on track for completion and on time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires board attention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No progress yet requires board attention

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
Relationships					
Poutini Ngai Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga	<p>Embed section 4 understanding and Treaty Principles across all board members</p> <p>Develop and maintain a close effective working relationship with Poutini Ngai Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga</p>	<p>Chair Mike Legge</p> <p>Full Board</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree with Poutini Rūnanga how section 4 understanding will be approached with the board and board members 2. Embed CMS co-governance through the Terms of Reference agreement and implement a co-management and co-design model. 3. New Board members induction to be led by Ngai Tahu Board Statutory members. 4. Hold at least one board meeting on each of the Poutini Papatipu Rūnanga marae during the year. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMS Review Project Co Governance Group formally established mid 2022 and have been meeting regularly. 2. TOR agreed to and finalised. Funding arrangement agreed to. 3. Board meeting programme to include meetings at Arahura and Te Tauraka Waka a Maui Marae (Bruce Bay) 	
West Coast Communities	Build on relationships with West Coast communities, three District Councils, Regional Councils and Community Boards Mayors and Chairs forum	Full board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board Chair to attend one Mayors and Chairs forum meeting each year 2. Board Chair and Board members to attend at least one District and Regional Council meeting each year 3. Hold meetings throughout the West Coast to promote 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board Chair attended Mayors and Chairs forum supported by the Regional Director during 2023 2. Round of face to face relationship meetings for 2023. 3. Board Chair supported by Regional Director attended Grey, Buller and Westland District Council meetings during 2023. 	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
			the board's activities and allow public input.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 2023 meeting programme included Westport, Hokitika, Blackball, Fox and Franz Josef 5. Board chair scheduled to meet with Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils and West Coast Regional Council with Regional Director and District Operations Managers during 2023. 	
New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)	Maintain good working relationship and communications with NZCA	Full board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NZCA Liaison member to attend as many Board meetings during the year as possible. 2. Annual Report to be completed and sent to NZCA on time and to standard 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board Chair attended NZCA Chairs annual conference September 2023. NZCA liaison member assigned to the West Coast Board is Metiria Stanton Turei . The Board chair will be making contact with Metiria in September 2023. 2. Board Chair in regular communication with NZCA Chair by phone and email. 	
Adjoining Conservation Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Marlborough • Aoraki Canterbury • Otago 	Maintain good working relationship and communications on cross board matters of interest.	Board Chair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan for joint board meetings in shared places 2. Kahurangi National Park (Karamea) 3. Lewis Pass National Reserve and Arthurs Pass National Park 4. MT Aspiring National Park 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board meeting Karamea October 2022 2. Board Chair has attended meeting with Nelson Marlborough board meetings at Kaikoura in April 2023 and Aoraki Canterbury and Otago in early 2023. 	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
Minister of Conservation (MOC)	Maintain good working relationship and communications in regard to MOC Letter of Expectations (LOE) and matters of interest. Ensure no surprises	Chair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Boards Annual Work Plan to meet the MOC LOE sent May 2023. Board invitation to Minister to visit West Coast 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Board Chair and Deputy Chair met with MOC in Punakaiki October 2022 Chair has formally invited Minister Prime to visit the West Coast (April 2023) 	
Review of Statutory Plans					
Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Review	Progress a full review of the CMS	Chair Mike Legge Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a co-governance, co-design and co-writing model with Poutini Papatipu Rūnanga. Work closely with the DOC planning team to ensure timely progress. Request ongoing input from affected adjacent boards as the review progresses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As above. Co Governance Group established and were meeting regularly until a May pause on this work while Poutini Ngai Tahu Chairs work through a number of matters of mutual interest to them with Ministers and Government. Co Governance Group working through the project plan with the project team and a timeline and phases. All adjoining boards have been contacted both in person and by letter seeking their support for the CMS review. All have responded positively. 	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
Westland Tai Poutini National Park Review	A review of the park plan started in 2016 but was halted in 2019.	Chair Mike Legge Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To be discussed once CMS Review is well underway. This will need Te Runanga o Makaawhio and DOC support to resource concurrently with the CMS review. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understood that this will follow the CMS review and more likely 2025 and beyond? 	
Kahurangi National Park Management Plan	Progress a full review of the plan in partnership with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae	Chair Mike Legge Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with the Nelson Marlborough board regarding a timeline for progressing a review. Continue discussions with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and keep them updated on this matter of mutual interest. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions held with Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board at joint board meeting in Karamea in October 2022. Context and need well understood by both boards. This is a resourcing, timing and sequencing matter for DOC. Ongoing discussions with Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae on this matter. MOC Williams briefed on this during her visit in October 2022 by Francois Tumahai and Mark Davies. The concerns and expectations of Ngati Waewae and the Board are well understood. 	
Te Tai Poutini West Coast Stewardship Land Review process and engagement with Independent Panel	Board work with the Independent Panel through the hearing process.	Chair Mike Legge Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with both the Independent Panel and the Mana Whenua Panel during the hearing process. The board review final West Coast recommendations from the panels to the minister. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Board Chair attended all the hearings on behalf of the board. Agreed between Board Chair, DOC and Independent Panel and Mana Whenua Panel Chairs that the board will get the opportunity to review the recommendations give their advice. As above 	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
			3. Board to perform its statutory responsibilities under Sec 6 1D (i) and (ii)	Poutini Ngai Tahu Chairs have advised DOC of a pause on this work while they work through a number of matters of mutual interest to them with Ministers and Government.	
Te Mana o Te Taiao The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy	Support the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy across Te Tai Poutini West Coast	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board to be briefed by the department on this and the alignment work being done within the West Coast Region 2. Receive regular board briefings on DOC predator control program and predator free South Westland progress. 	1. The West Coast CMS review is the opportunity and the right place for this strategy to be brought to life across the West Coast and to be embedded.	
Thar plan	Monitor the implementation and delivery of the Himalayan Thar control plan	Rob Wilson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive regular board briefings the progress of the Himalayan Thar control program including reviewing the annual report. 2. Rob Wilson to represent the board on the Thar Plan Implementation Liaison Group. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress report and briefing to the board completed in Franz Josef meeting early 2022. 2. 22/23 operations will be reported to the board mid 2023. 3. Operational plan report back scheduled for the board July 2023. 	
Other Board work and reporting					

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
Board culture and capability	Build capability and a positive team culture	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Co-op additional board members as required. Undertake training/coaching workshops to upskill board members. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Currently not required. Under development 	
Climate change	Support the transition to a low carbon conservation delivery model	Di Rossiter Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enact the Department's climate change adaptation and resilience plan where possible. Adopt the climate change plan developed by the board. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> West Coast CMS review is the right opportunity to deliver on this. Completed during 2022. This is now an input into the CMS review 	
Permissions	Respond to requests for board comment and maintain watch on fortnightly permissions reports	Lisa Steenhauer Mike Legge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa to be sent relevant applications and reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	
Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2010 to 2020	Monitoring of Place based implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Board to receive two Place based CMS monitoring reports per year Scott Freeman to schedule with Operations Managers Board to receive of annual briefing on monitoring on the regional program completed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planned for 2023 mid year Scheduled for July 2023 board meeting 	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress September 2023	Status
Westland Tai Poutini National Park Plan 2001 to 2011 Amended 2008 Amended 2014	Monitoring of implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	1. Board to receive an annual monitoring report on the plan annually	1. A monitoring report will be tabled at the September 2023 board meeting.	
Paparoa National Park Management Plan 2017	Monitoring of implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	1. Board to receive a monitoring report on the plan annually	1. An update on the Paparoa Track Great Walk – Visitor Use Review: Monitoring and Evaluation Report was tabled at the August 2023 board meetings and the full 2019 report was presented at September meeting.	

Minutes: Conservation Boards Working Group meeting

Date: 1/12/2023 **Chair:** Henry Weston
Time: 10am – 11am **Minute taker:** -
Venue: Via Teams
Attendees: Henry Weston (DD-G Regional Operations), Sia Aston (DD-G Public Affairs), Jo Macpherson (Operations Director, Eastern South Island), Darryn Ratana (Kaihautu Regional Operations), Anna Cameron (Senior Manager Regulatory Strategy and Design), Nyze Porter (Chair Northland CB) – for part meeting, Honey Winter (Chair Tongariro Taupō CB), Drew Castle (Chair Taranaki Whanganui CB), Shona Sangster (Chair Southland CB), Tak Mutu (NZCA member)
Apologies: Mike Legge (Chair West Coast Tai Poutini CB), Ina Kara-France (NZCA member)

Minutes

- 1 **Introductions**
Completed, noting apologies

- 2 **Discussion on the draft Terms of Reference**
General comfort with the Terms of Reference, but agreement there should be some more specific reference (items a) and b)) to the role of Boards and the overlay/interplay with section 4.

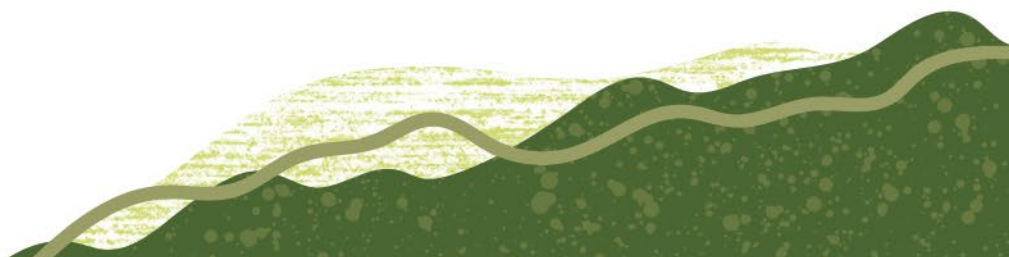
- 3 **General discussion around current context and future focus**

Views were provided on what 'great' would look like, and what is standing in the way and needs tackling as a priority for the Group.

- *Some concern that these (or similar) conversations have previously started and not gone anywhere*
- *Want to see statutory management planning and the role of Boards back at the heart of our conservation management framework (not ignored or to the side) – and has to be core objective/priority setting and business planning and monitoring mechanism.*
- *CMS milestones should be driving the conservation work programme*
- *Partnership with iwi for Boards, in management planning, and in supporting bespoke iwi Treaty settlement planning mechanisms is critical to success*

Other comments

- *Frustration at the delays in the system and overdue reviews*
- *Really pleased to be having the discussion and focus*
- *CMS can be great documents, there is a lot that's good in many of the current documents and this shouldn't be underestimated – but they need modernising*
- *Challenge is getting the right balance between detail and prescription (inflexible?) and overly lofty (not useful?). Are we clear what good/great looks like?*
- *Concerns about cost, access to planning resources, time*
- *Where are some other key areas that Boards can add real value, outside of the management planning process? What else should/could Boards be doing – do integrated regional plans need to be statutory documents, should they be the key vehicle for DoC/Board engagement in objective setting and monitoring progress?*



- *Work is going on with the management planning area of DoC on reimagining planning – need strong integration and connection to this.*

Next Steps

- *Key focus for this Group at this stage is on effective management planning and the intertwined role of Boards.*
- *Next meeting will focus on:*
- *What good planning looks like – integrated, fast, simple, cost-effective. Do we have examples?*
- *Understanding the iwi landscape in management planning – Treaty settlement instruments (joint documents, co-authored chapters, approval mechanisms, Boards etc) – and what the opportunities are.*
- *Ensuring integration with the ‘reimagining planning’ work*
- *Gathering ‘best practice’ on Board value outside the management planning system – what’s working well?*

