

WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI* CONSERVATION BOARD

**Agenda & Meeting Papers
21st November 2024**

**Lazar Park Hall
147 Hall St
Hokitika**

Karakia Timatanga – opening karakia

Tūtawa mai i runga	<i>I summon from above,</i>
Tūtawa mai i raro	<i>I summon from below,</i>
Tūtawa mai i roto	<i>I summon from within and the surrounding</i>
Tūtawa mai i waho	<i>environment.</i>
Kia tau au te mauri tū,	<i>The universal vitality and energy to infuse and</i>
te mauri ora ki te katoa	<i>enrich all present.</i>
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e	<i>Enriched, unified and blessed.</i>

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,	<i>Cease the winds from the West,</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga,	<i>Cease the winds from the South,</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breezes blow over the land,</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai,	<i>Let the breezes blow over the ocean,</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura,	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come</i>
He tio, he huka, he hauhū	<i>With a sharpened air, touch of frost</i>
Tihe mauri ora!	<i>The breath of life!</i>

Karakia Kai

Nau mai e ngā hua	<i>We welcome the gifts of food from the food baskets</i>
O Papatūānuku	<i>of Papatūānuku and Ranginui,</i>
O Ranginui kete kai	<i>Bringing us together in wellness.</i>
Whītiki kia ora	

E rongā, e rongā,	<i>Listen! Listen!</i>
Hōmai ngā tipu	<i>Plants are grown,</i>
Hei whakakī te tinana	<i>to fill out bodies</i>
Hei oranga	<i>with health.</i>
Aue eke, Au eke	<i>Come together,</i>
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!	<i>Gather, Gather.</i>

Karakia Mutanga – closing karakia

E te Papatūānuku	<i>Acknowledging the forces of nature (Mother Earth),</i>
Kua mutu tatou i te mahi tahi o te rā. Kia tau	<i>We have come to the end of our collaborative.</i>
Tou Rangimarie kei mātou.	<i>Work for the day. May peace be with us all.</i>
Amene	<i>Amen</i>

Ka whakairia te tapu	<i>Restrictions are moved aside</i>
Kia wātea ai te ara	<i>So the pathway is clear</i>
Kia tūruki whakataha ai	<i>To return to everyday activities</i>
Kia tūruki whakataha ai	<i>To return to everyday activities</i>
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!	<i>Enriched, unified and blessed.</i>

Meeting No. 189
Lazar Park Hall
147 Hall St, Hokitika

Thursday 21st November 2024 – 9am to 3.15pm

Agenda Item	Time	Agenda - Wātaka	Speaker
1.	9.00am	Welcome	Chair
1.1.		• Karakia/ Waiata	BSO
1.2.		• Site Health & Safety	
1.3.		• Introductions	
2.	9.05am	Confirmations	Chair
2.1.		• Apologies	
2.2.		• Confirmation of Agenda	
2.3.		• Conflict of interest	
2.4.		• Approval of minutes from 24 Sept 2024 meeting	
2.5.		• Matters arising	
2.6.		• Actions arising from previous meeting 24 Sept 2024	
3.	9.25am	Administration	
3.1.		• Correspondence Schedule	Joy Comrie
3.2.		• Finance Report	Chair
3.3.		• Future Meetings	
4.	9.40am	Advocacy	All Board members
4.1.		• Around the traps – members' networking reports	Metiria Turei
4.2.		• NZCA update	
5.	9.55am	Liaison with other groups	Chair
5.1.		• Fish and Game	Chair
5.2.		• Other South Island Conservation Boards	Brian McGurk
5.3.		• Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board update	
6.	10.05am	Planning and permissions	Joy Comrie
6.1.		• Planning report	
6.2.		• RMA reporting update	
6.3.		• Permissions	
7.	10.20am	Statutory Reporting	Joy Comrie
7.1.		• CMS monitoring report	
8.	10.35am	Presentation	Karen Jury
		• High Pathogenic Avian Influenza – regional update	
	10.50am	Morning tea	
9.	11.10am	Chair's Report	Chair
10.	11.20am	Operations Report	Joy Comrie
10.1.	11.30am	• Status Report	Tim Shaw
10.2.		• Hokitika District update	
11.	11.40am	General Business	Chair
11.1.		• Chair's Working Group update (5min)	Suvi Van Smit
11.2.		• Member's term expiry (5min)	
11.3.		• Cave Creek Memorial track (10min)	
11.4.		• Chair's additional expenses (5min)	
11.5.		• Stakeholder list (5min)	Lisa Steenhauer
11.6.		• Social media (10min)	
11.7.		• WTPNP monitoring reports (10min)	
		Barry Wards	

12.	12.30am	Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathurst Resources - Buller Coalfield Plateau Briefing 	Campbell Roberston & Terry Moynihan
	1.15pm	Lunch	
13.	2.00pm	Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Westland Mātaitai (30min) Grazing concessions in South Westland – update (15min) 	Prof Chris Hepburn Rachel Norton
14.	2.45pm	Public Forum	
15.	3.10pm	Press Release	
16.	3.15pm	Meeting Close/Karakia mutunga	



**UNCONFIRMED Minutes of the
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
24 September 2024
Alpine Lodge
75 Main Road, St Arnaud**

PRESENT:

Board Members

Mike Legge

Ashley Cassin* (online)

Barry Wards

J Taylor

Katie Milne

Lisa Steenhauer* (online)

Danual Cattermoul

IN ATTENDANCE:

Department of Conservation (DOC) staff

Joy Comrie, Statutory Manager, Hokitika

Alisa Alspach, Board Support Officer, Hokitika

Suvi Van Smit*, Operations Manager, Buller

Owen Kilgour*, Director Regional Operations, Western South Island

Other

Metiria Turei*, Liaison, New Zealand Conservation Authority

Richard Suggate, Liaison, Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

(*denotes partial attendance)

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

M Legge opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

D Cattermoul gave a karakia.

The Health & Safety briefing was given by A Alspach.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

For the election of Chair, M Legge stood down as Chair and K Milne took over. K Milne nominated M Legge for Chair; this was seconded by D Cattermoul. M Legge elected as Chair unopposed.

For the election of Deputy Chair, M Legge resumed as Chair and nominated K Milne; this was seconded by J Taylor. K Milne was elected as Deputy Chair unopposed.

3. CONFIRMATIONS

3.1. Apologies

D Rossiter and V Baldwin-Smith sent their apologies.

M Legge informed the Board he's asked D Rossiter to formally resign from the Board due to the delay in Board appointments for 2024. This will improve the issue of struggling for a quorum.

3.2. Confirmation of the agenda

B Wards requested that the Federated Farmers article regarding pests was added under General Business. He'd like clarification from DOC on this matter.

(8.40am L Steenhauer leaves)

3.3. Conflict of interest

A Cassin declared a new conflict of interest. Since the 16th September 2024 he is now the General Manager at the Treetop Walk and Zipline, which is a DOC concession holder. A Alspach to update conflicts of interest (COI) register.

M Legge reminded everyone if they have any actual or perceived conflicts of interest relating to Board business, and the agenda today, these need to be recorded on the Board's Declaration of Interest Register. Likewise, if they have any conflicts that are no longer relevant these need to be removed. Members should contact the BSO to ensure their conflicts remain current.

ACTIONS

- *A Alspach to update A Cassin COI.*
- *Board members to ensure Conflicts of Interest are current.*

3.4. Approval of minutes of 24 July 2024

The minutes for the 24 July 2024 meeting were taken as read.

The Board resolved to confirm as a true and accurate record, the Public Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2024.
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B Wards/D Cattermoul/CARRIED

3.5. Matters arising

Discussion around the presentation and discussion with the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust at the last meeting. K Milne to liaise with them to formulate some ideas on collaboration and report back to the Board.

ACTIONS

- *K Milne to contact the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust and report back to the Board.*

3.6. Actions arising from previous meeting 24 July 2024

Work Plan – M Legge updates this prior to the meetings.

Press releases – M Legge asked for feedback on what to include to be given at the end of the meeting.

Reimagining Management Planning project – Philip Duffey, National Management Planning Advisor, will provide an update to the Board in November.

Status report – for discussion later in the meeting.

Stakeholders list – A Alspach hasn't had time to complete this work. She plans that once it's done it will be reviewed annually using the Board to give feedback.

WTNP monitoring report – B Wards to discuss under agenda item 10.6.

South Westland Mātaimai – presentation planned for November meeting.

Grazing licences – J Comrie to speak to W Costello regarding a presentation to the Board.

Teams access – K Milne, M Legge, and D Cattermoul have no access to Teams. A Cassin has intermittent access. The Board is frustrated by the poor performance of Teams. A Alspach to follow-up with DOC IT.

Reply to Ben Brown – M Legge to follow-up with W Costello.

Mine access arrangements – J Comrie to give an update during permissions section.

Distribution of Board's workload – planning a half-day work planning day in November. B Wards requested that the information be sent out beforehand and DOC supports the Board.

Discussion around the Minister of Conservation's letter to the NZCA outlining his priorities. It is understood that there will be no Letter of Expectation. No surprises in the letter.

Statutory requirements – delete this action as superseded by sub-committee (B Wards & D Cattermoul) actions. Paparoa NP monitoring report and CMS management report will be presented at the next meeting.

The Board resolved to accept the action point schedule.

K Milne/D Cattermoul/CARRIED

ACTIONS

- A Alspach to move press release item to the end of the agenda for future meetings.
- J Comrie to organise South Westland grazing licence update for November meeting.
- A Alspach to contact DOC IT regarding ongoing access issue with Teams.
- A Alspach to delete Statutory requirements action point.

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1. Correspondence Schedule

The inwards and outwards correspondence schedules were taken as read.

M Legge said Phil Rossiter was delighted to receive a thank you letter from the Board for his presentation at the July meeting.

The Board resolved to accept the inwards and outwards correspondence schedules:

J Taylor/B Wards/CARRIED

4.2. Finance Report

J Comrie gave a report on the 2024/25 finances; there has only been one meeting. The budget was increased two years ago to cover additional expenses related to the CMS. M Legge discussed with Penny Nelson, DOC Director General, at the Chair's Conference the need for increased budgets for Boards when they review CMSs and also the need for consistency of Board members during this time.

Discussion around the importance of using the budget and time wisely.

The Board resolved to accept the finance report.

A Cassin/K Milne/CARRIED

4.3. Future Meetings

The November meeting will be held in Hokitika. K Milne will be an apology.

For 2025, the Board requested that A Alspach set dates as per their usual schedule (March, May, July, September, November). A Alspach to check dates with CMS Planners and circulate to the Board for comment.

ACTIONS

- A Alspach to set draft 2025 dates and circulate for comment.

O Kilgour summarised CMS engagement and emphasised the importance the Board plays in this part of the CMS review. The Board reminded DOC that they want an opportunity to review the engagement survey. O Kilgour advised the Board that Karen Jury is DOC's lead for CMS engagement.

(9.30am A Cassin leaves)

4.4. Press Release

M Legge informed the Board that Lois Williams is now the Local Democracy reporter covering the Board. Any items for the Press Release need to be given to M Legge prior to the end of the meeting.

5. ADVOCACY

Around the traps – Globe Progress Mine closure/access

J Taylor gave a short presentation on the restoration of the Globe Progress Mine site. He considers it to be a world class restoration project. A 9km mountain biking track has been built, but there is poor access for children and those with limited mobility. He suggests a public workday to get the Inkerman Track open.

(9.40am M Turei leaves)

Around the traps – Biodiversity promotion

J Taylor gave a short presentation on biodiversity promotion in Portugal at a geopark site. He believes more should be done by DOC to promote biodiversity.

Around the traps – Wellington Restoration Day

B Wards informed the Board on the annual Wellington Restoration Day, which has been around for over 20 years. It is a day to celebrate and acknowledge volunteers and is supported jointly by the DOC and the Regional Council (though DOC no longer contribute financially). He suggested a similar event for the West Coast as it's a great way to get the community involved as well as thanking the local volunteers.

ACTIONS

- B Wards to circulate Wellington Restoration Day strategy to the Board.

NZCA liaison update – Metiria Turei

This item followed item 9.

M Turei gave a NZCA update. She covered the following points:

- Board Chair's Hui – interesting discussion with Board Chairs to understand how Boards are feeling in the current environment we are operating in.
- Last NZCA meeting – working on understanding obligations with regards to Section 4. It's important that the integrity of Section 4 is protected. Started the process of understanding the recommendations from the Options Development Group Report.
- Reimagining Management Planning project – understands this work was set aside and something else will replace it, but waiting to hear more details.
- Minister of Conservation's letter to the NZCA – no surprises in this letter. The Government is looking to maximise the value from the conservation estate. The NZCA have been talking to the Minister about how the ecosystems support NZ's overall economic stability and future.
- It's really important to the NZCA to keep an open dialogue with the Minister.
- Next hui in approximately three weeks.

6. LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS

6.1. Fish & Game

M Legge has updated Dean Kelly with the progress on the CMS. Fish & Game are super keen to partake in the early engagement survey.

6.2. Other South Island Conservation Boards

M Legge is keeping other South Island Boards updated; they will all be receiving a letter updating them on the CMS review.

(9.59am A Cassin back)

Richard Suggate, Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board liaison, provided a CACB update. The following points were covered:

- Michael McMillan has been elected as the new Chair, with Courtney Bennett as Deputy Chair.
- The Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park plan is on hold.
- Selwyn huts – DOC is going to issue them with 10-year non-renewable leases.
- Loch Katrine – DOC has been asked to respond on the unlicensed structures.
- Ungulates, deer in particular, are becoming more of an issue and the work of pest groups has increased.
- A dark sky sight has been proposed for Banks Peninsula.

Discussion around how private huts on public conservation land (PCL) will become an issue on the West Coast, particularly once the CMS is under review.

7. PLANNING AND PERMISSIONS

7.1. Planning Report

The planning report was taken as read.

Of note, the Proposed West Coast Regional Coastal Plan 2016 has been withdrawn by the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC). The Board received a copy of the letter in the weekly communications update last week.

7.2. Permissions

The permissions update was taken as read.

Arahura Holdings concession application

J Comrie presented to the Board the concession application for a sole occupancy lease by Arahura Holdings to occupy land at Dolomite Point to allow them to operate and manage Punangairi. This was publicly notified last week. O Kilgour clarified that previously a portion of the site was restricted access as it is a dispersal field for the wastewater system. The services have been put in place by the project and will be operated by Ngāti Waewae.

Of note, the Board has always supported the project.

The Board requested that DOC formally come to them for consultation on the Arahura Holdings concession application. The Board was in support of the application.

(1030 A Cassin leaves)

Mining access arrangements

J Comrie gave a short presentation to the Board regarding mining applications processed within the last year. Very few applications are declined; this is a result of DOC working closely with miners prior to application so they understand what areas are likely to be approved. DOC is working closely with applicants so better applications are submitted.

Every application gets four hours free pre-application consultation, after that, processing fees are 100% cost recoverable.

ACTIONS

- *J Comrie to send Arahura Holdings concession application to the Board for consultation.*
- *Board to provide feedback on Arahura Holdings concession application.*

The Board resolved to accept Planning Report and Permissions update.

D Cattermoul/B Wards/CARRIED

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

This item was covered following the NZCA update.

The Chair's report was taken as read.

B Wards was concerned to read that the Wellington Conservation Board Co-Chairs consider the CMS is unworkable, because a lot of time and effort was put into that CMS. He considered there is a risk we could have the same situation with the new West Coast CMS. He offered to liaise with the Wellington Conservation about this. M Legge will make the initial contact.

M Legge reported that Penny Nelson has asked Board's to work on integrated regional planning. She wants dialog to take place at a regional level to make sure there are no clashes with the statutory documents.

ACTIONS

- *M Legge to contact Wellington Conservation Board Co-chairs to understand their issues with their CMS.*

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

K Milne/D Cattermoul/CARRIED

9. OPERATIONS REPORT

9.1. Status report

This item was addressed prior to item 8.

The status report was taken as read.

O Kilgour updated the Board on the following topics:

- Predator Free South Westland – now in the transition phase to handover management to DOC; this will take approximately two years.
- Lake Kaniere tree – additional independent advice was sort and the decision has been made to remove the tree; there are plans for replanting. The timber has been offered to Ngāti Waewae.
- Integrated regional planning – a reminder that this will be a DOC document and not a statutory document. It will be a place-based approach and have timeframes. Engagement is currently underway with treaty partners. It is expected that a draft will be shared with the Board at the end of October.
- Globe Progress Mine – a working group was consulted on access at the time and the project has delivered based on this consultation.

(11am M Turei returns)

- Federated Farmers pest issue – this is a real issue and challenge for DOC and farmers. There is 57,000km of boundary where DOC is a neighbour; there is the need to prioritise, and the focus is on control in areas of highest value. The current focus is also on areas where others are working on pest control. Budget 2022 provided additional funding for wild animal control with the current focus on the West Coast on goats.
- Brass Monkey Hut – the Backcountry Trust is planning to build a new hut to replace the Brass Monkey Biv.
- Stewardship land – the Minister of Conservation has said that he will be making decisions before the end of 2024.
- West Coast Minerals Forum – this is on the 3rd October in Ross. The message will be business as usual for DOC and the work to improve the permissions system.
- Biodiversity promotion – DOC does have comprehensive interpretation at the majority of the popular West Coast sites and there is a need to prioritise funding.

(11.20am L Steenhauer returns)

ACTIONS

- *O Kilgour to send draft integrated regional plan to the Board at the end of October.*
- *A Alspach to send DOC response to Federated Farmers article to the Board.*

9.2. Buller District update

Suvi Van Smit gave an update on local work. This included:

- Heaphy lowland predator control operation. Rat numbers are currently very high.
- Heaphy Hut sewage system repair work has been completed.
- Track work has been completed on the Heaphy track (coastal section and Gunner bridge abutment).
- Oparara Arch track works have been completed.
- More cobble skink populations have been found and working with Auckland Zoo to bring skinks back for release along the Granity Coastline.
- Community team continues their work in education and community planting projects.
- A geotechnical assessment has been done at Charming Creek which shows 17 active slips and there is a high risk to visitor harm. The bridge is corroding at a fast rate and the recommendation is that it be removed before the end of the year.
- Conservation week talks at Punangairi were well received.
- Planning an event in association with the goat hunting competition run with NZ Deerstalkers Association which will look at butchering, processing and cooking goat meat.
- Punakaiki toxic drop hoping to be made within the next two weeks depending on the weather

The Board resolved to receive and accept the Operations Status Report and Buller District update.

J Taylor/D Cattermoul/CARRIED

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1. Work Plan 2023-24

The Work Plan was taken as read.

The following items were discussed:

- CMS review – partnership agreement is in place.
- Westland Tai Poutini National Park review – need to wait for the CMS.
- Kahurangi National Park Management Plan update – they also need to update their CMS.
- Stewardship land review – Minister has said a decision will be made by the end of the year.
- Te Mana o Te Taiao – comes back to the CMS.
- Board culture and capability – may need to look at co-opting for CMS.
- Discussion around training/coaching of the Board, especially for new members to get them up to speed. Also, upskilling the Board for the CMS work.
- Climate change – Lisa and Katie are the advocates for this, and there needs to be an emphasis on this for the CMS.

(12pm A Cassin returned)

- WTPNP implementation monitoring report – B Wards and D Cattermoul working on this.
- Permissions – Arahura Holdings concession application presented today.
- Paparoa National Park Management Plan – update at the November meeting.
- Poutini Ngāi Tahu relationship – CMS agreements have been signed off.
- West Coast Communities relationships – CMS engagement will be important for this.
- NZCA relationship – liaison now regularly attends our meetings. M Turei is now only a representative to this Board.
- Adjoining Conservation Board relationships – good engagement with other South Island Boards.
- Minister of Conservation relationship – have received the letter he sent to the NZCA.

10.2. Chair's Working Group update

This was discussed at the Chair's Conference; it was decided to continue the group for now, but to work on ways to make it more effective.

10.3. Chair's Conference update

M Legge attended the Chair's Conference in August. There was a large number of NZCA members there on day one. The general theme was CMSs and the number that are out of date, and the lack of support given to Boards. In general, the South Island Boards reported being well supported.

There was a commitment to involve the Board Chair's more in the agenda planning for the next Chair's Conference.

10.4. Stakeholder list

Discussed under actions.

10.5. Social media

L Steenhauer hasn't worked on this yet. B Wards suggested she look at the Auckland Conservation Board Facebook page as theirs is active. K Milne and D Cattermoul expressed an interest in helping. For further discussion at the next meeting.

ACTIONS

- *A Alspach to ask other Board Support Officers if their Boards have social media policies.*

10.6. WTPNP monitoring report

B Wards is in the process of developing some model templates and guidelines for monitoring reporting to link to the CMS and Management Plans. This will be able to be used to forecast future work.

B Wards plans to share these with Wayne Costello and D Cattermoul and provide further feedback to the Board at the November meeting.

ACTIONS

- *B Wards to provide more details at the November meeting.*

Discussion around status report for the next meeting; it was decided that only key achievements would be asked for.

10.7. Additional items

Pest management

Further discussion around the pest issue raised by Federated Farmers. O Kilgour said in 2025 the WCRC's Pest Management Plan is due for review; they are starting to engage and he understands WCRC intends to include animals for the first time.

Discussion around TBfree programme coming to an end. Around 40% of aerial predator control funding on PCL on the West Coast is currently covered by TBfree.

Biosecurity Act

The Biosecurity Act consultation documents are out. Submissions close on the 29th November. The Board to consider making a submission.

Draft Gene Technology Act

B Wards advised that the new Gene Technology Act will be coming out by the end of the year. It will be out for public consultation in the new year.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Brief discussion around HPAI. O Kilgour said MPI is taking the lead on this. On the West Coast, DOC will play a more prominent role due to the large amount of PCL; each district has a response plan ready.

ACTIONS

- *A Alspach to organise HPAI update for the Board at the next meeting.*

11. PUBLIC FORUM

This item was covered prior to item 10.2.

Graham Pomeroy from the Federated Mountain Clubs Executive introduced himself. He would like to have a more open relationship with the Board. He also promoted the “love our huts” campaign and asked members to promote this within their communities.

ACTIONS

- *A Alspach to add Graham Pomeroy to the Board’s stakeholder list.*
- *G Pomeroy to share list of huts with the Board.*

12. MEETING CLOSE

M Legge thanked people for their attendance and D Cattermoul gave the closing karakia. The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

UNCONFIRMED

WEST COAST TAI POUTINI CONSERVATION BOARD

Actions arising from meeting 24 September 2024

TOPIC	ACTION	PERSON TO ACTION	COMMENTS	STATUS
Thank-you letters	Write thank you letters to: Martin Rodd, and Nick Eade & Aneika Young.	M Legge	Sent 21.10.24	Completed
Conflicts of interest (COI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update A Cassin COI for new role. Chase up Board members who haven't confirmed/updated COI within the last year. 	A Alspach		Completed Ongoing
Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust	Liaise with the Trust to formulate some ideas for collaboration and feedback to the Board.	K Milne		Pending
Press release	Relocate to end of agenda for future meetings.	A Alspach		Completed
Teams access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reset multifactor authentication (MFA) for Mike, Katie and Dan. Contact DOC IT about Board's frustrations. 	A Alspach A Alspach	Oct 2024: K Milne, D Cattermoul have access. Emailed R. Kay 24/10	Completed Ongoing
Critical minerals list	Distribute to the Board.	J Taylor/A Alspach		Completed
2025 meetings	Set dates and check with CMS planners and Board	A Alspach	Sept 2024: dates set and shared. To confirm at Nov meeting.	Ongoing
Wellington Restoration Day	Circulate strategy to the Board	B Wards	Sent 24.09.24	Completed
Arahura Holdings concession application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send request to the Board for consultation. Provide feedback to DOC before the deadline. 	J Comrie All Board		Completed Completed
Wellington CMS issues	Contact the Wellington CB Co-Chairs to understand why they consider their CMS is unworkable.	M Legge	Oct 2024: M Legge meeting with Co-Chairs this month.	Ongoing
Integrated Regional Plan	Share draft with the Board (expected at the end of October).	O Kilgour	Oct 2024: not yet ready to share.	Pending
Federated Farmers DOC response	Circulate to the Board.	A Alspach	Sent 27.09.24	Completed
Social media policy	Ask if other Board's have social media policies.	A Alspach		Ongoing

FMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add Graham Pomeroy to Board's stakeholder list. Share Love our Huts campaign with the Board. 	A Alspach G Pomeroy/A Alspach	Sent 27.09.24	Completed Completed
Biosecurity Act submission	Consider if the Board should make a submission.	All Board	Closing date 29.11.24	Pending
HPAI	Regional HPAI update for the Board.	A Alspach	Oct 2024: K Jury to give update at Nov meeting.	Completed
Actions carried over from previous meetings				
Work Plan 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to Chair on structure and content. Schedule Work Planning Day following receipt of LOE equivalent. Keep updated prior to each meeting 	All Board members A Alspach M Legge	July 2024: B Wards to send comments to M Legge Oct 2024: Work planning day 20.11.2024	Pending Ongoing Ongoing
Reimagining Management Planning project	Find out why it's been stopped and inform the Board via email.	J Comrie	P Duffey to update the Board in November. Oct 2024: planned for CMS workshop	Ongoing
Status report	Send additional comments to O Kilgour and J Comrie.	B Wards		Pending
Stakeholders list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update existing list with West Coast based organisations/people from the CMS list and send to Board for feedback. Test with Stakeholders. 	A Alspach A Alspach		Pending Pending
WTPNP monitoring report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DOC to improve future monitoring reports to meet the Board's expectations. Keep W Costello involved. For discussion at Work Planning Day. 	B Wards/D Cattermoul A Alspach	Jul 2024: B Wards working with Hamilton based team. Sept 2024: more details to be presented in November.	Ongoing Ongoing
Social media	Add to agenda for next meeting.	A Alspach	June 2024: Lisa not able to attend July meeting. Sept 2024: Lisa to do some work on setting up prior to Nov meeting.	Ongoing
South Westland mātaimai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add to agenda for November meeting. Consider inviting Prof. Chris Hepburn to present. 	A Alspach	Oct 2024: Planned for Nov meeting.	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share final reports from the Otago University research with the Board. 	R Wilson		Ongoing
Grazing licences	Organising briefing for a future meeting.	J Comrie	<p>Jul & Sept 2024: to ask Wayne if he can present at a future meeting.</p> <p>Oct 2024: Update planned for Nov meeting.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Reply to Ben Brown	W Costello to provide context and M Legge to write letter	W Costello/M Legge	<p>June 2024: Wayne's team working on this.</p> <p>Jul 2024: Info from R Norton (29th) emailed to M Legge</p>	Ongoing
Distribution of the Board's workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2024: Good discussions in workshop. Jul 2024: Keep ongoing – for Work Planning Day 	All Board A Alspach	Sept 2024: for workshop in November.	Ongoing
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 ongoing mine management.	A Alspach	<p>Jul 2024: planned for Nov 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Oct 2024: too early, postpone until 2025</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>1st half</p> <p>2025</p>
Additional Chair's expenses	Add review of additional expenses to Nov 2024 agenda	A Alspach		<p>Pending</p> <p>Nov 2024</p>

**West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
Inwards Correspondence Schedule
14/09/2024 to 07/11/2024**

Date	Sender	Subject	DOCCM	Copies to
14.09.2024	Mike Legge	Court of Appeal decision Griffin Creek	DOC-7756607	All Board
16.09.2025	Joy Comrie	Public Notification of Concession to operate and manage an experience and exhibition space at Punangairi Punakaiki	DOC-7756611	All Board, Diane Molly, Ange Paget, Fiona Pollard
18.09.2026	Barry Wards	Conservation boards role in 21st-century nature conservation	DOC-7756619	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour
20.09.2027	Barry Wards	Proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act	DOC-7756634	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour
20.09.2027	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 14-17 September	DOC-7756604	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
20.09.2027	Mike Legge	DPRP community update Sept2024	DOC-7756615	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
20.09.2027	Joy Comrie	Bathurst Project Annual Report 2023-2024	DOC-7756626	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
20.09.2027	NZCA	Letter from Hon Tama Potaka - NZCA	DOC-7756630	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
20.09.2027	West Coast Regional Council	Withdrawal of proposed West Coast Regional Coastal Plan 2016	DOC-7756637	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
24.09.2024	Barry Wards	Restoration Day Project Strategy	DOC-7762768	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour
26.09.2024	Barry Wards	Heritage and Visitor Strategy	DOC-7762770	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour, Di Clendon
26.09.2024	Wendy Lin	WCTPCB WCTP CMS review - pre-notification survey questions	DOC-7762773	All Board, Joy Comrie, Karen Jury
27.09.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 18-20 September	DOC-7762594	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
27.09.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 21-24 September	DOC-7762600	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
27.09.2024	Southland Conservation Board	SCB confirmed public minutes 18July2024	DOC-7762605	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin

27.09.2024	Joy Comrie	Pest control West Coast	DOC-7762621	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
27.09.2024	John Taylor	Critical minerals list	DOC-7762639	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
27.09.2024	Federated Mountain Clubs	FMC Love our Huts campaign	DOC-7762672	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
27.09.2024	NZCA	Conservation Boards' Newsletter - Issue #34	DOC-7762691	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
27.09.2024	Game Animal Council NZ	GAC PR Appointment of new Game Animal Councillor	DOC-7762706	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
8.10.2024	Charlie Parker	WCTPCB CMS review announcement and engagement	DOC-7779437	All board, Karen Jury
11.10.2024	Laurien Heijs	CMS community engagement	DOC-7779392	All board, Karen Jury, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin, Owen Kilgour, Kirtsy Huxford
14.10.2024	Joy Comrie	WCTPCB Arahura Holdings Punangairi concession application	DOC-7779399	All Board
16.10.2024	Laurien Heijs	WCTP CMS review has been publicly announced!	DOC-7779386	All board, Karen Jury, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin, Owen Kilgour, Kirtsy Huxford
17.10.2024	Owen Kilgour	WCTPCB Arahura Holdings Punangairi concession application - further details	DOC-7779434	All Board
18.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 25 September- 1 October	DOC-7779093	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 2-4 October	DOC-7779098	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 5-8 October	DOC-7779105	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 9-11 October	DOC-7779108	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 12- 15 October	DOC-7779109	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	CACB Annual Report 2023-24	DOC-7779089	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Federation Mining	Federation Mining Business Update - Sept 2024	DOC-7779102	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin

18.10.2024	NZCA	NZCA October meeting	DOC-7779112	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Otago Conservation Board	OCB confirmed public minutes - 11 July 2024	DOC-7779118	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Land Information NZ	Consultation on Long-term Insights Briefing proposed topic and scope	DOC-7779139	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Barry Wards	Poutini The Ngāi Tahu History of the West Coast	DOC-7779146	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Mike Legge	Conservation Board appointments letter to Minister Oct 2024	DOC-7779153	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Federation Mining	Media Release - Federation provide Siren Gold Limited with NBIO	DOC-7779164	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	West Coast Penguin Trust	West Coast Penguin Trust Annual report 2023-24	DOC-7779180	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	CACB Confirmed Minutes 13 August 2024	DOC-7779247	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Rick McGovern-Wilson & Kees Hyink	DOC Community Fund	DOC-7779257	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Barry Wards	DOC nabs elusive pest with help of AI-driven cameras	DOC-7779265	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Wayne Costello	Welcome Flat Hut	DOC-7779301	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Wayne Costello	Welcome Flat Hut	DOC-7779303	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
18.10.2024	Vector Control Services	Punakaiki 2024 Predator Control - Notification of Commencement of Toxic Bait	DOC-7780077	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
21.10.2024	Mike Legge	FTA Bill joint submission by Conservation Boards.msg	DOC-7785860	All Board
25.10.2024	Barry Wards	Lead bullets a health risk to humans and kea A	DOC-7785871	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour
25.10.2024	Barry Wards	Lead bullets a health risk to humans and kea B	DOC-7785874	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour
25.10.2024	Barry Wards	Section 4 -The under-the-radar Treaty clause review that could have far-reaching consequences	DOC-7785877	All Board, Joy Comrie, Owen Kilgour

25.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 16-22October	DOC-7785858	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
25.10.2024	Alisa Alspach	Coast Clippings 23- 24 October	DOC-7785859	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
01.11.2024	Mike Legge	Response from MOC to delay in appointments	DOC-7789839	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
01.11.2024	NZCA	NZCA Chair's Letter August 2024 & Response from the Minister re Treaty Principles Bill	DOC-7789778	All board, Joy Comrie, TRONT*, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin
04.11.2024	Karen Jury	WCTPCB CMS engagement - please let me know when you are engaging	DOC-7791560	All board, Joy Comrie, Laurien Heijs, Charlotte Parker, Wendy Lin

*Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu: Jana Hayes, Sarah Hemmingsen

**West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
Outwards Correspondence Schedule
14/09/2024 to 07/11/2024**

Date	To	Subject	DOCCM	Copies to
21.10.2024	Martin Rodd	Thank you	DOC-7781968	Joy Comrie
21.10.2024	Aneika Young & Nick Eade	Thank you	DOC-7781965	Joy Comrie, Jo Gould, Marina Reihana

Meeting Paper For West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

TITLE OF PAPER: Finance Report for 21 November 2024
AUTHOR: Joy Comrie
SUBJECT: FINANCE REPORT: 1 July 2024 – 31 October 2024
DATE: 6 November 2024

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Conservation allocates funding each year for the servicing of statutory bodies. This allocation is an operating budget to cover the costs of board member fees, meeting and field trip costs and other expenses related to a conservation board exercising its functions and powers.

Budget for 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 \$40,000

Board member Fees	\$ 5388.75
Travel, accommodation, and meals	\$720.54
Advertising, Printing, Stationery	\$456.14
Other (Conference Room Hire, Koha)	\$800.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 7,365.43

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board notes the above information.



SIGNED:
Joy Comrie
Statutory Manager
Western South Island

Future Meetings

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

19-20 March 2025: + half day CMS Places Workshop

20-21 May 2025:

22-23 July 2025:

17-18 September 2025:

25-26 November 2025:



November 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 Graeme Silver (RMA Planning)

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

West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS full review

On 16 October, we publicly announced the CMS review. As of 4.11.2024, we have received 194 responses to the survey which runs until 16 December. From 4-18 November, the project team, DOC district staff and members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation board will run drop in events along the coast. We encourage board members to share these opportunities with their networks. Alongside this, the project team are continuing planning and early drafting work. DOC technical advisors have finalised background information reports and these have been shared with *Poutini Ngāi Tahu* planners. The project team is looking forward to engaging with the Conservation Board on the CMS work programme. (Laurien Heijs and Charlie Parker)

West Coast Regional Coastal Plan – consultation

The West Coast Regional Council has withdrawn their proposed Regional Coastal Plan that was notified in 2016, stating that it was out of date. They have begun consultation on a new Regional Coastal Plan and are preparing an Issues and Options Report.

West Coast te Tai o Poutini Resource Management Plan – hearing

The WCTTPP is a combined district plan for the West Coast. DOC is preparing evidence for the hearing of the ECO topic in November.

NB: Review of RMA reporting

Following a reduction in DOC’s RMA capacity we are reviewing the frequency and methods of reporting.

Improving the management planning system

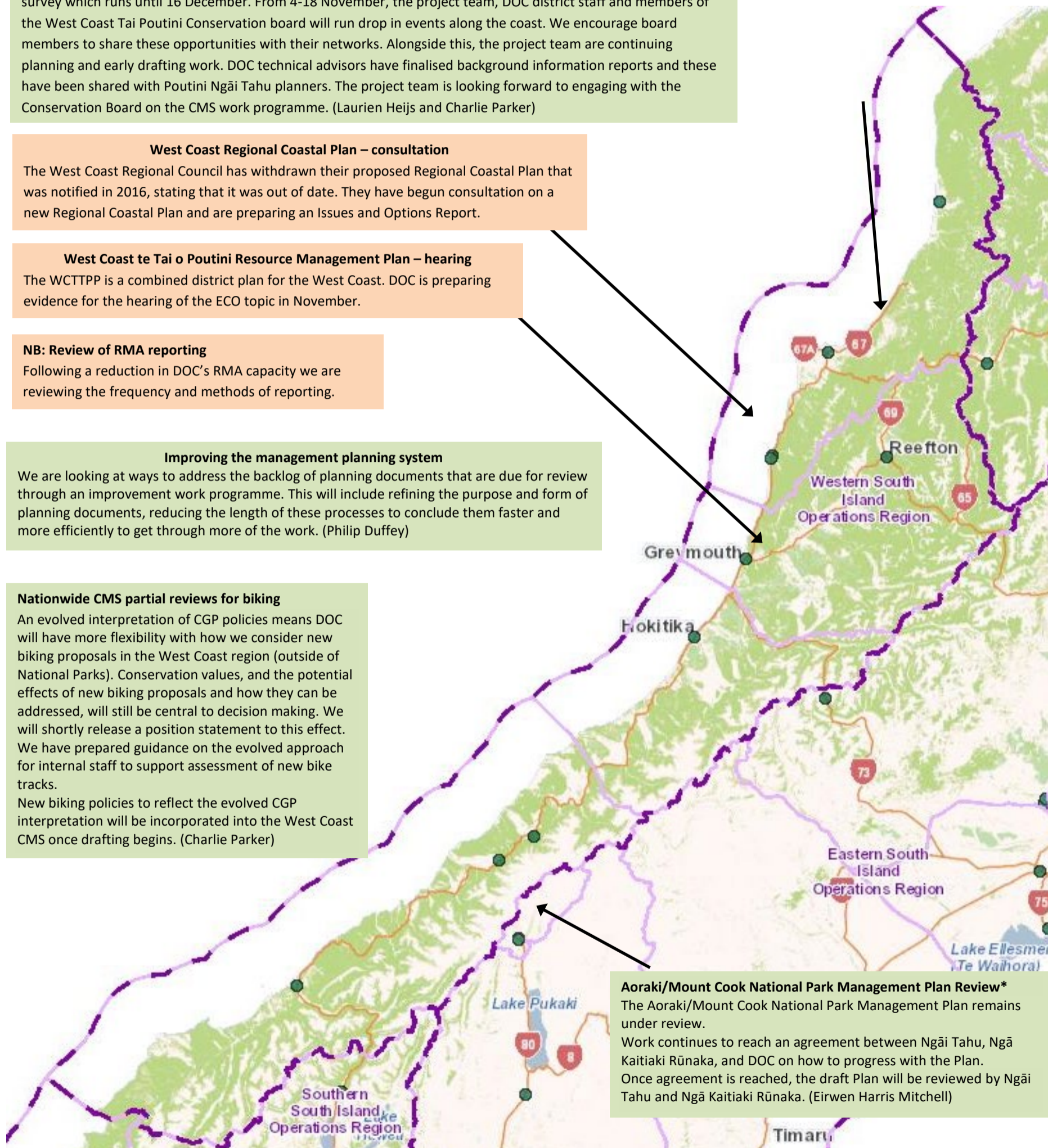
We are looking at ways to address the backlog of planning documents that are due for review through an improvement work programme. This will include refining the purpose and form of planning documents, reducing the length of these processes to conclude them faster and more efficiently to get through more of the work. (Philip Duffey)

Nationwide CMS partial reviews for biking

An evolved interpretation of CGP policies means DOC will have more flexibility with how we consider new biking proposals in the West Coast region (outside of National Parks). Conservation values, and the potential effects of new biking proposals and how they can be addressed, will still be central to decision making. We will shortly release a position statement to this effect. We have prepared guidance on the evolved approach for internal staff to support assessment of new bike tracks. New biking policies to reflect the evolved CGP interpretation will be incorporated into the West Coast CMS once drafting begins. (Charlie Parker)

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review*

The Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan remains under review. Work continues to reach an agreement between *Ngāi Tahu*, *Ngā Kaitiaki Rūnaka*, and DOC on how to progress with the Plan. Once agreement is reached, the draft Plan will be reviewed by *Ngāi Tahu* and *Ngā Kaitiaki Rūnaka*. (Eirwen Harris Mitchell)





Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

RM Engagement Update

Date: 28 October 2024 DOC-7780380
To: Conservation Boards
Paper for: Information
Purpose: To inform the Boards of changes to DOC's RMA engagement and reporting
From: Trevor Ellis, RM Delivery Manager

Subject: **Reporting of DOC's engagement in Resource Management Act processes**

Background and context – Te horopaki

1. As part of its Conservation Act functions, DOC engages in Resource Management Act processes to ensure that due regard is had to priority conservation values that may be affected by resource consent applications and by regional and district plans produced by councils.
2. This occurs at the local level with Community Rangers considering requests for written approvals from consent applicants, and at the national level with the Resource Management Delivery Team (the RM team) writing submissions, attending council hearings and potentially going to the Environment Court.
3. Following the Organisation Change process this year, DOC's RM team has been reduced by 4 positions and now consists of 10 planners and senior planners, 2 national advisors and a team leader reporting to the RM Delivery Manager.
4. DOC has an RMA Strategy¹ to identify priority conservation values and a prioritisation framework to focus its engagement on priority work that will have the greatest impact for DOC's limited resources.
5. In a typical year, DOC's district offices respond to about 400 requests for written approvals or consultation, while the RM team lodges about 40-50 submissions on consent applications and council plans and appeals 4-6 decisions to the Environment Court.
6. At any one time, the RM team is typically involved in about 60 active projects across the country.

New reporting format – less frequent; slightly more detail

7. The work of the RM team is currently reported to Boards jointly with the Management Planning team. While visually appealing, the map format limits the amount of content that can be provided on each project and the frequency of meetings for the 15 boards results in many repetitive 'no change' reports. The workload generated by this format has been onerous while providing little useful information.
8. The RM team proposes to report milestones to Conservation Boards as and when they occur. These milestones will include:
 - a. being consulted by a council on a plan and/or providing comments on a draft version;
 - b. lodging a submission and further submissions on a proposed plan;

¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/managing-conservation/resource-management/>

- c. lodging a submission on a consent application;
 - d. attending a council hearing on a plan or consent application;
 - e. receiving a council's decision and/or appealing a council's decision;
 - f. engaging in Environment Court processes such as mediation and a court hearing; and
 - g. being consulted by a fast-track applicant and providing comments on fast-track applications.
9. The report will consist of a 1 page memo outlining what has been proposed by the council or the applicant, the feedback or submission provided by DOC and the next steps in the process.
10. The RM team will begin trialling the new format before the end of 2024 with the intention of rolling it out for all Boards at the start of 2025.
11. An example of a report in the proposed new format is attached.

Next Steps – ā tērā tukanga

12. The RM Delivery Manager will send an RM Update report to your Board's Business Support Officer whenever an RMA milestone has occurred. The report will be added to your papers for the next Board meeting.

ENDS

REGIONAL CONCESSIONS AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENT ADVICE

DATE RECEIVED	CASE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	BOARD ADVICE	DOC FINAL DECISION
17.06.20	Kokiri Lime Company Ltd	Sugarloaf, Karangarua River.	Access Arrangement for basalt quarry and quarrying activities	Board comment received: Acknowledged regional significance of quarry in terms of purpose and employment; incompatibility with World Heritage Area (WHA) status; inadequate assessment of effects on fauna; requirement for iwi consultation; support of mitigation measures; noted climate change policies.	<p>In process/on hold: This application has been publicly notified under the Crown Minerals Act after a significance assessment determination. A hearing was held on 17 March 2021 in Hokitika and a draft decision report is in process. Further information relating to rehabilitation has been requested from the applicant to help inform the decision. Application has been put on hold until the information requested has been submitted and assessed.</p> <p>19/08/2024: We are currently working through the processing of this application with the advice we have received to date.</p> <p>30/10/2024: As above</p>

West Coast CMS Implementation Monitoring Report - October 2024

Column heading explanation:			
Milestone:	Number from Operative West Coast CMS 2010-2020.		
Description:	The milestone as set out in the CMS.		
Status:			
	Underway in current business plan and on track to achieve by target date.		
	Underway but either very complex and/or the Department has to manage significant issues or risks if the milestone is to be achieved by the target year.		
	Will not meet target date. Reasons may include work being unable to be progressed due to insurmountable issues, work is able to be achieved but not by the target year (eg. deferred due to competing priorities, or is taking longer due to external factors outside the Department's control), or due to changed circumstances the work is no longer seen as desirable or appropriate.		
	Not started and not yet programmed or resourced for work.		
Progress:	Progress report on achievement of the milestone. Identify risk profile of the milestone.		
Reporting required yearly on status red and amber milestones. Reporting required annually only for significant achievements for status green milestones. Report required at end of year on progress for all milestones. For status white milestones, insert anticipated financial year for commencement of the work.			
Achievement of milestone			
Where a milestone has been fully achieved it will be removed from the list at the end of the reporting year.			
Agreement about achieving a milestone later than the target year			
Note should be made of any agreement reached between the Board and the Department about achieving a milestone later than the target year for the milestone. The milestone should then revert to status green or amber, but with a clear signifier that achievement will be later than the target year (eg. Insert the word "Late" into the status column).			
Agreement about about not progressing a milestone			
Where it has been agreed between the Board and the Department that a milestone will no longer be progressed, it will be removed from the list at the end of the reporting year.			
Other achievements			
Optional. Add a new row to briefly describe significant achievements that advanced CMS outcomes and objectives for a functional area or place, which would not otherwise be reported as the work is not reflected in any milestones.			
Milestones	Description	Status	Progress
All Sites			
Part 3: 2024 Update on Milestones that should have been completed end of Year 14 (2024)			
5.3.3	95% of huts meet the Department's hut service standards and 75% of walking and tramping tracks meet the Department's track service standards		The department's inspection and maintenance/repair work are programmed to be completed by 30 June of each year. On 30 June 2024 92 % of huts met the hut standards. 49 % of walking and tramping tracks met the track service standards. While these do not meet the CMS milestones set in 2010 they are above the government's current targets set in the non-financial measures which are reported on to treasury each year. Those targets are currently 90% for huts and 45% for tracks.
5.3.3	Review of Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan is underway		The APNP plan is not programmed or resourced for work as yet.

5.3.3	The archaeological site information within the NZAA database has been updated for all recorded archaeological sites located on public conservation land within the Conservancy and the overall suite of actively managed sites reviewed.		<p>There are 874 recorded archaeological sites within conservation land in the West Coast South Island (WSI) region. Of these 385 (44%) sites have had some form of update to them since December 2010. Most of these updates would have been undertaken by externals rather than Department staff. The sites recorded are mostly goldmining site which equate to 456 (52.1%) sites. There has been an increase of 49 new sites since the numbers were last reviewed. It should be noted this statistic reflects only the sites that have been recorded and only reflects where people have looked and there are likely to be substantially more unrecorded archaeological sites located on PCL. This also is contributing to the higher number of goldmining sites as the majority of archaeological investigations in WSI are done as part of the permissions process for goldmining.</p> <p>It should also be noted that this data would require a substantial audit to properly classify a number of the sites in the table below due to input error and insufficient information contained within the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Database (Archsite). Some of these errors have been corrected as explained by the change in figures between 2022 and 2024. The information below would be best considered as a baseline from which the data would need to be improved from. There are significant threats facing the gold mining sites from external pressures. In addition, many archaeological sites are being increasingly affected by significant weather events related to climate change. This is particularly applicable to Māori coastal occupation sites; however we have been also seeing increasing amounts of damage to a wider range of sites inland due to the West Coasts high rainfall. The statistics are based on data held on the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Database (Archsite).</p>
5.3.3	Monitored bird population levels appear to be either the same as those existing at the time the CMS was approved or higher.		<p>Information from 2023 Native bird population trends are monitored in four locations – Landsborough, Heaphy, Maruia, and in the Hope. The last two sites also measure a nearby non-treatment site (Rappahannock and Stafford valley respectively). Results vary per species and in the different sites. In the Heaphy, bird count data detected increasing relative abundance for several native forest (riflemen, robin, tomtit, tui and weka). In the Hope valley aerial control has benefitted bellbird, brown creeper, fantail, kaka, rifleman and tui when compared to its non-treatment pair. Whereas the Maruia bird monitoring results suggest the aerial 1080 operations have benefitted at least eight bird species (bellbird, grey warbler, kaka, kakariki, robin, tomtit, tui). However, for some of these species, the “benefit” appeared to be a slower decline rather than species recovery (e.g. for kakariki).</p> <p>In the Landsborough, mohua, the primary indicator of recovery, continues to increase (more details in Te Wahi Pounamu). Counts of most other species (7) continued to increase in the Landsborough (bellbird, brown creeper, fantail, tūi, rifleman, grey warbler, yellow-crowned kākārīki). Counts for kākā, tomtit, kererū, kea, NZ falcon and shining cuckoo have remained more-or-less stable or are increasing at a very slow rate. Two species have declined steadily through the monitoring period (long-tailed cuckoo, silvereye)</p>
Karamea Place			Part 4: 2024 update to Milestones that should have been completed by end of Year 10 (2020)

5.3.3	Recreational facilities on the Heaphy Track have been upgraded		The work to repair the facilities on the Heaphy Track post the 21 and 22 storm events is almost completed. Minor work is still required along the coastal section around Wekakura and 20 Minute Beach and Crayfish Point. The track is fully open, new bridges over the Lewis and Heapahy Rivers have been completed, recent work to repair and upgrade the sewage system at the Heaphy Hut was undertaken in June 2024 and the system is now functioning well. A new wood shed planned for the Mackay Hut is due for construction during the Summer / Autumn
5.3.3	The Oparara blue duck who population is maintained at an estimated capacity of 20 to 24 pairs and at least half of these pairs are fledging offspring annually		The Oparara-Ugly who security site currently has approximately 40 known pairs of who. The target of at least half of these pairs fledging offspring annually has not been met at the site. This is possibly due to the biology of the birds and natural events.
Kawatiri Place			
Part 3: 2024 Update on Milestones that should have been completed end of Year 7			
5.3.3	Offspring from translocated populations of <i>Powelliphanta 'augustus'</i> have successfully been recruited into the population		Since June 2016, over 5,000 eggs and juvenile snails have been released into this area. Several tagged juveniles have been seen in later years at adult size indicating that some of the released snails have been recruited into the population.
Paparoa Place			
Part 4: 2024 update Milestones that were to be completed end of Year 7 (2017)			
5.3.2	The Department has facilitated the nomination of the internationally significant Bullock Creek polje (near Punakaiki) for Ramsar designation		Bullock Creek has not to date been nominated as a Ramsar site but significant effort has occurred in the past three years to replant the area under Billion Trees and Jobs for Nature.
5.3.2	More than 250 adult Charleston gentians exist in the wild		In 2023-24 there were 112 plants in the wild. This is a decrease from 402 plants the previous year. The change is due to a change in nurseries meaning fewer plants than expected were supplied for planting out in 2023-24.
5.3.2	The Punakaiki Visitor Centre has been rebuilt and is open for public use		The new visitor centre is open, the official opening of the experience centre is set for 29th November 2024 work
Inangahua Place			
Part 1 - 3: Milestones to be completed end of Year 2 (2012, 2015, 2017)			
	There are no milestones for Inangahua in the CMS		
Mawhera Place			
Part 1 - 4: Milestones to be completed end of Year 2, 5 and 7 (2012, 2015, 2017)			
	There are no milestones for Mawhera in the CMS		
Hokitika Place			
Part 4: 2024 update for Milestones that were to be completed end of Year 7 (2017)			
5.3.3	The Styx blue duck who population (Hokitika security site) is maintained at an estimated capacity of 16 to 18 pairs and at least half of these pairs are fledging offspring annually		The Central Southern Alps (Hokitika) security site has a target of a minimum of 50 protected pairs. It is currently protecting ~ 46 who pairs and with the addition of the Rocky-Griffin circuit, the target of 50 pairs will be achieved in 2024-25.
Te Wahi Pounamu Place			
Part 4: Milestones to be completed end of Year 7 (2017) Updated 2024			
5.3.3	The Franz Josef Waiou Visitor Centre has been upgraded.		Staff moved into a new building at the end of 2015

5.3.3	The in situ wild populations of Haast tokoeka and rowi are maintained and at least 25 new individuals are recruited into each population per year.	<p>Rowi</p> <p>2023/24 insitu kiwi; From a total of 28 birds, 8 rowi continue to be monitored as part of the 2023/24 in-situ program. A juvenile rowi, 'Tommy', weighing 1215 grams, was successfully released into Ōkārito on August 16th, with the remaining 8 monitored birds planned for translocation to the Omoeroa ranges next month.</p> <p>2024/25 insitu Rowi: The breeding season for rowi began in late June, with the first in-situ chick being captured on September 14th from sire, 'Screech'. Since then, on average at least 1-2 chicks have been captured each week across the North and South regions of Ōkārito. As of October 31st, Franz Josef's team have transmitted 22 chicks for the 2024/25 program, with one mortality to date. The goal is to monitor at least 30 birds; 20 based in South Ōkārito, and 10 in North Ōkārito.</p> <p>Haast tokoeka (in situ, wild)</p> <p>Across the 23/24 breeding season a total of 14 chicks were monitored in the Haast Tokoeka sanctuary. Six chicks survived the season with two still being monitored currently as they had not yet reached the 1200-gram survival weight. Of the eight chicks that died two were lost to predation by stoats, one from disease (coccidia), one from falling down a crevasse and the cause of death for the remaining four of the monitored chicks was unknown (one was likely predated by a stoat). Ten viable eggs were lifted from Tokoeka populations outside the predator control area of the Haast Range during the 23/24 breeding season. An additional wild hatch chick was put into the ONE program from the Olivine Range population. A total of eight chicks survived through the creche program with three having died due to a combination of disease and very dry environmental conditions at the Orokonui Eco Sanctuary. Of note was the hatching of the first ever chick from the Junction Hill population, however this chick has suffered ongoing health problems and is still to be released from captive rearing facilities.</p> <p>For the 24/25 Breeding season so far there have been ten successful incubations, two of these were viable eggs lifted as part of the O.N.E program. Three monitored chicks have died from natural causes. The</p>
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5.3.3	The Haast tokoeka and rowi populations located in predator free environments are breeding and have grown to at least 20 pairs respectively		<p>Rowi New Zealand's rarest kiwi, has been found in new territory, marking an important milestone for the South Westland kiwi population. Rangers with the Predator Free South Westland project spotted the kiwi on trail camera footage in the Whataroa River area, about 15 kilometres away from where most of the kiwi live, in the Ōkārito Forest. Advisor Hugh Robertson says the rowi has most likely "moved" to the Whataroa River area because "home" at Ōkārito is getting busy. In the past, management of the kiwi population focused on efforts to grow the population by removing eggs from the forest for safe hatching and rearing.</p> <p>But now that Ōkārito forest is part of the Predator Free South Westland project, kiwi are able to raise their own chicks into adulthood. This has resulted in population growth, and the expansion of kiwi habitat. Fortunately, the area the kiwi has moved into is also part of the Predator Free South Westland project area, which is managed to stop re-incursion of stoats, rats and possums, making it better habitat for kiwi.</p> <p>Haast tokoeka Across the 23/24 breeding season a total of 14 chicks were monitored in the Haast Tokoeka sanctuary. Six chicks survived the season with two still being monitored currently as they had not yet reached the 1200-gram survival weight. Of the eight chicks that died two were lost to predation by stoats, one from disease (coccidia), one from falling down a crevasse and the cause of death for the remaining four of the monitored chicks was unknown (one was likely predated by a stoat).</p> <p>Ten viable eggs were lifted from Tokoeka populations outside the predator control area of the Haast Range during the 23/24 breeding season. An additional wild hatch chick was put into the ONE program from the Olivine Range population. A total of eight chicks survived through the creche program with three having died due to a combination of disease and very dry environmental conditions at the Orokonui Eco Sanctuary near Dunedin. Of note was the hatching of the first ever chick from the Junction Hill population, however this chick has suffered ongoing health problems and is still to be released from captive rearing facilities.</p>
5.3.3	The Haast Visitor Centre has been upgraded		Plans are currently being discussed around the upgade of the Haast Visitor Centre.
5.3.3	Review of Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan is completed		The Review of the park plan is currently on hold pending the review of the CMS
5.3.3	The Landsborough yellowhead mohua population has increased from the 2006 level of 320 to at least 500 mohua recorded during 5 minute bird count monitoring.		The mohua population in the Landsborough Valley is trending upward, although there is some year to year variation. At their lowest, there was only c.14 mohua in the study area. In 2023, 479 birds were counted .Other recent years counted 489 in 2022, 517 in 2021, 485 in 2020 and 444 in 2018. Mohua are now the most frequently counted forest bird during the bird surveys.

5.3.3	The Landsborough, Haast and Cascade River valleys are maintained free of priority invasive weed species		The Landsborough has had extensive blackberry control, including aerial control for the past three financial year's, contoured progress is being made and gains are substational and the current programe will contiue to eventually achieve zero density. Regrowth continues to occur each year but is becoming less each year due to the current control programe. The Haast River valley still has an infestation of blackberry in an area covered by a longterm grazing licence. Aerial and ground control has been undertaken, however limited budgets have reduced the amount of effort this year. Similar to the Landsborough valley, long grass impedes our ability to reduce the blackberry to zero density. Broom has been controlled in this area, after initially increasing in density and sugniffant reduction in coverage has been acheived. The coastal area of Cascade River valley has been aerially controlled for gorse but not surveyed for marram.
5.3.3	The decline of the tangle broom <i>Carmichaelia juncea</i> has been halted and more than 1000 individuals are present in the Waiho River – the species stronghold		<i>Carmichealia juncea</i> occurs on stable but unconsolidated river bed gravels and stony, sandy and grassy edges of lakes, where competition from other plants is limited, or in coastal shrubland and turf land on weathered conglomerate rock. It is found in the dynamic river bed ecosystems of South Westland including in the Waiiau, Copland and Karangarua awa. Populations are known to exhibit extreme fluctuations, in part related to the dynamic nature of the habitat, which makes it a difficult species to manage. The Waiiau awa was identified as a stronghold for tangle broom in the early 2000's however large scale flood events of the past 10 years have changed the local population and the known distribution within the Waiiau riverbed. Currently large numbers (>300) of the plant are found on the southside river stabilisation wall presumably because the seeds were transported with the gravel used to make the stopbank. Plants are also growing on the natural riverbed adjacent to the stopbank. Seeds were collected by the Jobs for Nature team and the next step is to identify appropriate habitat upstream in the river bed and sow the seeds into hare/rabbit/chamois proof exclosures. The number of plants in the lower river bed, downstream of the Waiiau Loop is currently unknown and further survey to establish the size of that part of the population is warrented. Plants were not monitored in 2022/23.

Chairs Report: November 2024

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

The joint Conservation Board meeting with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board in St Arnaud in September highlighted the importance of the meetings and the ability to discuss joint issues. For the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board the meeting also provided the opportunity for keeping the other Board up to date with developments with the CMS review and informal discussions are always valuable.

The CMS planning has continued to be worked on during the recent period and the ability to meet and discuss progressing the CMS via Teams has been a significant step in the CMS review getting to the current stage of development. The current process of the informal public engagement using a questionnaire will be valuable in identifying any issues and suggestions for when we move into the more formal processes of the CMS review. It was unfortunate that the intended public information day at the Westport Whitebait festival had to be cancelled due to exceptionally heavy rain. However, questionnaire returns continue to arrive, but more input is required from the people living on the West Coast.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for the new Conservation Board members to be nominated and the Board to be notified, but they are expected shortly.

As this is the last Chairs report for 2024, I would like to wish everyone a safe Christmas period and to make sure you come back with suggestions for the CMS Places for consideration next year. Thank you to all the DOC Staff for their support during the year, it makes the Board business so much easier with the excellent working relationship we have developed. Finally, a big thank you to Alisa Alspach our Board Support Officer who keeps us all in order, Joy Comrie for her ever watchful eye and to Owen Kilgour for the seamless transition to his new position when Mark Davies retired.



Dr Michael Legge, Chairperson
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

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

Purpose of Status Report

The Status Report provides Board members with key achievements on operational matters in the region since 24 September 2024. The updates are grouped according to CMS places. September’s status report was [DOC-7718026](#).

Operational updates

CMS Place	Update
Karamea	<p>Biodiversity (Bathurst Project)</p> <p>Significant pig rooting damage was observed south of Wekakura Point following the planting of 300 sand tussock plants in October. The existing ground hunting pressure has proven insufficient to stem the influx of pigs from Kahurangi Point into the Heaphy catchment. In response, we are implementing a trial of a pig trap along the Heaphy River, where there has been a marked increase in rooting activity on both sides of the river over the past year. As they search for food, pigs annihilate dune vegetation, consume pingoa roots and the hearts of nikau saplings, and target powelliphanta.</p> <p>In an excellent demonstration of inter-district collaboration, a goat population on Scotts Beach hill, an area previously goat-free, was controlled. A biodiversity ranger from Karamea promptly reported the sightings, allowing the Wild Animal Control Team to take decisive action, significantly reducing goat numbers not only on Scotts Beach hill but also south of the Kohaihai River.</p>
Kawatiri	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Parrots feather, an aquatic weed, was controlled in the Granity wetland with a contractor using a 40L drone. This drone work is a first for the district and will be followed up by spraying from kayaks in February. The West Coast Regional Council’s Regional Pest Management Plan specifies the spraying over water for this aquatic weed is a biosecurity obligation under Rule 6.3.5 “for Parrots Feather: Land Occupiers within the West Coast will destroy any Parrots Feather present on their property, not less than once annually, to minimise the risk of spread, and protect production and environmental values”.</p>
Paparoa Place	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>The Punakaiki aerial predator control operation concluded on October 19-20, covering an area of 42,000 hectares between Charleston and Barrytown. This initiative primarily aims to safeguard great spotted kiwi chicks by controlling stoat populations. This is the third landscape-scale predator control operation at this site since 2017.</p> <p>Goat control has been carried out by contract and DOC hunters around the Westland Petrel colony and front faces between Punakaiki and Tiropahi. 100 days of hunting over these areas has resulted in a cull of 305 goats. This is a catch per unit effort of 3.05 goats per hunter day. Last year, hunters were getting over 5 goats per hunter day in the same area. This indicates that we are making an impact on the population. The goal is to get goats down to less than 1 per hunter day, especially around the petrel colony, where goat trampling can damage or destroy the burrows.</p>

	<p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>The escarpment section of the Paparoa Track Great Walk was closed in early October due to a large land slip. Following a geotechnical assessment on the stability of the slip emergency works have been undertaken to clear the slip debris and reopen the track. This work allows visitors to continue using this world class mountain biking and tramping asset and connect with the outstanding natural and cultural values that Paparoa Place has to offer.</p>
<p>Inangahua</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>The work on Alborn skink protection is gaining traction with a successful inclusion in the Nature Investment Prospectus Pilot for a predator proof fence. While there is still a lot of work to be carried out, including consultation with the local Reefton community, this is a positive step toward ensuring the persistence of a species on the brink of extinction. Funding is also being sought through the departments Capex bid process and we have been approved to start processes to get the project into a Detailed Business Case. We are still waiting on results for nuclear DNA to determine the species of other skinks found in recent monitoring.</p> <p>Progress has been made with the Te Maruia proposed aerial 1080 application to protect at risk native species in the valley and we are close to being fully prepared for a November application with permissions and approvals from authorities under way.</p> <p>110 days of goat hunting has been carried out in the Glenroy Valley and Station Creek/Lake Daniels area to protect biodiversity values and prevent goats moving further into Nelson Lakes National Park. 114 goats were culled in this effort, a result of just over 1 goat per hunter day. We are getting close to the target of less than 1 goat per hunter day in this area.</p> <p>We also trialled thermal assisted aerial control along the tops between Station Creek and the Glenroy Valley. When the conditions were right e.g. cold and clear, this method was very effective in the open beech forests of the area, with 56 goats being shot in forest and scrub over one 2 hr early morning effort. These goats would have been missed by traditional aerial hunting as they were hiding under cover.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Oceana Gold (NZ) Limited and the Department have been working together to manage final closure of their Globe gold mine near Reefton. Project team members from multiple functions within the Department are working on the intricacies of this complex project.</p> <p>During this reporting period, key visitor infrastructure including Globe Hill track, a multipurpose trail between the site and Reefton, and Tāmatahia te Whenua, a visitor experience at the main administrative and processing site of the mine, have progressed to near completion.</p> <p>Next key stages of the project include understanding all assets proposed to be left on site, their ongoing maintenance requirements and funding of the site into the future.</p> <p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>Work has been undertaken on the Murray Creek Track scrub baring and clearing vegetation. This is part of a wider program getting our front country sites clean, tidy and ready for the upcoming busy summer period.</p>
<p>Mawhera</p>	<p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>Work is underway finalising this year’s ‘Fit For Purpose’ work program for the upcoming summer season. This piece of work focuses on outstanding maintenance tasks on our network</p>

	<p>of visitor assets, and is an opportunity to maintain access and improve the condition of facilities used by people accessing and enjoying the conservation estate.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Community staff have been working with a couple of mining companies to resolve rehabilitation of mine sites that have been left unrehabilitated (and unmined) for many years. This includes development of Rehabilitation Management Plans alongside the miners so practical rehabilitation with good conservation outcomes can be agreed between parties.</p> <p>Staff will continue to liaise with the miners and monitor outcomes to make sure the objectives of the plans are being met.</p>
<p>Hokitika Place</p>	<p>Heritage and Visitor</p> <p>The landmark Matai tree in the centre of Lake Kaniere Picnic area was assessed as hazardous earlier in the year by qualified rangers due to decay of the trunk. Following additional similar advice from an independent arborist it was removed in early September. It was sad to see such a well-loved tree removed however there was no other practicable way to protect the visiting public. The tree was removed without any issues. Several sections of the trunk were removed from site and delivered to Ngāti Waewae for cultural use. Most of the cleanup was completed on the same day, with the mulch and firewood left for community collection and use. A working bee is planned with district staff and Lake Kaniere residents to landscape the disturbed area round the tree stump.</p> <p>The Mahinapua Jetty continues to have remedial works completed after being closed for safety reasons. The popular and well used jetty will be re-opened in time for summer.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>The relentless spring rain has delayed the districts weed and Central Southern Alps whio trapping work. There has been a large focus in removing the RPMP weed Pampus (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> or the slightly smaller pampas, <i>Cortaderia jubata</i>) from the upper Kokatahi riverbed, a battle we are slowly winning.</p> <p>The Hokitika based regional hunting team has achieved full “Wild Animal Dog” certification for 8 hunting dogs and interim certification for 2 pups in training. We were lucky to have 2 super experienced dog trainers visit Hokitika recently to put the dogs through their paces. This was part of the new DOC certification process for hunting dogs and handlers undertaking wild animal control on PCL. The certification ensures that the dogs are under control, effective in detecting the target species, and avoid non-target species. Dogs are an essential tool in goat hunting operations on the West Coast. We currently have 12 hunting dogs based in Hokitika as part of the regional hunting team.</p>



Community

Bush to Belly

An event was held at Punakaiki on Saturday 19th October to highlight the Goat Hunting Competition. The focus of the event was processing goat meat from carcass to meals. Over fifty people attended and the event was well received despite a 1080 drop happening on the same day! Media coverage included Breakfast TV, Coast FM radio and local papers.

Staff from Hokitika were joined by Buller and NZDA members in the event.

DASH to BELLY



**BUTCHER
DEMO**

11am - 12pm

SATURDAY

19 October 2024 **10am - 1pm**

CALLING ALL GOAT HUNTERS!

Come on down to **DOC Punakaiki workshop**

- Learn about protecting our environment from Wild Goats and pests with DOC
- Talk Hunter & Gun safety with **NZDAs Shane Hall**
- Watch a demo on how to break down Your goat from local goat hunters
- **TASTE** Marinated BBQ goat strips, goat curry and tender roast goat

**SPOT
PRIZES**

Register your Tails and be in to WIN

Over \$70,000 worth of prizes

Official NZDA judge for goat heads





Hokitika community team have led the engagement activity for the CMS review including promoting three upcoming public drop in events to ensure community voices are included in the rewrite of the CMS. Concession monitoring is currently on hold due to the weight of processing work.

**Te Wāhi
Pounamu**

Heritage and Visitor

Front Country Work

The final interpretation panel from the South Westland IVL project has been installed on the Lake Gault track, alongside a seat where people can admire the view down to the river flats. The panel and seat are roughly halfway up the hill, so a good spot for people to catch their breath. The panel tells the story of Rowi and is an addition to four other panels that are at the lake which tell the stories of the lake and surrounding landscape.

Back Country Work

The Mt Fox Route has had its pre summer scrub cut and chainsaw, to make sure it is up to standard for the summer.

Historic Work

The Ōkārīto Tohu Whenua site had its opening ceremony on 31 October. The site tells three stories. First is the story of Māori occupation and seasonal harvesting which began over 600 years ago. Ngāi Tahu currently hold mana whenua over Ōkārīto Lagoon which is a place of estuarine waters that are a larder for numerous fish, shorebirds and migratory waders. The diverse wildlife made the lagoon a popular nohoanga (camping site) for gathering mahinga kai (food gathering) and the custom of kaihaukai (exchange of food/resources).

The second story is that of the gold rush. In the spring of 1865 miners flocked to Ōkārīto in search of gold after the precious metal had been discovered in the area's black sand beaches. By Christmas of 1865, Ōkārīto was a township of 800 people and just three months later, the population was 1,500. The town supported one of the busiest ports on the West Coast and it even contemplated building a university. Another 2,500 people sought their fortunes just south, at Three Mile and Five Mile beaches, both of which had their own stores and hotels. Within eighteen months, miners had exhausted the black sands and Ōkārīto was virtually deserted.

The third story is that of the campaign to stop the logging of South Ōkārito and Waikūkūpa. During the 1970s, 'Save Ōkārito' became the catch cry for one of the most intense environmental campaigns witnessed in Aotearoa New Zealand. Conservationists throughout the country rallied to stop plans to log the giant rimu forests of South Ōkārito and Waikūkūpa, home to the world's rarest species of kiwi, the rowi. In time, the forests were saved and added to Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

Visitor Numbers

Visitor numbers in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley have continued to increase, with these figures showing a clear trend across the last three years. Visitor numbers are still well below where they peaked in the 17/18 year but have increased significantly in the last two years from the low of 21/22.

Site	17/18	21/22	22/23	23/24
Franz Josef Glacier Valley	73,001	14,755	30,483	39,024
% Change	Pre covid numbers		+107	+28

**The numbers are from July 1 to September 30*

Biodiversity Assets

Haast Tokoeka

Breeding season for Haast tokoeka has begun with the first in-situ chick captured in late September. As of 5 November, eight in-situ chicks have been captured or monitored in-situ via transmitters and/or trail cameras. There are currently another twelve active nests, which if they are successful, chicks will be monitored in-situ. The aim is to monitor at least 15 chicks per season to ensure the predator control is enough to allow the population to grow. There are 13 pairs that are being monitored for Operation Nest Egg (ONE). These birds are outside the Haast Tokoeka Sanctuary or have genetics we are aiming to represent at kōhanga sites. From these 13 pairs, three viable eggs have been lifted so far: one from the upper Waiatoto, one from the upper Arawhata/Olivine Range and one from Junction Hill. All three eggs went to Willowbank. Two have already hatched and will be ready to transfer to Orokonui Ecosanctuary in the coming weeks.

There are four chicks that hatched last season on Centre Island, Lake Te Anau. These chicks will be ready for transfer back to Haast Sanctuary in January.

Landsborough bird counts will be happening in November for the first time post mast event and subsequent 1080 operation last summer.

Rowi

Breeding season for rowi began in late June, with the first in-situ chick being captured on 14 September from sire, 'Screech'. Since then, on average at least 1-2 chicks have been captured each week across the North and South regions of Ōkārito, with another 22 monitored pairs due to hatch their chicks by Christmas. As of 24 October, Franz Josef's team have transmitted 12 chicks for the 2024/25 program, with a goal to monitor at least 30 birds; 20 based in South Ōkārito, and 10 in North Ōkārito.

Motuara island has been home to 11 juvenile rowi from last season. They were taken from genetically important rowi pairs as a part of a limited Operation Nest Egg programme in 2023. They will be translocated from Motuara island to the Omoeroa ranges the week of 11 November.

Predator Free South Westland Mouse and Skink Monitoring

Complementary skink and mouse monitoring is being undertaken in Ōkārito forest to help us better understand the impact of a 'predator free' (possum, rat, stoat) environment on skink and mouse populations in skink habitat (described in previous Conservation Board Report). The target skink species is the recently discovered (2022) pakihi skink (also known as the Ōkārito skink), known from only a handful of locations inside in the PFSW area and, although not yet formally given a New Zealand threat ranking, is being treated as Nationally Critical. The first round of skink monitoring was completed in the Ōkārito pakihi on 15/10/24, with four skinks detected across 100 detection devices (retreats). This is a lower number than hoped, possibly because the relatively mild and clear weather prior to and during the monitoring round rendered the retreats less desirable to skinks. Another possibility is that the skink population in the pakihi is just very low density. From other skink monitoring studies, it is expected that skink detections in the retreats will increase over time as more skinks become habitual users of the retreats. The next skink monitoring in the pakihi is due in April 2025. Spring mouse monitoring is planned to run in early November 2024.

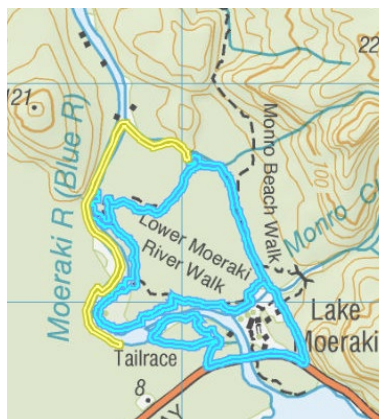
Biodiversity Threats

Weeds

Gunnera tinctoria commonly known as giant rhubarb, is a species that has significant environmental impacts due to its invasive nature. It forms dense colonies that can overshadow and suppress native vegetation, leading to a reduction in biodiversity.

The plant's large leaves prevent sunlight from reaching other plants, and its rapid growth through rhizomes makes it difficult to manage. *Gunnera tinctoria* is also prolific in seed production, with a single plant capable of producing approximately 250,000 seeds annually, which are dispersed by water and birds. This dispersal mechanism, combined with vegetative spread through rhizome fragments, allows it to quickly colonize new areas.

Gunnera control taken place intensively in the Moeraki area.



This has been ongoing for several years, this season we increased the area surveyed and found a greater infestation of *Gunnera* than expected. Continued control will ensure the infestation is decreased and eventually eliminated.

Willow survey conducted on the Hari Hari coastal walkway revealed a manageable population that will be eliminated. Willow control was also carried out in the Docherty creek area and the Tatare.



Tradescantia control continued in the Whakapohai area., The tradescantia infestation had once blanketed the understorey here, but the ongoing treatment has produced significant results and is on track to eliminating tradescantia from the area.

Whitebait Compliance

The South Westland district has been actively involved in whitebait compliance patrols throughout the district.

Ensuring Safety and Compliance

In accordance with the Department of Conservation (DOC) procedures, compliance officers have been accompanied by additional staff members during patrols to ensure safety, especially in the face of any aggressive behaviour. Approximately 104 person-hours have been dedicated to whitebait compliance patrols this season.

Education and Advocacy

Most interactions with fishers have centred on education and advocacy to sustain the whitebait population. Fishers have expressed concerns about the protection of spawning grounds, and compliance officers have focused on addressing these concerns through informative discussions.

Recorded Infringements

To date, there have been three official instances of recorded infringements. These include:

- Screens set on the incorrect side of the net.
- A setup from a stand that exceeded the six-meter restriction.
- Fishing from an unlicensed structure.

Compliance officers have engaged in several discussions with fishers to ensure they adhere to regulations, such as keeping screens to the bank or water's edge as tides move in and out.

Patrol Coverage

Patrols have been conducted on the Mahitahi, Manakaiaua, Smoothwater, and Moeraki rivers by staff based in the Fox Glacier office. The Waiatoto and Okuru rivers have been patrolled by compliance staff from the Haast office, and the Wanganui River has seen combined efforts from both the Fox and Franz bases. Interactions between DOC staff and fishers have been positive and well-received.

Collaboration with WCRC

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) has been active in the area, meeting with staff from both Fox and Haast to discuss issues related to stands and structures under council concession. WCRC spent two days in October in the Haast area to communicate with local fishers about stand concessions.

Tahr

Tahr Programme update for West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board – October 2024

The 2023/24 Tahr Control Operational Plan (TCOP) concluded at the end of June 2024. Under the TCOP, the equivalent of 335 hours of official aerial tahr control were delivered¹¹. This represents the largest control effort since the current reporting framework was adopted in

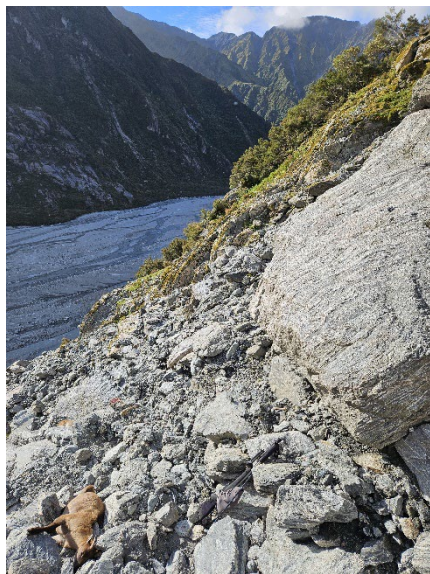
2020/21. Control was delivered through a variety of methods, including DOC staff and contracted aerial control and DOC staff and contracted ground-based control. The undertaking of Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH) offset control was also directed (led) by the Department and was additional to the 335 hours.

Overall, official control and AATH offsets resulted in just over 7,000 tahr being controlled: the largest total since 2020/21. Maps outlining the locations of DOC's official control operations in 2023/24 are available on DOC's "[Himalayan tahr sightings and control maps](#)"^[2] page. A detailed annual report will be provided to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required under the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan 1993.

DOC's official control was concentrated on reducing tahr numbers and extent outside the tahr feral range, and in Westland Tai Poutini and Aoraki/Mt Cook national parks. The number of tahr controlled per hour decreased in a number of locations outside the feral range, and also in Westland Tai Poutini National Park. These data, combined with data from tahr population surveys^[3] and staff and external observations, suggest that tahr numbers are reducing overall and particularly in areas where control has been most intensive.

DOC ground-based control was again run in the Adams Wilderness area; 502 female/juvenile tahr were controlled in the Adams River catchment, building on the 486 in 2022/23. Ground-based control continues to prove an efficient method for controlling tahr in West Coast valleys where tahr have more shelter from aerial control operations than on the East Coast.

Recreational hunters again made a substantial contribution to tahr management. The bulk of recreational harvest is not captured but is considered to be substantial. In two areas data is available regarding recreational management contributions: in South Westland 330 primarily mature nanny tahr were removed under a Community Agreement from the Makaawhio and Mahitahi valleys, bringing the total to 924 over 3 years. Hunters in the 2024 tahr ballot removed 850 tahr from the Hooker/Landsborough and Adams Wilderness Areas. The ballot format was altered in 2024 with view to improving hunting opportunities before winter weather; the ballot was shorter but had 3 additional landing sites added. The revised format, along with settled Autumn/early Winter weather resulted in increased participation compared to previous years.



Work is currently underway to deliver the Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2024/25; the focus to date has been DOC's aerial control programme within the tahr feral range. The remaining hours of that work (primarily in Westland Tai Poutini National Park) are on schedule to be completed by mid-November.

^[1] note, this includes control delivered by other methods but standardised to aerial control effort consistent reporting

^[2] [http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/what-to-hunt/tahr/tahr-control-](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/what-to-hunt/tahr/tahr-control-operations/tahr-sightings-maps/)

[operations/tahr-sightings-maps/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/what-to-hunt/tahr/tahr-control-operations/tahr-sightings-maps/)

^[3] <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/hunting/tahr/himalayan-tahr-population-monitoring-2024-factsheet.pdf>

Community & Visitor Centres

The Roar Ballot draw was completed, and all opportunities successfully taken up. The Himalayan Tahr Ballot will be drawn on 7 November, with successful parties being notified by 17 November 2024.

Summer Visitor Centre Rangers were successfully recruited for the Visitor Centres, one each for Haast Visitor Centre and one for Westland Tai Poutini Visitor Centre. Inductions are underway.

In the Community space, successful conversations were held with Concessionaires regarding public access in the Mahitahi valley and plans are underway to improve signage and public information. Concession monitoring is underway for 2024/25.

Drop-in sessions for the CMS review are underway in South Westland. Community team members have been liaising with locals and activity providers.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the information in this report.

Owen Kilgour
Director, Operations
WSI Region

Cave Creek Memorial Track (part of the Inland Pack Track)

Recommendation or Action Required	It is recommended that the Board: (a) Receives and provides feedback before a decision is made on the contents of this paper.
Purpose	This paper: 1. Reports to the Conservation Board and requests their feedback on a proposal to change the name of a section of the Inland Pack Track to the Cave Creek Memorial Track (part of the Inland Pack Track) on signs and the DOC website.
Prepared by	Suvi van Smit, Operations Manager, Buller

Context

Thirteen students from Tai Poutini Polytechnic and a DOC staff member died when a platform they were standing on collapsed into a chasm at Cave Creek in Paparoa National Park on 28 April 1995. Four other students who were on the viewing platform survived the 30-metre fall but were badly injured.

In 2019 the Cave Creek families requested that a track be dedicated in memory to those who died at Cave Creek (the idea was prompted by the formation of the Pike29 track) and was approved by the Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage, and the Director-General, Lou Sanson.

The Cave Creek families explored options and requested that a 3.8km section of the Inland Pack Track that runs from the Pororari River swing bridge through to the Cave Creek memorial stone (the memorial track would then continue down to the chasm) be dedicated to the memory of the Cave Creek victims and the name be changed to the "Cave Creek Memorial Track (part of the Inland Pack Track)".

Although the idea was approved it was not completed. A short memorial track from Bullock Creek to the chasm was formally opened on the 25th anniversary instead with the understanding it would be extended to the Pororari River when the Cyclone Fehi damaged sections of the Inland Pack Track were repaired. It remains department's intention to repair these sections.

The Inland Pack Track is a 25km historic tramping track which was built in 1867 to facilitate access to the Brighton and Charleston gold rushes. The Inland Pack Track is the official name for the whole track under the New Zealand Gazette and would remain so.

This proposal is to rename the 3.8km section of the track on Departmental signage/ website and have this in place for the 30th anniversary of the Cave Creek tragedy as the families have requested.

It is important to the families that this section of track is formally recognised as the Cave Creek Memorial Track in memory of those who died, in the same way as the Pike 29 is for the miners who died at Pike River. Both tragedies are of significance in the history of the park.



Figure 1. The Inland Pack Track showing the proposed section to be renamed the Cave Creek Memorial Track (part of the Inland Pack Track) on Departmental signage and the website.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board:

- (a) **Receives** this paper and provides feedback prior to a decision being made to the proposal to change the name of a section of the “Inland Pack Track” to the “Cave Creek Memorial Track (part of the Inland Pack Track)”.