



Lake Tekapo Regional Park Management Plan



Lake Tekapo Regional Park

Contents

Background..... 3

Introduction..... 3

Description..... 4

History 4

Geomorphology 7

Biodiversity 7

Recreation..... 8

Issues 8

Papatipu Rūnanga 8

Concept Development Plan (vision, map and sketches) 9

Area 1 – Upper Eastern Forest 12

Area 2 – Lower Lakeside..... 13

Policies 14

Forest Management Plan..... 15

Glossary 16

References 17

Background

The objective of Environment Canterbury's regional parks is "The provision of an accessible outdoor experience that links a wide range of leisure opportunities with the natural environment".

Environment Canterbury manages large areas of land that are not suitable for commercial occupation. This land is usually managed in conjunction with a Catchment works rating district or has special values for the protection of soil or water conservation. The land offers a diverse natural environment with many biodiversity and habitat values of varying importance.

The regional parks allow the public to interact in a way that poses minimal threat to the natural environment and this offers unique experiences. Interpretative material and education further protects these areas.

In the case of the Lake Tekapo Regional Park (LTRP) there is also a critical need to manage public use in order to minimise the risk of fire, as the forest is the primary protection against soil erosion.

Introduction

The Lake Tekapo Regional Park is vested to Environment Canterbury (ECan) as a soil conservation reserve under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

As the township of Lake Tekapo has grown as both a community and visitor destination, use of the reserve and forest for a range of recreation and leisure activities has increased.

In 2005, ECan was approached by a group of Lake Tekapo residents wishing to see a greater emphasis on the recreation opportunities and the development of the reserve as a park to recognise its value to the community.

The Council approved the establishment of the LTRP in February 2008 and adopted a discussion plan developed by the LTRP Advisory Group as the basis for the completion of a Regional Park Concept Development Plan.

In August 2008 the Lake Tekapo Recreation Park Incorporated Society was established to

- assist ECan to foster local community support for the establishment of the LTRP,
- provide advice to ECan on the management and ongoing maintenance of the park,
- provide a community organisation that will work with Environment Canterbury and Groups in establishing and maintaining the LTRP,
- raise funds specifically for the establishment of recreational facilities and conservation initiatives for the Park, to promote enhanced recreational opportunities for the wider community,
- provide advice to ECan to ensure that recreational opportunities are consistent with the protection of the natural setting and
- promote the park as a working example of sustainable soil conservation and recreational management in the Mackenzie Basin

The development of the LTRP will reduce the conflict between visitors, ECan's primary soil conservation responsibilities; and increase the recreation and environmental values of the area, thereby enhancing the visitor's experience.

This plan illustrates how the LTRP will be developed and managed to achieve this.



Description

LTRP is located on Lilybank Road on the eastern shore of Lake Tekapo within the Mackenzie District. The total area of the park is 165ha and runs on both sides of the road for approximately 2km. The park is zoned rural in the Mackenzie District Plan.

It is bordered by Mt Hay and Sawdon Stations to the north and east, SH 8 to the south and by Land Information NZ (LINZ) land leased to Meridian Electricity on the lake side of the reserve.

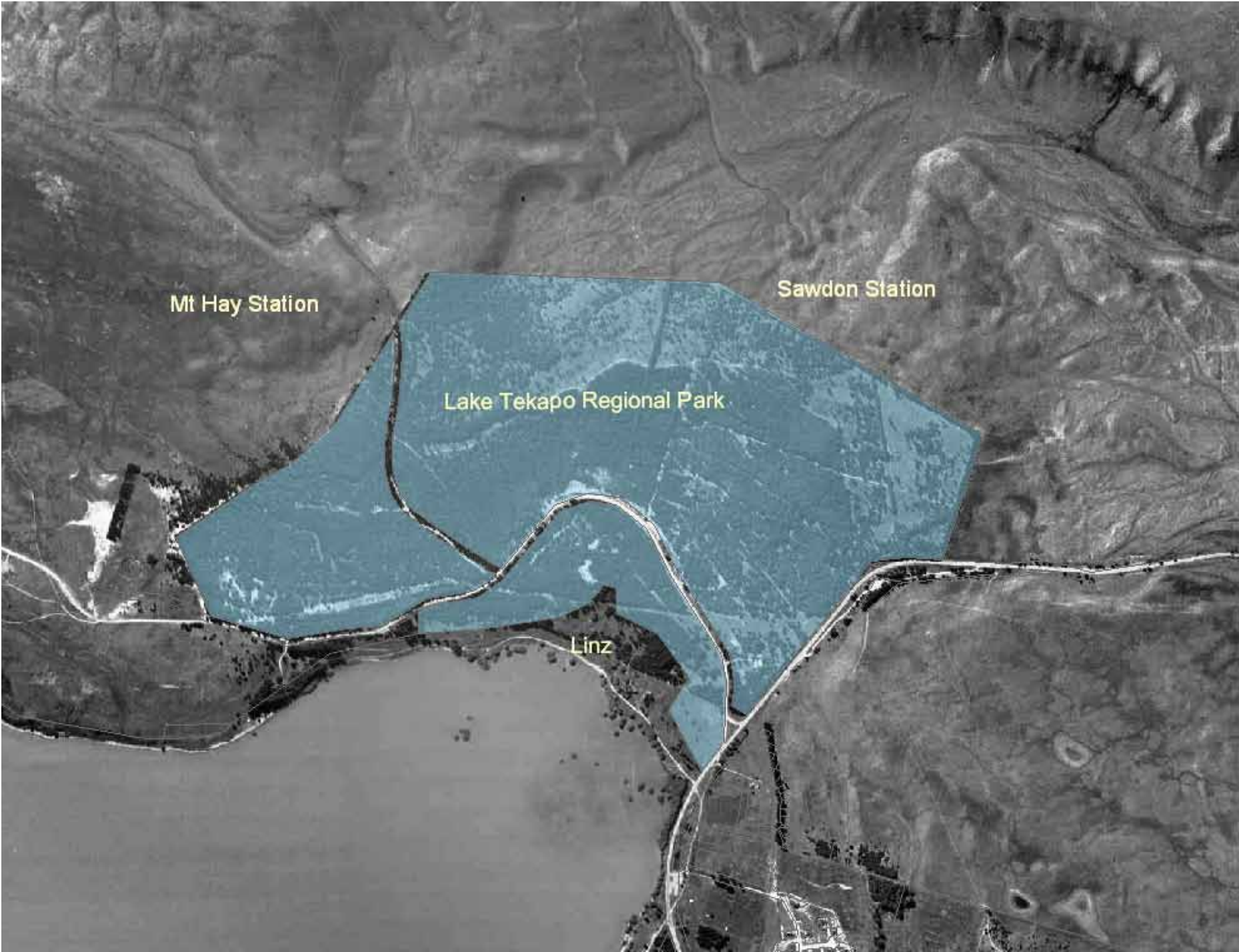
The park is predominantly a coniferous forest planted with Lodgepole, Corsican and Ponderosa pine; and European larch being the main species. There are lesser numbers of amenity trees including silver birch, oak and Australian gum species. The reserve has an open grassland area on the lake side of Lilybank Road which is leased for grazing.

There is a house and out buildings located at the southeast end of the park. The house was previously the home of the soil conservator employed by the Waitaki Catchment Commission. It is currently leased.

There are five public vehicle access points located off Lilybank Road, three to the upper section and two to the lower section. Of the three on the upper section, one leads to the park house, one is used as a shortcut for people accessing the Sawdon Station shooting range and the third is a legal road leading into Mt Hay Station.

There is presently one access point off State Highway 8 into the area along the eastern shore of the lake. At the northern end of the park there is a vehicle access point into the adjoining ‘Pines’ area at the north end of the lower section. This area is part of the Mt Hay Station but has been used by tourists as an unauthorised overnight camping area as it has a Mackenzie District Council serviced toilet located there.

The Crown has with consent from Meridian allowed ECan to manage in conjunction with the regional park, a section of the lakebed and margin which forms part of the electricity generation operating easement, subject to its primary purpose for the generation of electricity, with terms and conditions set out in a management agreement.



The park contains the following land parcels or part there of.

Valuation Number	Lot Number	Size
25300-14700	Section 1 SO 11904	113.588ha
25300-14700	Section 2 SO 11904	32.025ha
25300-14700	Section 1 SO 17373	18.870ha
LINZ operating easement	Section 1 SO 331257	Approx 11.00ha

History

Lake Tekapo basin was formed by glaciers flowing from one of the three main valleys (Godley) leading from the highest section of the Southern Alps out to the sloping plains of the Mackenzie country. The several advances of these glaciers built large terminal moraines. Following the most recent advance, peaking about 17,000 years ago, the glaciers retreated back up the valleys leaving a lake behind the terminal dam.

Maori called the lake Takapo which means to leave by night. Mandy Waaka Home, Te Runanga o Arowhenua, tells “our people were up there for mahikakai, something upset them so they left in the middle of the night, and that is not the norm, we did not travel at night.”

Takapo is one of the lakes referred to in the tradition of ‘Ngä Puna Wai Karikari o Rakaihautu’ which tells how the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu (South Island) were dug by the rangatira Rakaihautu. Rakaihautu was the captain of the canoe, Uruao, which brought the tribe, Waitaha, to New Zealand. Rakaihautu beached his canoe at Whakatū (Nelson). From Whakatū, Rakaihautu divided the new arrivals in two, with his son taking one party to explore the coastline southwards and Rakaihautu taking another southward by an inland route. On his inland journey southward, Rakaihautu used his famous kō to dig the principal lakes of Te Wai Pounamu, including Takapo.

Takapo was often occupied by Ngāi Tahu and, like most lakes there are traditions of a taniwha connected with it. Tradition has it that the tohunga Te Maiharoa is the only person to have swum the lake and escaped the taniwha.

Takapo served as a mahinga kai for South Canterbury Ngāi Tahu. Waterfowl and eel were the main foods taken from this lake. The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the lake, the relationship of people with the lake and their dependence on it and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources.

There are a number of urupā associated with the lake. Urupā are the resting places of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna. These are places holding the memories, traditions, victories and defeats of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna, and are frequently protected by secret locations.

It was not until the mid 1850’s that the first Europeans ventured into the Mackenzie basin. The first in 1855, being James Mackenzie the alleged but pardoned sheep stealer, who the region is named after. Within the next few years after the discovery of adjacent Burkes Pass vast areas of the inland plain were applied for and the original runs around Lake Tekapo taken up.

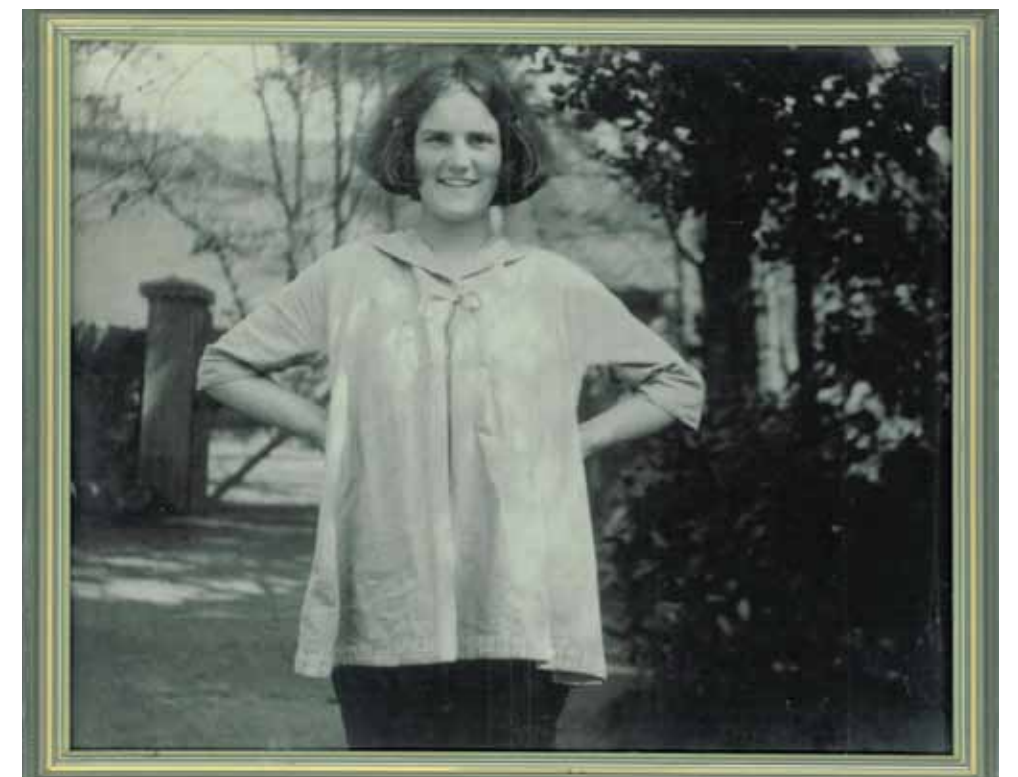
In April 1857, run 172 totalling 15,000 acres of the original Tekapo station was taken up by John Hay and run 173 totalling 10,000 acres by his uncle Ebenezer Hay. “They built a small cob homestead under the shelter of a clump of matagouri bushes on the little peninsular jutting into lake Tekapo. Māori had already discovered this position as suitable for settlement. There were several raupo huts built nearby”.

Within a year runs 229, on the east of the lake and its outlet and 244 on the west of the lake were also acquired by the Hays.

John Hay sold Tekapo Station in 1867 to the MacPhersons, brothers in law of Alfred Cox who ran Balmoral Station and went down-country to farm. After the



Tekapo Station homestead painted by Minnie Wills in the 1930’s.
Courtesy M Morgan (great grandson of Minnie and nephew of Lucy Wills)



Lucy Wills, Courtesy M Morgan

snow storm of 1870 which had devastating results on stock numbers, Cox took over the station until 1876.

Times were particularly hard for the next family to run the station. Andrew Cowan who ran the station between 1876 and 1900 battled through a series of very bad snow years and an influenza epidemic in 1888 which brought about the death of his eldest son ‘Stony’.

According to Frederick Chapman’s report to the Otago Institute, 10th June 1884 it would appear that erosion of the land, now forming the LTRP, started early after European settlement. Early in March, 1884 on an excursion to Mount Cook, he stopped at Lake Tekapo. Frederick observed “As the lake is approached from Burke’s Pass a large uninviting patch of sandy country may be noticed surrounding the woolshed of Mr Cowans station. A hundred acres or so of country here have a very unpleasing appearance. Something has set the sand moving in a south-easterly direction and cannot stop it. A large part of the ground has been stripped of the loose friable soil down to a hard bed, which dries and crumbles in the sun and is set moving by the wind”.

Chapman’s report (1884) also noted the presence of Moa bones in the area of today’s park. “Upon the hard bare part I observed what must be a rare sight. Here and there lay scattered the last remains of giant Moas. I am unable to say to what species they belonged as the bones are generally too brittle to bring away, but all or nearly all appeared to be of one species. I found no less than nine specimens, not lying close together but quite isolated.”

In 1900 the Tekapo Station was bought by Emil Schlaepfer, who also owned Tasman Downs.

In 1911 the station was cut into two with the homestead and 10,600 acres auctioned to Emil Schlaepfer and the remaining 17,000 acres being balloted to Francis Lake McGregor. From there, Tekapo Station was sold to Vyvian Lloyd Le Cren in 1913 and then to Lucy Wills in 1929. Lucy Wills lived there between 1929 and 1946 and surrendered the whole of Tekapo Station including Mount Edwards in 1948. It was then apportioned between Mt Hay and Sawdon Stations.

The completion of the Lake Tekapo dam in 1951 submerged the homestead site; however the house was relocated to Rollesby.

The issue of erosion continued to be a concern as the highway was closed from time to time by drifting sands. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch, reported as late as 1949 his observations of patches of drifting sand and wind eroded terraces behind the old Tekapo Station homestead. Subsequent inspection of the area revealed that wind erosion was occurring in a crown land section vested to the Ministry of Works as part of the Tekapo Township Extra Urban Planning which was being leased for grazing.

The acquisition of this land by the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council was first recommended in 1949, with negotiations with run holders and government departments completed in 1956. The area was fenced and the first tree planting commenced in 1957. Included in the area were two portions of the Mt Hay (105 acres) and Sawdon (162 acres) runs.

Vesting of the land as a Soil Conservation Reserve occurred in 1963, with management being delegated to the Waitaki Catchment Commission.

Extensive tree planting was carried out by the Lake Tekapo Young Farmers, Waitaki Catchment Commission, Ministry of Works & Development and the New Zealand Forest Service; and continued until 1976 with a total of approximately 385,000 trees. The main species include *Pinus contorta* (Lodgepole), *Pinus nigra* (Corsican), *Pinus ponderosa* (Ponderosa) and *Larix decidua* (European Larch). There are range of secondary pines species and amenity trees including *Betula sp*, *Cedrus sp*, *Quercis sp*, *Eucalyptus sp*, *Alnus sp*, *Aesculus sp* and *Sequoia sempervirens*.

The soil conservator’s house was relocated to the reserve in 1967, having been built in Ashburton. On the journey, the supports holding the house on the truck and trailer unit broke on the approach to the Opuha Bridge and resulted in the right side of the house coming to rest on the roadway.

The vesting was transferred to the Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) in November 1989. Since that time the lodgepole pine has been eliminated from the boundaries to control wilding spread and a reserve management plan was completed in 1993.



Tekapo Station homestead, Courtesy M Morgan

Geomorphology

Beneath the reserve, to a depth of probably several hundred metres, is un-cemented glacial till (moraine) and outwash. This material is a largely unsorted pile of greywacke detritus ranging in size from large boulders to fine silt and clay. It was excavated and deposited by glaciers at the end of the Godley Catchment.

In places the till has been sorted by running glacial melt waters, resulting in patches of well sorted, clearly bedded sand and silt, some of the material is so fine grained as to be impervious thereby restricting drainage.

“The soils existing within the reserve are predominantly easy rolling to rolling soils belonging to the Tekapo series with smaller areas of rolling Mary soils at the eastern side of the Park. Both soil series are classified as Orthic Browns soil in the NZ Soil Classification. The Tekapo soil series are well drained shallow to deep soils formed from loess or loess over till and occupy moraines in the moist sub humid region. The Mary soil series are excessively to somewhat excessively drained, stony and bouldery soils derived mainly from till (Webb, 1992).”



Shepherds hut, northern end of the park

Biodiversity

The LTRP is a highly modified semi-wilderness area, a coniferous forest established to protect the land from further erosion. However, a closer look reveals that the park has retained a number of important landscape features and indigenous biodiversity.

At the northern end of the upper section, an ephemeral stream runs down a gully from Mt Hay Station into the park. At the foot of the gully where the two properties meet is a small stand of matagouri *Discaria toumatou*. On the park side of the fence the stream has been dammed which has created a bog that supports a number of indigenous species including *Sphagnum* moss and Purei, *Carex secta*. There is another small stand of matagouri on the park side of the bog with individual plants encroaching into a grassed clearing and following the old dry bed of the stream. Italian poplar *Populus nigra italica* have also established in this area of the park.

The central part of the forest consists of dense contorta pine, which along with Corsican pine provides a source for wilding spread. The forest may support native bird species including grey warbler and tomtit as these two species have been observed in conifer plantations on the nearby Balmoral Station.

Along the upper open areas, patches of hard tussock offer some cover however it is generally infested with *Hieracium pilosella* and *H. praealtum*. Rust for the biological control of the *Hieracium* spp has established along the shaded parts of the eastern margin.

In the lower section, adventive grass species provide ground cover, while the introduced marram grass has been planted and spread along the sandy foreshore.

The Park is a highly rabbit-prone site. While the denser parts of the forest are partly unsuitable habitat for rabbits, the open areas and margins are highly suitable rabbit areas and rabbit control will be an ongoing problem.

T D Burnett in the Timaru Herald in 1925 writes of the “primeval forest that clothed South Canterbury from the foot of the Alps well nigh to the coast”. He then goes on “we have complete evidence of such forests existing. The Cave Albury agricultural district with the remains of huge totara logs lying among the groves of tall cabbage trees” and “Two Thumb range were likewise littered and in gorges I have found logs at four thousand feet altitude where the country ever since it has been known by man has been capable only of supporting a miserable form of spear grass”.

The protection provided by the current coniferous forest offers a unique opportunity to restore some of the indigenous biodiversity. Initial results of Ensis trials on Balmoral Station looking at the establishment of natives from seed and or forest litter have been promising. With a clear plan and strong support from the community it may be possible to establish pockets of self sustaining species, representative of the Canterbury inland basins, over one to two generations.



View from Mt Hay Station to where the ephemeral stream enters the park



Soil Conservators house circa 1970

Recreation

LTRP and the adjoining lakeside are used for a slowly increasing range of recreation and leisure activities. The majority of these recreation interests are casual, although the forest has been intermittently used by organised groups for orienteering and outdoor education activities.

In summer the park is used for walking, dog exercise and mountain biking. A looped walking track links the park with the township from along the lakes southern shore and from a crossing on State Highway 8 at Cowans Hill. The park is also proposed to link to Te Araroa, the long pathway, when it is developed in the Tekapo area. Rabbit shooting and trail bike use have also been regular activities.

There is occasional horse use within the park. The residents of the park house graze horses up behind the house and the lower section is currently leased to the Lake Tekapo Pony Club.

The area along the lake edge is used extensively for picnicking and water activities. During the winter the park is used for cross country skiing.

The forest is highly valued by the community as it provides shelter from wind and sun while they experience the outdoors. For many people LTRP is simply a place to experience a semi wilderness setting with the lakeside scenery providing an appealing backdrop for leisure activities.

Issues

During the investigation into the establishment of a regional park, the community identified a number of issues affecting the park, its visitors and its surrounds. These included wilding pine spread, overnight camping, parking, trail bikes, vehicle access, weeds and access by horses and dogs. Undoubtedly though, the greatest issue and threat to the park and forest is fire. A fire prevention plan is included in this document.

Future weed and pest control will be carried out in a coordinated manner with adjoining land owners. Dog access will be controlled to ensure that park visitors and adjoining properties are not impacted upon. Horses and trail bikes will no longer be permitted in the park and grazing will cease due to the impact upon the environment and ECan’s soil conservation management responsibilities.

Overnight camping will be prohibited to reduce the risk of fire and to comply with Mackenzie District Council regulations. Shooting will also be prohibited due to the potential conflict with other park users. It is reasonable to expect numbers of visitors will grow as the park is developed.

Vehicle access has been reduced along the upper section of Lilybank Road due to the installation of sections of bollard and cable fencing between the park house to near the northern cattle stop. The will be continued along the lake side of Lilybank Road to stop vehicle access from other than designated entrance points.

Papatipu Rùnanga

The Lake Tekapo Regional Park is in the takiwà of Te Rùnanga o Arowhenua.



Concept Plan for the development of Lake Tekapo Regional Park

10 Year Vision

The Lake Tekapo Regional Park will continue to increase in popularity as a visitor destination as Tekapo and its surrounding communities host greater numbers of people who are drawn to this part of the region for recreation and leisure.

The park will also form an integral link to the walkway/cycleway trails which are being developed around the lake and across Department of Conservation lands.

The focus for ECan and the LTRP Incorporated Society during the first 10 years will be on the development of recreation, leisure and education infrastructure, the re-vegetation of more exposed areas and the creation of light wells to allow the establishment of indigenous plantings in key areas throughout the forest to replace the Pinus contorta.

25 Year Vision

In twenty five years time the park will be established as a recreation and education destination. Regular events will be hosted in and from the park and; the foreshore open grassland area will be capable of hosting leisure events including concerts.

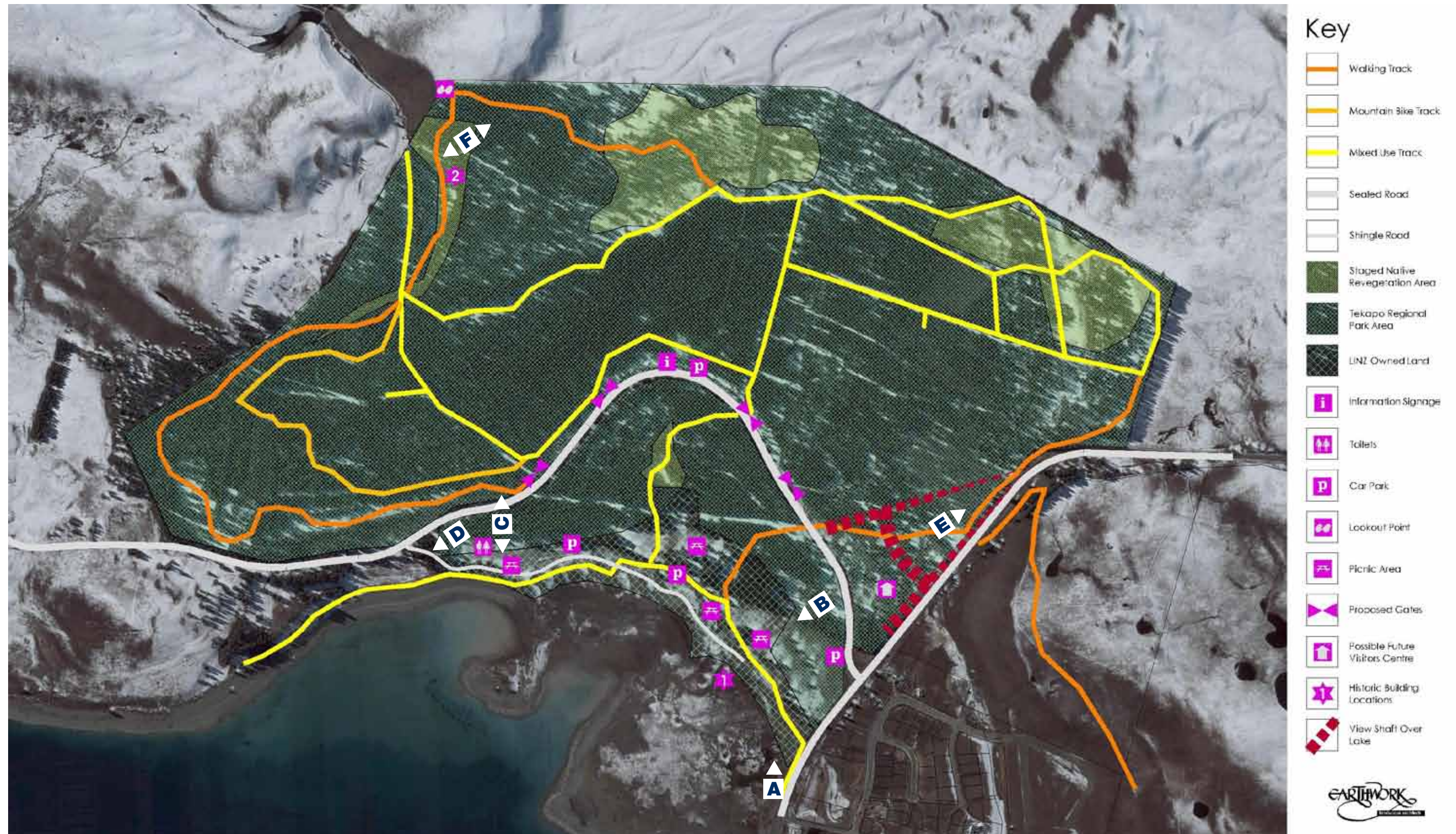
There will be established areas of indigenous shrubs and tussock in the shelter of the pine plantation, plantings of indigenous forest species in more sheltered locations and plantings of indigenous buffers around the park perimeter. Indigenous invertebrate and bird species will also be resident in the park.

50 Year Vision

In fifty years time the park supports a variety of forest, shrub and tussock habitats that provide for a range of opportunities for soil conservation, biodiversity, recreation and education.



Concept Plan for the development of Lake Tekapo Regional Park

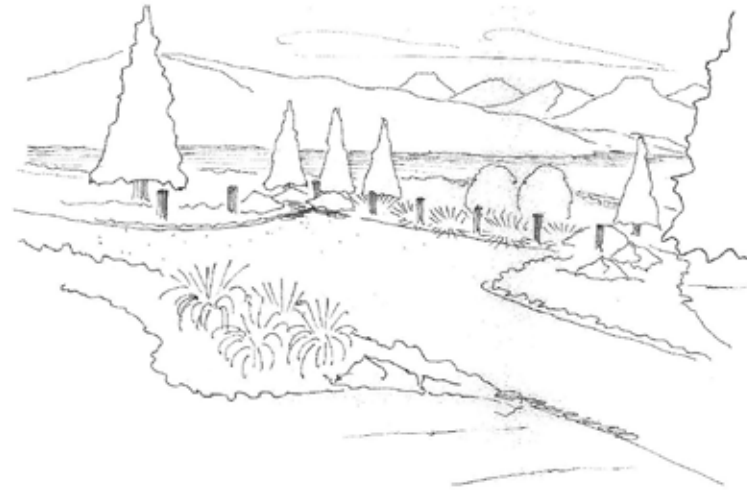


A



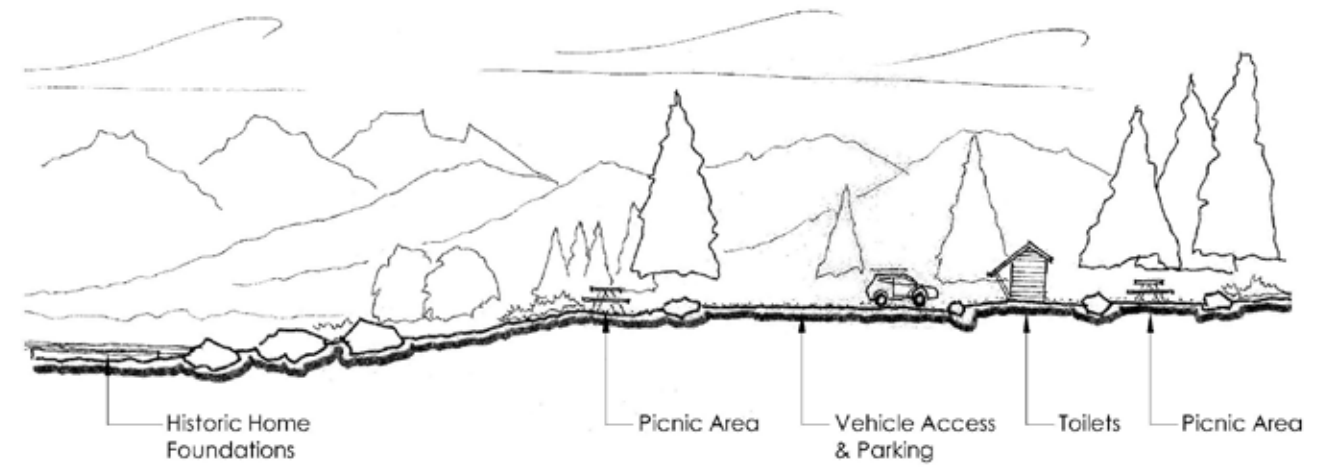
Park & Access From Tekapo Township

B



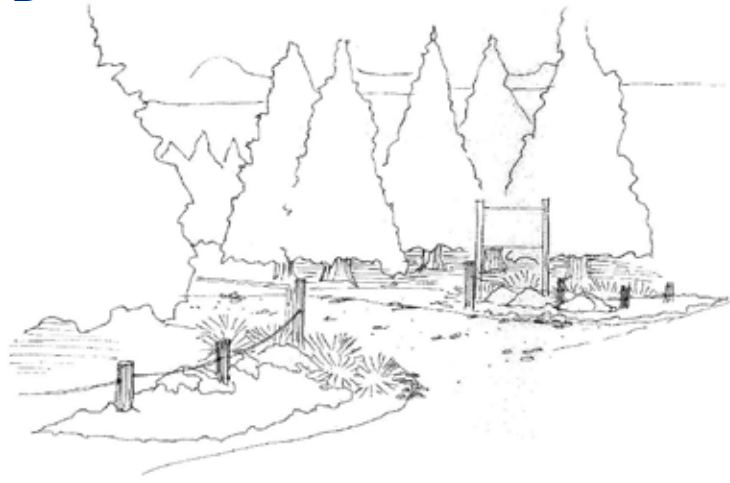
Entrance Car Park at Lilybank Road

C



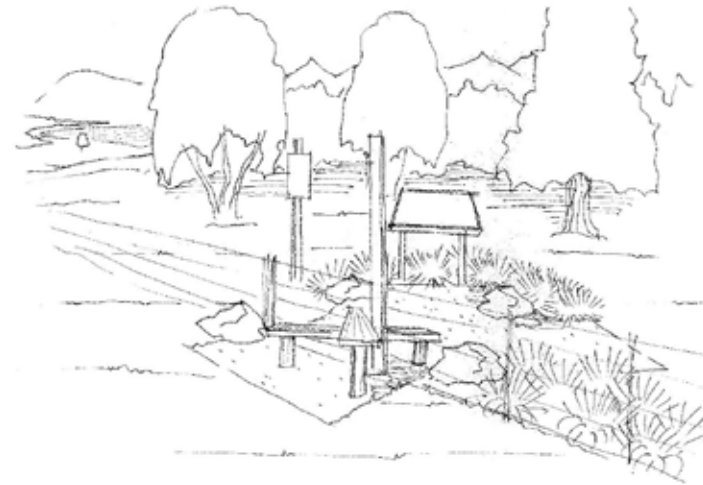
Foreshore Grasslands Section

D



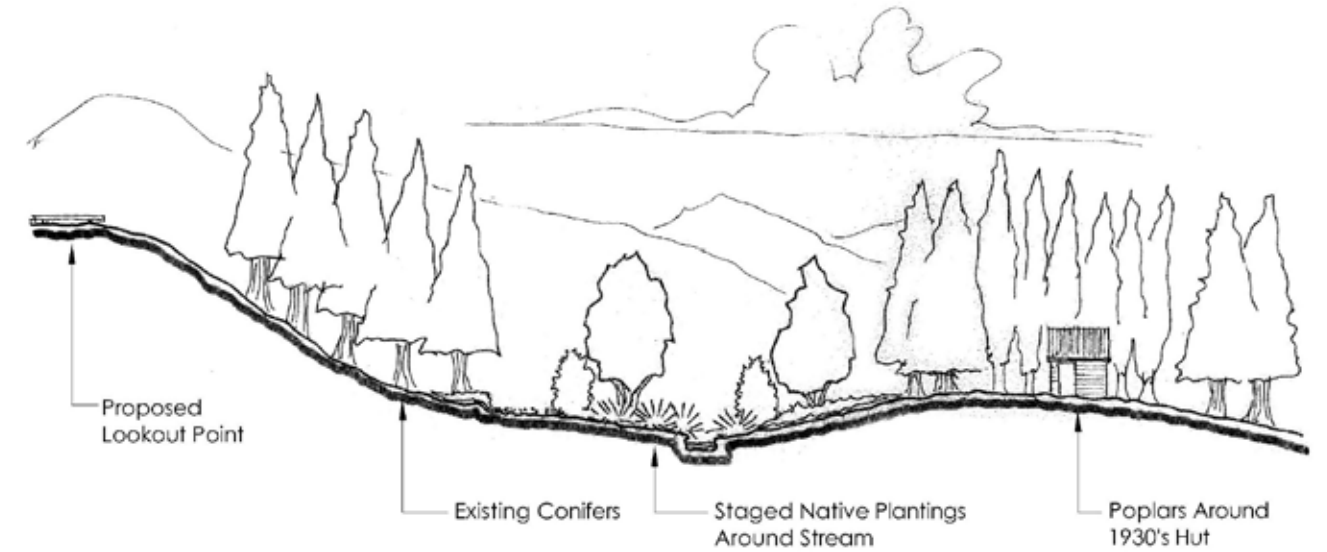
Foreshore Grassland Vehicle Entrance

E



Cowans Hill Walking Track Access

F



Upper Site Cross Section

Area 1 – Upper Eastern Forest

Vision

A soil conservation forest supporting a range of indigenous biodiversity and; where complimentary recreation and leisure opportunities are enjoyed by visitors.

Existing Issues

The main existing issues to be addressed include:

- Undesirable activities which are inconsistent with ECan’s soil conservation responsibilities including rubbish dumping and trail bike use
- Activities which are inconsistent with increased visitor use including shooting
- Weed and pest infestation
- Wilding spread
- Motor vehicle use to the Sawdon Station shooting range
- Horse grazing in the SE corner
- Lack of visitor infrastructure including toilets, information and activity areas
- Landscape impacts of harsh boundary plantings

Design Aims

The design aims for the Upper Eastern Forest are:

- To ensure that recreation opportunities are consistent with soil conservation outcomes
- To develop a network of walking and mountain bike trails while retaining a core wilderness for activities including orienteering.
- To enhance indigenous biodiversity values
- To encourage interaction with the area’s natural features
- To introduce new forest trees to succeed unwanted pine species
- To soften and blend the reserve boundary into the surrounding landscape

Key Design Features

The key design features include:

- Roadside fencing and security gates
- A central car park located outside the roadside fencing
- An indigenous vegetation corridor following the ephemeral stream bed at the northern end of the park
- An open tussock area in the SE corner
- Six kilometres of mountain bike trails
- Walking and running trails
- Education and interpretation signage
- A viewing platform located on the high point at the NE end of the park
- Internal ‘islands’ of indigenous habitat to replace stands of Pinus contorta



Activities

Category	Upper Eastern Forest	Reason for Category
Permitted	Trail walking/running	Preferred activity
	Mountain biking	Preferred activity
Restricted	Events	ECan permit required
	Commercial Filming	ECan permit required
Prohibited	Shooting	Conflict with other park users
	Lighting fires	Fire hazard, protection of the forest and adjoining properties
	Barbeques including gas	Fire hazard
	Horse riding	Conflict with other park users, protection of environment
	Camping or campervans overnight	Fire hazard, contrary to MDC regulations
	Trail bikes	Inconsistent with soil conservation management

Area 2 – Lakeside

Vision

A lakeside picnic and leisure area and access point to the adjoining walking and cycling trails.

Existing Issues

The main existing issues include:

- Undesirable activities which are inconsistent with ECan’s soil conservation responsibilities including rubbish dumping
- Activities which are inconsistent with increased visitor use including shooting
- Overnight freedom camping
- Lack of visitor infrastructure including toilets, information and activity areas
- Vehicle access to the lake shore
- Use of the Pines area

Design Aims

The design aims for the lakeside are:

- To ensure that recreation opportunities are consistent with soil conservation outcomes
- To develop walking and mountain bike linkages
- To retain the open grasslands and develop picnic settings parallel to the lake
- To provide easy access to the lake edge

Key Design Features

The key design features include:

- Park brand signage at SH8
- Closure of the SH8 access road
- Roadside fencing and security gates
- Car park bays on the east side of Lilybank Road
- Cycle and walking linkages to a variety of locations
- Public toilets
- Picnic settings with designated barbeque sites
- A vehicle access to the lakeside from Lilybank Road
- Education and interpretation signage



Activities

Category	Lakeside	Reason for Category
Permitted	Picniking	Preferred activity
	Dogs under control	Designated dog exercise area, the lake side from Pioneer Drive/State Highway 8 eastern inter-section to the Pines Picnic area
	Mountain biking	Preferred activity
Managed	Portable gas barbeques	Permitted in designated picnic areas, fire risk, public safety
Restricted	Events	ECan permit required
	Commercial filming	ECan permit required
	Commercial Operations	ECan permit required
Prohibited	Shooting	Conflict with other park users
	Horse riding	Conflict with other park users, protection of environment
	Camping or campervans overnight	Protection of the environment, contrary to MDC regulations
	Lighting fires	Protection of the forest and adjoining properties
	Trail bikes	Inconsistent with soil conservation requirements
	Soild fuel barbeques	Inconsistent with soil conservation management

Policies

Relationships

Objective

To provide opportunities for local residents, interest groups, specialist organisations and individuals to be involved with the development and management of the LTRP.

Community Policy

- The use of managed voluntary assistance in the development and maintenance of the park will be actively encouraged.
- A partnership will be maintained with the Lake Tekapo Recreational Park Incorporated Society.

Papatipu Rūnanga Policy

- ECan will work co-operatively with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua to provide for their traditional kaitiakitanga/guardianship role.

Other Land Managers Policy

- ECan will work collaboratively with the owners of Sawdon and Mount Hay Stations, Meridian and government agencies to realise mutually beneficial opportunities and minimise conflicts.

Resource Management

Objective

To provide a best practice example of sustainable land management in the Mackenzie District.

Soil Conservation Policy

- ECan will ensure that any use or management of the reserve does not result in any loss of intactness or resilience of the vegetation cover.
- The establishment of indigenous vegetation communities, where these will contribute to improved resilience of vegetation cover, will be encouraged.

Indigenous Flora and Fauna Policy

- Indigenous biodiversity will be enhanced at the LTRP through the establishment of a range of species and habitats representative of central South Island ecosystems.
- Planting of indigenous species will be encouraged, where appropriate, as a replacement for existing areas of Pinus contorta.

Pest and Weed Management Policy

- Weed and pest control will, where practicable be carried out in a coordinated manner with adjoining land owners.
- The priority for pest management will be the progressive removal of Pinus contorta stands.

Research Policy

- Research into the re-establishment of indigenous habitats and species of plants and animals will be encouraged.

Fires and Barbeques Policy

- The lighting of fires is prohibited at the Lake Tekapo Regional Park and within adjoining ECan managed lands.
- Solid fuel barbeques are prohibited at the Lake Tekapo Regional Park and within adjoining ECan managed lands.
- Gas barbeques are only permitted in designated picnic areas along the lake foreshore.

People & Their Enjoyment

Objective

To provide opportunities for people to experience and enjoy the distinctive character of the Lake Tekapo Regional Park, while minimising the impact on soil conservation values.

Recreation Policy

- Recreation and leisure opportunities offered at the LTRP will be consistent with ECan's soil conservation management responsibilities.
- Recreation and leisure opportunities offered at the LTRP will have minimal affect on the natural environment and other visitors enjoyment.

Shooting Policy

- Shooting is prohibited at the Lake Tekapo Regional Park and within adjoining ECan managed lands except by approved persons contracted for the control of pests.

Horse Policy

- Horses may only be ridden on designated trails at the Lake Tekapo Regional Park and within adjoining ECan managed lands.

Dog Policy

- Dog owners and dogs are subject to the requirements of the Mackenzie District Council Dog Control bylaws 2006.
- Dogs are permitted to be exercised along the lake side from Pioneer Drive/ State Highway 8 eastern inter-section to the Pines Picnic area provided they are controlled at all times
- Dogs must be under continual and sufficient control in all other areas of the park.

Freedom Camping Policy

- Freedom Camping is prohibited at the Lake Tekapo Regional Park and within adjoining ECan managed lands.

Motor Vehicles Policy

- Trail bike riding is prohibited in the Lake Tekapo Regional Park and within adjoining ECan managed lands.

Litter Policy

- Lake Tekapo Regional Park and the adjoining ECan managed LINZ land is a litter free park. Park visitors are responsible for their own rubbish and are required to take it with them when they leave the park.

Forest Management Plan

Forest Management

Detail of the forest's management is covered in the 1993 Lake Tekapo Soil Conservation Reserve Management Plan and in future will be included in the Forest Asset Management Plan which covers all of Environment Canterbury's forests.

However as forest management will impact on recreation in the Park and forest; and land management costs form part of the annual budget for the Park/ Reserve, a summary is provided here.

The forest is a mix of coniferous species dominated by Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra*) and Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*); with lesser amounts of Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and European Larch (*Larix decidua*). Other minor species include *Pinus* spp: *jeffreyi*, *sylvestris* and *couteri* and various other amenity species.

Forest management objectives focus on optimising the rate of return on investment within the constraints of:

- minimising soil erosion,
- achieving sustainable land use,
- maintaining landscape values
- avoiding wilding tree spread beyond the Park
- providing recreation opportunities

The forest species present in the forest and the harsh climate ensure the forest is slow growing with minimum rotation lengths of at least 50 years. When harvesting does occur it will be by either using production thinning methods or by the use of small coupe sizes to limit the effect on landscape and recreation values.

In the last 20 years forest management has concentrated on maintenance, with limited production thinning and planting, gorse and broom control within the forest and wilding tree control both within the forest and immediately outside its boundaries. However since Lodgepole pine was removed from within a buffer strip around the boundaries of the Reserve, the effort and budget required for wilding tree control has been much reduced.

Future forest management will similarly consist of mostly maintenance operations with harvesting limited to periods where markets are optimum. Over time the area of coniferous forest is expected to decline slightly as New Zealand species become established in favourable areas.

Fire Prevention

The greatest threat to the Lake Tekapo Regional Park is fire, as the forest is the primary protection against soil erosion and the significant factor for establishing the Park. The park is located within the South Canterbury Rural Fire District and is included in the Environment Canterbury Fire Plan which sets limits on various forest and park operations.

Fire prevention measures at the LTRP will include;

- Developing an annual fire plan
- Monitoring risk levels
- Minimising the fuel load
- Limiting the spread of wilding trees
- Controlling and eliminating gorse and broom
- Keeping forestry tracks clear and open for emergency vehicles
- Managing visitor use
- Prohibiting the lighting of fires
- Prohibiting overnight camping
- Erecting signage advising visitors of the fire hazard and rules
- Erecting signage to identify water supply
- Developing tracks in areas of low fuel loading
- Maintaining water tanks in the Park
- Liaising with the local fire authority over the management of the area
- Timing necessary forest and park operations for periods of lower fire risk



Glossary

Kō

A tool similar to a spade.

Mahikakai/Mahingakai

Food and other resources and the areas they are sourced from.

Papatipu rūnanga

Regional collective bodies established by Ngāi Tahu in the nineteenth century that act as governing councils of traditional Ngāi Tahu hapū and marae-based communities.

Pest

Any organism, including an animal, plant, pathogen or disease, capable or potentially capable of causing unwanted harm or posing significant risks to indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems or freshwater fisheries.

Rangitira

Chief.

Takiwā

Place or territory used by or associated with an iwi, hapū or whanau.

Taniwha

Monster

Taonga

Valued resources or prized possessions held by Māori, both material and nonmaterial. It is a broad concept that includes tangible and intangible aspects of natural and historic resources of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu and intellectual property.

Tauranga waka

Landing place, anchorage.

Terminal moraine

The material including boulders, shingle and silt left behind at the farthest point of the advancement of a glacier.

Tohunga

Spiritual leader

Tūpuna

Ancestor

Urupā

The resting places of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna

Wāhi tapu

Place sacred to Māori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual or mythological sense (Historic Places Act 1993).

Whakapapa

Recounting of genealogical lineage; genealogy.

References

Burnett, T.D. 1925. Series of articles on Mackenzie Country History. Timaru Herald.

Burnett, T.D. 1925. The moa, the totara and the maori. Timaru Herald, June 26 1925.

Challis, A.J. 1995. Ka pakihi whakatekateka o waitaha: the archaeology of Canterbury in Maori times. Science and Research series 89, Department of Conservation, Wellington

Chapman, F. 1884. Notes on moa remains in the Mackenzie Country and other localities. Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute. 17: 172-178.

Gillespie, O.A. 1958. South Canterbury – A record of settlement. South Canterbury Centennial History Committee.

Greenwood, W. 1983. Century of Challenge – Mackenzie County Council 1883 - 1983. Centennial History Committee.

Hosken, E. 1964. Life on a five pound note. Timaru Herald Company, Timaru.

Ngai Tahu Deed of Settlement. Attachment 12.96, Deed of recognition for Takapo (Lake Tekapo) Canterbury Clause 12.3.

Pinney, R. 1971. Early South Canterbury Runs. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington.

Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu 2008. Mackenzie Basin Proposed Plan Change 13: Cultural Impact Assessment ref T07210_008 Boffa Miskell, Tauranga

