



Canterbury Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Submissions analysis and decisions

OCTOBER 2004



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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This report is the conclusion of the department's public consultation process 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities', a Recreation Opportunity Review aimed at confirming with the public the mix of visitor facilities needed to provide the recreational opportunities most desired on public conservation land.

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1. A note from the conservator

The following report details the content of submissions received by Canterbury Conservancy as part of the recreation opportunity review public consultation period, and reports on other feedback received through public meetings and discussion with stakeholders during this period.

Taking account of the submissions and other information received, and following a national assessment process including key national recreation associate organisations, decisions have been made by this conservancy. These decisions align with the strategic direction as covered by the Principles to Guide a Core Facility Network and the key Policy and Strategic directions referred to within these, or where there has been identified a preference through submissions to vary from this direction, these cases have been noted.

M Cuddihy
Conservator

2. Executive summary

- Consultation was launched on 30 September 2003 with a press release from the Minister of Conservation. Canterbury Conservancy held presentations at open meetings in Christchurch and Timaru, with user groups, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board.
- Further information was provided by the Canterbury Draft Proposals, “Valley by Valley Explanations” document and a CD of hut locations and proposals.
- 162 submitters provided 656 submissions representing comment on the 86 Conservancy proposals. Submissions were received in support of 24 ‘Maintain’ huts, 15 new proposals and 6 categorised as general statements for huts, tracks and the process overall.
- All Canterbury Conservancy proposals received submissions in support or opposition.
- The highest number of submissions was received for the retention of the Orari Gorge Track and associated camp / amenity area.
- Issues were also identified through the analysis process and were resolved at an Area office level. These were the future and standard of facilities in the Cass / Lagoon Saddle sites located in the Waimakariri Area and the Ellangowan Track extension in the North Canterbury Area.
- Analysis of submissions was completed by a group of Conservancy and Area staff. Interim Decisions and proposals were signed off by Area Managers.
- 56% of submissions were opposed to proposals and 41% in support. 3% were of a general nature. Decisions tend to favour Back Country Adventurer facility provision and Day Visitor requirements especially where based close to Christchurch or Geraldine.
- The balance of Decisions to the original proposals indicates that the Canterbury Conservancy will manage four more huts and replace two with shelters. The Conservancy will maintain three more tracks and manage six routes. Two tracks will be removed. It will also maintain one camp / amenity area, road and one swing bridge.
- The decisions represent an increase in facility provision compared with the proposal document’s position. This also reflects the community’s demand for these opportunities where they fit the department’s planning principles even though similar opportunities may be provided elsewhere.

3 Canterbury Conservancy – the recreation context

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Canterbury is a gateway to the South Island for people from the North Island and for many international visitors. Canterbury presents a great variety of settings – alpine, high country, foothills, downlands and hill country, the plains and Banks Peninsula. The highest mountains are found within the Conservancy along with many endemic plants and threatened species.

The Canterbury landscape has excellent fishing and whitewater canoeing rivers, numerous skifields, extensive heliskiing and cross country ski opportunities, increasing mountain biking opportunities, extensive tramping and hunting opportunities and international climbing opportunities.

The unique settings, coupled with the activities carried out, provide visitors with a range of experiences and benefits that add to the quality of life in Canterbury. The Department of Conservation is the main provider of recreation opportunities in the Canterbury backcountry while the territorial local authorities provide for opportunities in and adjacent to urban areas. Continuing to provide a range of recreation opportunities has been reinforced through the recreation opportunities review and this should help contribute to the high quality of the Canterbury lifestyle.

More facilities are to be maintained than what was initially proposed. The decisions now favour facilities for day visitor and backcountry adventurers more than what was presented in the proposals. This reflects the support expressed for these types of opportunities. In Canterbury it is not unusual for public conservation lands to be some distance away from main urban centres and many visitors maximise their time in these localities by undertaking visits of a longer duration. A large network of backcountry huts (over 140) and track opportunities (over 1200km) will continue to be provided by the department and clubs. The new track proposals were well received and will be developed as resources permit. This facility base, along with campsites, amenity areas and roads will ensure that a range of opportunities is available for visitors.

AORAKI AREA

The Aoraki Area provides the most spectacular mountain scenery and challenging backcountry opportunities in Canterbury. Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is the main public conservation protected area, with an obvious focus, but not one confined to the iconic mountain. Opportunities for low alpine tramping are limited and there is a clear division between walking and climbing by virtue of the rugged terrain. The Area is a national icon site drawing a large number of international visitors, reflecting the World Heritage status and spectacular mountain.

The majority of the recreational use is focused on or close to Aoraki/Mount Cook Village. These opportunities will remain. The Wakefield Track will remain closed to visitors due primarily to visitor safety issues. Glacial recession is encouraging most climbers to fly in to the high alpine huts. For this reason Haast Hut receives very little use and will be managed on a minimal maintenance regime and not replaced. Plateau Hut is to be replaced this summer. Hooker Hut is subject to avalanche hazard and is closed during the winter period. The hut will be relocated to a site close to Hooker Lake at some stage in the future.

TWIZEL AREA

The Twizel Area is located in the Waitaki Basin which is a vast open area surrounded by mountain ranges. Landforms are often large and the vistas wide and uncluttered. The low growing nature of the vegetation allows the landforms to dominate the landscape and define the horizons.

Public conservation lands include the Ohau Conservation Area, Ahuriri Conservation Area, Dobson Conservation Area and the Two Thumb Conservation Area.

The Twizel Area has traditionally been a through route for people travelling from Christchurch to Aoraki/ Mount Cook and Queenstown. This is changing, with places like Twizel and Tekapo becoming a destination base for carrying out outdoor activities. The Area has significant outdoor opportunities including fishing, boating, canoeing, mountain biking, windsurfing, tramping and gliding.

Large valley systems (Huxley, Hopkins, Dobson, Godley and Macauley) provide access into this mountainous backbone with a network of tracks and backcountry accommodation. The Ohau Conservation Area and Ahuriri Valley are important areas regionally for tramping and climbing, offering remote type experiences. Increasing opportunities within the Mackenzie Basin are being developed catering for walking and mountain biking.

No changes have been made to access as a result of the recreation opportunities review. A rationalisation of huts in the larger valleys has occurred; some of these huts will now be managed by community groups or placed on a minimal maintenance regime as other backcountry accommodation is already provided that better meets visitor use patterns.

RAUKAPUKA AREA

The Raukapuka Area covers a large area, from the coast to the high mountains in the west. The area west of the plains comprises a system of basins and ranges, the product of glacial action and subsequent fluvial erosion. It is bounded in the north by the Rakaia River and in the south by the Two Thumb Range and the waters of the Rangitata catchment. The western and eastern boundaries are the main divide and the Canterbury Plains.

The basins and ranges area conveys a sense of naturalness and wilderness. The overall character is one of space, remoteness and grandeur in an alpine setting of snow and ice, glaciers and lakes interspersed with remnants of upland forest, tussock grassland and several major wetlands.

The lower elevation country of the Area comprises the lower Two Thumb and Ben McLeod ranges, the Hunters Hills, extensive rolling downlands, the Fairlie Basin, the plains and the eastern coastline.

Public conservation lands include the Rangitata - Rakaia Conservation Area, Peel Forest Park Scenic Reserve, Sharplin Falls Scenic Reserve, Mt Hutt Forest and a number of scenic reserves along the foothills.

The Arrowsmith Range and upper Rangitata-Rakaia Rivers provide wilderness and remote experience, climbing, hunting, heliskiing and tramping opportunities. The Mt Somers Walkway and surrounding areas are well used during the summer months. The Ashburton Lakes have nationally significant wildlife values and are also popular for fly fishing, water skiing, windsurfing and boating.

A major camping ground at Peel Forest services about 15,000 visitors per year. The Orari Gorge camping area and track are important to the local community and will be maintained.

There is little change to the recreation opportunities provided. The department is working with community groups over the management of some backcountry huts and walkways.

WAIMAKARIRI AREA

The Waimakariri Area extends from the main divide to the Big Ben and Torlesse Ranges including the foothill forests encompassing Mt Oxford, Mt Thomas and Mt Grey. The Area adjoins the Lake Sumner Forest Park in the north and the Rakaia River forms the southern boundary. The main river valleys draining the main divide are the Waimakariri, Wilberforce and Poulter. These wide braided rivers are typical of the Canterbury high country. The western part of the Area is characterised by the mountainous and wetter main divide while the drier landscape to the east is characterised by extensive screes and tarns, outwash basins, glacial derived wetlands and extensive braided rivers. Limestone outcrops are found in the Castle Hill basin.

Public conservation lands include Arthur's Pass National Park, Craigieburn Conservation Park, Korowai Torlesse Tussock Grasslands Conservation Park, Cave Stream Scenic Reserve and Kura Tāwhiti Conservation Area.

The area provides for a wide range of recreation opportunities. It is easily accessible from State Highway 73 (SH73) and the transalpine railway line, which are both highly scenic east-west visitor routes. Activities carried out include fishing, hunting, tramping, mountaineering, skiing, mountain biking and boating.

Arthur's Pass National Park, Kura Tāwhiti Conservation Area, Cave Stream Scenic Reserve and the foothill public conservation lands are key locations within the area. The Cass Lagoon Saddle circuit is a popular tramping trip.

The area has a significant number of backcountry huts and the majority of these will continue to be managed and replaced. The Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan 1994 states that the north eastern sector of the park will be hut-free apart from possibly limited emergency shelter. Huts in this area will be removed over time. The Cass Lagoon Saddle area will continue to be managed to tramping track standard. Huts on the Cass and Lagoon saddles will be eventually replaced with shelters. Some

interconnecting tracks in the foothill areas will no longer be maintained. Access to the tops of Mt Oxford, Mt Thomas and Mt Grey will be provided along with the creation of new routes from Mt Thomas to Pinchgut Hut and Bob's Camp Biv. The Bridal Veil walk in Arthur's Pass National Park will be extended to the Temple Basin car park in the future.

NORTH CANTERBURY AREA

The North Canterbury Area is a large area that includes a diverse range of landforms. Most noticeable are the glaciated western valley systems of the Lewis Pass and Lake Sumner localities. There are also the coastal hills and ranges north of the Waipara River through to areas south of the Conway River, the Culverden basin, the plains and the distinctive Banks Peninsula.

Public conservation lands include the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve, Hanmer Forest Park, Lake Sumner Forest Park, and the scenic reserves of Banks Peninsula, where small remnants of the pre-1840 vegetation have survived timber milling and farm development.

A diverse range of recreation activities are carried out including fishing, hunting, game-bird shooting, tramping, mountaineering, skiing, mountain biking, 4 wheel driving and boating.

Key locations are Hanmer Springs, upper Hurunui Lakes, Lewis Pass area, Lake Sumner Forest Park and Banks Peninsula. Mountain biking is popular in the Hanmer Springs area; the upper Hurunui Lakes area is popular for boating, fishing and 4 wheel drive use. The St James Walkway is a popular walkway attracting around 4000 visitors per year. Closer to Christchurch Godley Head and Otamahua/Quail Island Recreation Reserve are important day visit opportunities. The Peninsula is a popular destination for recreational activities and tourists, being close to the population base of Christchurch City.

Some small changes have occurred as a result of the recreation opportunity review. Access opportunities will increase with the Motukarara to Little River Railtrail, an extension to the Ellangowan Track (Banks Peninsula) and the reinstatement of the track from Packhorse Hut to Mt Herbert shelter. The Nape Nape campsite opportunity has been removed due to site instability, however day use is catered for.

Some of the huts in the area will now be managed by community groups or placed on a minimal maintenance regime as other backcountry accommodation is provided which better meets visitor use patterns.

4. Introduction

- Public consultation was undertaken as part of the department's recreation opportunity review "Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities".
- Consultation was launched on 30 September 2003, with a press release from the Minister of Conservation and a press release from this Conservancy. Letters were sent to local recreation groups and other key associates inviting them to attend public meetings during October 2003 to learn about the consultation process. Proposal documents and background resource material were provided as publications and on the DOC website to provide the basis for making submissions. Submissions were invited on these proposals.
- Further information about the proposals was provided by the production of a CD showing photographs of the huts and the "Canterbury Draft Proposals Valley by Valley Explanations" to present a wider picture to the public and to help assist in decision making.
- Meetings were held with user groups, local authorities, commercial organisations and individuals to provide information on the process and an overview of the Canterbury Conservancy proposals.

IWI CONSULTATION

- A presentation on the consultation process was provided to the DOC Liaison Officer of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu. Information packages were provided to all Runanga in Canterbury. No written response was received. Presentations were provided by Area Managers and staff at Roopu kaitiaki meetings. Few questions were raised.

PROCESS OF SUBMISSION CONSIDERATION

DATE	ACTION
31/01/04	Closing date for submissions
06/10 - 17/02	Submissions entered into database and acknowledgments sent
03/02	User Group meeting - Cass / Lagoon issue resolution
05/03	Receipt of Area response to submissions on proposals
09/03	Submissions analysis team meet held with TSO visitor services, Community Relations Manager and Programme Manager, Area Manager and 3 Programme Managers to analyse submissions.
22/03	Submissions analysis team complete analysis of submissions.
10/3 - 01/04	Submissions analysis write-ups completed by TSO Recreation.
05/04	First Draft Analysis Report document completed
06/04	Briefing to Conservator on changes and issues.
06/05	Area Managers sign-off to draft proposals

DATE	ACTION
10/05	Final Draft of Analysis Report for Conservator sign-off
11/05	Draft Report forwarded to Head Office
13/05	Interim decisions entered into asset data base (VAMS)
06/08	Advice received from Regional General Manager
06/08	Aoraki / Canterbury Conservation Board briefed
20/08	Support and endorsement received from Conservation Board
10/09	Final document produced

- Decisions were made taking into account the following strategic documents:
 - Principles to Guide a Core Facility Network
 - Conservation Management Strategy for Canterbury Conservancy
 - Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan 1994
 - Draft Aoraki / Mt Cook National Park Management Plan 2003
 - Valley by Valley Proposals document for Canterbury
 - Hut Principles
 - Track and Outdoor Visitor Structures Standards
- Internal analysis of submissions received was carried out. The conservancy developed draft interim decisions which were agreed to by the conservator.
- Separate meetings were held with user group representatives and other submitters over the Cass / Lagoon Saddle and Ellangowan Track extension sites. These meetings were used to hear concerns, further explain proposals and identify alternative options.

SUBMISSION ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Submissions were entered into an analysis database which allowed reports to be produced on individual proposals and /or submitters, for future reference and analysis of demographics.
- Submissions were entered into a word document, with a summary of concerns / support or comment and numbers in support of the proposals or against recorded.
- Where further consultation was required Area Managers were informed for further immediate consultation and resolution.
- All decisions that differ from original proposals were considered together to establish the effect this may have on the range of Conservancy recreation opportunities.

WHAT DECISIONS NOW MEAN

The Department of Conservation has made these decisions in order to provide the public of New Zealand and the associated user groups with some surety about the future core facility network of visitor facilities to support their recreation facilities into the foreseeable future. These decisions will guide resource commitment and work programmes for the department.

There remain some factors that cannot be accurately forecast or guaranteed at this point in time, such as; future construction costs, the durability of existing and new facilities, the effects of changing weather patterns and changing user group priorities. As a result these decisions are a desired outcome rather than one carved in stone.

Formal planning processes will continue to provide the mechanism for changing these decisions as needed and to ensure ongoing public input (e.g. Conservation Management Strategy review, National Park Management Plan reviews). The Aoraki / Canterbury Conservation Board will assist the department on specific facility provision issues that arise from time to time.

Section One

5. Submitters and submissions

This section provides information on the number of submissions, the nature of the submissions and a description of their content

5.1 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- 162 submitters provided 656 submissions between them.

- Submitters were made up of:

Individual	132
Climbing/tramping club	11
Visitor accommodation	3
General industry	0
Local authority	3
Visitor travel industry	2
Mountain bike club/rider	2
Environmental group	2
Residents group	1
Quango	1
Professional group	1
Other	1
Iwi	1
Hunting club/hunter	1
4wd club/driver	1
TOTAL:	162

- 149 submitters came from within the Canterbury area, four from neighbouring provinces, and 15 from further away.
- Five submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document).
- Three submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues, as well as (or instead of) comment on specific proposals.
- 56% of submissions opposed proposals and 41% supported proposals. 3% were of a general nature.

5.2 MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON, BY ORDER OF TOTAL SUBMISSIONS

ASSET NAME	SUBMISSIONS	
Orari Gorge Track	60	(60 against / 0 for)
Orari campsite / amenity Area	21	(21 against / 0 for)
West Harper Hut	17	(14 against / 3 for)
Cass Lagoon Saddle Hut	14	(8 against / 6 for)
Lagoon Saddle Hut	10	(5 against / 5 for)
Cass Saddle Hut	10	(5 against / 5 for)
Cass / Lagoon Saddle Track	10	(4 against / 6 for)
Mingha Biv	14	(11 against / 3 for)
Bobs Camp Biv	14	(9 against / 5 for)
Ashley Waterfall	12	(12 against / 0 for)
Pfeiffer Biv	12	(9 against / 3 for)
Ellangowan Track Extension	12	(7 against / 5 for)
Motukarara Rail Trail	11	(0 against / 11 for)
Waimakariri Falls Hut	10	(5 against / 5 for)
Tarn Hut	10	(4 against / 6 for)
Top Hope Hut	9	(5 against / 4 for)

5.3 PROPOSALS THAT RECEIVED THE MOST SUBMISSIONS AND SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS, BY LOCATION

RAUKAPUKA AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Orari Gorge Scenic Reserve			
96201	Orari Gorge Track (0 support, 60 oppose)	Cease maintenance	60 submissions requested retention of this asset. Key concerns were over loss of facility and opportunity. Points raised indicate popular because of loop track and time to complete, close to Geraldine, Youth Camp / Schools and Club use, fauna / flora attractions. Local public support for this area has been well demonstrated.
100025	Orari Campsite / amenity Area (0 support, 21 oppose)	Remove	21 submissions generally attached to the above Track proposal: concern over loss of facility and opportunity. Points raised indicate popular overnight for motor homes, close to Geraldine, Schools and Club use, more sheltered than other camps, fauna / flora attractions. Some submissions stated that the other campsites at Waihi and Peel Forest do not provide the same experience.

WAIMAKARIRI AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Craigieburn Forest Park			
10699	West Harper Hut (3 support, 14 Oppose)	Remove	3 Submissions in support request further consultation, and 14 against request it remain for reasons; historic value (NZFS cullers hut), low use no reason for removal, overflow location for Hamilton Hut.
10623	Lagoon Saddle A Frame Hut (6 support, 7 oppose)	Replace	6 supporting submissions sought further consultation and to debate location & size suggesting 10 bunks not appropriate - shelter preferred. Submitters against proposal requested further consultation, no hut in this location, waste of resources and fragile area.
10621	Lagoon Saddle Hut (5 support, 5 oppose)	Minimal Maintenance	5 submissions in support required further consultation, and agreed with proposal and 5 opposing also referred to further consultation, no requirement for larger hut.
10688	Cass Saddle Hut (5 support, 5 oppose)	Minimal Maintenance	5 submitters in support sought further consultation and to debate location, and replace with shelter preferred. 5 submitters against proposal also requested further consultation, distance to other huts, location, replace with shelter, no new hut & low use no reason for proposal.
96256, 96257, 96258.	Cass - Lagoon Saddle Track (6 support, 4 oppose)	Upgrade (significant)	6 submissions in support also state; improve for less experienced, upgrade parts or some, upgrade makes sense and request for consultation. 4 submissions against state upgrading will reduce time, is expensive and not add to opportunity (keep to tramping track standard).

Arthurs Pass National Park

10763	Mingha Biv (3 support, 11 oppose)	Remove	3 submissions in support agreed with proposal and suggested other locations or replace with shelter. 6 submissions against request retention for safety and shelter. If rivers are up trampers could experience difficulty accessing valley.
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VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
10821	Pfeiffer Biv (3 support, 9 oppose)	Remove	3 submissions in support state area for experienced trampers which has FMC support and submissions in opposition quote safety, increasing use, should be minimal maintenance, low use no reason for proposal and vital shelter for tops in adverse weather.
10641	Waimakariri Falls Hut (5 support, 5 oppose)	Maintain by Community	5 submitters in support state good location and sound reasoning. Submitters against proposal state maintain because link with Rolleston & Hunt Rivers, strategic and ought to be replaced
Mt Thomas Forest			
9940	Bobs Camp Biv (5 support, 9 oppose)	Remove and relocate to a more useful site.	5 submissions in support request relocation to Pfeiffer, Binser Saddle, Zampa Tarn or Mt Thomas Forest. 9 in opposition support current location because of location, access by young & old, hunters and use by 1st time trampers.
96301	Ashley Waterfall Track (12 oppose)	Cease maintenance	Submissions are for retention because of location being close to Ashley Gorge Camp (private), popular, attraction for area, enjoyable and school trips.
Not Public Conservation Land			
9929	Tarn Hut (4 support, 6 oppose)	Minimal Maintenance	4 submissions in support state sound reasoning, full reassessment at retirement date and agree with proposal. 6 against cite pleasant / popular location for less experienced, refuge, all huts should be kept indefinitely and national heritage.

NORTH CANTERBURY AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Ellangowan Scenic Reserve			
191431	Ellangowan Track Extension (3 support, 7 oppose)	Proposed	7 submissions opposing appear to have been misinformed regarding location of m/bike access as were those in support.
Motukurara Rail Trail			
99240, 99241	Motukurara to Little River Rail Trail (11 Support)	Proposed	11 submissions support proposal
Lake Sumner Conservation Park			
11218	Top Hope Hut (3 support, 5 oppose)	Minimal maintenance	3 submitters support proposal including FMC. Against suggests that all huts should be maintained and to keep it habitable, prevent deterioration and part of recreation opportunity.

5.4 PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

All proposals received submissions.

6. User group meetings

The Christchurch Recreation User Group meeting was well attended by representatives of tramping clubs and other recreation groups. The process was explained and was well accepted. The general comment was that this was a much better process than that embarked on 6 years ago by Canterbury Conservancy. Interest centred on huts. A representative from the West Coast Conservancy attended the meeting. There was interest in West Coast proposals. All the information associated with the process and Canterbury proposals was provided at the meeting.

The Southern meeting with the South Canterbury combined clubs had acceptance for the process and debate was mostly over the proposal to close the Orari Gorge Track. The public desire on the future direction for this location was further indicated by the overwhelming number of submissions received for this location. Other discussion related to hut retention / removals and tenure review.

Other meetings and presentations were held with representatives from the Peninsula and Canterbury Tramping Clubs, Canterbury Combined 4WD Clubs, Disabled Access (CCS) and local authority representatives to further explore issues presented.

A further meeting was held with representatives from the Peninsula and Canterbury Tramping Clubs to explore the detail of huts and track standards in the Cass Lagoon Saddles location and the meeting results were taken back to the user group for agreement resulting in a clear direction for the assets at that location.

7. Summary of general points from submissions

Other submissions received for facilities had a general theme of retention. The main issues were:

- Maintain everything as all of value - *do not agree with any proposals, saw loss of huts and tracks as the end and immediate, no alternatives proffered.*
- Visitor safety - *many mention this for hut proposals where rivers may halt activity, and some cite experience at locations.*
- Heritage / nostalgic concern - *for some huts this is a general concern at having traditional stopovers removed. These comments have generally prompted an historical assessment to aid decisions.*
- Low use no excuse for losing - *A commonly repeated theme was submitters suggesting that DOC was using the low numbers of users of facilities as the main criteria for phasing out facilities..*
- Contest hut principles - *generally appeared that submitter did not understand or know of hut principles or Canterbury Valley by Valley explanations.*

- Contesting visitor asset standards – *as previous and also in relation to tracks or routes submitters did not understand the principles behind proposals.*
- Retention for historic values – *as previous historic submission comment, historic assessments completed.*
- Linkages with other opportunities and sites – *these generally related to new proposals for routes between locations which were accepted or discounted on merit and but principle values.*

The remainder provided general comments but could be classed as in support or opposing specific proposals. There were few alternative management options provided by submitters.

Section Two

8. Decisions

AORAKI AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
12206	Hooker Hut (6 Support)	Move to another location	Hooker Hut is subject to avalanche hazard and is closed during the winter period. The draft Aoraki Management Plan consultation process identified locating this hut at a site close to Hooker Lake.	Subs support proposal. Locations suggested are in village to subdue vandalism and in the Hooker valley as historic asset with displays in bunk spaces to discourage use as overnight accommodation. Other locations: site up valley of Copland Stream, across valley to a safe location in East Hooker	Move to another location	Submissions support proposal. Aoraki National Park Management Plan review process decision.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
12220	Haast Hut (6 support)	Minimal maintenance	Haast Hut is no longer a strategic hut, primarily because of glacial recession which has now forced most visitors to fly into the Grand Plateau. Most climbers now walk out over Cinerama Col. The hut site also has snow loading issues. Considering changing visitor use patterns and snow loading issues, it is thought that it is no longer a wise investment to continue to provide a hut in this locality.	Subs support proposal. One submitter requests priority on replacing old Beetham Hut on safe site.	Minimal maintenance	Submissions support proposal. Beetham Hut - Dept. & NZAC in discussion on replacement.
96144	Wakefield Track (1 support, 2 Oppose)	Non visitor DOC Managed	The Wakefield Track was closed in 1998 due to visitor safety issues, i.e. rock fall and fall heights associated with the track. It is proposed not to reopen the track to visitors. Historic elements of the track will continue to be managed.	Subs against request consideration for repair and reinstatement, rec. opportunity and signs to warn of rockfall hazard.	Non visitor DOC Managed	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Track to remain closed because of safety issues & manage as Historic Site. Considered too expensive to bring up to DV standard which most users would be, given the location of the site adjacent to the Hooker Valley and track. Signs are in place warning of dangers.

Submissions in support of proposals

De La Beche, Eade Memorial, East Tasman Vally, Godley, Murchison, Onslow & Plateau Hut

TWIZEL AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
12529	Camp Stream Hut (2 support, 4 oppose)	Remove	This hut is in very poor condition. The Rex Simpson Memorial Hut 4km north on the Two Thumb Range is available to the public through a booking system, with an emergency shelter room provided.	Subs against: Offer of co manage by Mackenzie Alpine Trust and one proposer posted - all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage. Two submissions state historic nature and dog tag with 1896 on it.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Hut receives low use and location does not fit with Hut Principles. Historic fabric of hut has been altered and dog tag bears no relation to age of hut. Historic report states that as a mustering hut it is of local significance and is held in regard by locals. Other better examples exist. Co management not supported by Area because of condition & location.
12489	Top Hut (3 support, 2 oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Upper Ahuriri Valley accommodation is a choice between the Hagen's Hut and Top Hut. Top Hut is the smaller of the two huts and is without a fireplace. Hagen's Hut could be relocated further up the valley from its present location when it is due for replacement.	Subs against are to keep both huts (better 2 than 1) and one proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage. Support for also states that both huts will remain for an extended period.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Fits Hut Principles & Valley by Valley Proposals. Hut in sound condition, will remain for a number of years. Retirement date 2020. Avalanche Danger Inspection Report puts hut in low danger zone and mitigation measure is signage and nil replace hut on current site.
12491	Waterfall Hut (3 support, 3 oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The lower and middle reaches of the Dobson Valley are primarily accessed by 4 WD as far as Camp Stream. This enables Kennedy Memorial Hut to act as a base hut with Reardon Hut servicing the upper valley. Le Crens Hut is not owned by DOC.	Subs against: one proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage and others not specific - maintain as shelter, one hut on left. 2 subs support MM with expected current life.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Fits Hut Principles & Valley by Valley proposals. Hut in sound condition, will remain for a number of years & Reardon Hut (Maintain) on true left. Retirement date 2015.

12495	Grough Hut (2 support, 3 oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The lower and middle reaches of the Dobson Valley are primarily accessed by 4 WD as far as Camp Stream. This enables Kennedy Memorial Hut to act as a base hut with Reardon Hut servicing the upper valley. Le Crens Hut is not owned by DOC.	Subs against: one proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage and 14k from Rd end & strategic shelter.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Fits Hut Principles with distance between remaining huts. Hut in sound condition and opportunity still exists as still in reasonable condition. Estimated retirement date currently 2005, expect 2010/15
12539	Pearson Hut (2 support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use hut in the Kirkliston Range.	Sub against proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation stands after submission analysis. Hut in sound condition, will remain for a number of years. Retirement date 2010.
12734	Snowy Gorge Hut (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	A low use hut in the Barrier Range.	Sub against proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage and other asks for reassess at retire date.	Maintain	Proposal explanation changes to Maintain. Since release of proposals and transfer of land from Birchwood and Quailburn Stations this hut is now well placed to service the through route from Lake Ohau to the Ahuriri River and is the only hut in the Snowy Gorge Area.
12471	Cullers Hut (2 support)	Maintain by Community	Cullers Hut to be maintained by North Otago Search and Rescue organisation.	Submissions support proposal	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Subs support proposal
12485	Shamrock Hut (2 support)	Owned by DOC but maintained by Community	To be managed by DOC/Omarama High Country Fire Team.	Submissions support proposal	Owned by DOC but maintained by Community	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Subs support proposal
	Tekapo Walkway (1 submission)		Extend W/W to circuit Mt John via Alexandrina and also extend to Ram Point.	Location of extensions not on public conservation land.	Not Supported	Dept. will support other organisations establishing walkway extension. New proposal not supported as Dept. initiative.
	Mt Edwards (1 Submission)		Provide route to summit.	Location not on public conservation land.	Not Supported	Not supported as Dept. initiative as location not on public conservation land.

Submissions in support of proposals

Elcho, Macaulay, & Red Stag Huts

RAUKAPUKA AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
11684	Meccano Hut (2 support, 2 Oppose)	Remove	This hut, which is accessed through private land, is in poor condition with rotten floor boards and chimney problems.	Sub against proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage one with suggestion of historic value.	Remove	Historic Report — Hut is a Wallaby Board hut deemed to be of National Historical Significance. Hut to be removed to Waimate township as historic asset and maintained by community.
11678	Finlays Face Hut (3 support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Hut serviced by 4WD access from Growler Stream en route to Mistake Flat Hut. Low overnight use indicates that valley users generally use Mistake Flat Hut or travel to Carneys or Murphy's Bivs.	Sub against proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage and another says used frequently by hunters. Support state duplication of facility and tenure review in relation to Growler as replacement.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Fits Hut Principles. Hut will be in sound condition following remedial works. Retirement date currently 2010.
11682	South Opuha Hut (2 support, 2 oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use hut.	Sub against proposer posted all huts that have low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage and Mackenzie Alpine Trust offer co management. 2 Subs in support.	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation changes after submission analysis. Area to consult MAT offer. Submissions generally agree with proposal. Retirement date 2005.
96190	Pudding Hill Stream Route (0 support, 6 oppose)	Cease maintenance	Very low use route. Other similar opportunities available in the locality like the Alder Track and the Scott's Saddle Track which are to be maintained.	Subs oppose: disagree with low use, loop track, duplication no reason. Peninsula Tramp Club offer of work.	Owned by DOC but maintained by Community	Analysis decision to Owned by DOC but Maintain by Community if offer of support from Peninsula Tramping Club successful. If unsuccessful Dept. will maintain.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
96218	Mt Somers Walkway - alternative track (0 Support, 1 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	The Mt Somers Walkway provides better access to Duke Knob. This alternative track to Duke Knob receives very low use and has a stream crossing at the start. It would be uneconomic to bridge this stream crossing given the nearby location of Bowyers Bridge.	Sub in opposition states duplication not strong reason to CM.	Remove	Proposal explanation changes after submission analysis. Considered by Analysis Group that best to remove to reduce any further costs.
96216	Homebush Track, Pioneer Park (0 Support, 4 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	This forest walk experience is duplicated by the Pioneer Park Track in the same locality. The Pioneer Park track provides a better visitor experience and is to be maintained.	Subs in opposition state duplication not reason to cease maintenance, should be retained because of shorter length, better suited to young / old, different to PP Track and excellent examples of flora, circuit via Burkes Hut (historic).	Maintain	Submissions indicate track required for shorter easier opportunity to compliment Pioneer Track and access to adjacent historic site and ecological, flora values. Submissions supported.
96201	Orari Gorge Track (0 Support, 60 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	This track is a duplication of a forest walk opportunity within the foothills. Better forest walk opportunities are provided at Mt Peel offering more variety and better quality visitor experiences than the Orari Gorge Track.	Overwhelming number of submissions: concern over loss of facility and opportunity. Points raised indicate popular because of loop track, close to Geraldine, Youth Camp / Schools and Club use, fauna / flora attractions.	Maintain	Significant public support to maintain track, analysis group decision to change proposal to Maintain.
96183	Methven Walkway (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Maintain by community	The walkway is not seen as a strategic recreation opportunity by the department because of its low potential for conservation appreciation and education importance. If a community group or local authority does not wish to maintain it, the department would cease maintenance on the site.	Submitters against encourage Local Authority or Community manage and reference to National documents on W/W's.	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Submissions support community or Local Authority arrangements.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
96191	Ashburton Walkway (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Maintain by community	The walkway has been reduced in length over the years due to flood damage. The walkway is not seen as a strategic recreation opportunity by the department because of its low potential for conservation appreciation and education importance. If a community group or Local Authority do not wish to maintain the department would cease maintenance on the site.	Supporting submissions state maintain by community better than cease maintenance and if no community available maintain. Others in support community maintenance.	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Area to investigate support from community or Local Authority.
96202	Arowhenua (Opihi River) Walkway (2 Support, 4 Oppose)	Maintain by Community	The walkway is not seen as a strategic recreation opportunity by the Department because of its low potential for conservation appreciation and education importance. If a community group or local authority wishes to maintain the department would cease maintenance on the site.	Supporting submissions state maintain by community better than cease maintenance and if no community available maintain. Subs oppose are W/W should be mown, access close to rivers, W/W was maintained until Ecan raised stopbank.	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Area to investigate support from community or Local Authority.
96206	Pareora River Walkway (2 Support, 4 Oppose)	Maintain by community	The walkway is not seen as a strategic recreation opportunity by the Department because of its low potential for conservation appreciation and education importance. If no community group or local authority wishes to maintain the track the department would cease maintenance on the site.	Supporting submissions state maintain by community better than ceasing maintenance and if no community available maintain. Those oppose to CM state use, historic site and possible inability of Community to maintain.	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Area to investigate support from community or Local Authority..

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
96211	Waimate Walkway (3 Support, 5 Oppose)	Maintain by community	The walkway is not seen as a strategic recreational opportunity by the department because of its low conservation appreciation and education importance. If no community group or local authority wish to maintain the track the department would cease maintenance on the site	Supporting submissions state maintain by community better than ceasing maintenance and if no community available maintain. Consultation with community requested, upgrade before handing over, adds to the attraction of the area, and major Waimate attraction.	Seeking community maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Area to investigate support from community or Local Authority.
100025	Orari Campsite / Amenity area (0 Support, 21 Oppose)	Remove	It is proposed that the site is closed. Opportunities for camping/day use is provided by the Waihi Campsite and the Peel Forest camping area near by.	Large number of submissions generally attach to Track proposal: concern over loss of facility and opportunity. Points raised indicate popular overnight for motor homes, close to Geraldine, Schools and Club use, more sheltered than other camps, fauna / flora attractions.	Maintain	Significant public support to maintain. Analysis group recommends reduce size of facility area. Subs show popular with motor homes, Youth Camp /School Groups use, etc.
98481	Orari campsite / Amenity area Road (0 Support, 5 Oppose)	Remove	It is proposed that the site is closed. Opportunities for camping/day use is provided by the Waihi Campsite and the Peel Forest camping area near by.	Opposed as part of the amenity area	Maintain	Significant public support to maintain. In keeping with Amenity area decision reduce length of road as part of proposal.

Submissions in support of proposals

Cameron, Centennial, Eric Stream, Evans, Jellico, Lyell, Mathias, Mt Somers, Reishek & St Winifred's

NORTH CANTERBURY AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
11022	Anne Cullers Hut (3 Support)	Remove	Anne Cullers Hut, situated adjacent to the Anne River Hut, is in poor condition. The Anne River Hut is to be maintained.	Submissions support proposal	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after submissions analysis. Submitters support Valley by Valley proposals.
11233	North Esk Hut (3 Support, 1 Oppose)	Remove	The hut is in very poor condition. The cladding is supporting the framework and the concrete floor has crumbled.	Subs support proposal. Against requests retention because only hut in valley	Remove	Submitters support Valley by Valley proposal. Intent is to maintain remote experience. Retire date is estimated at 2004.
11004	Christopher Cullers Hut (2 Support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The nearby Christopher Hut provides visitor accommodation.	Subs support proposal. Against sub. Suggests all huts should be maintained.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Will fit Hut Principles when reaches end of life. Historic assessment – Conservancy has identified 2 standard Forest Service 4 bunk huts for retention elsewhere.
11063	Rokeby Hut (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Rokeby Hut (3 bunks) is generally bypassed by most visitors when travelling from the Anne River Hut to the Boyle Flats Hut in a day.	Against subs. suggests all huts should be maintained and nostalgic value & shelter	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation stands after submission analysis. Fits Hut Principles with distance between remaining huts. On St James W/W.
11202	Muddy Stream Biv (3 Support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The biv was built by the NZ Forest Service for wild animal control operations and is not on public conservation land. The hut is not part of a recognised track or route, and subsequently receives very little use.	Subs support proposal. Against is to keep it habitable and prevent deterioration.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Retirement date is 2015, opportunity exists for some time.
11203	Stoney Stream Biv (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Access is via St James Station, and permission is required. The hut is not on a recognisable route or track, and subsequently receives very low use.	Against subs. Suggests all huts should be maintained and keep it habitable and prevent deterioration.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Retirement date is 2015, opportunity exists for some time.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
11204	Tu Tu Hut (2 Support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Access to the hut is across private land, and permission is required from the land owner. To gain access from public conservation land the Waiau River has to be crossed, subsequently the hut has very low use.	Subs support proposal. Against sub. Suggests all huts should be maintained.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Retirement date is 2020, opportunity exists for some time.
11205	Jervois Hut (2 Support, 3 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	A low use hut in an isolated location. Access is through pastoral lease land. The hut is not on a recognisable route or track.	Subs support proposal. Against is to keep it habitable, prevent deterioration and part of rec. opportunity.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis.
11208	Glenrae Biv (2 Support, 4 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The biv is in an isolated location. The best access is over private land and permission is required from the land owner. Consequently the biv receives little use.	Subs support proposal. Against is to keep it habitable, prevent deterioration and valued part of rec. opportunity.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Retire date is 2018, opportunity exists for some time.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision
11218	Top Hope Hut (3 Support, 5 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Top Hope Hut is not seen as strategic in terms of visitor use in crossing from the Doubtful to the Hope river valleys. When the nearby St Jacobs Hut requires replacement, a location closer to the Hope/ Pussy Streams could be identified which would serve visitor use.	FMC submission supports proposal. Against suggests all huts should be maintained and to keep it habitable, prevent deterioration and part of rec. opportunity.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Retire date is 2025, opportunity will exist for some time.
11222	East Branch, Mackenzie Biv (2 Support, 3 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The biv is in a remote, low use location, and is not part of a route or track system.	Subs support proposal from FMC. Against suggests all huts should be maintained and to keep it habitable, prevent deterioration and part of rec. opportunity.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Retire date is 2014, opportunity will exist for some time.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
11224	Cameron Hut (2 Support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Visitor accommodation is provided by the Hurunui No 3 Hut.	Subs support proposal. Against sub. Suggests all huts should be maintained.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis.
10970	Carlyle Hut (5 Support)	Maintain by Community	Predominantly used by local hunters. A Hanmer based hunting club has indicated (informally) it will undertake ongoing maintenance.	Submissions support proposal	Owned by DOC -Maintain by community	Proposal explanation remains after submissions analysis. Area to continue with support from community
99240 & 99241	Motukurara to Little River Rail Trail (11 Support)	Proposed	Day visit opportunity that will allow mountain biking close to Christchurch.	Submissions support proposal	Proposed	Subs support proposal.
191431	Ellangowan Track Extension (3 Support, 7 Oppose)	Proposed	Extension of the present track to Trig B and connections with Le Bons Bay. Mountain bike use of the track envisaged.	Subs against appear to have been misinformed regards location of m/bike access.	Proposed	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis and Area having contacted majority of submitters and agreement reached to extension of DV opportunity.
191426	Packhorse Hut to Mt Herbert Shelter (8 Support)	Proposed	Reinstatement of the track from Packhorse Hut to the Mt Herbert shelter.	Submissions support proposal	Proposed	Submissions support proposal and extension of DV opportunity.
99254	Three Mile Stream Route (1 Support, 2 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	A low use route. Access from the Hope Valley to the Hurunui Valley is provided by the track over Kiwi Saddle and around Lake Sumner and the McMillan/Parakeet Stream tracks.	Subs against note increasingly popular and maintenance should be improved.	Maintain	Submissions oppose proposal. Analysis supports submissions as provides a day trip opportunity from the Hope Kiwi Hut. Proposal explanation changes given support for route.
96381	Sylvia Tops access route (5 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	Low use access route which requires crossing the Nina River. Access to the tops is provided by the Devil Skin Saddle route from the Nina River to the Doubtful River.	Subs against note the round trip use of this and suggestion of cheap to maintain and link to Nina.	Maintain	Submissions oppose proposal. Analysis supports submissions. Provides access for remote experience opportunities on Lewis Pass Tops and linkages to existing opportunities. Proposal explanation changes given support for route.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision
96358	Jollies Pass Road to Mt Isobel (3 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	The Jollies Pass Road is closed to 2WD vehicles which restrict access; hence the route is not easily accessed. Jacks Pass route to Mt Isobel offers the opportunity to access Mt Isobel and provides linkages with other tracks in that area.	Subs state Hurunui DC to upgrade Rd in future. Important experience, round trip & traverse of Mt. Isobel	Maintain	After analysis and confirmation of road upgrade by Hurunui DC in near future route to be maintained. Provides linkages to other tracks in the Mt Isobel area providing day trip opportunities.
96374	Woolshed Hut to Dozy Stream route (1 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	There is no easy access across the Hurunui River to this very low use route. The route does not go to a specific destination or link in with any other tracks.	Submitter requests reopening.	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis.
100022	Nape Nape Campsite (1 Support, 1 Oppose)	Remove	Site is unstable due to earth slumping. Camping site has been closed on advice from a geotechnical engineer. Day use allowed with restrictions on access within the reserve.	Sub against suggests Council maintain road and update Geo Report and when stabilised maintain for public.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after submissions analysis.
98502	Nape Nape Road (1 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	Site is unstable due to earth slumping. Day use allowed with restrictions on access within the reserve. For safety reasons vehicles will need to park outside the entrance gate.	Sub against suggests Council maintain road and update Geo Report and when stabilised maintain for public.	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submissions analysis.
11199	Caroline Creek Biv (1 Submission)	Maintain		Caroline Creek should be Minimal maintenance and then replace with a bigger hut & not necessary on same site.	Not supported	Hut proposal is Maintain. A hut will be provided in the general area when the present hut is due for replacement. Size will be determined by visitor demand.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
	Henery Saddle (1 Submission)	New proposal		New routes from Maruia River to Henery Saddle to Discovery tops, Anne Hut.	Not supported	Canterbury CMS objective (4.2.3) for the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and St James W/W is to provide recreation facilities appropriate to identified recreation needs and in keeping with the high landscape values of the area and its remote experience qualities. The implementation of this CMS objective does not propose new routes in this area.
	Lewis Tops and new hut (1 Submission)	New Proposal		Submitter requests poled route across Lewis Tops to new hut at head of Deer Valley. Great also for winter climbers and skiers.	Not Supported	Proposal not supported. Duplication of other opportunities. CMS objective to provide facilities appropriate to identified recreation needs and in keeping with the high landscape values of the area and its remote experience qualities. Any development in this area does not meet the objective.
	Rolleston Pack Track (1 Submission)	New proposal		Poled route across Lewis Tops to new Hut at head of deer Valley. Also great for climbers and skiers.	Not supported	Similar opportunities provided by Nina, Doubtful, Lake Man, Hope circuits. Canterbury CMS objective (4.2.3) for the Lewis Pass National Scenic Reserve and St James W/W is to provide recreation facilities appropriate to identified recreation needs and in keeping with the high landscape values of the area and its remote experience qualities. The implementation of this CMS objective does not propose new routes in this area.

Submissions in support of proposals

Devil Skin and Lake Man Bivs supported.

WAIMAKARIRI AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
10623	Lagoon Saddle A Frame Hut (6 Support, 7 Oppose)	Replace	The Cass Lagoon Saddle trip is often carried out in 3 days. Visitors stay at the Hamilton Hut and one of the two small Lagoon Saddle huts. These two huts do not serve the needs of visitors. The proposal is to replace the A Frame hut with a 10 bunk hut.	Submitters against proposal requested further consultation, no hut in this location, waste of resources and fragile area. Subs for also sought further consultation and to debate location & size suggesting 10 bunk not appropriate - shelter preferred.	Minimal maintenance	Following consultations with user group resolution is to replace with shelter at future date, fits with intended BCA standard & provision of minimal facility provision (Standards - Tracks & Outdoor Visitor Structure Standards, 2.7.4.7) although not required immediately. Hut will be managed on Minimal Maintenance until that time.
9816	Possumer's Hut (2 Support, 1 Oppose)	Remove	Possumer's Hut is located in the Mt Grey area north west of Christchurch. It is in very poor condition. A hut is not essential here as the opportunities provided are of a day visit nature.	Submitter against proposal posted to all huts that low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Submissions support proposal and Valley by Valley Explanation supports.
9935 & 9936	Townsend Hut (3 Support, 4 Oppose)	Remove	A road end hut. Wharfedale Hut is in better condition and is less than 30 minutes walk away.	Submitter against proposal posted to all huts that low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage. 2 state not road end hut for most, also used by 4wders and hunters.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Location does not meet Hut Principles as road end and Wharfedale Hut 30mins distant. FMC support proposal.
9940	Bob's Camp Biv (5 Support, 9 Oppose)	Remove and relocate to a more useful site.	The hut is a relocatable staff hut that was never shifted after work in the area was completed.	Subs in support: relocate to Pfeiffer, Binsler Saddle, Zampa Tarn or Mt Thomas Forest. Against support current location because of location, access by young & old, hunters, 1 st time trampers.	Maintain	Submissions support retention in current location. Analysis supports submissions due to geographic location (proximity to Chch) and its historical use and continued demand especially for hunting.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
10699	West Harper Hut (3 Support, 14 Oppose)	Remove	A beech pole hut in poor condition with very low use. Visitors by pass this hut en route from Hamilton Hut to Lagoon Saddle.	Submissions in support request further consultation, and against request it remain for reasons; historic value (NZFS cutlers), low use no reason for removal, overflow location for Hamilton.	Maintain	Consultation on valley proposals conclude that this hut be maintained because of Historic significance. Hut is Wild Animal Control NZFS Hut and because of construction & social history deemed to be of National Significance. Subs requested further consultation which has been achieved. On Te Araroa route.
10763	Mingha Biv (3 Support, 11 Oppose)	Remove	Mingha Biv has been replaced by the Goat Pass Hut. The biv is generally by passed en route to Goat Pass Hut.	Subs against (6) reason for safety and shelter. If rivers up trampers could experience difficulty accessing valley.	Remove	Considered access generally restricted in high river events before location reached. Valley by Valley explanation remains. Biv is generally bypassed en route to Goat Pass Hut or road end on way out. Hut is less than 3 hrs from road end not meeting Hut Principles.
10821	Pfeiffer Biv (3 Support, 9 Oppose)	Remove	The biv is in poor condition and receives very low use.	Subs quote safety, increasing use, should be MM, low use no reason for proposal and vital shelter for tops in adverse weather. Submissions in support; experienced trampers area, FMC support proposal.	Maintain	Submissions in opposition support retention. Increasing use and its location near tops in locality fit Hut Principles. A new facility will be established in a more suitable location within the locality to replace this aged and damaged Biv.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
10824	Waterfall Biv (4 Support, 3 Oppose)	Remove	The biv is in poor condition with very low use. The APNP Management Plan states that the north eastern part of the park will be kept free of huts, apart from possibly limited emergency shelter, as it is a remote area where park users should be totally self reliant.	Submitters support because sound reasoning & Management Plan proposal. Against to all huts that low use no excuse for removal, important refuge and maintain one in valley.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. APNP requirement for hut free zone.
10825	Upper Cox Hut (5 Support, 3 Oppose)	Remove	The hut is in poor condition and unattractive to visitors. Beech frame construction. The APNP Management Plan states that the north eastern part of the park will be kept free of huts, apart from possibly limited emergency shelter, as a remote area where park users should be totally self reliant.	Submitters support because of remote zone & Management Plan proposal. Against to all huts that low use no excuse for removal, important refuge and maintain one in valley.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. APNP requirement for hut free.
10833	Ranger Biv (3 Support, 4 Oppose)	Remove	The biv is in poor condition with very low use.	3 submitters support proposal and against; low use no reason for proposal, heritage, best condition of all bivs in area & refuge.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. APNP (pg.109) states for facilities 'they become a health or safety hazard they will be dismantled and removed'. This hut meets this criterion.
10834	Thompson Biv (3 Support, 5 Oppose)	Remove	The biv is in poor condition with very low use.	3 submitters support proposal and against; low use no reason for proposal, heritage, important refuge maintain one hut in NE of park.	Remove	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. APNP (pg.109) states for facilities 'they become a health or safety hazard they will be dismantled and removed'. This hut meets this criterion.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision
10848	Basins Hut (dilapidated) (3 Support, 4 Oppose)	Remove	The new Basins Hut across the river provides accommodation. The old hut should have been removed when the new Basins Hut was built.	Subs against state new hut difficult to access (safety) and historic nature of old hut. FMC support proposal because of new hut & other agree.	Maintain	Proposal explanation changes after analysis. Hut is Wild Animal Control NZFS Hut and because of construction & social history deemed to be of National Significance.
10873	Nigger Bush Biv (3 Support, 1 Oppose)	Remove	The biv was originally built by the NZ Forest Service to service wild animal control operations. The biv is in poor condition and is not on public conservation land.	Subs support proposal. Sub against suggests important link.	Remove	Submissions support proposal and Valley by Valley Explanation.
10860	Puketeraki Biv (4 support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The biv was built by the NZ Forest Service for wild animal control operations. The biv is close to a road end and is not on public conservation land. It has a proposed retirement date of 2020.	Subs support proposal. Sub against suggests all huts should be maintained.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submissions analysis. Submitters support Valley by Valley proposals.
9929	Tarn Hut (4 Support, 6 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The hut was originally built by the NZ Forest Service to service wild animal control operations. The hut is not on public conservation land.	Subs in support state sound reasoning, full reassessment at retire date and agree. Against cite pleasant / popular location for less experienced, refuge, all huts should be kept indefinitely and heritage.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Retire date is 2025. Opportunity will remain for some time. Support by CTC, FMC & Arthurs Pass Assoc.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
10621	Lagoon Saddle Hut (the windowless hut) (5 Support, 5 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The Cass / Lagoon Saddle trip is often carried out in 3 days. Visitors stay at the Hamilton Hut and one of the two small Lagoon Saddle huts. These two huts do not serve the needs of visitors. The proposal is to maintain the A Frame hut until its retirement date of 2010 and then replace it with a 10 bunk hut.	Submissions in support required further consultation, and agreed with proposal and against also referred to further consultation, no requirement for larger hut.	Minimal maintenance	Consultation on valley proposals conclude that this hut be on Minimal maintenance and removed when required. The Lagoon Saddle A Frame will be replaced with a shelter. Subs requested further consultation which has been achieved. On Te Araroa route.
10688	Cass Saddle Hut (5 Support, 5 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The hut is generally by-passed by visitors en route to Hamilton Hut. Hamilton Hut is viewed as strategic accommodation for the Cass - Lagoon Saddle trip along with better visitor accommodation at Lagoon Saddle.	Submitters against proposal requested further consultation, distance to other huts, location, replace with shelter, no new hut & low use no reason for proposal. Subs for also sought further consultation and to debate location, and replace with shelter preferred.	Minimal maintenance	Consultation on valley proposals conclude that this hut be on minimal maintenance and replaced with a shelter when required. Subs requested maintain and further consultation which has been achieved. This is consistent with Lagoon Saddle A Frame Hut Interim Decision.
10709	Hallelujah Biv (2 Support, 1 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The biv is by-passed by visitors en route to Casey Hut.	Submitter against proposal posted to all huts that low use no excuse, all should be maintained and part of heritage.	Minimal maintenance	Submissions support proposal. Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Current retire date 2008 and final removal fits Hut Principles criteria as next hut (is less than 3hrs away.
10804	Upper Deception Hut (2 Support, 6 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	The hut is generally by- passed by visitors. Goat Pass Hut is the strategic hut on the Mingha - Deception route.	Subs against state safety, and loss of opportunity and used as overflow to Goat Pass. FMC support proposal.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Valley by Valley proposals support MM. Hut is less than 3hrs from Goat Pass Hut and final removal fits Hut Principles criteria.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
10823	Worsley Biv (2 Support, 4 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Worsley Biv is approximately 30 mins from the new Poulter Hut. Poulter Biv in the upper Poulter River valley will be maintained to provide accommodation in the upper reaches of the valley.	Subs against propose that all huts with low use no excuse for removal, heritage & remove to Minchin or Pfeiffer. Support for not maintaining as drains resources.	Minimal maintenance	Biv is A frame type considered not suitable for windy sites (Minchin, Pfeiffer). Valley by Valley proposal supports MM. Hut is less than 3hrs from Poulter Hut and final removal will fit Hut Principles criteria.
10826	Bull Creek Hut (3 Support, 5 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use hut. It is proposed to maintain Lochinvar Hut as a suitable base for exploration in this area.	Subs against strategic location and heritage. One request that this be left in valley for safety and agrees with removal of others.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Valley by Valley proposals support MM. Hut is less than 3hrs from Lochinvar Hut and final removal will fit Hut Principles criteria.
10827	Candlesticks Biv (3 support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use Biv. The APNP Management Plan states that the north eastern part of the park will be kept free of huts apart from possibly limited emergency shelter, as a remote area where park users should be totally self reliant.	Subs against propose that all huts with low use no excuse for removal, heritage and linkage. Support MM with one sub saying Bull Creek should remain.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. APNP requirement for hut free zone.
10829	Andersons Hut (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use hut in the Esk Valley which provides a remote type experience.	Against subs. suggest all huts should be maintained and important link position. Sub in support from FMC & other.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis.
10830	Esk Biv (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use biv in the Esk Valley which provides a remote type experience.	Against subs. suggest all huts should be maintained and important link position. Sub in support from FMC & other.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Meets Valley by Valley proposal and Hut Principles - low use hut.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
10831	Ant Stream Biv (2 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use biv. Ant Stream Hut to be maintained.	Against subs. suggest all huts should be maintained and important link position. Sub in support from FMC & other.	Minimal maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Meets Valley by Valley proposal and Hut Principles - low use hut and close to Ant Stream Hut.
10832	Top Cox Biv (4 Support, 2 Oppose)	Minimal maintenance	Low use biv. The APNP Management Plan states that the north eastern part of the park will be kept free of huts apart from possibly limited emergency shelter, as a remote area where park users should be totally self reliant.	Two submitters state removal and two agree with Proposal. Against subs. Suggests all huts should be maintained and important link position.	Remove	Submissions state removal, very little Rec. value. Analysis explanation remains after analysis. APNP requirement for hut free zone.
10247	Benmore Hut (3 Support)	Maintain by Community	Hunting group interested in maintaining hut.	Submissions support proposal	Owned by DOC -maintain by community	Area to proceed with consultation. Submissions support proposal.
10641	Waimakariri Falls Hut (5 Support, 5 Oppose)	Maintain by Community	Canterbury Mountaineering Club considering maintaining hut. Avalanche hazard issues associated with the present hut site.	Submitters against proposal state maintain because link with Rolleston & Hunt Rivers, strategic ought to be replaced. Those in support state good location and sound reasoning.	Owned by DOC -maintain by community	Area to proceed with consultation. CMC consider maintaining hut.
191009	Bridal Veil Track extension to Temple Basin car park (5 Support)	Proposed	Extend existing track as far as Temple Basin car park - approx 1400m. Safer visitor entry/exit.	Submissions support proposal	Proposed	Proposal explanation remains after submissions analysis. Subs support proposal.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
96301	Ashley Waterfall Track (12 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	Track with visitor safety issues and crosses private property. There are also car park and roadside safety issues.	Subs for retention - Location close to Gorge Camp (private), popular, attraction for area, enjoyable, school trips.	Remove	Proposal explanation changed to remove following submission analysis and discussion. Safety issues, track current SST and would be difficult to even reach DV standard. Also 1 st part of track at road not on public conservation land which does not guarantee permanent access. Glentui location 5kms distant has interpretation, loop tracks and better experience.
96290	Rydes Tramway (3 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	Access to Rydes Falls is provided by the Coopers Creek to Rydes Falls Track. The tramway is now overgrown.	Subs against relate to loss of alternative access, and loop tracks.	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Issues raised are covered by remaining assets that provide more manageable loops.
96318	Lake Janet By Pass Track (5 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	Part of the Lake Janet Bypass Track is not on public conservation land. Access to the summit of Mt Grey is provided by the Mt Grey Track and Red Beech Track.	Subs against relate to loss of alternative access, and loop tracks.	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Issues are covered by remaining assets that provide more manageable loops.
96317	Mt Grey Lookout track (4 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	A large portion of the Mt Grey Lookout Track is not on public conservation land and is largely an alternative route to the summit. Access to the summit will be provided via the Mt Grey Track and Red Beech Track.	Submitters disagree with proposal citing, forms easy loops, all tracks have scenic values and reasons not compelling although 1 states Community Maintain as not DOC's backcountry responsibility.	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Loop access still provided via Mt Grey and Red Beech Tracks without loss of opportunity.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
96322	Scout Track, Mt Grey (2 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	This track receives very low use. Most visitors climb Mt Grey, take in the views, have some food and then descend. The Mt Grey Track and Red Beech Track provide access to and from the summit of Mt Grey.	Submission against has concern at closure of loop tracks close to Chch, further consideration required and scenic routes should be kept as alternatives..	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Other remaining tracks provide access without loss of opportunity and are more manageable loops.
96321	Scout Track, Mt Grey (1 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	This track receives very low use. Most visitors climb Mt Grey, take in the views, have some food and then descend. The Mt Grey Track and Red Beech Track provide access to and from the summit of Mt Grey.	Submission against has concern at closure of loop tracks close to Chch and further consideration required.	Cease maintenance	Proposal explanation remains after submission analysis. Other remaining tracks provide access without loss of opportunity and are more manageable loops.
96296	Wharfedale to Mt Oxford route (6 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	A low use route that provides access to the summit of Mt Oxford. Access to Mt Oxford will be provided from both Coopers Creek and View Hill offering a day visit opportunity up one way and down another.	Subs against relate to loss of alternative access, scenic, and loop tracks.	Maintain	Submissions oppose proposal. Analysis supports submissions. Provide linkage with existing routes. Mt Oxford area well used because of close proximity to Chch. Proposal explanation changes given support for route.
96299	Upper Salmon Creek route (2 Oppose)	Cease maintenance	A very low use route with no accommodation at the head. Access to be provided to the lower Salmon Creek. Lower Salmon Creek Biv to be maintained.	Subs suggest all tracks remain to provide alternatives and scenic values and linkages.	Maintain	Submissions oppose proposal. Analysis supports submissions. Provides access into the Upper Salmon Creek catchment which is a popular hunting area. Proposal explanation changes given support for route.
Visitor facility number	Visitor facility name	Proposal	Proposal explanation	Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
96256, 96257, 96258	Cass - Lagoon Saddle Track (6 Support, 4 Oppose)	Upgrade (significant)	This track is seeing increasing use by family groups and visitors venturing out on first time overnight tramping trips. An upgrade of the track is proposed to meet the needs of these visitors.	Subs in support state; improve for less experienced, upgrade parts / some, makes sense and consultation. Subs against state upgrading will reduce time, expensive and not add to opportunity (keep BCA)	Maintain	Consultation on valley proposals conclude that this track be maintained to BCA standard. Subs requested further consultation which has been achieved. Keeping status quo on this site provides options for future generations. On Te Araroa route.
10820	Otehake Swing Bridge (1 Support, 4 Oppose)	Remove	The swing bridge has been closed for a number of years. The Otehake River can be crossed lower down from the swing bridge site on the Otehake flats.	Submitters against note deserves maintenance, major hazard & safety.	Maintain	Support for retention because of issues and Te Araroa Route. Provides access to Koropuku Big Tops Hut. Track Service Standards for routes state bridges supplied "where a significant hazard exists, major water courses shall be bridged." It is deemed that this location presents a major hazard.
	Visitor facility name	Proposal		Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision
	Mt Thomas / Pinchgut Route 1 (Submission)	New proposal		Cross over track should be formalised giving good 2 day trip.	Maintain	Support proposal. Provides round trip opportunities and formalises existing access.
	Park Morpeth Hut (3 Submissions)	Maintain		Submitters support proposal and state suitable hut in location imperative and access to Browning Pass should be made safer.	Maintain	Valley by Valley proposal is maintain and ongoing route service standards will improve access.
	Visitor facility name	Proposal		Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision
	Goat Pass Hut (1 Submission)	Maintain		Submitter would like to some form of heating installed, popular hut and other higher huts have heating.	Maintain	Heating to be provided as resources allow.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
	Trust Poulter Hut (1 Submission)	Maintain		Submitter states not to be reserved for DOC staff.	Maintain	Valley by Valley proposal to maintain. Available to visitors when not in use by staff.
	Poulter Biv (1 Submissions)	Maintain		Submitter requests Minimal maintenance because of low visitor numbers.	Maintain	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Meets Valley by Valley proposal and Hut Principles.
	Bivs General 2			Reasonably accessible Bivs too small to meet requirements (Sudden Valley example) should be MM then replaced with Huts.	Maintain	Biv's will be replaced with huts only where use of opportunity demands and is appropriate on retirement.
	Lake Kaurapataka Track and new Hut. (1 Submission)	New proposal		Submitter requests all weather track over Waharoa Saddle to new hut beside Lake Kaurapataka with existing Pfeiffer – Taramakau completing loop.	Not supported	Issues of development within the Arthurs Pass National Park are best dealt with through the APNP Management Plan review.
	Visitor facility name	Proposal		Summary of Submissions	Decision	Reason for Decision
96244	Otehake Track 1 Submission)	Deletion proposal		Submitter requests track below hut should be abandoned and is not required saving costs.	Maintain	Proposal explanation remains after analysis. Track provides link and access to Lake Kaurapataka. A recognised Classic tramping route.
	Casey – Binser Saddle (1 Submission)	New proposal		Submitter proposal is for a new hut at Pete's Stream on Poulter / Binser location to allow a 3 day easy loop tramp from Andrews Stream.	Not supported	Analysis of location suggests that Turnball Biv provides mid point accommodation down Poulter River 4kms from proposed hut location. Because this proposal is within the APNP it is considered that proposals should be dealt with as part of the Arthurs Pass national Park Management Plan Review.

Submissions in support of proposals

Avoca Hut, Barker Hut

The following defines those changes made through this process.

DECISION	AREA	ASSET
Huts		
Minimal maintenance to Maintain	Twizel	Snowy Gorge Hut
Minimal maintenance to Replace - Smaller	Waimakariri	Cass Saddle Hut
Minimal maint. to Seeking Community maint.	Raukapuka	Sth Opuha Hut
Minimal maintenance to Remove	Waimakariri	Top Cox Biv.
Replace to Minimal maintenance	Waimakariri	Cass Lagoon Saddle A Frame Hut
Remove & relocate to Maintain	Waimakariri	Bobs Camp Biv
Remove to Maintain	Waimakariri	Basins Hut
	Waimakariri	West Harper Hut
	Waimakariri	Pfeiffer Biv
Tracks		
Cease maintenance to Remove	Raukapuka	Mt Somers W/W Alternative Tk
	Waimakariri	Ashley Waterfall Track
Cease maintenance to Maintain	Raukapuka	(3.3km) Orari Gorge Track
	Raukapuka	(0.3km) Homebush Track
Upgrade to Maintain	Waimakariri	Cass / Lagoon Saddle Track
Routes		
Cease maintenance to Maintain	Nth. Cant.	(4.5km) Three Mile Stm
	Nth. Cant.	(1.4km) Sylvia Tops Access
	Nth. Cant.	(3.1km) Jollies Pass / Isobel
	Waimakariri	(3.8km) Wharfedale - Oxford
	Waimakariri	(10.2km) Upper Salmon Crk.
Cease maintenance to Owned by DOC but maintain by Community	Raukapuka	Pudding Hill Stm
Camp / Road / Bridge		
Remove to Maintain	Raukapuka	Orari Gorge Camp
	Raukapuka	Orari Gorge Road
	Waimakariri	Otehake swing bridge
New Proposals (accepted)		
Rationalisation of existing asset		(11km) Mt Thomas / Pinchgut Route

Eight other track / route and 3 new hut proposals were put forward via submissions. These were not supported, are listed below and the reasons for these decisions are provided in the Decision table.

Tekapo Walkway Extension
Mt Edwards Route
Henery Saddle Route
Lewis Tops Route

Rolleston Pack Track
 Lake Kaurapataka Track
 Casey - Binser Saddle
 Biv in Caroline Creek
 Hut at Lewis Tops
 Hut at Petes Stream

9. Summary of decisions

The following table shows the comparison between proposals and decisions:

PROPOSAL	PROPOSED	DECISION
Huts		
Maintain / replace / upgrade	1	5
Maintain by community	4	2
Owned by DOC but maintained by community	1	4
Minimal maintenance	31	29
Remove	15	13
Move to another location	2	1
Tracks		
Maintain / replace / upgrade	1 (28.1km)	9 (65.7km)
Seeking community maintenance	5 (32.0km)	5 (32.0km)
Owned by DOC but maintained by community		1 (4.7km)
Non-visitor DOC managed	1 (4.1km)	1 (4.1km)
Cease maintenance	16 (58.2km)	6 (24.5km)
Remove		2 (2.4km)
Proposed	4 (30.0km)	4 (30.0km)
New Proposal	1 (11.0km)	
Campsites		
Maintain		1
Remove	2	1
Roads		
Maintain		1
Cease maintenance	1	1
Remove	1	

The Conservancy will manage four more huts than originally proposed. This increase is due to additional historic assessments recommending that the huts remain eg. West Harper Hut and the acceptance that Bobs Camp Biv remains at its current location.

Eight more tracks and routes than proposed will be maintained. This is because of submissions received for retention and acknowledgment that these tracks and routes add to the range of recreation opportunities. Two tracks proposed for cease maintenance will be removed because of safety risks at those sites. This results in an additional 37.6 kilometres of track or route to the conservancy total of track managed.

10. Overview of decisions in terms of a range of recreation opportunities

The Decisions tend to favour a higher day visitor and back country adventurer facility provision than was presented in the proposals and also reflects the nature of the department's managed recreation opportunities in Canterbury.

The major changes are where routes have changed from "Cease Maintenance" to "Maintain". Submitters supported retention because of the loss of alternative access, linkages and loop track opportunities. Two of these sites are close to the population base of Christchurch. Some balance has been achieved by two tracks being removed (Mt Somers W/W Alternative Route and Ashley Waterfall Track) instead of the "Cease Maintenance" proposal.

A key issue for the Conservancy was the proposed closing of the Orari Gorge facilities.

This has now been changed to "Maintain" for the track, campsite and access road. The Department will also maintain the Otehake swing bridge.

Changes in the commitment of resources as a result of the decisions will be minimal given the extra resources required to manage additional routes and the additional huts of which two are being retained for historic reasons. The removal of 14 huts in 2005/06 from the total within the conservancy will reduce the commitment of required resources in management of those assets and better allow areas to manage the remaining asset base and opportunity for users of those assets.

Submissions tended to be personal and related to experience and desire. The general thrust tended to oppose particularly the proposals to cease maintenance of or to remove huts. It appeared also that some submitters were not aware of the conservancy's Valley by Valley explanations or the Hut Principles documents. Where changes have been made to the proposals, submitters provided good arguments and reasoning for the decisions reached. This was very apparent in the Cass Lagoon Saddle location where further consultation occurred to finalise the interim decisions for assets in that location.

The Orari Gorge Track, campground / amenity area and road attracted a significant number of submissions opposing closure, with the public support for the area being well demonstrated. Twelve submitters opposed the proposal to cease maintenance

on the Ashley Waterfall Track. The track standards and access issues remain and no alternative suggestions were raised. This prompted the analysis group to change the decision to “Remove”.

In making decisions the analysis group found that where reasoned submissions were received the making of decisions to reflect the recreational values and strategic visions was simplified. The submission process has been beneficial in identifying the current mix of users of public conservation land. The network of recreation opportunities provided in the Canterbury Conservancy reflects the requirements of those users by providing a range of opportunities to enjoy.

Appendix 1

WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

Decisions for facilities in the Conservancy have been made by DOC as an outcome of this process of consultation. The options for future management are grouped under 13 broad headings.

Maintain

The facility will continue to be maintained, to the appropriate standard, providing recreation opportunities the same as, or similar to, those currently available. If it is a building or a structure it will be replaced with a similar facility at the end of its useful life. DOC will bring the asset up to the required standard if it is not currently to the required standard.

Proposed (new)

A new facility will be developed in a place where there has not previously been one.

Replace

A new facility will be built replacing an existing facility that will soon reach the end of its useful life.

Upgrade to higher standard

The facility requires upgrading to a higher standard or to a larger size to meet the needs of the main visitor and/or mitigate against visitor impacts.

Maintain to lower standard

The facility will be maintained to a lower standard than has previously been the case. Often this will mean continuing to manage to a lower standard because the original standard intended for the facility was too high and never achieved.

Remove

Remove the facility (if a structure, sign, hut or building). If a hut, remove by the end of 2006. If a track, remove markers, plant out track entrances and leave the track to revert to a natural state, or assist this process if necessary.

Minimal maintenance

Used for huts and other buildings. The building will be inspected by DOC on a regular cycle. Inspectors will travel with basic tools and equipment and some minor maintenance (that can be done during the regular inspections) will be undertaken. When the building is no longer weatherproof or becomes dangerous or unsanitary,

it will be removed, unless there is a community group willing and able to bring it up to standard and maintained to standard (see Seeking Community Maintenance)

Cease maintenance

For tracks, markers will be left until they naturally disappear, but the track will be left to revert to a natural state. Roads are closed to motor vehicles. Carparks, amenity areas and campsites are left to revert to a natural state and any associated buildings or signs will be removed. Signs will be placed at track entrances stating that the track is no longer maintained.

Close site/remove all assets

Remove all assets (structures, signs, huts, track markers etc), plant out track entrances and leave the site to revert to a natural state. Closed sites will be removed from all visitor information. Where necessary the site or part of it will be rehabilitated.

Own by DOC but maintain by community

The facility is one DOC believes should be retained. It is one that could realistically be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. The facility may already be maintained by the community. A management agreement should be established if one is not already in place. The funding assumption is that DOC will not cover maintenance costs, but will fund inspections and replacement.

Owned and maintained by the community

The Department currently has a formal agreement in place with a club, community group or local authority to maintain the asset. If, in the future, that agreement falls over, the future of that asset will be determined following consultation with the community.

Seeking community maintenance

The asset currently has no formal agreement in place and is not one that DOC believes it should maintain at all. The facility should only be retained long term if the community agrees to take it on. It is one that realistically could be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. DOC will discuss ongoing maintenance and replacement of the facility with such groups and should establish a management agreement for that maintenance

Non-visitor DOC management

For facilities receiving very little or no visitor use, the facility will be managed by the department for other purposes, such as to accommodate pest control staff or to access a biodiversity conservation area. The facilities will not normally be available for visitor use.