



# East Coast Hawke's Bay 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. Message from the Conservator

The following report details the content of submissions received by East Coast Hawke's Bay 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, 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.

P. Williamson

Conservator

East Coast Hawke's Bay

## 2. Summary of outcomes

### 2.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sixty-eight submitters commented on 107 DOC proposals and recommended 21 new proposals. (A total of 496 submissions received)

Two thirds of all submissions on specific proposals focussed on huts and bivies with particular emphasis on the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks.

Seventy-two DOC proposals received no comment. These were mainly for tracks and other non-accommodation facilities within Te Urewera National Park (67%). This was surprising as the majority of tracking changes within the conservancy affected the National Park.

On the whole the quality of information submitted was very good. Aside from comments on specific proposals, submitters raised background concerns to try and inform the review process on key issues such as:

- Limited road access in the Ruahine;
- Disabled access (Aniwaniwa Visitor Centre glaring)
- Tourism/recreation perceptions on how DOC is chasing Green \$\$\$ and tourists at the expense New Zealanders;
- The preference for small intimate huts in the backcountry;
- The safety role of huts and bivies;

- Road end huts for families and the less able;
- A need for updated visitor information as a safety consequence of this process;
- Working closely with other providers e.g. Territorial Authorities, Iwi.

Seven additional meetings were held with interest groups to successfully resolve issues relating to hut distribution in the northern Ruahine; the future of Happy Daze Hut; negotiation on improved road access in the northern Urutawa, reactivation of the Te Reinga Falls Walkway proposal and provision of urban fringe walking opportunities around Napier/Hastings.

The review identified 30 changes to DOC proposals and supported 9 new proposals arising from submissions.

Of the 30 changes;

- 17 involved huts, ( incl. 7 Ruahine, 3 Kaweka, 3 Te Urewera,)
- 11 involved tracks( incl. 1 Ruahine, 4 Te Urewera, 2 Urutawa ) and
- 2 involved a cableway structure and a campsite.

Of the 9 new proposals,

- 1 was for improved roading in the Kaweka.
- 6 were for new tracks of which 3 were in the Ruahine,
- 1 for a new suspension bridge across the Pakihi Steam and
- 1 for more amenities at Morere.(an advice issue to the lessee only)

There were 30 changes to nearly 180 proposals plus 9 new proposals. The net effect of the review changes will cause a low-moderate increase in the resourcing requirement necessary to sustain the final proposals as they currently stand. The anticipated increase is due to;

- An increase in hut maintenance and a reduction in lower standard maintenance proposals(4 huts)
- Significant upgrading of Te Reinga Falls track, Parks Peak hut and Rocks Ahead cableway.
- Reversal of 2 “Cease maintenance” in the Te Waiti valley. (1 trail/ 1 camp)
- Reversal of 5 “Non-visitor DOC management proposals. (2 huts/3 tracks)
- Disabled access upgrade for Aniwaniwa visitor centre
- Nine new proposals confirmed in the review process.

Forming final decisions has been greatly enhanced by the submission process. It provided a human element that policies, principles and rules couldn't. The human element however was the most challenging to deal with.

## 2.2 RECREATION VISION AND CONCLUSIONS STATEMENT (CONSERVANCY OVERVIEW AND KEY OUTCOMES BY AREA)

The character of the East Coast Hawkes Bay is one of contrast. To the west are the rugged forest-clad Ruahine, Kaweka, Te Urewera and Raukumara ranges that form the mountain axis through the eastern North Island. Hidden amongst these are spectacular landforms, gorged rivers, lakes, hot springs and a depth of culture from Te Urewera to Hikurangi Maunga.

To the east, the easier country has a history of land clearance removing much of the natural forest cover. The coastline is extensive, semi isolated and varied from volcanic shelves to coastal platforms and golden beaches.

Landscape gives the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy its flavour and features a semi-isolation that visitors from all over the North Island and overseas are coming to appreciate. Highlights of the region are extensive hunting, tramping, and fishing opportunities, Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikareiti, Morere Hot Springs and the gannet colony at Cape Kidnappers.

The need for DOC to provide "a range of recreational opportunities" was reinforced by the Recreation Opportunity Review. As a reflection of local and regional importance, much emphasis was placed on the backcountry and access to it.

As a result of analysis of submissions on initial proposals, final decisions primarily favoured back country adventurer, then day visitor, remoteness seeker and overnigher activity. This is a reflection of the significance of the backcountry and the scarcity of more accessible day visitor activities in the front country.

Although some rationalisation has occurred, a comprehensive network of backcountry huts will continue to be provided, to a higher overall standard than was originally proposed. Despite significant retrenchment of standards in parts of the backcountry, more tracks and routes than were initially suggested will be maintained to support the hut network. The process has also resulted in an increase in the number of day visitor opportunities to be maintained within easy driving of main population centres. Supported by the review process, the department will continue to work for the improvement of roading and foot access into the backcountry.

### **Aniwaniwa Area**

Based at Lake Waikaremoana, the Aniwaniwa Area encompasses the southern Te Urewera National Park. The terrain is dominated by thick indigenous forest and highly scenic features including lakes, wetlands, long valleys and imposing mountain ranges. The Panekiri, Huiarau and Ikawhenua ranges are most dominant.

A significant feature of the Area is its importance to tangata whenua.

Road access is limited. State Highway 38 is the only arterial highway but its long, narrow winding condition from Ruatahuna, over the Huiarau summit to Aniwaniwa deters many visitors from the central North Island.

Despite poor road access, the Waikaremoana catchment with the Aniwaniwa Visitors Centre, Waikaremoana Motor camp, jetties, boat ramps, Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikareiti, the Waikaremoana Great Walk and a comprehensive network of huts, tracks and short walks continues to provide some of the most outstanding and popular recreation opportunities in the conservancy. Further west the network of huts and tracks in the Whakatane, Horomanga, Waiiau and Manganuiohau Valleys supports a range of backcountry adventurer and remote opportunities. To the north, the Ruakituri Wilderness completes the full range of backcountry opportunities available. The Area has regionally and nationally significant outdoor opportunities for fishing, boating, kayaking, camping, tramping and hunting.

As a result of the recreation opportunity review process, the network of backcountry huts will remain relatively unchanged. Departures from original proposals are that in the Whakatane Valley, Ngaherama Hut will continue to be maintained by the department and Takarua Hut will stay in its present location.

The review process confirmed that two huts will be relocated to provide accommodation in the Manganuiohou and Aniwaniwa Valley. Subject to demand, a new hut may be located in the Mangawhero Stream Valley east of the Mangawhero Forks Hut which will be removed. Waiopaoa Hut on the Waikaremoana Great Walk will be replaced as part of a larger programme of upgrading to bring huts to Great Walk standard over the next five years.

The review process recommended no changes to access proposals and confirms that maintenance will cease on the Matawhero and Te Maraateatua Point Tracks (12.5 km). Approximately 52 km of tracking (6 tracks) will be maintained at a lower standard than originally proposed; 15.2 km (2 tracks) will be maintained by the community and 14.2km (5 tracks) will be upgraded to a higher standard at Waikaremoana.

### **Gisborne Area**

From Potaka in the north to the Waikare River in the south, Gisborne Area encompasses the majority of land and coastline east of the forested hinterlands of the Raukumara, Waioeka and Te Urewera. The land is predominantly hill country characterised by natural forest remnants dotted amongst erosion prone pastureland.

Distinctive landscape features include an extensive and varied coastline with wide bays and prominent headlands and natural mineral hot pools at Morere Springs and Te Puia Scenic Reserves. Hikurangi Maunga is the highest point in the landscape.

The semi isolation of the 2 main population centres places more local demand on the limited number of recreation opportunities close to Gisborne and Wairoa. These opportunities tend to be small, scattered and high use. Visitors are predominantly locals and New Zealanders. While the area is not on major tourism routes, the proportion of overseas visitors from UK/Europe, America and Australia is increasing, many arriving as free independent travellers.

With only 5 huts, traditional backcountry opportunities while important, are not a major feature for the Area.

The key recreational opportunities for the Area are the Walkways at Cooks Cove, Anaura Bay, Te Kuri Farm and Otoko; the hot pools at Morere Springs Scenic Reserve and bush-walking opportunities provided there; the range of walks provided at

Grays Bush, Okitu, Whinray and Mahia Scenic Reserves; Te Reinga Falls Lookout and the increasing significance of Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve.

The Recreation Opportunity Review process confirmed no real change in the provision of backcountry huts and tracks except that Mangaotane Hut in the southern Raukumara will continue to be maintained.

As a result of the submission process, Te Reinga Falls Scenic Reserve Track will now be upgraded to provide a day visitor loop track opportunity of significant scenic and conservation value. This helps to relieve pressure on other day visitor opportunities within easy reach of Gisborne and fills a significant gap in opportunities around Wairoa.

The review process also confirmed that a carparks, an amenity, a campsites and two tracks (3.7 km) will be maintained by community groups; that maintenance is to cease for the Papatu Falls and Kahikatea/Waterfalls Tracks and Matawai Campsite; two tracks (8.5km) will be maintained to a lower standard and the Mangakawa Track (3.4km) will be upgraded to a higher standard. The track extension at Okitu will proceed as will commitment to the upgrading of road access into Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve at Pouawa.

### **Hawke's Bay Area**

Hawke's Bay Area extends from the Waikari River in the North to Woodville/ Cape Turnagain in the south. To the west the boundary follows the main range of the Ruahine Forest Park, extending to the western flanks of the Kaweka Forest Park. The ranges are characteristically steep and rugged. River valleys are steep and deeply incised. Six large North Island rivers including the Ngaruroro and Mohaka, have their headwaters in these parks.

In the north west sector, the Maungaharuru Range offers spectacular landscape features visible from much of northern Hawke's Bay. Further east, much of the lowland area is highly modified in pastoral farming and exotic forestry with only small remnants of the original forest cover, shrub and wetlands left. The coastal landscape of Hawke's Bay is often dramatic and of high scenic value alternating between dramatic cliffs on uplifted tracts and steep shingled beaches.

The forest parks are important recreational resources in the North Island. They are close and accessible to large population centres in central and southern North Island, providing a range of backcountry and remote experience opportunities. In some areas public access is inadequate (foot and road) with park users unaware of legal rights of way or legal responsibilities crossing private land. While the parks do not receive the same use pressures of other adjacent natural areas (e.g. Tongariro National Park), some key areas are heavily used (e.g. Sunrise Hut in the Ruahine Forest Park and Te Puia area of the Kaweka Forest Park.)

Visitors are mainly from New Zealand and hunting, especially in Kaweka Forest Park is the principal activity.

While not having the high profile of the forest parks, Maungaharuru is gaining popularity due to its proximity to Napier/Hastings and the diverse range of day visitor opportunities available. Key areas are Boundary Stream and Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserves, Lake Opouahi and areas along the Mohaka River.

In lowland areas closer to Napier/Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay towns, the most popular areas are Scenic Reserves offering short walks, picnicking and associated activities (e.g. White Pine Bush, Tangoio and Mohi Bush).

The coastline receives very high recreational use, particularly beaches close to Napier /Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay towns. Iconic Cape Kidnappers has a strong international profile because of the popular gannet tours and receives high public use.

The Recreation Opportunity Review process resulted in seven changes to original hut proposals in the Ruahine Forest Park, three changes in the Kaweka Forest Park and one in the Gwavas Conservation Area.

In the Ruahine Forest Park, Triplex Hut was identified as an important "introductory experience" facility, and will be maintained. Kylie Bivy will be relocated further north to improve access along and across the main Ruahine range. Because of its central location, Parks Peak Hut will be upgraded to match the 6 bunk capacity of the new hut to be built on the main range near the headwaters of the Apias Stream. Sparrowhawk and Tarn Bivies will continue to be maintained for visitor safety. Happy Daze will be on minimal maintenance, to be reviewed in 2006. Whitnell Lodge along with four other huts will now be removed without significantly affecting visitor opportunities. Sunrise Hut and Taruarau Bivy will be upgraded.

For the Kaweka Forest Park, Dominic Hut will be maintained at its current standard to enhance visitor safety. Comet and Studholme Saddle Bivy will be removed. Rocks Ahead Bivy will be removed once the cableway crossing the Ngaruroro is upgraded/replaced. Four huts, Cameron, Mangatainoka, Rocks Ahead and Tussock, will be upgraded.

Poutaki Hut in the Gwavas Conservation Area will remain on minimal maintenance to be reviewed in three years.

As a result of the review process, there was no change to the original tracking proposals although maintenance of parts of the northern section of the Coastal Walkway had ceased in line with the present closure of the southern part of the walkway.

Three new tracking proposals in the Ruahine Forest Park and a new disabled access track at Balls Clearing Scenic Reserve will be implemented. Roading access to the Kaweka and Ruahine Forest Parks will be improved at the Mohaka River access, Makahu Road, Makahu Saddle -Whittle Road, Daphne Road and car parks formed off Ngamoko Road, at Sentry Box and Tamaki West road ends.

## **Opotiki Area**

Encompassing the Raukumara, Urutawa, Waioeka and northern Te Urewera ranges, the Opotiki Area includes most of the land draining into the Bay of Plenty from Cape Runaway to Ohiwa. The primary conservation land units managed by the Area include northern Te Urewera National Park, Waioeka Conservation Area, Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve , Urutawa Conservation Area and Raukumara Conservation Park.

The landscape is dominated by rugged bush-clad eroding hill country (particularly to the east) that is characteristically steep, broken and isolated. This hill country

completes a chain of mountainous ridges that form the western boundary of the conservancy, from Woodville to East Cape. The diverse coastline retains a large proportion of its original cover offering spectacular scenery and a water clarity, unmatched in the rest of the conservancy.

Backcountry Adventurer/Remote recreation opportunities are the clear strength of the Area with an appropriate network of huts and tracks throughout. Key opportunities include the Whakatane and Six Foot Tracks, Waioeka Gorge, Otipi Road, the mighty Motu River and the Raukumara Wilderness Area. Main recreational activities include hunting, tramping, fishing, rafting and kayaking.

Provision of day visitor/overnight camping opportunities close to population centres are limited and this was identified in the review process. Currently the most popular opportunities include the Eight Acre Campsite, Ngutuoha Nature Walk in the national park, Tauranga Bridge track and Manganuku Campsite in the Waioeka Gorge and Marawaiwai Scenic Reserve, 20 minutes south of Opotiki.

Visitors to the Area tend to be local/New Zealanders (Bay of Plenty/Waikato/Auckland) with a growing number of overseas visitors (free independent travellers) passing through.

As a result of consultation, the Area is looking for community groups to maintain the Kotepato Hut and associated track (0.82 km). As a reflection of growing use in the southern Urutawa Conservation Area, Manganuku will continue to be maintained as a standard hut. Wharekahika Hut has been reclassified for recreational use and will be maintained accordingly. There were no other significant changes to the original hut proposals for the Area.

There were significant changes resulting from consultation over the maintenance of Te Waiti Valley Road which has led to the “re-opening” of the northern Urutawa Conservation Area. This in turn has resulted in the reversal of proposals to cease maintenance (Te Waiti Nature Trail and Boulders Campsite) and the acceptance of three new proposals arising from submissions. These include the building of two new cable bridges and the re-opening of a route that links Te Waiti and Pakihi Valleys. The Area will also look at developing a disabled access track at Marawaiwai and upgrade tracking from the Manganuku campsite.

While there is some rationalisation of tracking in the Urewera backcountry with maintenance ceased on 37 km of track and 93 km to be maintained to route standard which is lower than originally proposed, the overall impact on loss of opportunity will be minimal.

# 3. Introduction

## HOW THE CONSULTATION WAS UNDERTAKEN

- 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 was distributed at 4 public meetings, was available on the DOC website and on request.
- Information about the submission process was provided in local newspapers with notification of public meetings and feature articles. Reminder notices were also provided in local newspapers a month prior to the submission closure date.
- There were only a few issues from Iwi. One meeting was held with representatives from Te Reinga over a Te Reinga Walkway proposal. At Aniwanuiwa the Chairman of the Waikaremoana Maori Committee was happy to be appraised of outcomes because of other commitments. The inclusive management style practised within the conservancy at a field and strategic level suggest that most issues have been addressed through the Conservation Management Strategy(CMS), National Park Management Plan other strategic planning and consultation processes. Representation on the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board and the active involvement of the Board with the submission review process also kept Iwi informed.
- Meetings were held with sixteen groups (tramping/mountaineering clubs, hunting clubs, iwi, Territorial Authorities, key individuals) or their representatives to explore some issues further. In addition numerous contacts were made with landowners adjacent to the eastern Ruahine Forest Park to clarify important access issues.
- The following steps were taken in reaching decisions:
  1. Submissions were entered onto a database.
  2. Review teams were drawn for each of the 4 Areas within the Conservancy; Aniwanuiwa, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay and Opotiki, comprising the Area Manager, Programme Manager-Visitor and Historic and where appropriate, a Field Centre Supervisor. This team was supported by the Community Relations Manager, Recreation Planner and a member of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board familiar with the respective Area. The review teams made interim decisions based upon the summary of submissions, copy of original submissions, national guidelines and principles, available site information and collective experience.
  3. The submissions were analysed as follows:

Submission points were individually entered (generally verbatim) into the database against each facility proposal.

Submission points were classified according to whether they supported or did not support a proposal— or were neutral/unclear.

Proposals with “non supporting” submissions were considered in view of the “weight” of submissions, merit of the arguments and any strategic objectives for that location.(e.g. CMS, Visitor Strategy)

Proposals with few submissions had submissions considered on merit and the strategic intent behind the proposal.

4. A Submission Analysis Report was drafted and submitted to Area Managers, Programme Managers and Conservator to review for sign off by the Conservator.

## Section One

# 4. Submitters and submissions

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

### 4.1 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- Sixty eight submitters provided 496 submissions between them.
- Submitters were made up of 21 group submissions and 47 individual submissions
- 74% of submitters came from within the conservancy, 15% came from neighbouring conservancies, and 10% from further away. 1% unknown.
- Seventeen submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document). *Appendix 1*
- Fifty one submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues.
- 57% of submissions on specific asset proposals were supporting while 43% were opposing proposals.

#### 4.2 MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON, BY ORDER OF TOTAL SUBMISSIONS.

ASSET NAME	SUBMISSIONS
Triple X Hut	19 (15 against/4 for)
Poutaki Hut	19 (15 against/4 for)
Craigs Hut	16 ( 7 against/9 for)
Rocks Ahead Bivy	15 (8 against/7 for)
Middle Stream Hut	15 (9 against/6 for)
Makahu Saddle Hut	13 (8 against/5 for)
Dominie Biv	12 (7 against/5 for)
Dianes' Hut	11 (6 against/5 for)
Kaweka Flats Biv	11 (6 against/5 for)
Sentry Box Hut	11 (2 against/9 for)
Ruahine Bivy	10 (10 for)
Waiopaoa Hut	10 (6 against/4 for)
Tarn Bivy	10 (10 for)
Herrick's Hut	9 (4 against/5 for)
Gold Creek Hut	9 (6 against/3 for)
Kumeti Hut	9 (1 against/8 for)
Ihaka Spur Track	9 (2 against/7 for)
Ohane Hut	8 (8 for)
Happy Daze Hut	8 (2 against/6 for)
Sunrise Hut	8 (8 for)

## 4.3 PROPOSALS THAT RECEIVED THE MOST SUBMISSIONS AND SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS, BY LOCATION.

### HAWKES BAY AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
<b>Ruahine Forest Park</b>			
42410	Triplex Hut	Minimal Maintenance	<p>19 submissions: 15 opposed while 4 supported. Key arguments against were that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hut is readily accessible providing a safe first tramp and a family destination in its own right. Good for “introductory” bush experiences.</li> <li>Popular with school groups as a valuable educational resource.</li> <li>For older visitors and with potential for the disabled.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenge the hut principle that: A hut on a BCA or BCC site that is &lt; 3 hours walk from the nearest road end should not be retained unless it is a popular destination. Submissions in support argued on the strength of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relative closeness to Triplex Car Park / Sunrise Hut and</li> <li>The deteriorating condition of Triplex Hut.</li> </ul>
42481	Craigs Hut	Remove (and not replace)	<p>16 submissions: 9 supported this proposal while 7 opposed. Key supporting arguments were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Craig’s Hut was low use, adjacent to a road.</li> <li>An eyesore subject to vandalism and theft.</li> </ul> <p>Some support (2 submissions) was conditional on shelter and toilet facilities being provided at Makaroro Road end. Opposing submissions focussed on providing accommodation for young families and older visitors using adjacent day tracks.</p>
42563	Middle Stream Hut	Remove (and not replace)	<p>15 submissions: 9 opposed while 6 supported the proposal. Key arguments against were that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hut could be relocated.</li> <li>The hut was used by hunters which should be encouraged.</li> <li>Problems with access limited use and if the hut was removed, distances between huts would increase from 2 to 4 hours compromising safety.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenge the hut principles that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A hut on a BCA or BCC site that is &lt; 3 hours walk from the nearest road end should not be retained unless it is a popular destination and</li> <li>Huts that are not a popular destination will not be retained (unless they provide a significant recreation opportunity)</li> </ul> <p>Submissions in support did not provide additional comment.</p>
43448	Sentry Box Hut	Remove (and not replace)	<p>11 submissions: 9 submissions supported while 2 opposed The key argument for this proposal was that this hut was too close to a road end. Three submissions (1 supporting as an alternative;2 against), considered relocation an option to compensate for the loss of Te Aranga/ No Mans Huts.</p>

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
43457	Diane's Hut	Minimal Maintenance	<p>11 submissions</p> <p>6 submissions opposed while 5 supported the proposal.</p> <p>The key arguments against this proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Diane's Hut was ideal for hunting (average hunting opportunity) and less exposed cf nearby Taraurau Bivy.</li> <li>• Was built using donated materials for family memorial.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenged the following hut principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hut (on a BCC or BCA site) located &lt; 3 hours from the nearest hut should generally not be retained, unless it is a popular destination and</li> <li>• Huts that are not a popular destination will not be retained (unless they provide a significant recreation opportunity locally or regionally)</li> </ul> <p>Two submissions recommended relocation to No Mans Hut.</p>
43390	Tarn Bivy	Upgrade - to Higher Standard	<p>10 submissions:</p> <p>All submissions supported this proposal.</p> <p>The key arguments for this proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety.</li> <li>• Well positioned for a range of trips.</li> <li>• Has a unique loo with a fantastic view.</li> </ul>
192402	Apias Hut (ex Ruahine Bivy)	New Proposal	<p>10 submissions:</p> <p>All submissions supported this proposal.</p> <p>The key argument was that there was a clear gap in hut saturation along the main range from Kylie Bivy through to No Mans Road.</p> <p>Some submissions focussed more on access to Ikawatea which provided the basis for a second hut proposal.</p>
42227	Gold Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	<p>9 submissions:</p> <p>6 submissions opposed this proposal and 3 supported</p> <p>Key arguments against this proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the hut was a focal point for a good round trip.</li> <li>• Ideal for junior hunting.</li> <li>• Lack of access information contributed to low use.</li> <li>• The hut might provide a hunting alternative as numbers increase in the Sunrise, Waipawa Forks area.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenge the hut principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low use huts that do not provide a significant recreation opportunity within the local area or region opportunity will not be retained and</li> <li>• Huts that are not a popular destination will not be retained (unless they provide a significant recreation opportunity).</li> </ul> <p>3 submissions supported the proposal but had nothing further to contribute.</p>
42433	Herrick's Hut	Maintain by community	<p>9 submissions:</p> <p>4 submissions opposed this proposal and 5 supported.</p> <p>The key argument against this proposal was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That if Herrick's Spur track was cut it would give all weather access to Dead Dog Hut and the tops.</li> <li>• There was also an overriding issue of access across private land in the northern Ruahine that was impacting on use.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenged the hut principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hut on a BCA or BCC site that is &lt; 3 hours walk from the nearest road end should not be retained unless it is a popular destination .</li> <li>• Huts that are not a popular destination will not be retained (unless they provide a significant recreation opportunity locally or regionally)</li> </ul> <p>The 5 supporting submissions had nothing further to contribute.</p>

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
42429	Kumeti Hut	Remove (and not replace)	9 submissions: 8 supported and 1 opposed this proposal. Submissions supporting provided no additional information. The argument against was simply that removal of Kumeti and Opawe Huts would turn the 6 hour crossing over the southern Ruahine into a day trip.
42416	Sunrise Hut	Upgrade - size capacity	8 submissions: All submissions supported this proposal. The key arguments for this proposal were that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would reduce overcrowding at such a gem.</li> <li>• A popular facility to “keep the hoardes in one place.”</li> </ul>
43389	Happy Daze Hut	Maintain by community	8 submissions: 6 supported this proposal and 2 opposed. The key argument against this proposal was that the hut was popular during the roar but restricted access, inhibited use. Continuing access restrictions also caused a reluctance to accept a community maintenance option.
<b>Gwavas Conservation Area</b>			
42585	Poutaki Hut	Remove (and not replace)	19 submissions: 15 submissions opposed this proposal and 4 supported. Key argument against were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access restrictions on motorised vehicles by Forest Management.</li> <li>• Limited signage and a poorly defined track from Leatherwood Road to the hut.</li> <li>• Access permits were only issued on weekends (2 per weekend).</li> <li>• The hut was well sited for deer and pig hunting.</li> </ul> The submissions challenge the hut principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huts that are not a popular destination will not be retained (unless they provide a significant recreation opportunity locally or regionally):</li> <li>• A hut on a BCA or BCC site that is &lt; 3 hours walk from the nearest road end should not be retained unless it is a popular destination</li> </ul> The 4 supporting proposals had nothing further to add.
<b>Kaweka Forest Park</b>			
43349	Rocks Ahead Bivy	Remove (and not replace)	15 submissions: 8 submissions opposed this proposal and 7 supported. Key arguments against this proposal were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the bivy provided accommodation for those who could not make the adjacent river crossing on the single wire cableway (deemed unreliable and unsafe) to nearby Rocks Ahead Hut.</li> <li>• The bivy was also considered an overflow facility.</li> </ul> These submissions challenged the hut principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low use huts that do not provide a significant recreation opportunity within the local area or region opportunity will not be retained.</li> <li>• A hut (on a BCC or BCA site) located &lt; 3 hours from the nearest hut should generally not be retained, unless it is a popular destination.</li> </ul> There was greater support for the bivy removal proposal (13:2) if the adjacent cableway was upgraded to a swingbridge, along with the upgrade-size/capacity of nearby Rocks Ahead Hut. There was also a recommendation to relocate the bivy to the Te Puke Exlosure site.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
42206	Makahu Saddle Hut	Minimal Maintenance	<p>13 submissions: 9 submissions opposed this proposal and 4 supported. Key arguments against this proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Makahu Saddle was one of only two dexion frame designs and should be retained for historic reasons.</li> <li>• Was popular with hunters/ trampers bent on an early start.</li> <li>• Provided shelter for those retiring from the tops in bad weather.</li> <li>• Used as a bus stop for pick up transport.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenged the hut principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road end huts are not retained unless caretaker is on site or hut is booked but did recognise that Historic huts are retained.</li> </ul> <p>Supporting submissions had nothing further to add.</p>
42320	Dominie Hut	Maintain - at lower standard	<p>12 submissions: 8 submissions opposed this proposal and 4 supported. Key argument against this proposal was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That if a lower standard facility (already Basic) meant only a shelter, this would present a safety risk in adverse weather.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenge the hut principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hut on a BCA or BCC site that is &lt; 3 hours walk from the nearest road end should not be retained unless it is a popular destination.</li> </ul> <p>The 4 supporting proposals had nothing further to add.</p>
42227	Kaweka Flats Bivy	Minimal Maintenance	<p>11 submissions: 6 submissions opposed this proposal and 5 supported Key arguments against were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That while hardly used it was ideal for weekend hunting between Middle Hill and Makahu.</li> <li>• Also ideal for older or inexperienced hunters.</li> <li>• If the hut was to be retained for kiwi monitoring then it should be maintained.</li> </ul> <p>These submissions challenge the hut principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hut (on a BCC or BCA site) located &lt; 3 hours from the nearest hut should generally not be retained, unless it is a popular destination.</li> </ul> <p>The 5 supporting proposals had nothing further to add apart from, the bivies' location was good for weekend hunting and therefore it should not be removed.</p>
97136	Ihaka Spur Track	Remove (and not replace)	<p>9 submissions: 7 submissions supported this proposal and 2 opposed. Key argument against was that Ihaka Spur might be historic. However the closure of Ihaka Spur (the southern track) meant that the alternative track "Camp Spur" an Historic sheep musters track would remain open. There was definite concern that "Camp Spur" might be closed by mistake.</p>

ANIWANIWA AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
<b>Te Urewera National Park</b>			
39678	Waiopaoa Hut (8)	Replace - bigger size	<p>10 submissions: 6 submissions opposed this proposal and 4 supported. Key argument against was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That spending \$400000 to gain only 10 more bunks was unjustified</li> <li>• That the existing hut should stay and another 10-12 bunk hut be built onsite or at Korokoro or Stump Bay.</li> </ul> <p>The 4 supporting proposals had nothing further to add other than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of demolishing the old hut, relocate it to Stump Bay. Here hut visitors would primarily be boat users which could help to alleviate user group conflict on the Great Walk.</li> </ul>
39301	Ohane Hut	Relocate	<p>6 submissions. All submissions supported this proposal. The key arguments for this proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That relocating would even out route travel times.</li> <li>• The hut would be less subject to vandalism unlike the current position which is too close to Waikare Junction.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4 OTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS

##### Aniwaniwa Area

There were notably fewer submissions with very little on Te Urewera National Park track proposals. Submission focus was on retaining the network of backcountry huts. Downgrading of maintenance (1), relocation (2) and removal (1) of huts attracted some resistance. Track upgrading (2), particularly for visitor safety was well supported.

##### MINIMAL MAINTENANCE

Te Urewera National Park	39727 Kanohirua Hut	4 (1 oppose / 3 for)
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Those in opposition considered the hut to be in reasonable condition and that DOC has a role to ensure that backcountry huts are valuable and should be maintained.

##### MOVE TO ANOTHER LOCATION

Te Urewera National Park	40227 Okui Hut	3 (3 for)
	39723 Takarua Hut	6 (3 oppose / 3 for)

For those in opposition 2 huts had submissions to maintain of which Takarua Hut was argued that its current location was excellent and that existing travel times between huts was not onerous. Opposition to relocating Pakiaka Hut focussed on loss of wilderness experience.

##### OWNED BY DOC BUT MAINTAINED BY COMMUNITY

Te Urewera National Park	39704 Ngaheramai Hut	6 (6 for)
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Ngaheramai Hut (Te Urewera NP) was strongly supported. It was seen as a strategic asset in the Whakatane Valley. Inability to identify a community support group has meant that this hut will continue to be maintained by DOC.

REMOVE (AND NOT REPLACE)

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Te Urewera National Park	40228 Mangawhero Forks Hut	6 (3 oppose / 3 for)
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For those in opposition this hut was important for families, reputedly Rusa deer hunters from the Hawke's Bay and for visitor safety. Other suggestions included relocation and community sponsorship.

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UPGRADE - TO HIGHER STANDARD

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Te Urewera National Park	97017 Korokoro Falls Track	3 (3 for)
	97020 Lake Waikareiti Track	4 (1 oppose / 3 for)

Full support was given to making the river crossing safer at Korokoro Falls. There was some confusion over the Waikareiti Walk and Lake Waikareiti Track.

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PROPOSED

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Te Urewera National Park	191588 Mangawhero Hut	3 (3 for)
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There was support for the proposal but no real comments. A suggestion was made that construction of this hut could be timed with the removal of Mangawhero Forks Hut.

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NEW PROPOSALS

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Two new proposals were raised by submitters of which 1 was accepted:  
Te Urewera National Park, Whirinaki-Waikaremoana Route; a long term objective.

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## Gisborne Area

There were only a few submissions and nothing particularly contentious about any proposals within the Area. Local recreational groups were actively engaged to provide comment. A rethink of the proposal for Te Reinga Scenic Reserve Track and the upgrading of the Mangakawa Track were the main considerations.

CEASE MAINTENANCE

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Te Reinga Scenic Reserve	97976 Te Reinga Scenic Reserve Track	2 (1 oppose / 1 for)
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Those in opposition commented that this track filled a significant gap in the range of opportunities available around Wairoa. Accessibility and spectacular scenery warrants further consideration. Hut and walkway proposals were fully supported.

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MAINTAIN BY COMMUNITY

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Waikanae Stream Conservation Area	97053 Waikanae Stream Track	2 (2 for)
Matawai Conservation Area	97069 Matawai Track	3 (3 for)

Waikanae Stream is no longer a recreational opportunity but more of educational/scientific importance for schools and other conservation groups. Matawai Track is already maintained by NZ Mountain Safety Council along with an adjacent Mountain Safety Hut.

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## NON-VISITOR DOC MANAGEMENT

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Raukumara Conservation Park	38985 Mangaotane Hut (McMillans)	3 (3 for)
Morere Springs Scenic Reserve	97057 Nikau Pools Track	3 (3 for)

Mangaotane Hut should be kept to sustain pest control operations in the southern Raukumara. Maintenance of Nikau Pools track was thought to be included in a Lease Agreement for the management of Morere Hot Pools. This was later proven not to be the case. With the significance of this high use track, the proposal will revert back to “maintenance” by DOC.

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## UPGRADE - TO HIGHER STANDARD

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Morere Springs Scenic Reserve	97059 Mangakawa Track	4 (4 for)
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Good support for this proposal although the upgrade should not come at the cost of the Morere Ridge Track.

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## NEW PROPOSALS

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One new proposal was raised and accepted.  
Morere Springs Scenic Reserve. More facilities in the picnic, car park area.

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## Hawke's Bay Area

Retaining the extensive network of small backcountry NZFS huts in the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks was an important issue attracting a lot of comment from local hunters and trampers. Upgrading (6) and relocation (1) of huts tended to be well supported. Alternatives to the loss of tramping access in the western Kaweka were well supported (to Ngawaaparua Hut) along with proposals to ensure a range of loop tracks(4). Issues relating to safety were well supported whether they be poling of ridge routes, upgrading of river crossings, retention of main range bivies or closure of a coastal walkway. Lack of access provision for the disabled was raised in submissions. Maintenance and signposting of backcountry 2WD road access was a clear concern in relation to private landowners along the eastern margins of the Forest Parks. Road access into the northern Ruahine Forest Park via No Mans Road was also an issue.

## CEASE MAINTENANCE

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Ruahine Forest Park	97224 Longview/Makaretu Hut - northern track	6 (2 oppose / 4 for)
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Those in opposition suggested strongly for retention of the northern section as it offered a better loop track. Close southern section instead.

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## MAINTAIN BY COMMUNITY

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Kaweka Forest Park	42260 Kiwi Saddle Hut	6 (6 for)
Ruahine Forest Park	42590 Howletts Hut	5 (5 for)
	42451 Whitnell Lodge	5 (1 oppose / 4 for)

Those in opposition suggest Whitnell Lodge as an ideal venue for Mountain Safety / Bush craft group training. The original agreement for Whitnell Lodge fell through and a new support group could not be identified at time of writing. The recent loss of Kaweka Hut in the Ruahine prompted a new proposal to replace it with a shelter.

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## MINIMAL MAINTENANCE

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Kaweka Forest Park	42243 Black Birch Bivy	7 (2 oppose / 5 for)
	42259 Studholme Saddle Bivy	7 (7 for)

Due to easier access those in opposition suggest Black Birch Bivy be maintained for “kids trips”, kiwi monitoring and P. contorta control. Studholme Saddle Hut would need to be well maintained to offset the lower standard of maintenance for the nearby bivy.

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## NON-VISITOR DOC MANAGEMENT

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Kaweka Forest Park	42310 Comet Hut	7 (2 oppose / 5 for)
	42226 Iron Whare Hut	7 (7 for)
Ruahine Forest Park	42453 Ellis Hut	2 (2 for)

Those in opposition suggest Comet Hut be maintained to allow for better utilisation of the north eastern Ruahine. Road access to the hut should be improved. Management of historic huts unanimously supported.

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## REMOVE (AND NOT REPLACE)

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Earthquake Slip Conservation Area	97165 Hawke's Bay Coastal Walkway	4 (4 for)
Ruahine Forest Park	97233 Stanfield/Takapari/Tamaki Ridge Track	8 (3 oppose / 5 for)

Those in opposition to Stanfield/Takapari expressed concern over the possible closure of Rimu Walk as this would prevent a round trip from Tamaki-West Roadend. The track from Tamaki River to the ridge should not be removed as this provided an alternative to river walking and a loop.

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## REPLACE-BIGGER SIZE

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Kaweka Forest Park	42308 3 wire across the Tutikuri River	7 (7for)
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Consideration should be given for a similar standard facility on the Kaweka Track as this is also a readily accessible loop track.

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## UPGRADE-SIZE/CAPACITY

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Kaweka Forest Park	42355 Cameron Hut	5 (5 for)
	43347 Mangatainoka Hut	6 (6 for)
	42372 Rocks Ahead Hut	6 (6 for)
	42367 Tussock Hut	6 (6 for)
Ruahine Forest Park	42528 Taruarau Bivy	6 (6 for)

Upgrades were well supported. Some submitters focussed on specific issues. In support of Cameron Hut the upgrade of the river track and bridging some of the deeper river crossings for safety, was recommended. Provision of a meat safe at Tussock Hut was considered an advantage. Sleeping capacity of Taruarau Bivy was already adequate but addition of a sheltered cooking area would be worthwhile.

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UPGRADE - TO HIGHER STANDARD

A'Deanes Bush Scenic Reserve	97247 A'Deanes Bush Scenic Reserve Track (DV)	2 (2 for)
Kaweka Forest Park	42586 Sparrowhawk Bivy	5 (5 for)
Otatara Pa Historic Reserve	192503 Otatara car park	1 (1 oppose)
Ruahine Forest Park	100470 Tamaki West Roadend car park	3 (3 for)

Hawke's Bay roading. Tamaki West Road end car park and Makahu Road were supported by submission although Makahu was more of a council issue. Roading was also the focus of submissions seeking to relocate parts of No Mans Road back onto public conservation land in the northern Ruahine or to improve ford access at Everett's Campsite in the Mohaka. Those in opposition suggested that the Otatara Pa car park was perfectly adequate as is. Funding would be better spent elsewhere.

PROPOSED

Heipipi Pa Historic Reserve	192505 Heipipi Track	2 (2 for)
Kaweka Forest Park	192485 Alternative Track to Ngawaaparua Hut	8 (8 for)
	192483 Mohaka River access	4 (4 for)
Support for Mohaka River access also raised the importance of all weather access on Makahu Road at Makahu River which is currently a ford. A responsibility of Hastings District Council.		
Ruahine Forest Park	192527 Howletts to Daphne Ridge Route	8 (1 oppose / 7 for)
	192521 Oroua Saddle Route	6 (6 for)
	192520 Daphne Road	3 (1 oppose / 2 for)
	192522 Ngamoko Road Car Park	4 (1 oppose / 3 for)
	192509 Sentry Box Car Park	3 (3 for)

Minor confusion amongst opposition to the Howletts to Daphne Ridge route. Due to immediate safety issues poling of the route was already a work in progress. With those familiar with the present state of the route this appeared to be a duplication; why pole it again? Support for poling of difficult ridge routes in the Ruahine however was strong. For Daphne Road and Ngamoko Road car park, those in opposition suggested that a parking area adjacent to the existing road would be more cost effective.

NEW PROPOSALS

Fourteen new proposals were raised by submitters of which 5 were accepted.

Balls Clearing Scenic Reserve	Improved access for disabled with removal of barriers to increase the range of opportunities.
Ruahine Forest Park	Barlows Hut to Colenso Spur Track & Parks Peak Ridge Track to Barlows Hut to be maintained by Heretaunga Tramping Club. Extension of Yoemans Track to Mangleton Road. Upgrading Makahu Saddle Road to a similar standard as Makahu Road in the Kaweka. Because access is a major issue, 4 proposed improvements to roading /car parking in the Ruahine (3) and Kaweka were supported in submissions.

## Maintain

Five proposals to “Maintain” (not initially included) received comment through submissions and public meetings.

Two hut proposals were identified at public meetings:

Ruahine Forest Park	42562 Kylie Bivy
	42522 Parks Peak Hut

A review of hut saturation and access through the main Ruahine Range agreed that Kylie bivy was too far south. The bivy would be relocated to a site 15 minutes north, to the junction of Totara Spur and the main range to enhance north-south / east-west travel.

New hut proposals at Totara Spur and Apias Headwaters junction (ex- Ruahine Bivy) will likely increase demand by opening access along and across the main Ruahine Range. This will put pressure on upgrading the size/ capacity of Parks Peak Hut to 6 bunks. A popular but small hut. Of the remaining huts, additional comments were made on:

- Hinerua Hut – improve access signage
- Longview Hut – service standard too high; re cooking gas

Ruahine Forest park has a good network of small Forest Service huts and fortunate that much of this basic network has been maintained.

Two tracks “maintain” proposals were identified in submissions:

Ruahine Forest Park	97210 North Block Road end to Waipawa / Sunrise junction: would require remedial upgrading of swampy or rutted sections.
	97221 Moorcock Saddle to Longview: a new shelter at the entrance and upgrading of track to take pressure off Sunrise Hut.

One structure “maintain” proposal was identified in submissions:

Kaweka Forest Park	43354 Rocks Ahead Cableway
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Prior to removal of Rocks Ahead Bivy, this adjacent cableway across the Ngaruroro River should be replaced by a swingbridge to safely access nearby Rocks Ahead Hut.

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## Opotiki Area

Proposals for the Urutawa Conservation Area received the most submissions. Inclusion of Te Waiti Road access in the District Council Annual Road Maintenance Plan would have a significant impact on visitor use and consequently facility proposals. Opotiki Area is dominated by backcountry and remote opportunities. Provision of readily accessible opportunities within 30 minutes of population centres is recognised as an important gap. While loss of 2 nature walks was resisted, provision of disabled access at Marawaiwai Scenic reserve was supported. Provision of mountain bike access on Otipi Road complementing the Pakihi Track was also supported. Maintaining a network of backcountry huts was an issue. Removal of Kotepato Hut and maintenance downgrading for 2 others was resisted. There was still a noticeable gap in the level of submission comment on backcountry track proposals in Te Urewera National Park.

## CEASE MAINTENANCE

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Urutawa Conservation Area	97261 Te Waiti Nature Walk	5 (4 oppose / 1 for)
	100063 Boulders Campsite	4 (4 oppose)
Waioeka Conservation Area	97286 Kotepato track	2 (1 oppose / 1 for)
Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve	97257 Waioeka Nature Walk	2 (1 oppose / 1 for)

For those in opposition to the nature walk proposals main arguments focused on education value to a range of age groups (old and young)

A commitment by Opotiki District Council and a local resident to maintain Te Waiti Road would significantly increase use of the Te Waiti Valley including the nature walk and Boulders Campsite. For Kotepato Track, safety was the main issue.

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## MAINTAIN AT LOWER STANDARD

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Urutawa Conservation Area	39246 Manganuku Hut	4 (1 oppose / 3 for)
	97277 Te Waiti-Stag Flat Track	5 (3 oppose / 2 for)
Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve	97283 Mangapumarumaruru Track	3 (1 oppose / 2 for)
Raukumara Conservation Park	98087 Otipi Access Road 1	4 (4 for)
	98089 Otipi Access Road 2	4 (4 for)

For those in opposition, arguments focussed on growing use, easy accessibility, the impact of popular summer use from adjacent campsites e.g. Manganuku Campsite/Manganuku Hut and hunter encouragement. Manganuku Hut also supported an increasing range of backcountry opportunities in the southern Urutawa. It would be cheaper and better to keep the Te Waiti-Stag Flat Track at its current standard because it supported a proposal linking the Te Waiti and Pakihi Valleys.

The lowering of road standards on Otipi Road to mountain bike access was well supported. Opportunities for mountain biking in the Opotiki Area are limited.

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## MAINTAIN BY COMMUNITY

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Urutawa Conservation Area	98101 Te Waiti Road	2 (2 for)
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The road provides key visitor access into the northern Urutawa Conservation Area. Essentially this is an Opotiki District Council road which will now be included in their annual maintenance plan. A local resident has also undertaken to share in the road maintenance.

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## MINIMAL MAINTENANCE

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Te Urewera National Park	40203 Waikokopu Hut	3 (1 oppose / 3 for)
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The one opposing submission commented that this hut should receive regular maintenance as it was valuable to trampers and for biodiversity work.

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## REMOVE (AND NOT REPLACE)

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Waioeka Conservation Area	39154 Kotepato Hut	6 (4 oppose / 2 for)
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Significant opposition to retain this hut. Proximity to the road end made it popular with an increasing diversity of visitors. Popular for trampers and hunters with limited time. Community sponsorship was suggested. Deficiencies with hut user data meant a better system of monitoring hut use was needed. Failure of the backcountry hut ticket system was also raised.

## NON-VISITOR DOC MANAGEMENT

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Urutawa Conservation Area	97278 Tokenui Route - Te Waiti Stm Confluence to Tokenui Bivy	4 (2 oppose / 2 for)
	97279 Tokenui Route - Tokenui Biv to saddle/Little Manganuku Track	4 (2 oppose / 2 for)

For those in opposition, it was strategically important to ensure a network of tracks and huts linking the main valleys of the Urutawa Conservation Area. The Tokenui Valley was one of these. There was also the possibility for extended three day overnight tramping opportunities. They represent potential that would be monitored in relation to improved road access in the Te Waiti Valley.

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## PROPOSED

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Marawaiwai Scenic Reserve	190440 Marawaiwai Disabled Track	3 (3 for)
Urutawa Conservation Area	190519 Te Waiti Swingbridge	6 (1 oppose / 5 for)

Important for two reasons; Marawaiwai is readily accessible within 20 minutes of Opotiki. Natural bush opportunities for disabled access and day visitors near Opotiki are minimal. The proposed Te Waiti swingbridge was also supported subject to a new proposal to build a bridge across the Pakihi Stream coming first. Those in opposition to the Te Waiti Swingbridge commented that the river crossing was quite safe unless in major flood and that resources would be better directed at other proposals.

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## NEW PROPOSALS

Three new proposals were raised by submitters of which 2 were accepted.

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Urutawa Conservation Area	Pakihi Suspension bridge designed to be consistent with the history of Pakihi Track. All weather access.
	Stag Flat-Pakihi Route to establish a link between the Te Waiti and Pakihi Valleys creating a loop track.
	The Pakihi Track was also identified in submissions supporting upgrade to bring to standard.

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## 4.5 PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

A list of DOC proposals that received no specific submissions are provided in Appendix 1.

Te Urewera Tracks featured heavily here.

Two submissions were received supporting all DOC proposals in the Conservancy while one supported all track related proposals. A few submissions also stated that failure to comment on DOC proposals did not necessarily imply consent.

## 5. User group meetings

Seven meetings were held with user groups throughout the conservancy.

Two meetings were held with the Opotiki District Council and an adjacent landowner concerning maintenance options for the Te Waiti Road. (4 March and 27 April /Opotiki) This road (Site 500218/Asset No.98101) is a strategic public access to the northern Urutawa Conservation Area.

It was agreed that:

- The Council in fulfilling its tourism objectives for Eastern Bay of Plenty would maintain Te Waiti Road to Mt Misery and develop car parking and
- the adjacent landowner would maintain the road from Mt Misery to Bush Haven on condition that DOC would continue to maintain its recreational infrastructure as outlined in Recreation Opportunity Review document within the Te Waiti and Pakihi Valleys.

A Gisborne Area meeting was arranged on 26 March to ascertain support for the Te Reinga Falls Track (Site 500304/Asset No 97076) proposal with Ngati Hinehika. The Iwi Chairman felt this proposal would be supported by the Te Reinga community and hapu and that his people would support the necessity to have the track easement gazetted under the Walkways Act.

In the Hawke's Bay, four meetings were held with tramping/hunting club representatives and keen individuals.

The first meeting (Napier; 19 April) discussed hut proposals in the northeastern Ruahine. It was accepted that loss of Aranga and No Mans Huts created a major gap. To offset this, Ruahine Bivy (Site 703016/Asset No.192402) would be located at the headwaters Apias Stream (from Parks Peak) on the main range and a second hut (6 bunk) would be located at the Totara Spur junction with the main range.(Site 703021/Asset No.192599. ) Kylie Bivy which was too far south would be removed and Upper Makaroro Hut (from Parks Peak) would go to Minimal maintenance and be reviewed in 3 years. Ruahine Bivy would be renamed "Apias Hut" (six bunks).

The second meeting (Waipukarau 29 April) aimed at maintenance options for Happy Daze Hut (Site 703073/Asset No.43389). The meeting confirmed that interest in maintaining the hut existed only if access constraints from Mill Road were removed. The agreed outcome was:

- DOC to assess legality of public access to the hut aiming to reach a satisfactory agreement by Dec 2006
- Interim final decision will be "Minimal maintenance"
- If by December 2006 agreement on maintaining the hut cannot be reached; it will be removed

A third Hawke's Bay meeting (Napier 18 May) was held with Napier/Hastings City Councils to discuss walking opportunities in urban fringe areas. Specific proposals included Heipipi Historic Reserve and integration of a track with the Napier City Council kanuka forest reserve within the East Hills land development; a coastal walk from Tangoio Beach to Whakaari Reserve and walkway access from Otatara Pa, along the Taradale Hills to the Ahuriri walkway.

The final Hawke's Bay meeting (Napier 13 July) was with members of the Heretaunga Tramping Club. It aimed to finalise Totara Spur proposals in the Ruahine and to update on national recommendations from the "Huts Specialist Group" for 8 huts in the Kaweka and Ruahine Forest Parks.

# 6. Summary of general points from submissions

## GENERAL POINTS

NATURE OF SUBMISSION POINTS	MERITS
<b>Access</b>	
<p><b>Angler Access</b> – consideration be given to improving access through tracks, campsites and new helipads for recreational anglers. Particularly to the Ngaruroro River/Kaweka.</p>	<p>Consider fishing access as a stronger element in recreational planning but need to be realistic. Improvements to recreation infrastructure is going part way to meeting this.</p>
<p><b>4WD</b> – OHV use is a valid and growing recreation that must be recognised.</p>	<p>4X4 vehicle use is recognised as a popular recreation activity, and many old access roads have been designated for this type of use. Unfortunately, some 4X4 drivers have created impacts through thoughtless vehicle use of conservation lands that has led to restrictive policy and a preference by managers for this activity to occur off conservation lands.</p>
<p><b>Disabled</b> – Do more to encourage disabled access to visitor centres and appropriate bush reserves. Remove barriers.</p>	<p>Facilities can be designed with the disabled in mind, which will benefit other visitors as well (e.g. people with prams). Advice from representatives of disabled persons is being sought with the aim of improving access options for the less able visitors. Have 2 new track proposals as part of this public process (Balls Clearing and Marawaiwai) but there are issues with the Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre and parts of the nearby Waikaremoana Motor camp that need addressing.</p>
<p><b>Road</b> – Poor road access into the Ruahine, Kaweka Forest Parks and Gwavas Conservation Area.</p>	<p>In many cases road access into these areas cuts through private land. Access agreements with landowners vary from formal to verbal. Problems with changing ownership, poorly defined rights of way and frustration with visitor/owner behaviour mean that negotiations are always in a state of flux. Road access is a key issue that impacts on use and is a priority in the Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Track</b> – Visitor use is low due to insufficient signage and access information regarding private land in the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks.</p>	<p>As with road access (above), access agreements with landowners vary from formal to verbal. Problems with changing ownership, poorly defined rights of way and frustration with visitor/owner behaviour mean that negotiations are always in a state of flux. Foot access is a key issue that impacts on use and is a priority in the Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy.</p>
<b>Overseas visitor/New Zealander relationships</b>	
<p><b>Support local recreation</b> – DOC should do more to foster local recreation (hunter/trampers). Should only allow tourism (Conservation Act).</p>	<p>New Zealand recreationists vs overseas tourists. The conservancy continues to do a lot for recreation by maintaining a comprehensive backcountry network of small backcountry huts and tracks of regional significance to the eastern and upper North Island. This is consistent with the DOC Visitor Strategy and the Conservation Management Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Cost Sharing</b> – Overseas visitors should pay a fairer/greater share of costs. Perception Great Walks promoted to overseas visitors at the expense of New Zealanders.</p>	<p>In the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy, 75% of visitors to the Waikaremoana Great Walk are New Zealanders, largely from Auckland. Tourism contributes to New Zealand's economic wellbeing and this is recognised through Government funding for visitor facilities and conservation work as a whole.</p> <p>Work is programmed to improve the ability of the department to understand and respond to issues of crowding and impacts, problems which are not created exclusively by one group alone. Many New Zealanders enjoy the higher standard facilities and opportunities that support nature-based tourism and are provided as part of the range of recreation opportunities that DOC manages.</p>

NATURE OF SUBMISSION POINTS	MERITS
<p><b>Funds committed to tourism</b> - Emphasis on spending more in high use areas e.g. Great Walks because of the tourism activity rather than on areas benefiting local recreationalists.</p>	<p>More funding will become available and as a result more funding will be allocated to basic backcountry facilities, as well as to the provision of higher service standard front country facilities. The department will aim to meet its objective "a range of recreational opportunities should be provided in different settings for visitors with different capabilities, skills and interests" (Draft General Policy Conservation Act).</p>
<p>New Zealanders displaced from their heritage. More overseas visitors are going to places favoured by New Zealanders.</p>	<p>Tourism is strongly domestic in East Coast Hawkes Bay and this issue is less problematic. Booking systems need to work in favour of New Zealander's being able to access their own recreation opportunities. The bookings system used at Waikaremoana in fact greatly enhances domestic use because most kiwis are travelling at some distance and need security of accommodation prior to departure..</p>
<b>Facilities Management</b>	
<p><b>Declining condition</b> - Criticism of the state of tracks and huts since DOC took over management. In particular the Ruahine Forest Park and Te Urewera National Park</p>	<p>The Government has accepted that the funding for visitor facilities in conservation areas has been inadequate in the past which has led to considerable deferred maintenance. The new funding being provided over the next ten years is intended to deal with this problem.</p>
<p><b>DOCs' role</b> - All backcountry huts are valuable and DOC has a role to ensure they get adequate maintenance for long life.</p>	<p>The department recognises the significance of the backcountry hut and track network as part of the character of the national network of parks. An appropriate mix of recreation opportunities is being sought, which includes areas with higher levels of facility provisions, others with basic facilities and still others with no facilities.</p>
<p><b>Style</b> - Retain the style of old backcountry huts/small/ close/ intimate. Big huts have no atmosphere and are soulless with no "hearthside feel". Hut design to reflect visitor experience.</p>	<p>There has been a trend towards more people seeking backcountry experiences that include facilities of a higher service standard. It is possible to accommodate these people's needs through the provision of some larger huts and better developed tracks. This type of facility is not expected to replace to any significant degree the basic facilities seen by many as the essential character of the New Zealand backcountry.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many small huts are being lost while overly large Great Walk huts take priority.(Concern about Te Urewera hut proposals)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Road end huts</b> - provide opportunities for less experienced groups, families, less fit. A valid introductory experience offered that could result in a "committed outdoor person.</p>	<p>To an extent in the hut principles this is already catered. For huts close to road ends, if the facility is on a backcountry adventurer or comfort seeker site and is a popular destination. There is scope for this type of opportunity for the less able, less experienced / families and those seeking safe "introductory" overnight bush experiences. Although on a highly popular day visitor site, TripleX Hut has been identified as candidate to fulfil this need in the Ruahine Forest Park.</p>
<p><b>Wasted resources</b> - Don't waste resources removing assets that could save life.</p>	<p>The department accepts that any form of shelter has the potential to provide safe haven but does not accept that this is justification enough for all existing huts and shelters to be retained. Huts must be removed when they become unsafe, unweatherproof and unsanitary. Otherwise the department is liable under the Buildings Act/ Health Safety and Employment Act/Occupier Liability Act etc.</p>
<p><b>Service standards</b> - Achieving or exceeding our own high levels of service might come at the sacrifice of simple backcountry huts or other less glamorous opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt a minimalist approach to hut design.</li> </ul>	<p>New Government funding was provided to better manage the current range of recreation opportunities. More funding will be allocated to basic backcountry facilities, as will be the case for higher service standard front country facilities. While there are facilities that can be managed to lower service standards and thus are more cost effective by hut or km of track, this does not fulfil the departments objective "a range of recreational opportunities should be provided in different settings for visitors with different capabilities, skills and interests" (Draft General Policy Conservation Act). Service standards are intended to be used as the minimum standard for facilities, but they should also not be exceeded to any significant degree.</p>
<p><b>Safety role</b> - Main range bivies for safety. Life saving importance of huts.</p>	<p>The department accepts that any form of shelter has the potential to provide safe haven but does not accept that this is justification enough for all existing huts and shelters to be retained. High altitude bivies on the main range of the Ruahine/Kaweka will as far as possible be retained for visitor safety. The main exception is Rocks Ahead Bivy (15 minutes from Rocks Ahead Hut) and will only be removed once the cableway across the Ngaruroro River is upgraded.</p>

NATURE OF SUBMISSION POINTS	MERITS
<b>Safety information</b> – Updated map information; transition between old and new maps.	As a consequence of change resulting from the Recreation Opportunity Review, updated visitor information will be a priority safety issue. It will be important to ensure that all internal and national publications (including DOC Website which is key) are updated. LINZ mapping should also be reviewed. Emphasis on the importance of public contact with the local DOC Office to get the latest visitor information. Work programmes to ensure that orientation/information/directional signage is updated to reflect facility removals within 2 years.
<b>Safety information</b> – More log books at road ends for Search and Rescue purposes.	This could be considered but vandalism/abuse is likely to be a problem.
<b>Shelters</b> – Consideration to erecting cheap vandal proof shelters on sites where huts have been removed.	While there may be cost savings in replacing huts with shelters, the intention is to provide huts users with a facility to meets a service standard suitable to the location and visitor group. The department’s preference is to continue to provide safe, weatherproof and sanitary huts, although in some places shelters will be suitable to support overnight camping. For East Coast Hawke’s Bay Conservancy, construction of cheap vandal proof shelters at ex-hut sites is unnecessary and unrealistic. The Ruahine/Kaweka main range bivies and Dominic Hut are testimony to this. Secondly huts targeted for removal in this conservancy are either close to or at road ends or very close to adjacent huts or are timed for removal only after relevant safety issues have been resolved e.g. an upgraded cableway in relation to Rocks Ahead Bivy. Visitor information will be updated as a priority. The visitor also needs to take responsibility for trip planning.
<b>Track closure</b> – groups are willing to remark routes using track markers rather than see them close altogether.	Even with routes there are still ongoing costs to remove vegetation and windfalls so that markers can be followed in either direction. (Standards NZ Tracks and Outdoor Structures book) Track service standards are to be met where tracks are open to the public. The conservancy is working with interest groups to maintain tracks/routes in the Ruahine Ranges.
<b>Planning</b>	
<b>Hawke’s Bay</b> – Accessible recreation opportunities singled out by Hawkes Bay residents. The Department review must meet these expectations.	Accessible recreation opportunities have been singled out by Hawke’s Bay residents as something they want. This aligns with the Visitor Strategy and the Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy. The department aims to provide a range of recreational opportunities. While Hawke’s Bay is renown for less accessible backcountry/ remote opportunities, there are many accessible DOC managed opportunities and proposals close to Napier/Hastings that will continue to be managed.
<b>Opotiki</b> – The Opotiki Tourism/Visitor industry relies heavily on DOC’s visitor facilities. There is a need to increase visitor information and the quality of experience, within the context of strategic plans.	The department is the major provider of wilderness, remote and backcountry opportunities. It has a significant influence on the visitor industry in the Opotiki District. DOC needs to work with the District Council to ensure that Council policies on infrastructure/development (e.g. roading) continue to support strategic recreational development. In this way implementation of the recreation opportunity review will be in context with the Conservation Management Strategy.
<b>Principles</b>	
<b>Minimal maintenance</b> – discard minimal maintenance in favour of maintain to a standard that provides an asset for the future. Avoid removal cost.	Huts proposed for minimal maintenance are low use, non core assets that don’t satisfy the hut principles or provide a significant recreational experience. They are retained usually because they are in reasonable condition but serve little or no recreational/ conservation purpose. When huts become unsafe, unweatherproof and insanitary they will be removed.
<b>Visitor Groupings</b> – Visitor groupings are too rigid. They do not describe the range of opportunities and the variety of uses people enjoy.	The concept of visitor groups is to recognise the diversity of visitor needs and to establish a set of categories that represents the major differences that can be found in the total visitor population. The visitor groups help drive the service standards, and the department prefers to focus on getting the current standards for facilities at present, rather than to resolve how to describe the complexity and variety of visitor types.

NATURE OF SUBMISSION POINTS	MERITS
<p><b>Travel times</b> – 2 hour policy between huts instead of 3 hrs. Safety; actually enjoy trip without exhausting if one is unfit.</p>	<p>The typical travel time between huts will depend on the individual’s fitness and competence, and the terrain. The department is using the service standards of tracks to guide visitors on the likely ease of travel, but ultimately it is up to the individual to choose their own trip. The department is endeavouring to ensure that sufficient information is available for trampers to assess their own level of competence and to choose their own level of risk.</p>
<p><b>Track removal</b> – “All markings, notices, slats –will be removed from these tracks... senseless. Using money to remove notices and slats has to be non-productive.</p>	<p>Unless there are important safety issues warranting removal of track markers, they will be left but not replaced. However, for tracks that are being phased out, there will be signs provided at track entrances to warn people of this change in management. Tracks are assessed individually. Usually first step is to place signs telling of closure at track entrances. Signage is then removed and publications are updated in due course.</p>
<p><b>Transparency</b> – Huts below minimal maintenance should not automatically be removed. Advisory group to assist with Submission review.</p>	<p>The decision to remove a hut on Minimal Maintenance once it reaches the end of its life will be made taking account of the circumstances at that time. The process of determining a core facility network has been robust, but it is also recognised that such strategic decisions need to be reconfirmed should some time have passed since it was made. The formal CMS planning processes are one opportunity for considering if such a change is warranted.</p>
<p><b>Hut use</b> – Low visitor numbers is no way to assess the value of a hut; Hut books underestimate use.</p>	<p>The Hut Principles consider the level of use alongside several other key factors when looking at which huts constitute a core network. The department agrees that low use huts in remote areas will form part of that recreation experience. Other factors considered include local manager views, trends in use, significance of the experience, educational value, visitor safety, and hut condition.</p>
<p><b>Other points that came through submissions</b></p>	
<p><b>1080 Application</b> – 1080 should be laid by bait station and not aerial.</p>	<p>Bait stations are effective in small reserves and other easily accessible areas. Cost of using bait stations in more remote and rugged backcountry areas however, would be prohibitive. Here, the aerial application of 1080 baits is a more cost effective possum control method.</p>

# Section Two

## 7. Making final decisions

There are 2 appended reports on the Final Decisions:

Final decisions on the original DOC proposals are provided in Appendix 2.

Final decisions arising as a result of new proposals from the submission review process are in Appendix 3.

## 8. Summary of decisions

A summary table of changes with decisions compared to the original DOC proposals is provided in Appendix 4.

There were 30 changes from the original DOC proposals to the Decisions. More than 90% of changes affected backcountry huts and tracking of which the majority were in the Hawke's Bay (12 / 43%) and Opotiki (10 / 36%). In addition 9 of 21 new submission proposals were accepted.

Deadlines have been placed on the implementation of decisions which have implications for management and user groups alike.

For decisions involving the "seeking of community maintenance"; final agreements must be reached by December 2007. Cease maintenance decisions are to be implemented by December 2005; Removal decisions by June 2006. Implementation of new tracking proposals will be deferred for three or more years while the Department works to bring the existing track network up to standard.

For Aniwaniwa Area (Te Urewera National Park) the decisions on recreational opportunities/facilities is closely aligned with the original proposals with minimal change. Through the submission analysis the importance of small huts in the backcountry and a general dislike for overly large huts on the Waikaremoana Great Walk was noted.

Final decision changes were solely confined to huts on the Whakatane Track. Only 2 were affected:

- Takarua Hut to be maintained and not relocated
- Ngaherama Hut to be maintained by DOC and not local community interests.

A new overland route proposal linking Lake Waikaremoana with the Whirinaki to the west via the Waiau Valley was accepted as a long term development (5 years+)

underpinning the range and extent of backcountry opportunities available in the southern Te Urewera National Park.

Disabled access issues relating to Aniwaniwa Visitors Centre and the Waikaremoana Motor camp will need to be addressed.

For the Gisborne Area decisions on recreational opportunities/facilities also aligned closely with the original proposals. With only 5 backcountry huts recreational emphasis favours more readily accessible opportunities close to population centres.

There were only 4 changes to final decisions and 1 new proposal. These affected the southern Raukumara where Mangaotane Hut (McMillans) will continue to be maintained for recreational hunting and not animal pest control. In Gisborne, the Waikanae Stream Track is not a visitor facility but more a school education/conservation advocacy project in the Gisborne industrial subdivision. It will be managed as a separate community support project.

Nikau Pools Track at Morere Springs will continue to be managed by DOC. It is not part of the lease agreement for management of the hot pools complex. The Morere car park and Morere/Nikau Pools picnic area however, will continue to be maintained by the Lessee. A new proposal suggested more facilities (picnic tables etc) in the Morere car park / picnic area.

The most significant change for the Area is a decision reversal from “cease maintenance” to pursue the upgrade of Te Reinga Falls Track as a Walkway proposal over the next 3-5 years. This has huge potential for the Area and local Iwi as it fills a significant gap in the provision of day visitor opportunities close to Gisborne and Wairoa.

Other key opportunities include the provision of road access to the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve north of Gisborne; the upgrading of the Mangakawa Track at Morere Springs Scenic Reserve and maintenance of 4 key Walkways within 1 hour of Gisborne ( Cooks’ Cove, Te Kuri, Anaura Bay and Otoko.)

The Hawke’s Bay Area experienced the greatest amount of change. Through the submission analysis the importance of the network of small backcountry huts and tracks in the Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges at both local and regional levels was recognised.

While generally aligning with original proposals, there were 12 final decision changes and 6 new proposals.

Backcountry huts and road access were the main concerns. Poutaki Hut (Gwavas Conservation Area) and Happy Daze Hut (Ruahine Forest Park) will now receive minimal maintenance and their future will be reviewed again in 2-3 years.

For the Kaweka Forest Park, Studholme Saddle Bivy and Comet Hut are now programmed for removal. For visitor safety Dominie Hut will be maintained at its current standard.

In the Ruahine Forest Park, Sparrowhawk and Tarn Bivies will now be maintained and not require major upgrade. Triplex Hut will be maintained as an important educational and introductory experience facility, readily accessible to young and old. Kylie Bivy is scheduled for relocation to a more accessible site near at the junction of the main range with Totara Spur. Parks Peak Hut will be upgraded to six bunks while Whitnell Lodge will now be removed.

As a consequence of and pre-condition to removal of Rocks Ahead Bivy, the final change decision for the Area involved upgrading of the adjacent Rocks Ahead Cableway to a swingbridge.

There was one final change to tracking. This involved the Longview/ Makaretu Hut Track (Kaweka FP) where maintenance would now cease on the southern section and not the northern.

Four new tracking proposals arose from submissions. Three of these were in the Ruahine Forest Park—Parks Peak to Barlows Hut (maintained by Heretaunga Tramping Club); Colenso Spur to Barlows Hut (already included in work programming) and the Yeomans' Track extension to Mangleton Road. The final proposal was for a disabled access track at Balls Clearing Scenic Reserve.

Concern over the standard of roading access into the Kaweka Forest Park led to a new proposal to upgrade Whittle Road-Makahu Saddle for 2WD access. Makahu Road will also require upgrading and DOC will discuss with the local Council the further road improvements needed, including the ford at Makahu Stream. For Ruahine Forest Park—three roading proposals: Daphne Road (300m of new road to provide good access to the riverbed/start of Daphne Track); Ngamoko Road Car Park near the Apiti Track access and Sentry Box Car Park off Mangleton Road. The Tamaki West road end car park will be upgraded to a higher standard.

For Opotiki Area, decisions highlight the significance of readily accessible opportunities close to town while acknowledging the huge range of opportunities in the surrounding backcountry. While generally aligning with the original proposals, there were 11 changes in the decisions and 2 new proposals.

The most significant outcome of the submission process has been an agreement to maintain the Te Waiti Road. This opens the northern Urutawa Conservation Area to recreational use, less than 30 minutes from Opotiki. As a consequence, original proposals for the Te Waiti Nature Trail and Boulders Campsite have been reversed. A new swingbridge is planned to safely access Te Waiti Hut and the benched track from Te Waiti to Stag Flat will be maintained at its present standard (tramping track). An old hunting route linking the Te Waiti and Pakihi Valleys will be reopened and a new suspension bridge proposal planned across the Pakihi Stream.

For the remaining backcountry, change from the original proposals is about fine tuning, retrenchment and consolidation. Removal of backcountry huts is not planned although community maintenance options are being sought for Kotepato Hut and the track accessing it. Three huts will be managed for animal control purposes (Te U Bivy, Brills Hut and Tokenui Bivy) Wharekahika Hut will now be managed as a basic hut for recreational use. Manganuku Hut will be maintained (as a standard hut) in reflection of growing recreational use in the southern Urutawa.

Other highlights include the upgrading of amenities at Marawaiwai Scenic Reserve and the development (3-5 years) of an access track for disabled visitors. The Ngutuoha Nature Walk, Otamatuna Ridge Track (Waimana Valley/Te Urewera National Park) and Little Manganuku Track (Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve) will also be upgraded. Otipi Road (Raukumara Conservation Park) will be maintained to a "mountain bike" standard. Although not technical, the road provides a challenging distance. The access road to the Otipi lookout will not be maintained.

## 9. Overview of decisions in terms of a range of recreation opportunities

Decisions for East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservancy (excluding new proposals) tend to favour day visitors (DV), campers (ON) and experienced users in the remote backcountry (RS) although the number of changes were few. (9 of 30) The majority of changes to decisions have occurred in the provision for back country adventurer facilities. (20 of 30) Results were mixed but overall there were 13 gains in facility provision, 5 reductions and 2 changes that were neutral. There were no real changes in facility provision for short stop travellers-SST (less than 1 hour visits) or backcountry comfort seekers-BCC (e.g. visitors to Great Walks).

Backcountry assets and in particular huts provided the main focus of debate within submissions. There were strong responses particularly in the Hawke's Bay from active user groups and passionate individuals. In many instances it became clear that submitters were experienced hunters and trampers with a strong affinity to the backcountry. Their knowledge and constructive comments played an important role with informing the final decision process.

Public cooperation with staff at meetings was excellent and appreciated. A few views were presented with passion. All views were given consideration. It is clear that the backcountry is dear to the hearts of submitters throughout the North Island. The network of small backcountry huts and tracks is a precious resource, a reflection of the New Zealand identity and their future not to be treated lightly. Many submitters wanted to see the huts saved for their own sake, for the history and memories they represent and the welcome safety they afforded.

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. It is hoped that these decisions will reflect as much as is practicable the needs of the recreating public and will provide for a unique and enjoyable range of recreation opportunities in the East Coast Hawkes Bay into the foreseeable future.

# Appendix 1

## PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

PARK/RESERVE	NAME	ASSET NO.	PROPOSAL
<b>Huts</b>			
Te Urewera National Park	Te U Bivy	39249	Non-visitor DOC management
	Wharekahika Hut	39225	Non-visitor DOC management
Urutawa Conservation Area	Tokenui hut	38896	Non-visitor DOC management
Waiouka Gorge Scenic Reserve	Brills Hut	39252	Non-visitor DOC management
<b>Tracks</b>			
Hutchinson Scenic Reserve	Hutchinson SR Track	97148	Maintain at Lower Standard
Morere Springs Scenic Reserve	Morere Ridge Track	97060	Maintain at Lower Standard
Okitu Bush Scenic Reserve	Okitu Extension	191285	Proposed
Papatu Scenic Reserve	Papatu Falls tk	97068	Cease Maintenance
Te Puia Hot Springs Scenic Reserve	Te Puia walk/tk	97064	Maintain by Community
Te Urewera National Park	Bald Knob tk	97012	Upgrade-To Higher Standard
	Hinerau walk	96992	Upgrade-To Higher Standard
	Ngutuoha nature walk	97259	Upgrade-To Higher Standard
	Otamatuna Ridge tk	97271	Upgrade-To Higher Standard
	Papakorito Falls tk	96997	Upgrade-To Higher Standard
	Otamakore Track	191833	Proposed
	Apiti/Waipotiki tk - Apiti hut to Saddle biv (Mangawai)	97304	Non-visitor DOC management
	Apiti/Waipotiki tk - Saddle biv (Mangawai) to Twain biv (Waipotiki)	97305	Non-visitor DOC management
	Te U tk (Waiotahi/Kaharoa stream)	97306	Non-visitor DOC management
	Whakatane Valley tk junctn to Wharekahika hut tk	97287	Non-visitor DOC management
	Whakatane Valley/Wharekahika hut tk junctn to Matahi Rd	97288	Non-visitor DOC management
	Mangatoatoa II tk	97019	Maintain by Community
	Waiopaoa - Mangaone Stm tk	97018	Maintain by Community
	Apiti/Waipotiki tk - Pukawa Stm to Apiti hut	97303	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Casino Bivy to Mangamako Stm junction	97050	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Manaohau (right branch) tk	97033	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Mangawhero Stm/Manaohou Stm tk	97048	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Ohutu to Duckville tk	96509	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Okui access tk	96515	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Okui loop/nature tks	96514	Maintain at Lower Standard

PARK/RESERVE	NAME	ASSET NO.	PROPOSAL
Te Urewera National Park	Onepu to Ogilvies tk	97275	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Otapukawa-Otamatuna trk	97272	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Pukareao access tk	96508	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Rua's tk - Anini Clearing to Six Foot tk junctn	97044	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Tataweka hut to junction with Te Pua -Otane Stream Track.	97296	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Tawhana-Te Pua tk	97290	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Te Panaa - Te Pua tk	97291	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Te Pua - Otane tk	97298	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Waihua Hut - Casino Bivy	96510	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Waihua Valley tk - Track start to Waihua hut	97049	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Waikare Valley tk - Waikare/Whakatane River junctn to Waikare Whenua s/bridge	97028	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Matawhero tk	97032	Cease Maintenance
	Paetawa tk - Pinaki tk junctn to Six Foot tk junctn	97268	Cease Maintenance
	Raroa to Matahi Rd/Whakatane Valley tk junctn (642m)	97289	Cease Maintenance
	Six Foot tk junctn (near Te Panaa hut) to Taurawharona hut	97266	Cease Maintenance
	Te Maraateatua Pt tk	97008	Cease Maintenance
Waihua Valley tk - Waikokopu biv to Waihua tk junctn	97052	Cease Maintenance	
Waikare route - Otanetea hut to Waikare Whenua s/bridge (exclusive)	97302	Cease Maintenance	
Waikare route - Taurawharona hut to Otanetea hut	97301	Cease Maintenance	
Waiioeka Conservation Area	Tawa - Kahunui tk	97073	Maintain at Lower Standard
Waiioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve	Little Manganuku tk	97254	Upgrade-To Higher Standard
	Brills tk	97284	Non-visitor DOC management
Whakaari Conservation Area	Whakaari track	192507	Proposed
Willow Flat Conservation Area	Kahikatea/Waterfalls tks	97080	Cease Maintenance
<b>Important Structures / Roads / Campsites / Car parks and Amenity Areas</b>			
Access road to Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve	Access road to Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve	191981	Proposed
Marawaiwai Scenic Reserve	Marawaiwai/Track Amenity Area		Upgrade to higher standard
Matawai Conservation Area	Matawai campsite	100052	Cease Maintenance
Mohaka River No.8 Marginal Strip	Te Hoe Amenity area	101272	Maintain at Lower Standard
	Te Hoe Campsite	101664	Maintain at Lower Standard
Morere Springs Scenic Reserve	Morere/Nikau Pools Carpark		Maintain by Community
Raukumara Forest Park	Otipi lookout access rd	98088	Cease Maintenance
Ruahine Forest Park	Craigs hut campsite	100054	Cease Maintenance
Te Puia Hot Springs Scenic Reserve	Te Puia campsite	100053	Maintain by Community

PARK/RESERVE	NAME	ASSET NO.	PROPOSAL
Te Urewera National Park	Formalise a carpark area at summit	190722	Proposed
	Hopuruahine campsite	100043	Cease Maintenance
Te Urewera National Park	Hopuruahine Campsite (New)	190708	Proposed
	Korokoro Suspension Bridge	190820	Proposed
	Ngutuoha picnic area	100479	Cease Maintenance
	Retaining Wall (Slip1)	190825	Proposed
	Retaining Wall Slip 2	190826	Proposed
	Waikaremoana Motorcamp	100050	Maintain by Community
	Whatapo Bay Informal Camping proposal.	190697	Proposed

# Appendix 2

## FINAL DECISIONS

### ANIWANIWA AREA

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>Te Urewera National Park</b>				
Aniwaniwa Visitors Centre	Maintain	Upgrade to make Visitor Centre and associated toilet facilities wheelchair accessible.	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Wheelchair access is an issue and needs to be resolved. Engage an architect to identify options to provide wheelchair access to the VC and toilets and the Motor camp (access to shop, toilets and accommodation) . Solutions for the Aniwaniwa Visitor Centre would need to be considered in the context of the overall upgrade of the Museum.
Kanohirua Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal maintenance / Maintain	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is low use on a Back country adventurer site less than 3 hours from Waiawa Hut and even closer to SH38. Retirement date is 2016 so rather than remove, it will be kept until it is not longer weatherproof, safe and sanitary.
Korokoro Falls tk	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade with particular emphasis on the river crossing.	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	To improve safety and bring the track to the required Service Standard for the predominant visitor group. (Backcountry comfort seeker) Options for either: An all weather crossing over the Te Korokoro Stream OR A re-route from the Great Walk on the true left of the Korokoro Stream.
Lake Waikareiti tk	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade; Some confusion with Lake Waikareiti Walk standard.	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	To bring the track to the required service standard for the predominant user group.
Mangawhero Forks Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Remove / Maintain/ Minimal maintenance until Mangawhero Hut built.	Remove (and not replace)	Service life, vandalism/ tagging, too close to the road end (90mins) and only 2 hours to next hut,(Midway). Not a popular destination.
Mangawhero Hut	Proposed	Support / condition for removal of Mangawhero Forks Hut.	Proposed	Proposal based on visitor demand; within 5 years.
Ngaherama Hut	Owned by DOC but maintain by Community	Part of a hut network that should be maintained by DoC if Community maintenance options fail.	Maintain	Ngaherama hut will be retained until either it or Tawhiwhi reaches the end of their service life at which time a new hut will be built at Ngaherama to replace both huts

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Okui Hut	Move to Another Location	Support to relocate.	Move to Another Location	Relocate to Aniwanui Valley in the vicinity of but not on ex-Ward's hut site. Iwi to be consulted. This will provide safe hunting opportunities in the Aniwanui Catchment during the Christmas period when the rest of the Waikaremoana Catchment is closed to hunting.
Pakiaka hut (Parahaki)	Move to Another Location	Support to relocate/ maintain where is as link to Rogers and Skips in the Whirinaki Forest Park	Move to Another Location	Hut is in reasonable condition but is well within 3 hours of Central Waiau and Te Totara Huts. Proposal to relocate to Pukekohu Helipad area/Manganuihou @ w18.527:635. Will provide an overnight link between Te Waiotukapiti and Lake Waikaremoana via Maraunui breaking a 10-12 hour tramp.
Panekiri Hut	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Maintain; 40 bunks too big.	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Issues: heating, toilets, double glazing, internal space use (packs on the floor), fire risk...need addressing. Hut capacity may have to increase subject to the impact of Waiopaoa hut replacement.
Rosie bay Boat ramp	Maintain	Close boat ramp. (weeds risk)	Maintain	Maintain. Once the Lagarosiphon issue is resolved(2-4yrs), Rosie Bay will continue to provide safer sheltered lake entry/exit for boats.

## ANIWANIWA AREA

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>Te Urewera National Park</b>				
Takarua hut	Move to Another Location	Relocate/Maintain; excellent location where is	Maintain	Existing site is excellent according to submissions. The issue of Takarua relocation can be re-addressed when it comes up for replacement at about the same time as for Ngaherama and removal of Tawhiwhi Hut (around 2020)
Te Waiotukapiti hut	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Support upgrade	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Core asset on Waiau Valley track system. Of historic significance.
Waiharuru Hut	Maintain	Hut too big; loses intimate communal atmosphere	Maintain	Review options to increase intimate/communal atmosphere and improve heating of the living/cooking section of the hut. Also consider a partition in the dormitory to reduce the "barn" ambience.
Waiopaoa Hut	Replace-Bigger Size	Support but relocate old hut to Stump Bay./Review cost options; possible new site at Korokoro/Maintain hut and build an extra 10-12 bunk hut nearby. Don't want a palace.	Replace-Bigger Size	Existing hut is nearing the end of its service life. Currently accommodates 21. Living area is far too small and only suitable for 11. Restricted opportunities for hut expansion. Causes a bottleneck for the larger huts that fed it. Frequency of days during peak periods when hut is crowded to full capacity is increasing alarmingly. To be built about 50 - 60m from the current site.

## GISBORNE AREA

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>Matawai Conservation Area</b>				
Matawai tk	Maintain by Community	Community maintenance	Maintain by Community	Mountain Safety Club already maintain the track and camp area.
<b>Morere Springs Scenic Reserve</b>				
Mangakawa tk	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade/ conditional that adjacent Ridge Track is maintained (albeit a lower standard.)	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Very popular track for a range of ages and fitness. Readily accessible from Gisborne / Wairoa via SH2. Highly unique opportunity for conservation education/interpretation.
Nikau Pools tk	Non-visitor DOC management	Agree on assumption that the lessee will maintain the track.	Maintain	DOC maintain Nikau Pools Track and associated assets. This track is not part of the lease agreement.
Morere/ Nikau Pools Picnic Area	Maintain by Community	More facilities	Owned by DOC/ Maintain by Community	A high profile visitor site. DOC to advocate to Lessee about proposal.
<b>Raukumara Forest Park</b>				
Mangaotane Hut (McMillans)	Non-visitor DOC management	Maintain / Support biodiversity work in southern Raukumara.	Maintain	A remote low-use hut in the southern Raukumara. The few Hunters using this facility are usually flown in.
Mt Hikurangi Walkway	Maintain	Critical to retain and well maintain.(marked and signposted.)	Maintain	Binding legal agreement (with Te Runanga o Ngati Porou) to maintain walking access from where the farm track stops, to the summit. Farm manager Pakihiroa Stn maintains the farm track. DoC maintains the markers and signage for the whole track.
<b>Te Reinga Falls Scenic Reserve</b>				
Te Reinga SR Track	Cease Maintenance	Spectacular scenery alone warrants consideration.	Upgrade to Higher Standard	There are few Rural and readily accessible opportunities in Wairoa Area. High scenic and natural values. Visitor use of adjacent Falls Lookout is more than 6000 annually. Potential Walkways proposal as most of route is over Maori Land (Ngati Hinehika)
<b>Waikanae Stream Conservation Area</b>				
Waikanae Stm tk	Maintain by Community	Community maintenance	Non-visitor DOC management	Not a track asset A community garden/landscape project aligned with youth education and not recreation.

## OPOTIKI AREA

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>Marawaiwai Scenic Reserve</b>				
Marawaiwai Disabled Track Access	Proposed	Supported	Proposed	Full support. Fills a significant gap in the range of opportunities. Important and readily accessible, close to Opotiki.

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>Raukumara Forest Park</b>				
Mangakirikiri hut	Maintain	Basic maintenance; essential link East -West Traverse/ Raukumara.	Maintain	Maintain primarily for rafters on the Motu River.
Mangatutara hut	Non-visitor DOC management	Basic maintenance; for biodiversity work and emergency shelter.	Non-visitor DOC management	Biodiversity Asset. Gazetted Wilderness in the Raukumara makes no provision for emergency shelters for recreation. (Nature in control.)
Otipi Access Rd 1	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain at lower standard. All terrain motorised access needs close management. Mountain bikes only.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain to mountain bike standard. One of the few areas suitable for mountain bikes.
Otipi Access Rd 2	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain at lower standard. All terrain motorised access needs close management. Mountain bikes only.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain to mountain bike standard. One of the few areas suitable for mountain bikes.
<b>Te Urewera National Park</b>				
Ohane hut	Move to Another Location	Relocate; too close to Waikare Junction Hut / even times/ reduce vandalism	Move to Another Location	Services a link system that accommodates inexperienced trampers moving between the Whakatane and Waimana Valleys Propose to relocate further upstream near Wainakau Junction with the Awamate Stm at W17 650 018.
Waikokopu Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal maintenance / Maintenance	Maintain	A low-use facility used by hunters almost exclusively. Will assist biodiversity monitoring in the short term.
<b>Urutawa Conservation Area</b>				
Boulders campsite	Cease Maintenance	Maintain	Maintain	Change in District Council position concerning maintenance of Te Waiti Road. This now ensures reasonable (2WD)access to visitors long term. Improved road access will have a positive impact on visitor use.
Lagoon Hut	Non-visitor DOC management	Maintain inferred	Non-visitor DOC management Maintain	Very low use / not a core asset. Primarily a biodiversity asset for goat control in the first instance.
Manganuku hut	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain to a lowerstandard/ Maintain	Maintain	A reflection of increased use. Supports a range of backcountry opportunities in the southern Urutawa.
Pakihi tk - Motu Rd to Pakihi hut	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Important opportunity for Mountain Biking as a benched stock route.
Pakihi tk - Pakihi hut to	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Important opportunity for Mountain Biking as a benched stock route.
Te Waiti - Stag Flat tk	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain; as part of Pakihi-Te Waiti loop track	Maintain	This track will support a link between the Pakihi and Te Waiti Valleys: Northern Urutawa. For Back Country Adventurer and some Remoteness Seekers. Potential waste of a benched asset. Consistency with other proposals in area.

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Te Waiti nature walk	Cease Maintenance	Maintain; link to Boulders campsite /Educational	Maintain	Local District Council to improve Te Waiti Road access. This has been agreed and will enhance use of the valley; particularly Boulders Campsite and associated nature trail. (School groups/Family)
Te Waiti rd	Maintain by Community	Community maintenance/ strategic importance.	Owned and Maintained by Community	As part of meeting local tourism objectives Opotiki District Council have agreed to maintain the road on expectation that majority of recreation nrastructure in the Te Waiti Valley remains intact.
Te Waiti Swingbridge	Proposed	Support; but bridge over Pakihi Stream first. Review location across Tokenui Stream/ Unnecessary cost		All weather access to/from Te Waiti Hut in current location below the Tokenui confluence is a safety issue for School and family groups. Te Waiti Hut site is most preferred due to the available space for future expansion of the hut and as a hub/ popular destination in the northern Urutawa. Continues to support a range of options. Maintenance of Te Waiti Road will increase visitor use.
Tokenui route - Te Waiti Stm confluence to Tokenui	Non-visitor DOC management	Ensure further development/ access for trampers and hunters.	Non-visitor DOC management	With the maintenance of the Te Waiti Road resolved this may have an effect on use in the Tokenui and Wahaatua Valleys. Routes through these areas to be eviewed in 3-5yrs as potential reborn visitor assets.
Tokenui route - Tokenui biv to saddle/Little Manganuku	Non-visitor DOC management	Ensure further development/ access for trampers and hunters.	Non-visitor DOC management	With the maintenance of the Te Waiti Road resolved this may have an effect on use in the Tokenui and Wahaatua Valleys. Routes through these areas to be eviewed in 3-5yrs as potential reborn visitor assets.
<b>Waioeaka Conservation Area</b>				
Kotepato hut	Remove (and not replace)	Remove/ Basic maintenance/Retain/ Sponsorship/ Implement a better system of hut fees.	Seeking community maintenance	Hut in good condition. Not considered a core recreational asset being so close to a road end and not a popular destination in itself although submissions suggest that use is higher than anticipated.
Kotepato tk	Cease Maintenance	Clearer track marking for the high level access	Seeking community maintenance	Alignment with the Kotepato Hut proposal. Not considered a core recreational asset being so close to a road end. Duplication of what will be a maintained track to Nikau Flat.
<b>Waioeaka Gorge Scenic Reserve</b>				
	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain at current standard	Maintain at Lower Standard	Track has insufficient use to warrant a higher service standard. No significant recreation linkages from here.(e.g. to Brills/Tutaetoko Valley.) To be maintained at route standard.
Waioeaka nature walk	Cease Maintenance	Maintain	Cease Maintenance	More emphasis to be placed on Marawaiwai and the Te Waiti Nature Trails. Traditionally this Nature Trail has been the subject of significant abuse. The Waioeaka Gorge is the focus of an alternative major development interpreting key historic, biodiversity elements from the roadside.

## HAWKE'S BAY AREA

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>A'Deanes Bush Scenic Reserve</b>				
A'Deanes Bush SR tk	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade / New Loop Track	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Construct a further 500m to make a loop track. Review car park and track to Tukipo River in conjunction with loop track.
<b>Eastern Ruahine Forest Park</b>				
Apiti Track access road	Proposed	Upgrade existing road / new car park	Proposed	A security issue. Form a new car park adjacent to Ngamoko Road. Lower maintenance costs.
Craigs Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Agree subject to Makaroro Road end upgrade/ Maintain (Bookings)/	Remove (and not replace)	Triplex Hut is nearby providing a similar opportunity (for young and old) in a more natural and popular setting. Craigs subject to vandalism. Considered a "maintain by community" option but history of bad experience places reservations. Vehicle access restrictions through forestry. A shelter and toilet are proposed at nearby road end.
Daphne Road	Proposed	Upgrade 2WD road access/ new car park.	Proposed	Form 300m of road to provide good access to riverbed. Secure safe access for 2WD. Lack of available parking on Kashmir Rd.
Dianes Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Relocate / Maintain; Memorial value	Minimal Maintenance	Low use facility close to No Mans Road and Taruarau Bivy (1.5 hrs). Although more exposed Taruarau Bivy with an upgrade is better positioned strategically.
Ellis Hut	Non-visitor DOC management	Retain as Historic asset	Non-visitor DOC management	Historic asset continue to be used by day visitors. Potential for fire at Ellis if people use overnight. Use of Whitnells is causing vandalism at Ellis (Graffiti/fire risk) and this sort of result is well documented where old historic buildings are adjacent to recreational assets.
Gold Creek hut	Minimal Maintenance	Maintain / Improve access signage	Minimal Maintenance	Not a popular hunting site. Low use.
Happy Daze Hut	Maintain by Community	Community maintenance / improve access	Minimal Maintenance	There is potential for this hut to be maintained by community(traditional users) but problems with access compromise their involvement. By Dec 06 DOC will have assessed the legality of access from Mill Rd.If by then access cannot be resolved.
Herrick's Hut	Maintain by Community	Maintain / Cut track to Herrick's Spur/ Review access in northeastern Ruahine.	Seeking Community Maintenance	Farm Manager agreeable to take over maintenance of hut. Willing to let groups through with prior approval. Could be moved onto private land on condition that public availability is maintained.
Hinerua Hut	Maintain	Maintain/upgrade; Improve access signage.	Maintain	
Howletts Hut	Maintain by Community	Community maintenance	Owned and Maintained by community	Owned and maintained by Heretaunga Tramping Club.
Howletts to Daphne route	Proposed	Poled Ridge route for safety	Proposed	Pole a 4 km route. Sections of track are already work in progress. Howletts to Tiraha/ Howletts south via Oroua Saddle to Otumore. Extend poled route along tops to Otumore trig.

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Kashmir car park	Maintain	New changing shelter	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Access to Longview. Locate a toilet in the car park. Shelter not warranted at present but should consider as a future option based on usage.
Kumeti Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Remove	Remove (and not replace)	Doesn't meet criteria to remain. Within 30mins of road end. Hut subject to frequent abuse. Frequently used by day visitors.
Kylie Biv	Maintain	Remove. Part of new proposal package for Totara Spur and Apias	Relocate	Kylie Bivy is redundant as its too far south. Its relocation to Totara Spur will only add 15 mins to the trip from Sparrowhawk, giving Kylie Bivy a more axial position in the main Ruahine Range. Relocation should also enhance use and visitor safety.
Longview Hut	Maintain	Service standard too high/ cooking gas.	Maintain	Gas as a fuel option is the clearly the best impact solution for a site where deadwood fuels are more than 200m from the hut and scarce....essentially tussock country.
Longview/ Makaretu hut tk - northern tk junctn to Makaretu hut	Cease Maintenance	Cease maintenance on southern track/ retain northern track.	Maintain	Cease maintenance on the southern section. Retain the northern section as this facilitates the preferred access.
Middle Stream Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Relocate / Maintain as incentive to deer hunters/Improve track marking/ Review farm access.	Remove (and not replace)	Low use destination. Nearby Smiths Stream of higher use and historic significance. Relocation is impractical and unwarranted. Need to improve Smiths Stream access and signage from North Block road end.
Moorcock Saddle to Longview hut tk	Maintain	New changing shelter/ track upgrade	Maintain	Upgrade start of track which is boggy. Incorporate into ongoing track maintenance programme.
No Mans rd	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Relocate parts of road to Public Conservation Land	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Water tabling and culverting required in some sections. It was suggested that parts of the road on private land should be relocated to DoC managed land to prevent any possible road closures. High cost of proposal and low use make this difficult to justify.
North Block Road end to Waipawa / Sunrise Jn	Maintain	Upgrade and partial reroute	Maintain	The track to Waipawa Saddle through the small patch of bush and on through the leatherwood is deeply rutted.
Oroua Saddle route	Proposed	New poled route/ Safety	Proposed	A high altitude route through tussock. It involves a change in direction from one ridge to another. Having this route poled will improve visitor safety.
Parks Peak Hut	Maintain		Upgrade-Size/ Capacity	A popular but small hut with good access. New hut proposals at Totara Spur and Apias Headwaters junction will likely increase demand by opening access options along and across the main Ruahine Range.
Ruahine Bivy	Proposed	New 6 bunk / Rename Apias Hut/ alternative to loss of Aranga Hut	Proposed	A new 6 bunk facility on the track junction in the headwaters of the Apias Stream. This will better facilitate access along the main Ruahine Range.
Sentry Box car park	Proposed	New Proposal	Proposed	Form car park. Consult with landowner with a view to improving signage to clearly define car park.

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Sentry Box Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Remove / Relocate to Aranga	Remove (and not replace)	Hut is not essential and doesn't meet criteria by being within 15 minutes of road. Not a significant destination in its own right. Built in 1960, the hut is not worth relocating to the main range.
Sentry Box to Pohatu Trig tk	Maintain	Re open Pohutuhaha-Aranga	Maintain	Already maintained. But from Trig to Aranga; NOT Sentry Box to Trig (which is also maintained).
Sparrowhawk biv	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade	Maintain	Retain for safety reasons. Needs repaint. Requires water tank and toilet. Already extended at front for cooking with a bench. Additional veranda planned. Difficulty increasing capacity from 2 bunks to 4 without a major rebuild to the hut. (Currently A frame design) Difficult to warrant.
Stanfield/Takapari/Tamaki Rd tk - ridgeline tk	Cease Maintenance	Maintain Rimu Track	Cease Maintenance	Rimu walk will be retained. Track up to and around Takapari Trig will not be maintained. There are nearby alternatives from Stanfield Hut to main range and Cattle Creek.
Sunrise Hut	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	Upgrade capacity	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	Extend hut capacity by 9 bunks. Very popular facility as a destination in its own right.
Tamaki West road end car park	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Form and metal car park.
Tarn Bivy	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade/ add water tank/ maintain "pragmatic solution" toilet	Maintain	Retained for safety reasons. Need to ensure that the toilet retains its unique character provided it continues to not adversely impact on the environment.
Taruarau Biv	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	Upgrade; additional sheltered cooking area	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	In a superior position from a strategic recreation and management perspective than Dianes hut. (Less than 1.5 hr between). Increase capacity to six bunks.
Triplex Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Maintain / upgrade / remove only when toilets and shelter operating at Triplex car park	Maintain	Hut is popular with school/family groups and older people who prefer not to visit Sunrise Hut. Important site for introducing the young to an overnight bush setting. Major public support for this.
Upper Makarora Hut	Maintain	Minimal maintenance until a visitor use review in 3 yrs	Maintain	Hut recently upgraded. When Upper Makarora Hut reaches retirement @ 2030 its location and replacement will be reviewed in relation to Totara Spur.
Whitnell Lodge	Maintain by Community	Community maintenance	Remove and not replace	Extensive canvassing of interest groups in the area failed to raise any community interest in maintaining this facility. Whitnells is an old house subject to misuse and vandalism.
<b>Glen Falls Amenity Area</b>				
Everetts campsite	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Upgrade ford access	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Landscape architect to design a reduced camp site. Ford access at the site needs improvement.

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
<b>Gwavas Conservation Area</b>				
Poutaki Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Remove/Maintain/ Resolve access / Cut and mark track to hut/ Manage for pest control /Reviewing permitting/support deer and pig hunters	Minimal Maintenance	A hut that local users have come up in strong defence of. Inspect hut and review use after 3 years. Improve signage and foot access at Makaroro Road end and Leatherwood Road.
<b>Earthquake Slip Conservation Area</b>				
Hawkes Bay Coastal w/way - Waipapa Stm to Aropaoanui roadend	Cease Maintenance	Remove	Cease maintenance	Walkway closed due to dangerous eroded coast/ visitor safety.
<b>Heipipi Pa Historic Reserve</b>				
Heipipi track	Proposed	New Proposal/ Integrate with Napier City Council Walkways	Proposed	Provide a poled 1500m track in Heipipi Reserve linking with track in adjacent Napier City Council Reserve. Need to tie in with Council objectives for the area Involved.
<b>Kaweka Forest Park</b>				
3 wire across Tutukuri River	Replace- Bigger Size	Replace with a higher standard bridge	Replace-Bigger Size	Replace with swingbridge. A safety issue- present 3 wire crossing is close to road and used by inexperienced visitors.
Alternative track to Ngawaaparua hut	Proposed	Cut and mark track alternative	Proposed	Probability of bridge and track reinstatement as part of a Nga Whenua Rahui proposal over the Owhaoko Block within next two years. If negotiations fail, alternative route will be the option to link Otutu Junction with Ngawaapurua.
Black Birch Bivy	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal maintenance/ Maintain/Biodiversity role; Contorta	Minimal Maintenance	Limited hunting opportunity. Bivy still in good condition.
Cameron Hut	Upgrade- Size/Capacity	Upgrade hut and river access	Upgrade-Size/ Capacity	Essential for river users, increase veranda and decking space. Full support from submissions.
Comet Hut	Non-visitor DOC management	Maintain/ 4hrs between huts/ improve access	Remove and not replace	Doesn't meet criteria by being at a road end. Low use. The hut is not a popular destination nor a core visitor asset. Is provision for biodiversity to take over this asset for Non visitor DOC management by July 2005 which will also require that the hut be moved to a less publicly visible site.
Dominie Hut	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain at lower standard/Maintain-emergency shelter/ Historic	Maintain	Retain for emergency shelter on an exposed section of the Kaweka Range. Need to emphasise the responsibility of visitors for their own safety through roadend signage.
Ihaka Spur tk	Cease Maintenance	Remove southern track. Retain Camp Spur musterers track. Review historic importance.	Remove (and not replace)	Track not warranted - low usage. Close the southern track and maintain the northern access (Camp Spur Track).

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Iron Whare	Non-visitor DOC management	Historic management	Non-visitor DOC management	This is an actively managed historic asset. Has a dirt floor, receives very little use. Not a core visitor asset. Must be retained for historic significance.
Kaweka Flats Biv	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal maintenance / Maintain	Minimal Maintenance	Bivy is in reasonable condition. Low use. Not essential for visitor purposes.
Kiwi Saddle Hut	Maintain by Community	Community management	Owned and Maintained by community	Popular hut with trampers. Hut is owned and maintained by Heretaunga Tramping Club.
Mackintosh car park	Maintain	New "wind break" shelter at car park to change in	Maintain	Present level of usage doesn't warrant a shelter. Pine trees in 3 years will provide good shelter.
Makahu Rd	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Upgrade and maintain a bridge at Makahu Stream	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Ford and worst of road is with Hastings District Council. Continue to lobby Hastings District Council for improvements to the road and ford at Makahu Stream. Section that Department manages to be progressively upgraded.
Makahu Saddle Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal maintenance/ Maintain/Relocate to ex Kaweka Hut site/Historic management. If removed another shelter would be required.	Minimal Maintenance	A low use hut at a road end. Meets none of the hut principles and not a core asset. Of historic significance (Dexion/Aluminium framing) and may have potential for on site interpretation. Due to historic importance of this hut its future will also be determined as part of a review of all buildings at the Makahu Saddle road end.
Mangatainoka Hut	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	Upgrade size/ capacity incl. verandah, meatsafe, woodbox.	Upgrade-Size/ Capacity	Popular with helicopter hunters. No conflicts with proposed Remote Experience zone in Conservation Management Plan for Kaweka Forest Park.
Mangatutu Hot Springs amenity area	Maintain	Piped stream water to camping areas	Maintain	Provide water supply for the toilet block. This will be insufficient for camping with potential health issues. Provide signage for water to be used from nearby stream.
Mohaka river access	Proposed	Support improved access	Proposed	Provide vehicle access to Mohaka River (for river use) from Mangatutu. Prepare a staged landscape plan/ strategy for the Mohaka River Access.
Rocks Ahead Bivy	Remove (and not replace)	Remove and not replace/ Relocate to Te Puke Enclosure/ Remove only when adjacent cableway upgraded and Rocks Ahead Hut capacity	Remove (and not replace)	Low use and within minutes of Rocks Ahead Hut. Removal conditional on Rocks Ahead Cableway being replaced by a swingbridge first.
Rocks Ahead hut	Upgrade-Size/ Capacity	Upgrade size/ capacity	Upgrade size/ capacity	Extend to six bunks and provide additional veranda space. Partially in preparation for removal of nearby Rocks Ahead Bivy.
Rocks-Ahead Cableway	Maintain	Replace with swingbridge prior to removal of Rocks Ahead Bivy.	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Present cableway at times is unreliable, difficult to use and is a main justification for Rocks Ahead Bivy. Upgrade to a swingbridge will allow for the removal of Rocks Ahead Bivy.

ASSET NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC FINAL DECISION	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Studholme Saddle Bivy	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal Maintenance	Remove and not replace	Close to Studholme Hut (within 15 mins) and low usage. Is provision for biodiversity to take over this asset for Non-visitor DOC management by July 2005 which will also require that the bivy be moved to a less visible site.
Tussock Hut	Upgrade-Size/ Capacity	Upgrade / add new meat safe	Upgrade-Size/ Capacity	Full support. Popular with helicopter hunters.
Otatara Pa Historic Reserve				
Otatara car park	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Leave car park as is	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Need to consider the future growth and significance of this opportunity. Second best Pa site in NZ and top 10 historic site.

# Appendix 3

## FINAL DECISIONS – NEW PROPOSALS

MANAGEMENT UNIT	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	REVIEW PROPOSAL	REASON FOR FINAL DECISION
Disabled Access	Improved access for disabled.	New Proposal	New disabled access track with removal of existing access barriers to increase the range of opportunities.
All weather access to Daphne Hut	All weather access	Decline	All weather access when rivers are high. Not practical and cost prohibitive.
Barlows Hut- Colenso Spur	Maintain	New proposal	Track is already maintained by the Area.
Kashmir Campsite	New campsite rather than road end upgrade.	Decline	Set up site on Kashmir Rd before Longview Track entrance.
Kaumatua Track	Reopen to improve loop ptions.	Decline	Unnecessary duplication of opportunity. Close to Sentry Box Track.
Loop Walks Southern Ruahine	Link Coppermine- Billy Goat Track, NW to main ridge at 1015m with Wharite Tk.	Decline	Current use does not warrant at this stage. For future consideration.
Marked Route to Ikawatea Forks Hut	New marked route/ Negotiated access through Private land to Ruahine corner.	Decline	Maori Land Access an issue that pre-empts the submission. Low use, not a priority at this time. Ruahine Conservation Management Plan favors no development in this area as a “remote” zone proposal.
Parks Peak Ridge Track to Barlows Hut	Reopen track; Parks Peak to Barlow’s Hut.	New Proposal	Maintain by Heretaunga Tramping Club under agreement.
Totara Spur Hut	To replace Kylie Bivy.	Cancel New Hut	Consulted with key interest groups who gave strong support to the proposal. A national review of the proposal considered that with the proximity of Kylie Bivy and Upper Makarora Hut, one of these could be relocated to the Totara Spur site. Upper Makarora Hut was very popular in its present position. Kylie Bivy will be relocated to provide better access and accommodation in the main range.
Yeomans tk; Shelter at Track Start.	Changing shelter at track start	Decline	Shelter would service six tracks in the area but in wrong place. Better option at Makaroro Road end.
Yeomans Track Extension	Extension of Yeomans Track to Mangleton Road	New Proposal	Increase the range of tracking options forming loops to Parks Peak via Sentry Box Track- Mangleton Road .A rare walking opportunity through unique forest. Possible mountain biking opportunity.

MANAGEMENT UNIT	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	REVIEW PROPOSAL	REASON FOR INTERIM DECISION
<b>Kaweka Forest Park</b>			
Makino river Route	New track/route along Makino River; Foot of Mangaturutu Ridge to Hot Springs Track	Decline	Attraction is to walk up the Makino River. Route access already exists and is appropriate contributing to a range of experiences from Te Puia. Conservation Management Plan for Kaweka Forest Park also refers to a proposed Remote Experience zone with no additional tracking.
Te Puke Enclosure	New bivy (possibly Rocks Ahead) and related access tracks	Decline	Helicopter (Search and Destroy ) hunting will not change in this area which will have a big impact on its popularity to recreational hunters. The site hardly gets any use despite the location of a helipad. Used to be well hunted prior to search and destroy.
Whittle Rd-Makahu Saddle	Upgrade to similar standard as Makahu Road for 2WD	Upgrade-To Bring to Standard	Biggest problem is a steep road with corrugations and tight corners.(Kaweka Rd) This makes the road difficult to negotiate in 2WD.
Mohi Bush Scenic Reserve			
Disabled access: Mohi Bush Scenic Reserve	Provision for disabled access/track upgrade.	Decline	Mohi Bush Scenic Reserve upon field inspection was not a practical option.
Morere Springs Scenic Reserve			
Car park and picnic Area	More facilities; picnic tables	New Proposal	More picnic tables at the Pools Complex area. Very popular Day Visitor site. Operated through a Concession Lease. Inform concessionaire as a way of improving customer service.
<b>Te Urewera National Park</b>			
Aniwaniwa Campsite	Re open campsite; close to headquarters; facilities.	Decline	Originally closed in 1998 because of the threat to water quality/grey water issue. Wairoa District Council specific recommendations regarding grey water and ablutions; limiting.
Whirinaki- Waikaremoana Route	Marked route to link Waikaremoana and Whirinaki	New Proposal	Consider an overland route would be better and safer. It is a long term objective to link Waikaremoana with the Whirinaki.
<b>Urutawa Conservation Area</b>			
Pakihi Suspension bridge	Lack of bridge only limiting factor. Will make Pakihi an all weather track.	New Proposal	Pakihi Track is an historical stock route. A bridge proposal across the river is consistent with Day Visitor and Backcountry Adventurer groups. Design of the bridge to be in context with the history of the track.
Stag Flat-Pakihi Route	Support to re-open route to create a link between Pakihi and Te Waiti Valleys	New Proposal	Provides a link between Pakihi - Te Waiti Valleys. Linked to Opotiki District Council roading plan for the Te Waiti Valley. Increases the range of opportunities in the Northern Urutawa.
Te Kowhai Track	New historic (Williams) ridge route running north-south	Decline	Would be an interesting experience from a historical perspective but cost of establishment and logistics of access are limiting. No known or recognisable demand. Provides yet another backcountry opportunity that is already in oversupply for Opotiki. Review as visitor use in the Urutawa develops.

# Appendix 4

## SUMMARY OF FINAL DECISION CHANGES

	Count of DOC Proposal	Maintain	Maintain at lower standard	Minimal Maintenance	Move to another location	Non-visitor DOC management	Remove (and not replace)	Seeking Community Maintenance	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	Upgrade-To Higher Standard	New Proposals Accepted	New Proposals Declined	Totals
<b>Huts</b>													
Maintain	2				1				1				2
Maintain at Lower Standard	2	2											2
Maintain by Community	2			1			1						2
Minimal Maintenance	2	1					1						2
Move to Another Location	1	1											1
Non-visitor DOC management	3	2					1						3
Owned by DOC but maintain by community	1	1											1
Remove (and not replace)	2			1				1					2
Replace - Bigger Size	0												0
Upgrade- To Higher Standard	2	2											2
New proposal	2											2	2
<b>Shelter</b>													
New proposal	1											1	1
<b>Tracks</b>													
Cease Maintenance	5	3						1		1			5
Maintain at Lower Standard	3	3											3
Non-visitor DOC management	3	1	2										3
New Proposal	12										6	6	
<b>Camps</b>													
Cease Maintenance	1	1											1
New Proposal	2											2	2
<b>Roads</b>													
New Proposal	1										1		1

	Count of DOC Proposal	Maintain	Maintain at lower standard	Minimal Maintenance	Move to another location	Non-visitor DOC management	Remove (and not replace)	Seeking Community Maintenance	Upgrade-Size/Capacity	Upgrade-To Higher Standard	New Proposals Accepted	New Proposals Declined	Totals
<b>Structures</b>													
Maintain	1									1			1
New Proposal	1										1		1
<b>Amenity</b>													
Maintain by Community	1					1							1
New Proposal	2										1	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>52</b>

# Appendix 5

## 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.