

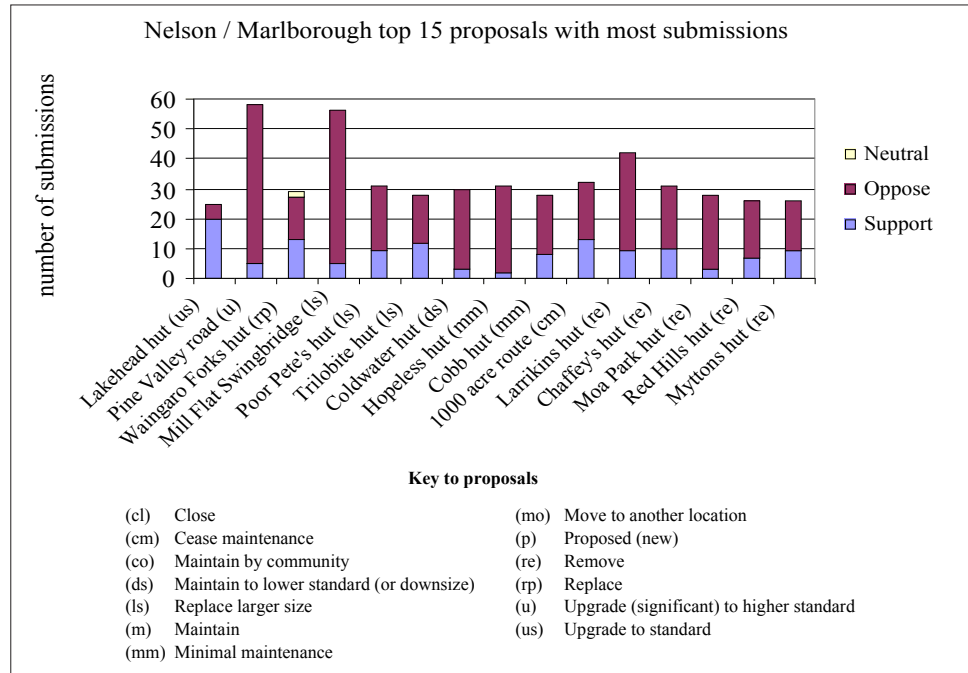


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Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Summary of submissions and decisions

Submission analysis



Submitters raised the following points:

- Proposal to “Cease Maintenance” have been challenged on the grounds that department user numbers are not correct, the fact that in many cases the cost of maintenance was minimal, safety issues and in some cases simply the intense public opposition to closures (Saddle Hill Route, Loveridges Route, Mt Stevens Route, Richmond Flat Track, 1000 Acres Route, Beebys Knob Route, Hopeless Track and Gibbs Walk).
- A preference that DOC leave markers on tracks that are being closed. (Cease maintenance proposal allows for this).
- The issue of distances between huts was common, especially in relation to anglers and hunters whose activity is not compatible with large popular huts. A number of submissions expressed concern that DOC is moving towards providing large huts as huts are replaced.
- The concept of retaining huts easily accessible to family groups and less able visitors nearer to roadends has been well supported by submitters.
- The mountainbike clubs seem happy with the facilities provided in this conservancy, apart from continuing to push for access to National Parks.
- Proposals to “Upgrade to Standard” have been opposed, although this appears to be people assuming this proposal is for a major upgrade or change of category, when it was intended to reflect work to bring a neglected facility up to the originally intended standard.



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- Specific groups that made submissions promoting more access were the disabled and four-wheel drive clubs. The Motor Caravan Association has called for DOC to allow self contained vehicles to overnight at designated road ends and carparks.
- Te Araroa Trust submitted that Red Hills hut be retained or its location be reconsidered in view of the proposed route of the intended walkway.

Decisions

The majority of the facilities proposals were to maintain to current standards. For the proposals which change facilities current facility management, there have now been 60 changes reflected in the decisions in response to public submissions. Some of the conservancy's facility proposals were presented as 'discussion points' rather than having a position already defined, so the decisions in some cases do not represent a shift in DOC's position (because no option had been chosen).

Decisions have not significantly changed the network and range of recreation opportunities provided in Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.

The track proposal to "Close Site/Remove All Assets" has been changed to "Cease Maintenance" and markers are to be left on site.

Seven tracks with the proposal to "Cease Maintenance" now have decisions to "Maintain" (Saddle Hill Route, Loveridges Route, Mt Stevens Route, Richmond Flat Track, 1000 Acres Route, Beebys Knob Route, Hopeless Track and Gibbs Walk).

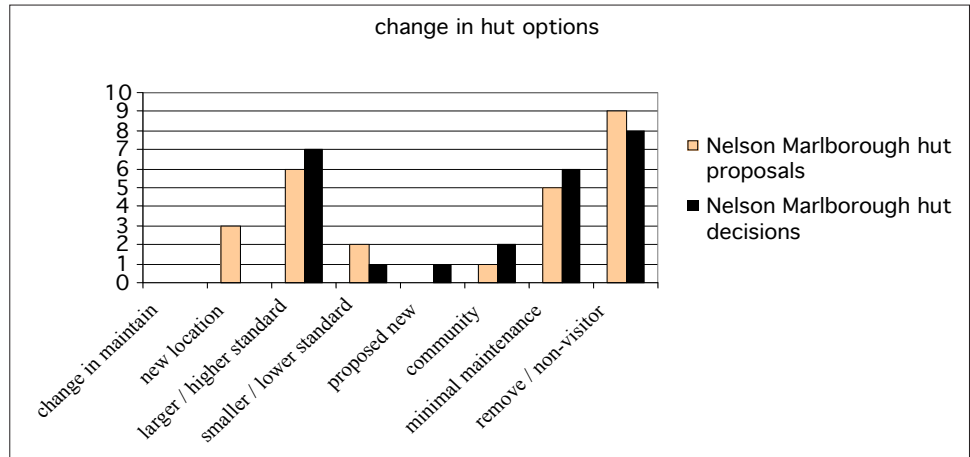
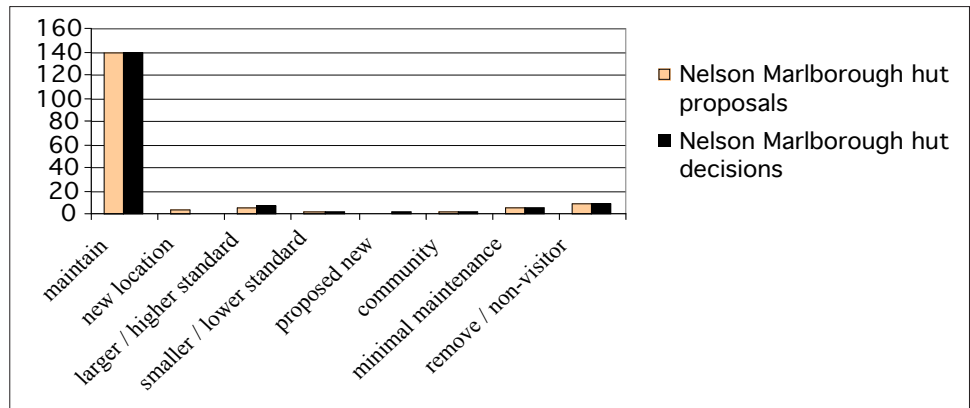
The decision for Cobb Hut has been changed from "Minimal Maintenance" to "Maintain" due to evidence that it had been well looked after by user groups since the 1994 Hut & Track rationalisation.

Larrikins Hut has been changed from remove to 'maintain, and Red Hills Hut will be replaced in the near future at a site yet to be determined.

Moa Park Hut and Flora Hut will both be replaced with day shelters due to submissions from tramping clubs. Shelters are not included as huts in the totals presented here.

A number of new proposals have been put forward by the public, of which 11 are being supported

- Aorere Goldfields improve access road to the Doctors Creek carpark.
- Reintroduce camping at Perry and Saxon and provide camp platforms and cooking shelters at these sites. Desperately require a booking system!
- Paynes Ford Scenic Reserve - additional toilet.
- Manage Rawhiti Cave track to Route standard, construct viewing platform and install toilet.
- Canaan: investigate option to provide camping opportunities.
- Kiwi Saddle Track - The wire across the Kiwi Stream will be replaced with a 3 wire bridge.
- New toilet needed at beach near Split Apple Rock.
- New bridge on Pelorus track
- Leatham wet weather route will be retained (approximately 6 km)
- Wairau Lagoons walkway: Build new viewing platform and interpretation
- Turn the Skyline Walk track into a loop track by extending it along the ridge at the top and bringing it down through the bush to meet the road at the old Matakitaki bridge site.



Nelson Marlborough Conservancy will manage 1973 km of track in the future, 5 km less than the current track network. The changes in proposals for tracks, resulting from consultation, are shown in the following figure. The first bar represents the *change* in track length to be 'maintained' as *decisions* compared with *proposals*, and the other bars compare actual length of track first with *proposals* and then *decisions* to change from the current situation.

