



# Southland Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Submissions analysis and decisions

OCTOBER 2004



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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Published by:  
Department of Conservation  
Southern Regional Office  
P.O. Box 13-049  
Christchurch, New Zealand

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.

## CONTENTS

Foreword	1
Executive summary	2
An outlook for visitor facilities in Southland Conservancy	2
A regional outlook for Southland	4
Introduction	7
What the decisions mean	8
Submitters and submissions	9
Number of submissions	9
Main proposals commented on by the public	10
Proposals notified in Southland Discussion Document that received the most submissions and summary of submissions by location	11
Other submissions on proposals	25
Proposals that did not receive submissions	26
User group meetings	26
Summary of general points from submissions	26
Making decisions	27
Summary of decisions	27
Murihiku Area	28
Southern Islands Area	32
Te Anau Area	38
Overview of decisions in terms of a range of recreation opportunities	42
Appendix 1	
Summary of hut and track decisions for Southland Conservancy	43
Appendix 2	
Maps displaying hut and track decisions for Southland Conservancy	44
Appendix 3	
Facilities for which the department seeks community maintenance agreements	48
Appendix 4	
Facilities for which the department has community maintenance agreements	51



# Foreword

The following report details the content of submissions received by Southland 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.

Proposals were analysed on their individual merit. All submissions on the same proposal were then considered to determine the overall strength of submissions. Possible decisions were then considered, and compared with the stated strategic objectives for the location, such as those contained in the Conservation Management Strategy.

Taking account of the submissions and other information received, decisions have been made by Southland 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.

Kevin O'Connor

Conservator

# Executive summary

- Submissions were received from 43 submitters covering all 73 assets contained within the Southland Discussion Document and on a further 58 general matters
- Recommendations have been made based on analysis contained within this report resulting in changes to 40 specific asset proposals. These include recommendations to change ‘maintain by community’ and ‘minimal maintenance’ proposals for three huts to ‘maintain’, i.e. Islands, Whare Creek and Redcliff, and a further five huts with ‘minimal maintenance’ proposals to ‘move to another location’ i.e. Aparima Forks, Lincoln, Ashton, Cheviot Downs and Lower Princhestor. Final decisions about locations for those huts will not be made until after discussion with the public. These changes will improve the quality of recreation opportunities within Southland
- Southland’s decisions must be considered alongside the outcomes of the yet to be concluded Fiordland National Park Management Plan review—because Fiordland contains a significant proportion of visitor facilities managed by Southland Conservancy
- Further work is proposed to improve legal and physical public access to the Takitimu Mountains for backcountry recreationists

## AN OUTLOOK FOR VISITOR FACILITIES IN SOUTHLAND CONSERVANCY

Southland is New Zealand’s southern-most conservancy. The Conservancy is distinctive on a national scale because of the extent of its remote and wilderness recreation opportunities. Its boundary contains Fiordland National Park, Rakiura National Park covering about 85% of Stewart Island, the Takitimu Mountains, which flank the Waimea and Southland Plains, the Eyre and Blue Mountain ranges, the lowland forests of Western Southland, which include Waitutu and Rowallan, and the Southern Catlins Coast. These areas contain some of the most diverse protected areas in New Zealand in terms of landform, climate and species. Spanning a large range of physical environments and landforms from Pyke Forest in the north, to Campbell Island in the Southern Ocean, its varied landscapes provide a magnificent range of opportunities for recreationists—from bustling Milford Sound to remotest Rakiura. The department provides a network of recreation facilities in Southland, including two visitor centres, 120 huts, 43 amenity areas including 18 conservation campsites, 229 tracks totalling 1,244 kilometres and 2,940 structures. Excluding Fiordland, the network contains 113 tracks totalling 597km in 40 parks and reserves. There are also 66 huts located within 14 parks and reserves. Most of these are in Rakiura National Park (22), Eyre Mountains Conservation Area (15) and the Takitimu Mountains Conservation Area (12). There are 23 amenity areas, mostly car parks, including three standard campsites, 18 roads totalling 31.6 kilometres and 1496 structures in total. However, Southland’s network of recreational facilities is not without weakness. Significant landscapes in Southland lack supporting visitor facilities, such as wetlands and interpreted grasslands/shrublands, whereas in other

landscapes there is a disproportionately large number of visitor facilities which results in the need to rationalise redundant facilities. Examples include duplicated backcountry tramping tracks in neighbouring catchments that receive very little recreational usage. It was recognised also that the number of opportunities for people with disabilities needed to be increased. This review has addressed these gaps and surpluses in order to provide a better range of visitor facilities in Southland. A number of other factors underpinned Southland's decisions including strategic directions identified in Southland's various planning documents (primarily the Conservation Management Strategies for mainland Southland, the Subantarctic Islands and Rakiura/Stewart Island), national directions for the Towards a Better Network of Facilities review and views put forward through public submissions. The High Country Tenure Review process was another factor that influenced Southland's decisions. Recognised gaps, such as opportunities for mountain biking, and ski-touring, will be satisfied on land that the department anticipates will become accessible to the public through tenure review.

New proposals identified in the discussion document included a new interpreted viewpoint at Waituna Wetland, and the construction of short walks and roadside facilities at Wilderness Scientific Reserve and at the Burwood Red Tussock Reserve. These new proposals were targeted at filling known gaps within Southland's network of facilities. Similarly, proposed track upgrades at Dolamore and Dean Forest were supported. Submissions received on Southland's new proposals identified in the Discussion Document were generally supportive.

The largest number of submissions was received for backcountry huts. The main focus was on huts in the Takitimu and Eyre Mountains. The weight of these submissions has resulted in changes for a total of seven huts (please refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of hut and track decisions and Appendix 2 for maps displaying the same information). Five huts that had minimal maintenance proposals now have 'move to another location' decisions and a further three huts (Whare Creek and Redcliff in the Takitimu Mountains, and Islands in the Eyre Mountains) will be maintained. Submitters favoured improved access and increased publicity of backcountry facilities in the Eyre and Takitimu Mountains - which has resulted in the decision to improve visitor information about, and public access to, recreation opportunities within the Takitimu Mountains.

Submitters were supportive of community maintenance proposals for 15 hunter huts on Stewart Island and a number of tracks in the mainland at Waipohatu and Croyden, which have followed through with 'seeking community maintenance' decisions. Appendix 3 displays details on facilities that the department is inviting community groups to maintain, and Appendix 4 details existing facilities that are covered by existing agreements the community groups.

Southland's decisions will result in the retention and maintenance of a larger number of facilities than was initially proposed. There will be a moderate rationalisation of low-use non-core backcountry huts, an increased number of maintained huts (in comparison to initial proposals) and new developments at Waituna, Wilderness Scientific Reserve and Burwood. Access to the Takitimu Mountains will be improved, along with visitor information, and it is proposed that the location of huts within that area will be revised in order to provide a network of facilities that better

supports the needs of backcountry recreationists. Improvements will be made to provide better recreation opportunities for people with disabilities at Tuatapere Domain, Forks Flat and Dean Forest. A larger community involvement in managing non-core visitor facilities is welcomed through this process.

## A REGIONAL OUTLOOK FOR SOUTHLAND

### **Te Anau Area**

The majority of visitor facilities managed by Te Anau Area Office are located in Fiordland National Park. Those facilities are being reviewed through the Fiordland National Park Management Plan review. However, there are facilities located within the Eyre and Takitimu Mountains that are jointly managed with Murihiku Area, while facilities located within the Te Anau Basin, Snowdon Forest and Mavora Lakes that are managed wholly by Te Anau.

Decisions will result in a network of maintained tracks in Te Anau that range from day walks in the Te Anau Basin (Lake Mistletoe, and Te Anau Lakefront), to overnight tramping tracks at Snowden, Takitimu Mountains, Pyke Forest and Mavora. Four tramping tracks will be maintained at a lower 'route' standard (Boyd Creek, and tracks in the Upukerora, Kiwi Burn and Whitestone catchments) providing opportunities for those seeking a more remote backcountry experiences. Maintenance will cease for Boyd Creek Waterfall Walk in Snowden Forest. Opportunities for camping at Mavora Lakes will be improved through a planned upgrade that will provide better signage, water supply and barrier free<sup>1</sup> toilet facilities, while retaining Mavora's innate values.

Access to these opportunities will be supported through provision of roads, carparks and roadedge facilities. The sealed road at Te Anau Control Gates will be maintained, as will gravel two wheel drive roads at Mavora, Wilderness Viewpoint, Rainbow Reach, and Queens Reach. Roadside amenity areas will be maintained at Mavora and Te Anau Wildlife Centre, and an upgrade is planned for Rainbow Reach. A community maintenance agreement is sought for Red Stag Lodge access road (from NZDA - Southland Branch) and Balloon Loop Road (from Fish and Game NZ - Southland). Five carparks will be maintained (Lake Mistletoe, Te Anau Wildlife Centre) or upgraded (Rainbow Reach and the carpark and viewpoint at Control Gates - all accessing Kepler Track) and another two will be developed (Wilderness Scientific Reserve and Burwood Red Tussock Reserve).

### **Murihiku Area (Invercargill)**

As with Te Anau Area, some of the visitor facilities within Murihiku Area are located within Fiordland National Park and are being reviewed through the Fiordland National Park Management Plan review. However, the majority of their assets are located in the various parks and reserves across the remaining diverse mainland Southland landscapes.

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1. 'Barrier free' is a term used to describe facilities that are accessible for people with disabilities.

Recreation opportunities within Murihiku Area can be broadly characterised by both backcountry/remote facility networks in the Takitimu and Eyre mountains and day-use facilities located closer to the major population centres of Invercargill and Gore, such as Bluff and Forest Hill.

A large range of walking opportunities will continue to be provided in Murihiku Area. These include walking tracks at Dean Forest (Big Totara), Croyden (Dolamore and Whisky Creek/Poppelwells tracks), Elders Track (Tuatapere), Forest Hill, Forks Flat (Hokonui), Foveaux Walkway and Glory Track (Bluff), Monkey Island, Pourakino picnic area loop, Seaward Downs, Waipohatu picnic area loop, and Whisky Track (Blue Mountains). Community maintenance is sought for Kingswood Bush track. Maintenance will cease on the Waiiau River track. Barrier frees walks will be developed at Waituna Lagoon, while short walks at Tuatapere Domain and Curio Bay will be upgraded to a similar standard.

Day tramping opportunities will be provided at the Blue Mountains (Black and Whisky gullies), Foveaux Walkway (to Ocean Beach), Piano Flat (Waikaia loop and Waikaia River tracks) and at Clifden Caves (an underground route). Community maintenance agreements will be sought as follows:

- with the Hokonui Tramping Club for Grants Knob, Waimumu Falls, Hidden Valley, Middle Ridge and Richardson's tracks
- with the South Catlins Promotions group for the Waipohatu Waterfall track
- with the Hokonui Mountain Bike Club for the Hokonui Mountain Biking track
- and with the Southland Tramping Club for Islands Hut route (Eyre Mountains); please refer to Appendix 3 for a complete listing of facilities for which the department is seeks community maintenance agreements

Maintenance will cease on tramping tracks at Diggers Ridge (Dean Forest), Cattlespur track (Blue Mountains) and Mt Bee (north of Mt Bee huts).

Remote tramping opportunities will be provided by the department on tracks and routes in the Eyre Mountains (Acton, Cromel and Irthing catchments) and in the Takitimu Mountains (Aparima, Princhester, Waterloo, Wairaki, and Spence catchments) supported by a network of backcountry huts (seven in the Takitimu, eight in the Eyre Mountains). A further four historic huts will be maintained in the Longwoods linked with a tramping track (Martins/Turnballs), and in the Eyre Mountains (Beech Hut and Dog Box). A route will be maintained at Waikaia (Titan Rocks).

Two huts will be removed subject to assessment by historic resources staff. These are Old Islands Hut in the Eyre Mountains (a dilapidated hut located next to the main Islands Hut) and Coal Creek Biv (a former Animal Control hut in the Takitimu Mountains).

Visitor access to the range of opportunities in Murihiku is facilitated by road side amenity areas, campgrounds, carparks and roads. Camping opportunities will continue to be provided for at Piano Flat where the intention is to continue a gradual upgrade of facilities. Of the three carparks managed by Murihiku Area, one will be upgraded (Dean Forest), one will be maintained (Waipapa Point) and the remaining carpark/amenity area will be developed at Waituna Lagoon. Seven roadside amenity areas will be maintained (Waipohatu, Irthing picnic area, Forest Hill Tussock Creek and Crossing roadend, Pourakino, Seaward Downs and Piano Flat). Eight gravel two wheel drive roads will be maintained (Waipohatu, two at Forest Hill, Dean Forest/

Big Totara, Pourakino, Ottways Clearing, Seaward Downs and Waipapa Point). A four wheel drive road will be maintained accessing Shepherd Creek Hut and the natural surface two wheel drive road to Irthing picnic area in the Eyre Mountains. The department is seeking an agreement with the Southland Landrover Club to maintain the four wheel drive track to Mt Bee Hut.

### **Southern Islands Area (Invercargill)**

Recreation opportunities and facilities within Southern Islands Area include Stewart Island and the New Zealand Subantarctic Islands.

Decisions on Stewart Island facilities will result in the continued provision of a range of recreation opportunities across coastal and inland settings. There will be continued maintenance of the majority of existing walking and tramping opportunities, including various day walks around Oban township and Ulva Island, and the major backcountry track networks of the Rakiura Track, the Northwest Circuit and the Southern Circuit. Backcountry facilities provide opportunities for tramping and hunting, although huts and camps maintained by the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust are of greater significance to hunters. Coastal huts and camps offer kayakers and boaties significant opportunities to explore Rakiura's varied coastline.

Decisions will result in minor rationalisation of duplicated tramping opportunities. Maintenance will cease at Benson Peak route, Ocean Beach (South), and Tin Range route. Tramping tracks at Pryse Peak, Rocky Mountain and Mt Rakeahua will be maintained as routes, while walking tracks at Fern Gully and Millars Beach will be maintained as tramping tracks. Sections of Rakiura Track that are currently below Great Walk standard will be upgraded over time. Hut accommodation will be improved where there is currently congestion at Mason Bay (improved living area) and Port William (extension to 24 bunks and increased living area).

Other facilities such as amenity areas and campsites add to the range of facilities managed on Stewart Island. The roadside amenity area at Rakiura National Park Gateway at Lee Bay (at the start of the Rakiura Track) will be maintained.

Three backcountry campsites will be maintained (Port William, Maori Beach and Sawdust Bay). The department is seeking to formalise a community management agreement with the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust that incorporates the remaining 24 backcountry campsites and two additional backcountry camp shelters on Stewart Island (refer Appendix 3).

Existing facilities on Subantarctic Islands will be maintained to appropriate standards, and so enable visitor access. These include boardwalks and bridges at Auckland, and Campbell Islands.

# Introduction

This report describes the outcome from Southland Conservancy's publicly consulted review of visitor facilities. This review 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. Meetings were held for the public at Te Anau, Invercargill and Oban township. Briefings were delivered to Kaitiaki Roopu (Southland Conservancy's iwi liaison group) and the Southland Conservation Board.

Proposal documents and resource material were produced and distributed, and were also placed on the Department of Conservation website, to provide the basis for making submissions.

The report is split up into two sections. The first summarises the submissions received and provides details about the number and type of concerns held by submitters. This is followed by section two which focuses on the decisions (see below for a list of decisions and definitions) made by Southland Conservancy. It contains an overview which describes the outcome of the Towards a Better Network of Facilities process in terms of the range of opportunities that will be provided in Southland.

## WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

Decisions for facilities in Southland 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 insanitary, 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.

# Section One

## Submitters and submissions

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

### NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- 43 submitters provided submissions representing comment on 75 specific proposals (made up of 31 huts and 44 tracks) and a further 58 general proposals were received. Submissions were received for all 73 assets contained within the Southland Discussion Document
- Submitters were made up of 23 group submissions. A large proportion of submissions (23) were from individuals (Table 1).

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS BY GROUP

SUBMITTER AFFILIATION	NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS
Individual	20
Tramping/climbing club	6
Hunting club/hunter	5
Residents group	4
Environmental group	3
four wheel drive club/driver	3
Quango	1
Other	1

- Submitters originated from Southland (23), Otago (8), Northern North Island (6), Southern North Island (4), Canterbury (1), and unspecified (1)
- Nil submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document)
- Nine submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues, as well as (or instead of) comment on specific proposals
- Several submissions from different submitters repeated identical relief (outcome) and justifications. In terms of analysis, greater weight was afforded to the content of submissions and their bearing relative to the wider context of the review, rather than the number of submissions alone.

## MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON BY THE PUBLIC

Table 2 (below) summarises the number of submissions received and submitters' views (in terms of support for the Department's proposals as identified through the Southland Discussion Document). The facility proposals most frequently commented on by submitters through their submissions were four huts in the Takitimu Mountains, Islands Hut in the Eyre Mountains and the Tin Range route on Stewart Island.

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF THE 20 MOST FREQUENTLY SUBMITTED ON FACILITIES AND LISTED CONCERNS

PARK/RESERVE AND FACILITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE
<b>Takitimu Mountains</b>				
21913 Coal Creek Biv	12	2		10
45474 Aparima Forks Hut	11	2		9
46781 Whare Creek Hut	9	1		8
47026 Upper Princhester Hut	8	1		7
47027 Redcliff Hut	8	1		7
95694 Aparima River Track	7	4		3
<b>Eyre Mountains</b>				
45479 Islands Hut	9	2		7
45467 Upper Windley Hut	7	1		6
45476 Old Islands Hut	7	6		1
99143 Cromel Stream Boundary to Cromel Base Hut Route	6	5		1
45291 Lincoln Hut	5	1	2	2
95871 Island Hut Route	5	3		2
<b>Rakiura/Stewart Island</b>				
95854 Tin Range Route	8	4		4
95734 Rocky Mtn Track	7			7
49169 Mason Bay Hut	6	6		
95244 Millar's Beach to Whalers Base	5			5
95732 Pryse Peak Track	5			5
95723 Fern Gully Track	5	1		4
27494 Port William Hut	5	4	1	
<b>Blue Mountains</b>				
95872 Cattlespur Track	6	1		5
<b>Longwoods</b>				
95230 Pourakino Picnic Area/Loop Track	5	2	2	1

## PROPOSALS NOTIFIED IN SOUTHLAND DISCUSSION DOCUMENT THAT RECEIVED THE MOST SUBMISSIONS AND SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS BY LOCATION

Table 3 (following) contains a summary of the full list of submissions received on facility proposals notified in the Southland Discussion Document.

Several submissions from different submitters repeated identical relief and justifications. In terms of analysis, greater weight was afforded to the content of submissions and their bearing relative to the wider context of the review, rather than the number of submissions alone.

All 73 proposals notified in the Southland Discussion Document received submissions. Huts received the greatest level of attention from submitters - especially in opposition to the Department of Conservation's proposals (7 of the top 10 most opposed asset proposals were in relation to huts). Few submissions challenged hut principles other than to state that some huts do not receive high levels of use because either access is difficult or visitor information is not readily available. Visitor huts are publicised by the department through a variety of methods including brochures, maps and website information. Such information is readily available through other publications such as Moirs Guide South.

Of the 134 submissions made directly on the huts listed in the Southland Discussion Document, 68 were 'opposed'. The level of interest varied geographically, with the largest number of submissions received for huts in the Takitimu Conservation Area (52 of which 43 were opposed), followed by Stewart Island (40 of which only two were opposed), and Eyre Forest Conservation Area (38 - 22 opposed) (Figure 1). Submissions were generally supportive of the community maintenance proposals for Stewart Island Hunters huts.

In comparison to huts, submissions on tracks were fewer in number (129 in total - Figure 2) but had a similar level of opposition (61 were opposed). The largest number of track submissions were for Stewart Island (51 - 32 opposed), Eyre Conservation Area (12 - 7 opposed) and Snowdon Forest (8 - 4 opposed). The most frequently submitted on tracks were: Tin Range (8 - 4 opposed), Rocky Mountain Track (7 - 7 opposed) and Aparima River Track (7 - 3 opposed).

TABLE 3. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON FACILITY PROPOSALS NOTIFIED IN THE SOUTHLAND DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ OPPOSE IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
<b>MURIHIKU AREA</b>								
Blue Mountains Conservation Area	95872 Cattlespur Track	Remove (and not replace)	Conservation Management Strategy p 273 – maintain Cattle Spur as marked route. Surplus to requirements	6	1		5	Hunters value access and use track markers as boundary markers for hunting blocks
Catlins Conservation Park	191849 Waipohatu Waterfall Track.	Maintain by Community	Maintained by South Catlins promotions group	1	1			Supportive
Croyden Bush Scenic Reserve	95686 Dolamore Track.	Upgrade – To Bring to Standard	Barrier free day walk that is popular with visitors from Gore. Part of a wider range of walking tracks accessed from Dolamore Park. Listed as part of New Zealand Walkways network. (Draft May 2003)	6	6			Supportive
Croyden Bush Scenic Reserve	95687 Waimumu Falls Track	Maintain by Community	Maintained currently by Hokonui Tramping Club as per agreement	1	1			Supportive
	95689 Grants Knob Track.	Maintain by Community	Maintained by Hokonui Tramping Club	1	1			Supportive
	97779 Hidden Valley Track	Maintain by Community	Maintained by Hokonui Tramping Club	1	1			Supportive
Dean Forest	95704 Dean Forest rd/Big Totara walk	Upgrade – To Bring to Standard	Track is becoming more popular – potential for a walking track or a barrier free short walk upgrade.	1	1			Supportive
	95705 Diggers Ridge Track	Remove (and not replace)	Conservation Management Strategy states maintain as route. Low level of recreation use other than hunters	3			3	Hunters value access and use track markers as boundary markers for hunting blocks
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	45467 Upper Windley Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy p 290. Reconsider proposal once improved visitor use information is known	7	1		6	Good stopping over point on overnight tramps

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	45475 Lower Windley Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy p 291 identifies hut for minimal maintenance	3	1	2		Seeking 'maintain' - reasonably tidy hut
	45476 Old Islands Hut (dilapidated)	Remove (and not replace)	Hut is in dilapidated condition	7	6	1		Dilapidated hut. Historic values need assessment
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	45479 Islands Hut	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	Consider local interest. Otherwise minimal maintenance/remove. Remote situation and no formal route to the hut is maintained at present	9	2	7		Consider hut to be a destination in own right. Attractive setting. Seek 'maintain' or 'maintain by community'
	95701 Mount Bee four wheel drive South Track.	Cease Maintenance	Access to Mount Bee hut is along four wheel drive road; therefore this track asset has been given proposal cease maintenance	4	1	3		Vehicle access for weed control; mountain bike opportunity; four wheel drive club is interested in maintaining this facility.
	95702 Mount Bee four wheel drive (north) Track.	Cease Maintenance	This old four wheel drive track has managed as a tramping route only. Very low use levels and surplus to requirements	3	1	2		Vehicle access for weed control; mountain bike opportunity; four wheel drive club interested
	95871 Island hut route	Maintain by Community	Low use site. Opportunity is replicated in neighbouring catchments	5	3	2		The track is 'currently marked and in good condition'
Eyre Mountains Conservation Area	99143 Cromel Stream boundary to Cromel Base Hut route	Cease Maintenance	Access from Cromel Stream to Cromel Base hut. Visitor access is subject to permission of landowner	6	5	1		General support to cease maintenance; observations made that the Cromel Base hut is subject to vandalism by four wheel drive users. Submitters seek better vehicle access up the Acton valley
Hokonui Forest Conservation Area	95690 Forks Flat Track.	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Easily accessible quiet bushwalk alongside Dunsdale stream. Central to a number of local communities (Gore, Winton, Invercargill)	5	2	3		Support. Not sure how any further upgrade could be done

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	99257 Hokonui Mountain Bike Track.	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	Maintained by Gore Mountain Bike Club	1	1			Supportive
Kingswood Bush Scenic Reserve	95699 Kingswood Bush Track.	Maintain by Community	Low use track through forest remnant. Investigate community group maintenance	1			1	Track heritage - an undiscovered track for trampers
Longwood Forest Conservation Area	95230 Pourakino picnic area/ loop Track.	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Community management proposals would be considered for this site. Access problematic due to forestry operations	5	2	2	1	One submitter seeks full closure of this site due to difficulty of access land lack of respect shown by some locals. Two submitters seek to close the road to the picnic area with locked gate at Harrington Road entrance in order to reduce level of damage by four wheel drive vehicle users and vandals; and retaining the area as an historic area and camping site (and develop mountain biking and further walking facilities). Five submitters seek the locomotive be moved to another safer location
Takitimu Conservation Area	21913 Coal Creek Biv.	Remove (and not replace)	Conservation Management Strategy p 263 - minimal maintenance, however Biv. is located for animal control purposes only and receives low level of use	12	2		10	Those seeking 'maintain', shift and publicise used a range of justifications: only high altitude hut in area, difficult hut to find, undesirable location and would be used more if relocated, removal is inconsistent with Conservation Management Strategy, used by trampers and hunters, part of backcountry heritage. Two supported remove proposal with justifications: too small to stand in

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	45474 Aparima Forks Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Animal control hut. Conservation Management Strategy direction p 263 is to maintain. However, the hut is not ideally located and is not essential for remoteness seekers. Hut principles preclude this hut from the core network. Review at next Conservation Management Strategy revision in light of visitor use information	11	2		9	Those opposed seek that the hut be maintained or at least upgraded so that it can withstand many more years on minimal maintenance; justifications include: hut would be more popular if serviced by a better track network; cost of replacing a removed hut is prohibitive; huts should be retained for heritage values; hunters and trampers use hut; proposal inconsistent with Conservation Management Strategy; hut valuable for inexperienced users; useful distance from road end
	95694 Aparima River Track.	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Maintain track access to Aparima Hut as a tramping track. Access to Aparima Hut is by the tramping track along Aparima River. Proposal is to upgrade tramping track access. See Conservation Management Strategy p 262-263	7	4		3	Vehicle access to hut is preferred
Tuatapere Scenic Reserve	95234 Tuatapere Domain walks	Upgrade - To Higher Standard	Popular walking track for visitors and local community at Tuatapere. Upgrade to barrier free standard. Situated on Southern Scenic Route. Refer Conservation Management Strategy p 204	1	1			Supportive
Waiau River - legal road	95706 Waiau River Track.	Remove (and not replace)	Track is starting to erode into the Waiau River. Duplication of similar opportunities in local area	1			1	Re-route track
Waikaia River, Piano Flat Conservation Area	95683 Ngahere Ara Track.	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Track follows operational historic water-race and is popular with visitors using Piano Flat campsite. Provides access to historic mineshafes	2	2			Encourage on site interpretation - featuring historic values

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ OPPOSE IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	95870 Titan Rocks route	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain as marked route only	4	1		3	Submitter refers to Glenaray Tenure Review and need to consider as part of the proposal. Seeks upgrade to tramping track
SOUTHERN ISLANDS AREA								
Stewart Island	27494 Port William Hut	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	The living/cooking area is inadequate for the amount of visitor use. Public sleeping area is 20 bunks. Two bunks in wardens' quarters	5	4	1		General support for proposal. Seeks to upgrade or enlarge hut due to crowding. One submitter seeks an extension of kitchen/living only and not to increase bunk space. Another seeks to consider replacement of hut at another location less easily accessible from coast
	28644 North Pegasus Hunter's Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	3	2		1	Support maintenance by community. Other opposes maintenance and seeks removal
	28730 Little Glory Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	28732 North Big Glory Hunter's Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	28734 Hapuatuna Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
Stewart Island	28737 Abraham's Bay Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	28739 South Pegasus Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy. Stewart Island Hunters Hut trust to maintain facility	3	2		1	Support maintenance by community. Other opposes maintenance and seeks removal

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	45161 Martins Creek Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	45164 Cavalier Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	46381 Kelly's Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	46383 North Tikotatahi Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	47072 Christmas Village Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust co-manages this site and all maintenance at hut using funds from the levy. It is sensible that hunters and trampers continue to be provided with separate accommodation	3	2	1		Supportive. One submitter concerned about need for track maintenance and clearing vegetation around hut and concerns about Nugget Landing place
	47106 Port Adventure Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	47467 Homestead Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2			Supportive
	49169 Mason Bay Hut	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	The living/cooking area is inadequate for the amount of visitor use. This area is becoming more and more popular	6	6			General support for upgrade of kitchen and living area due to crowding in the past. One submitter seeks that bunk capacities not be increased because an extension would eventually only increase demand. One submitter favours additional hut facilities but not necessarily at the same site

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ OPPOSE IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
Stewart Island	95244 Track - Millar's Beach to Whalers Base	Maintain at Lower Standard	Assess level of use through concessionaire permit returns and track counter. If actual use is significantly less than estimate then consider lowering standard to tramping track. Consider if any alternative means of accessing historic points of interest exist	5	5			Supports careful upgrade; values historic aspects of Millars Beach
	95293 Track - Lee Bay Gate to Maori Beach	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Gateway to Rakiura National Park. Track currently upgraded to meet tramping track standard. May need to reassess visitor group for Rakiura National Park Plan process	2	2			Supports proposal. One seeks further interpretation of historic aspect (mills and early settlement) at Little River and Maori Beach, access to steam haulers at Maori Beach)
	95294 Track - Maori Beach to Port William and short walk	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Part of the Rakiura Great Walk Circuit and North West Circuit. Site requires upgrade entailing replacement of existing substandard structures with hard track. Maintain as tramping track (Conservation Management Strategy p 133)	2	2			Supportive. Staff submission: seeking the track be maintained to the same standard as the rest of the Rakiura Track and to make it a round trip walk
	95295 Track - Maori Beach hill to Nth Arm hut	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	High use track that requires an upgrade to meet Great Walk standard	1	1			Supportive
	95296 Track - Nth Arm hut to Kaipipi Point	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Section of Rakiura Great Walk and less popularly used section of North West Circuit. Maintain to tramping track standard (Conservation Management Strategy p 133). Track and boardwalk require upgrade to bring to appropriate standard for Great Walk	2	1		1	Single submission supportive and suggests making further options available including Sawdust Bay. Single submission opposed to upgrade because of threat of increased tourism usage and declining backcountry tramping opportunities
	95496 Fred's Camp Track	Maintain		1			1	Concern about maintenance needs for this track. Seeks upgrade, bridging and possibly some realignment

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	95497 Fred's Camp to Rakeahua Track	Maintain		1		1		Concern about maintenance needs for this track. Seeks upgrade and need to disperse visitors over the area
Stewart Island	95721 Vaiala Voe Track.	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Track is commonly used by day visitors. Existing facilities do not meet required standard for a walking track. Conservation Management Strategy p 135 'maintain to walking track standard'	2	2			Supportive
	95722 Ryans Creek Track.	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Track is commonly used by day visitors. Existing facilities do not meet required standard for day visitors. Conservation Management Strategy p 135 'maintain to walking track standard'	2	2			Supportive
	95723 Fern Gully Track.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain track to walking track standard (Conservation Management Strategy p 135) however track is less likely to have popularity of other walking tracks that are part of circuit walk around Halfmoon Bay. This track should be maintained to existing condition (i.e. tramping track)	5	1		4	Concerns that track will degrade due to lack of maintenance and that track is currently popular with locals and visitors. One submission supports reduced standard
	95732 Pryse Peak Track.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain to marked route standard as per Conservation Management Strategy p 133. Fits with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification. Low level of visitor use. Consider reducing managed route to single access to view (currently two tracks access the view). Better opportunity provided for similar views nearby	5			5	Submitters seek improved maintenance, arguing that visitation is reduced because of poor track standard

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ OPPOSE IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
	95734 Rocky Mountain Track.	Cease Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy proposal was 'maintain as marked route' (p 133). Not a popularly used track. Other opportunities for views over Paterson's Inlet (e.g. Pryse Peak, Maori Hill Lookout) nearby	7			7	All opposed. Views from top are valued by trampers and are considered an important opportunity
	95740 Track - Ocean Beach (sth)	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Requires upgrade. Maintained jointly with concessionaire.	2	1		1	One supportive. Staff submission seeks upgrade to higher standard and that concessionaire assistance be sought to upgrade track
Stewart Island	95741 Benson Peak Route	Cease Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy: maintain as marked route (p 140). Facilitate access for animal control purposes by route. Consider biodiversity management	3	1		2	Staff submission supportive. One submitter seeks track be maintained as part of heritage, and another seeks downgrade to route (and allow funds to be used elsewhere)
	95854 Track - Tin Range Route	Cease Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy p 140 - track from Rakeahua Hut to Table hill will not be maintained as it leads to a proposed wilderness area. P 145 Conservation Management Strategy: Use of Table Hill-Tin Range will be monitored and limits placed on use if walker impacts become noticeable. Historic section of track is proposed to be maintained for historic values	8	4		4	Split opinion. Some support the proposal. Others prefer it be maintained, arguing that the cease maintenance proposal is incompatible with Conservation Management Strategy direction
	95877 Track - Mount Rakeahua	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain to route standard	3			3	One seeks maintaining it to a 'fair' standard and to re-open the old route (on western side). Another seeks that it be maintained for heritage values

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
TE ANAU AREA								
Burwood Bush	190906 Red Tussock short walk	Proposed	The proposal for this site is to develop a short walking track and car park to provide a high quality road edge opportunity. Main focus is interpretation on topic of Red Tussock	3	3			Supportive
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	45291 Lincoln Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Use estimated at approximately 20 bednights annually. Hut is not required for this visitor group. Conservation Management Strategy (p 290) states that offers from local clubs/groups to maintain facilities will be considered, and that huts not being maintained may be removed or relocated to other areas after public consultation.	5	1	2	2	Questions regarding which visitor group it is not required for? Submitters seek improved publicity and that the hut be maintained
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	46792 Ashton Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy (p.290) states that offers from local clubs/groups to maintain facilities will be considered, and that huts not being maintained may be removed or relocated to other areas after public consultation.	4	1		3	Submitter recommends the hut be retained as a biodiversity facility for wilding pine control. Others seek that the Department of Conservation improve publicity of the hut in order to increase usage and then maintain hut
	47034 Oreti Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Minimal maintenance - will be reviewed if there is a marked increase in use (Conservation Management Strategy p 290-291). Hut built for animal control purposes	3	1	1	1	Fear it will be removed

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ OPPOSE IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
Mavora Conservation Area	21914 West Burn Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy pg 298 states hut is a shelter/Biv. Lakeside hut accessible by boat. There is another hut located within close proximity (on Eastern shore of North Mavora lake - Carey's). Access by land is difficult as there is no maintained track. Hut receives very little use	2	1		1	Fear it will be removed
Snowden Forest	26954 Army Hut	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	Te Anau Rod and Gun club have maintained this facility since before DOC was formed. Agreement needs to be formalised. Hut will not be replaced at end of life	2	2			Supportive
	95248 Boyd Creek waterfall walk	Remove (and not replace)	This walking opportunity is located on private land adjacent to lodge facility	1			1	Reference to Rakiura National Park and rationalising tracks and belief the track will be difficult to replace once gone
	95249 Boyd Creek walk	Maintain at Lower Standard	Proposed standard is tramping track in keeping with the opportunity provided	1	1			Reference to Rakiura National Park and rationalising tracks and belief the track will be difficult to replace once gone
	95745 Mararoa River to Kiwi Burn Track.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain as route only as this is a challenging return track for users of Kiwi Burn Track	2	1		1	Supports proposal as long as it is maintained to route standard and does not disappear
Snowden Forest	95758 Kiwi Burn hut to Whitestone River Track.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Low level of use - suitable as a route standard opportunity	2	1		1	Reference to Rakiura National Park and rationalising tracks and belief the track will be difficult to replace once gone. One submitter supportive if route is maintained
	96140 Upukerora River to Whitestone River track.	Maintain at Lower Standard	Low level of use - suitable as a route standard opportunity	2	1		1	Reference to Rakiura National Park and rationalising tracks and belief the track will be difficult to replace once gone. One submitter supportive if route is maintained

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY
Takitimu Conservation Area	19940 Cheviot Downs Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Consider options: biodiversity facility (wilding pine control), or relocate to another location.	2	1		1	Fear it will be removed
	20929 Lower Princes Hut	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	Conservation Management Strategy (p 263) identifies hut as priority for maintaining as part of the Princes/Waterloo valley route, however, low level of use reported through hut books and low level of compliance from hut tickets returns. Roadend hut principles apply	2	1		1	Fear it will be removed
	46781 Whare Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut receives low level of use. Two bunk hut built for animal control purposes	9	1		8	Concerns regarding public access and seek better promotion to increase usage so that the hut can be maintained
	47026 Upper Princes Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut receives low level of use. Located in remote section of Takitimu Mountains. Hut built for animal control purposes	8	1		7	Concerns regarding public access and seek better promotion to increase usage so that the hut can be maintained
The Wilderness Scientific Reserve	47027 Redcliff Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy (p 263) states hut will receive minimal maintenance only and assistance will be sought from user groups to keep facilities in good repair. However, hut receives low level of use. No track maintained to access hut. Two bunk hut built for animal control	8	1		7	Concerns regarding public access and seek better promotion to increase usage so that the hut can be maintained
	190904 Bog pine short walk	Proposed	Short walk through Bog Pine community. High use roadside site with high interpretation value	2	2			Supportive

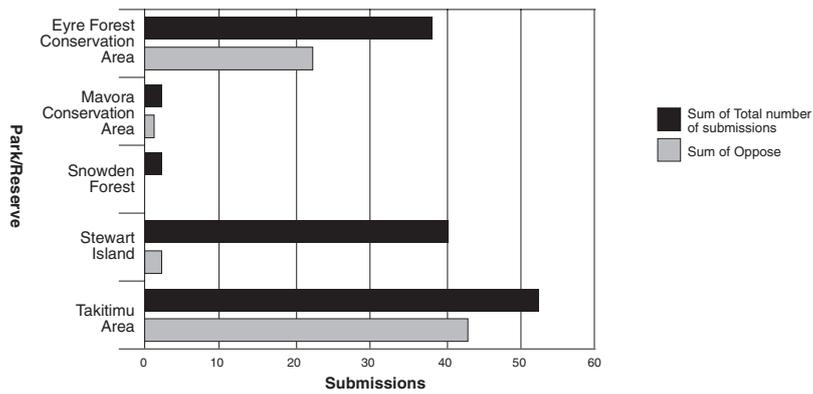


Figure 1. Submissions received on the Department's hut proposals by geographic area showing number of submissions in total and number 'opposed'.

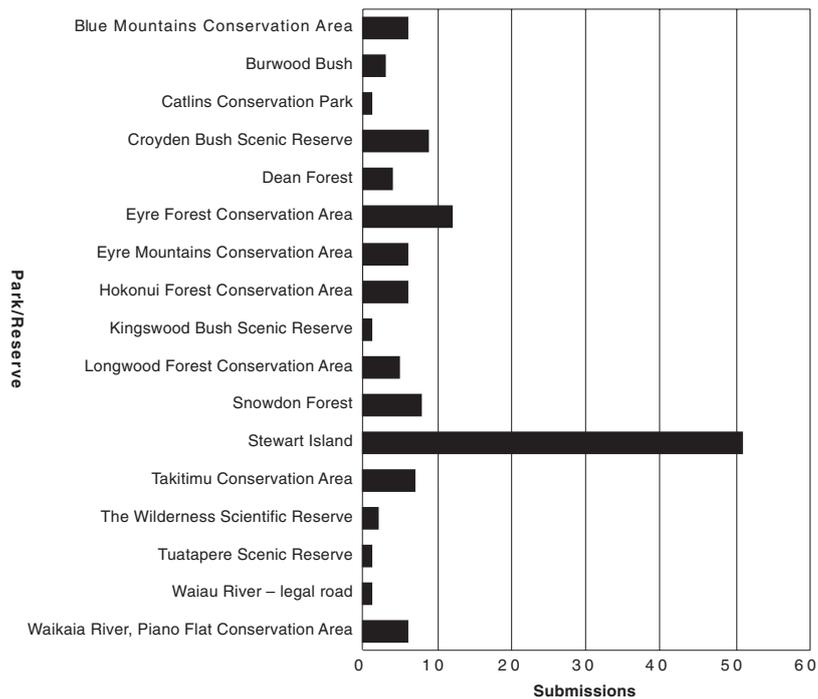


Figure 2. Total number of submissions received on the department's track proposals by geographic area

Several submissions about tracks located on Stewart Island were critical of proposals to maintain at route or tramping track standards. Submitters were concerned that this would mean a further reduction in the actual level of maintenance on these tracks. However, the department intends that with improved levels of funding, these facilities will actually receive a higher level of maintenance than they currently receive in order to meet facility standards. The outcome will be an appropriate level of facilities that will be managed to quality standards. Several submitters on Stewart Island tracks sought further facility development (such as construction of structures on tramping tracks); their proposals conflicted with Conservation Management Strategy directions and recreation opportunity spectrum classifications for these sites, and with visitor service standards for these tracks.

## OTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS

Submissions were received on individual facilities that were either not covered by the Southland Discussion Document or covered a large number of individual facilities. Submitters sought the following:

- The retention of more huts
- More four wheel drive tracks
- The provision of barrier free walking opportunities and facilities for people with disabilities
- More publicity for, and improved public access to, recreation facilities in the Eyre and Takitimu Mountains
- Creation of new tracks in Takitimu Mountains
- The retention of at least one overnight tramping opportunity in Takitimu Mountains
- Maintenance of marked routes (and opening up disused routes) to define boundary lines within Blue Mountains Recreational Hunting Area
- An acknowledgement of Hokonui Tramping Club maintenance of Middle Ridge and Richardsons tracks in the Hokonui Hills
- A funding contribution towards Curio Bay development concept
- Construction of viewing platforms and track as part of the Curio Bay development concept
- A new proposal for a mountain bike track at Oreti/Windley
- New water race track developments in the Longwoods
- The re-opening of a defunct walkway at Pourakino
- That the department deals to vandalism problems at Pourakino either through closure, vehicle barriers/gate or removal of historic locomotive
- A new development of tramping tracks and day use sites at Slopedown/Vernlaw area
- The development of facilities at Waituna Wetland
- Tramping track upgrades on Stewart Island (Fred's Camp to Freshwater Landing, Freshwater to Mason Bay, Freshwater to North Arm)
- New track developments on Stewart Island (linking historic points of interest around Halfmoon Bay).
- The enlargement or replacement of Freshwater hut (Stewart Island) due to congestion
- Community maintenance of Stewart Island hunter huts
- The inclusion of two newly constructed hunter huts on Stewart Island (South West Arm and Chew Tobacco)

## PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

Nil.

## USER GROUP MEETINGS

Public meetings provided feedback that was generally picked up through written submissions that are set out in previous sections. Other feedback included comments in support of removing/closing Boyd Creek Waterfall track and managing Boyd Creek walk at a lower standard. A question was raised generically about the implications of the 'maintain by community' as relates to funding for replacement of community maintained assets which were answered during the meeting. Since the meeting, there has been a change to how the department approaches the community maintenance concept. Put simply, there are now three types of community maintenance decisions: seeking community maintenance (i.e., the facility is a non-core asset which the department is seeking a community group to maintain), maintain by community (i.e., there is a community group already maintaining the facility by agreement, and the facility will not be replaced by DOC at the end of its useful life) and owned by DOC but maintained by community (i.e., a community group maintains the facility, but DOC retains ownership and the facility will be replaced by DOC at the end of its useful life).

## SUMMARY OF GENERAL POINTS FROM SUBMISSIONS

There are several common themes from the submissions received. These were:

- Submitters were generally not in support of reduced maintenance commitments to non-core facilities. Submitters argue that the department should maintain more huts and backcountry tracks in order to provide for recreational users (not tourists) and as part of New Zealand's heritage values. Where this rationale was used in submissions on specific facilities, hut principles were re-examined and reinforced. It is important to note that proposals in the Southland Discussion Document identified that the proportion of facilities within Southland that would be maintained by DOC was 55% of 64 huts and 85% of 598 kilometres of track
- Seeking the creation of new facilities in the Longwoods, Curio Bay, and more walking opportunities in the Takitimu Mountains
- Seeking greater publicity about visitor facilities and opportunities in the Eyre and Takitimu Mountains in order to increase visitor usage

# Section Two

## Making decisions

It is recommended that proposals are generally retained as decisions (38 cases) except for the following 38 cases where the decision is recommended to be different (Table 4).

### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The key points from Table 4 are:

- Changes have been made for two huts in the Takitimu Mountains (Whare Creek and Redcliff) from the original 'minimal maintenance' proposals to 'maintain' decisions. Points raised through submissions on these facilities are acknowledged specifically because these facilities are important in terms of providing recreational access to the Western Takitimu Mountains. Significant change is proposed overall in relation to public access for the Takitimu Range. In summary, the department will investigate means of improving legal and physical access (e.g., installation and future maintenance of signs, track markers and by maintaining tracks).
- The decisions for five huts in the Eyre and Takitimu Mountains where the original proposal were 'minimal maintenance' or 'owned by DOC - maintain by community' are now 'move to another location'. It is envisaged that by relocating these huts to more strategic locations, they will both improve the range of recreation opportunities and provide more attractive opportunities for backcountry recreationists. Demands expected for shelters and huts on land to come under DOC management from Tenure Review is a key issue confronting Southland and it is expected that at least two of these huts would be relocated for that purpose. The remaining three huts will be relocated within the Takitimu range in locations better meet the needs of backcountry users and in keeping with the department's hut principles. The hut relocation process will be supported by a public process to enable public input
- Islands Hut (located in the Eyre Mountains) will be maintained in recognition of the important local opportunity that it provides
- Track upgrade proposals for Forks Flat and Dean Forest will be changed to 'maintain' decisions - because the track upgrades at these sites are now complete. Titan Rocks Route (Waikaia) and Rocky Mountain Track (Stewart Island) will be maintained as routes
- Options for proposed track upgrade for Ocean Beach (South) track on Stewart Island have been explored since the Southland Discussion Document was released in 2003. Plans to upgrade this track were unsuccessful. Instead efforts will be put into upgrading the Ocean Beach (North) track in order to provide a high standard opportunity nearby

TABLE 4. SUBMISSIONS ANALYSIS FOR FACILITIES WHERE DECISIONS DIFFER FROM ORIGINAL PROPOSALS

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
<b>Murihiku Area</b>										
Blue Mountains Conservation Area	95872 Cattlespur Track	Remove (and not replace)	Conservation Management Strategy p 273 maintain Cattle Spur as marked route. Surplus to requirements	6	1		5	Hunters value access and use track markers as boundary markers for hunting blocks	Track receives very low use and is considered surplus to requirements. Track markers are not provided for specific purpose of marking hunting blocks - better solutions may be available	Cease maintenance. Hunters may still access the area, but the track will not be maintained. Block markers may need to be developed if there is a need
Catlins Conservation Park	191849 Waipohatu Waterfall Track	Maintain by Community	Maintained by South Catlins promotions group	1	1					Seeking community maintenance. Formalise agreement
Croyden Bush Scenic Reserve	95687 Waimumu Falls Track	Maintain by Community	Maintained currently by Hokonui Tramping Club as per agreement	1	1					Seeking community maintenance. Formalise agreement
	95689 Grants Knob Track	Maintain by Community	Maintained by Hokonui Tramping Club	1	1					Seeking community maintenance. Formalise agreement
	97779 Hidden Valley Track	Maintain by Community	Maintained by Hokonui Tramping Club	1	1					Seeking community maintenance. Formalise agreement

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Dean Forest	95704 Dean Forest Road/Big Totara walk	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Track is becoming more popular - potential for a walking track or a barrier free short walk upgrade	1	1				Provides a barrier free interpreted short walk opportunity	Maintain. Track upgrade is now complete
	95705 Diggers Ridge Track	Remove (and not replace)	Conservation Management Strategy states maintain as route. Low level of recreation use other than hunters	3			3	Hunters value access and use track markers as boundary markers for hunting blocks	Track receives very low use and is considered surplus to requirements. Track markers are not provided for specific purpose of marking hunting blocks - better solutions may be available	Cease Maintenance. Hunters may still access the area; however the track will not be maintained. Block markers may need to be developed if there is a need
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	45479 Islands Hut	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	Consider local interest. Otherwise minimal maintenance/ remove. Remote situation and no formal route to the hut is maintained at present	9	2		7	Consider hut to be a destination in own right. Attractive setting. Seek 'maintain' or 'maintain by community'	Annual average usage levels very low ~ 17 bednights; 1.2% occupancy	Maintain Hut provides an important opportunity at a local scale

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	95701 Mount Bee four wheel drive South Track	Cease Maintenance	Access to Mount Bee hut is along four wheel drive road, therefore this track asset has been given proposal cease maintenance	4	1		3	Vehicle access for weed control; mountain bike opportunity; four wheel drive club interested	Steep ridge line currently used by four wheel drives, mountain bikers and trampers	Seeking community maintenance. Seeking agreement from Southland Landrover Club to maintain access as far as Mount Bee Hut only
	95871 Island Hut Route	Maintain by Community	Low use site. Opportunity is replicated in neighbouring catchments	5	3		2	The track is 'currently marked and in good condition'	Track currently meets route standard and is considered surplus to requirements (this route opportunity replicated in catchments nearby). Minimal interest expressed from the community - submitters seek that DOC maintain this access	Seeking Community Maintenance
Hokonui Forest Conservation Area	95690 Forks Flat Track	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Easily accessible quiet bushwalk alongside Dunsdale stream. Central to a number of local communities (Gore, Winton and Invercargill)	5	2	3		Not sure how any further upgrade could be done	Upgrade is complete	Maintain. Track upgrade is complete

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Kingswood Bush Scenic Reserve	95699 Kingswood Bush Track	Maintain by Community	Low use track through forest remnant. Investigate community group maintenance	1			1	Track heritage – an undiscovered track for trampers	This facility is a walking track	Seeking community maintenance
Takitimu Conservation Area	45474 Aparima Forks Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Animal control hut. Conservation Management Strategy direction p 263 is to maintain. However, the hut is not ideally located and is not essential for remoteness seekers. Hut principles preclude this hut from the core network. Review at next Conservation Management Strategy revision in light of visitor use information	11	2		9	Those opposed seek that the hut be maintained or at least upgraded so that it can withstand many more years on minimal maintenance; justifications include: hut would be more popular if serviced by a better track network; cost of replacing a removed hut is prohibitive; huts should be retained for heritage values; hunters and trampers use hut; proposal inconsistent with Conservation Management Strategy; hut valuable for inexperienced users; useful distance from roadend	Annual average usage levels are low; approximately 40 bednights a year or 5.5% occupancy. Hut is poorly located and deteriorating in current location	Move to another location. Relocate a new hut at a better location close by within Takitimu Mountains. Track will be maintained to route standard

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Waiau River - legal rd	95706 Waiau River Track	Remove (and not replace)	Track is starting to erode into the Waiau River. Duplication of similar opportunities in local area	1			1	Re-route track	Road is within 10 metres of track throughout the track's length. The track is considered a redundant facility	Cease maintenance
Waikaia River, Piano Flat Conservation Area	95870 Titan Rocks route	Maintain at Lower Standard	Maintain as marked route only	4	1		3	Submitter refers to Glenaray tenure review and need to consider as part of the proposal. Seeks upgrade to tramping track	Route provides access to remote opportunities further afield. The department is unable to discuss tenure review matters through this review process	Maintain
<b>Southern Islands Area</b>										
Stewart Island	27494 Port William Hut	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	The living/ cooking area is inadequate for the amount of visitor use. Public sleeping area is 20 bunks. Two bunks in wardens' quarters	5	4		1	General support for proposal. Seeks to upgrade or enlarge hut due to crowding. One seeks extension of kitchen/living only and not to increase bunk space. Another seeks to consider replacement of hut at another location less easily accessible from coast	Hut is a popular backcountry destination (annual bednights approximately 4000; 55% occupancy). Submissions supportive of upgrade. Some concern about extending hut capacity; however the proposal seeks to increase capacity to match up with North Arm Hut (the next hut on the Rakiura Track - 24 bunks)	Upgrade size/capacity. Increasing bunk capacity to match up with North Arm Hut (i.e. extend to 24 bunks). Conservation Management Strategy permits extensions up to 40 bunks (p 136) for both Port William and North Arm Hut. Priority is to extend kitchen/living area

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	28644 North Pegasus Hunter's Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	3	2		1	Support maintenance by community. Other opposes maintenance and seeks removal	No justification given for proposed removal of this hut	Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	28730 Little Glory Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	28732 North Big Glory Hunter's Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	28734 Hapuātuna Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement.
	28737 Abraham's Bay Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement.

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	28759 South Pegasus Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy. Stewart Island Hunters Hut trust to maintain facility	3	2		1	Support maintenance by community. Other opposes maintenance and seeks removal	No justification given for proposed removal of this hut	Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
Stewart Island	45161 Martins Creek Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	45164 Cavalier Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	46381 Kelly's Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	46383 North Tikotatahi Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	47072 Christmas Village Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust co-manages this site and all maintenance at hut using funds from the levy. It is sensible that hunters & trampers continue to be provided with separate accommodation	3	2	1		Supportive. One submitter concerned about need for track maintenance, clearing vegetation around hut and concerns about Nugget Landing place	Concerns regarding track maintenance and vegetation clearance have been referred to the local DOC office	Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	47106 Port Adventure Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement
	47467 Homestead Hunters Hut	Maintain by Community	Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust manages all maintenance at site using funds from the levy	2	2					Seeking Community Maintenance. Formalise agreement

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	49169 Mason Bay Hut	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	The living/ cooking area is inadequate for the amount of visitor use. This area is becoming more & more popular	6	6			General support for upgrade of kitchen and living area due to crowding in the past. One submitter seeks that bunk capacities not be increased because an extension would eventually only increase demand. One submitter favours additional hut facilities but not necessarily at the same site	Hut is a popular backcountry destination (bednights average estimated 1750 annually - 30% occupancy). Hut suffers from restrictive living space and kitchen/ living facilities. Suggestions to build another hut at another location would be problematic because of a continued proliferation of huts within this North West Remote zone. Site was subject to an in-depth visitor research project which has affected the decision for this hut	Maintain. Upgrade hut to provide adequate kitchen/living space considering various options including extension of existing hut or conversion of existing hut to bunk room and construction of a designated kitchen/living building alongside

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Stewart Island	95734 Rocky Mountain Track	Cease Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy proposal was 'maintain as marked route' (p 133). Not a popularly used track. Other opportunities for views over Paterson's Inlet nearby (e.g. Pryse Peak, Maori Hill Lookout)	7			7	All opposed. Views from top are valued by trampers and are considered an important opportunity who considered this track an important recreation opportunity. Accesses views that are considered superior to Pryse Peak	Track was considered surplus to requirements; however this was challenged by submitters who considered this track an important recreation opportunity. Accesses views that are considered superior to Pryse Peak	Maintain to lower standard. Track to be maintained as a route in order to retain access to view point
	95740 Track - Ocean Beach (South)	Upgrade - To Bring to Standard	Requires upgrade. Maintained by concessionaire	2	1		1	One supportive. Staff Submission seeks upgrade to higher standard and that concessionaire assist track upgrade	Supportive. Options have since been explored with the concessionaire with the outcome that the track will no longer be maintained. Department of Conservation resources will focus on upgrading Ocean Beach (North) track	Cease Maintenance. Department of Conservation will focus on upgrading Ocean Beach (North) track in order to provide a higher standard opportunity

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	95739 Track - Ocean Beach (North)	Maintain							Refer analysis for Ocean Beach (South) track above. Provides an important wildlife viewing opportunity	Maintain Upgrade to walking track standard
<b>Te Anau Area</b>										
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	45291 Lincoln Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Use estimated at approximately 20 bednights annually. Hut is not required for this visitor group. Conservation Management Strategy (p 290) states that offers from local clubs/groups to maintain facilities will be considered and that huts not being maintained may be removed or relocated to other areas after public consultation.	5	1	2	2	Questions regarding which visitor group it is not required for? Submitters seek improved publicity and that the hut be maintained	Lincoln Hut has been promoted through DOC brochures and on topographical map. Hut receives low levels of usage; averages nine bednights/annum, occupancy 1.2%. Not required for Back Country Adventurer visitor group	Move to another location. Assess options for relocation to a location where this facility could be put to better use

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	46792 Ashton Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy (p 290) states that offers from local clubs/groups to maintain facilities will be considered, and that huts not being maintained may be removed or relocated to other areas after public consultation. Low visitor use at this hut site. Difficult access	4	1		3	One submitter recommends the hut be retained as a biodiversity facility for wilding pine control. Others seek that the department improve publicity about the hut in order to increase usage and then maintain hut	Hut receives low use; average occupancy is 0.7%, 10 bednights annually. The hut could be put to better use elsewhere as a visitor facility. Biodiversity field operations commonly use flyable bivvies	Move to another location. Assess options for relocation to a location where this facility could be put to better use
Snowdon Forest	95248 Boyd Creek waterfall walk	Remove (and not replace)	This walking opportunity is located on private land adjacent to lodge facility	1			1	Reference to Rakiura National Park, rationalising tracks and belief that the track will be difficult to replace once gone	Cease maintenance. This track is not on DOC land and is not in Rakiura National Park	Cease maintenance
Takitimu Conservation Area	19940 Cheviot Downs Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Consider options: biodiversity facility (wilding pine control), or relocate to another location	2	1		1	Fear it will be removed	Annual average usage levels very low: 12.2 bednights, 0.6% occupancy	Move to another location. Assess options for relocation to a location where this facility could be put to better use within the Takitimu Mountains

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Takitimu Conservation Area	20929 Lower Princhester Hut	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	Conservation Management Strategy (p 263) identifies hut as priority for maintaining as part of the Princhester/ Waterloo valley route. However, low level of use reported through hut books and low level of compliance from hut tickets returns. Roadend hut principles apply	2	1		1	Fear it will be removed	A low usage roadend hut. Averages 65 bednights annually; 2.9% occupancy	Move to another location. Assess options for relocation to a location where this facility could be put to better use within the Takitimu Mountains
	46781 Whare Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut receives low level of use. Two bunk hut built for animal control purposes	9	1		8	Concerns regarding public access and seek better promotion to increase usage so that the hut can be maintained	Access is poor. Averages 13 bednights/ annum or 1.8% occupancy. Brochure for Takitimu Mountains is being updated and access is described in Moirs Guide South. Hut supports access to Whare Creek catchment	Maintain. Improve access

AREA / PARK / RESERVE	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	47027 Redcliff Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Conservation Management Strategy (p 263) states hut will receive minimal maintenance only and assistance will be sought from user groups to keep facilities in good repair. However, hut receives low level of use. No track maintained to access hut. Two bunk hut built for animal control	8	1		7	Concerns regarding public access and seek better promotion to increase usage so that the hut can be maintained	Access is poor. Brochure for Takitimu Mountains is being updated. Access described in Moirs Guide South. Hut supports access to Redcliff catchment	Maintain Improve access

Submissions seeking new track developments at the Longwoods have been noted and are linked to the Te Araroa proposal, but have not been discussed in the material above. The overall extent of the community's track and facility development aspirations have not been formalised—and could range from a small day visitor interpreted walking track through to a multi-day 'easy' tramping track development (in excess of 60 kilometres). The proposal will be considered once a formal proposal has been received.

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

The decisions identified above will result in an improved mix of opportunities in Southland (refer Appendix 1). Decisions favour backcountry users through the increased number of huts that will be maintained by the Department of Conservation. Proposals to reduce maintenance commitments to non-core backcountry huts remains, although decisions made will make better use of five backcountry huts through relocation. Final decisions about locations for those huts will not be made until after discussion with the public. A further three huts will be maintained—two huts in the Takitimu Mountains and one in the Eyre Mountains. Strategically, this would result in the provision of an improved network of backcountry huts that are better located to meet the needs of backcountry users. Access improvements to the Takitimu range are recommended along with a greater number of maintained huts, further strengthening opportunities for backcountry users while retaining its traditional backcountry qualities.

The overall mix of facility provision would be a growth in barrier free interpreted high standard day use facilities (e.g., at Waituna Wetland, Red Tussock Reserve, Wilderness Scientific Reserve) as proposed in the Southland Discussion Document and supported through the submissions process.

Additional facilities and opportunities expected to arrive through the High Country Tenure Review process were significant considerations for Southland in arriving at specific facility proposals. These additions will strengthen backcountry walk in, drive in, four wheel drive and remote opportunities and provide a significant growth in opportunities for mountain biking, ski-touring, high country tramping and historic appreciation.

# Appendix 1

## SUMMARY OF HUT AND TRACK DECISIONS FOR SOUTHLAND CONSERVANCY

### HUTS

DECISIONS	AREA OFFICE			CONSERVANCY TOTAL
	MURIHIKU	SOUTHERN ISLANDS	TE ANAU	
Maintain/Replace/Upgrade /Maintain to lower standard	17	13	8	38
Move to another location	1	-	4	5
Seeking Community Maintenance	-	15	-	15
Owned by DOC but maintained by Community	-	-	1	1
Minimal maintenance	2	-	3	5
Remove	2	-	-	2
Proposed (new)	-	-	-	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>66<sup>1</sup></b>

1. The number of huts has increased since the Southland Discussion Document was released in September 2003 due to the addition of two hunter huts on Stewart Island (Southern Islands Area) both of which have 'Seeking Community Maintenance' decisions - Chew Tobacco and South West Arm.

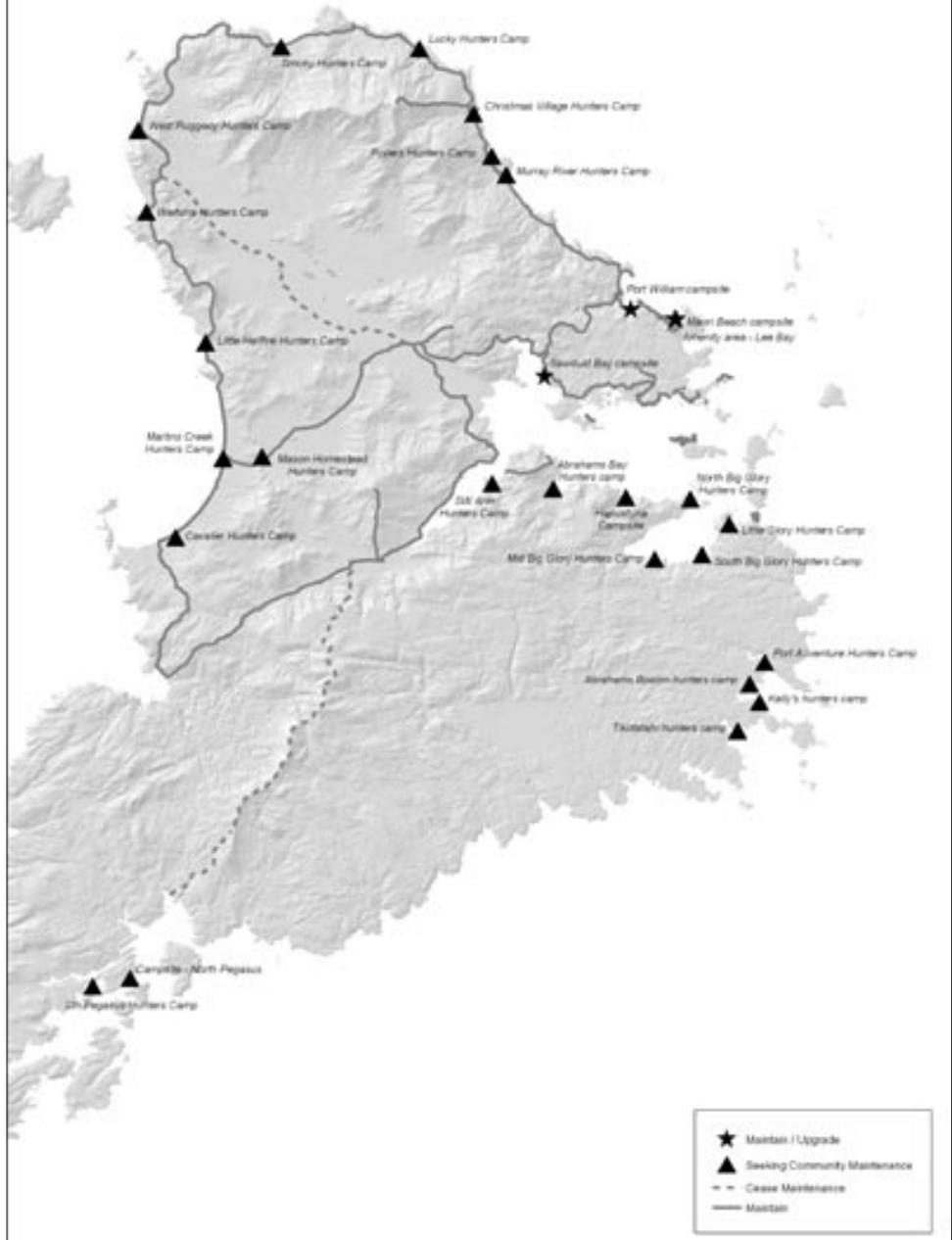
### TRACKS & WALKWAYS

DECISIONS	NUMBER	LENGTH (km)
Maintain/Replace/Upgrade/Maintain to lower standard	94	502.2
Seeking Community Maintenance	10	29.4
Owned by DOC but maintained by Community	-	-
Cease maintenance	9	64.7
Remove	-	-
Proposed (new)	4	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>597.3</b>

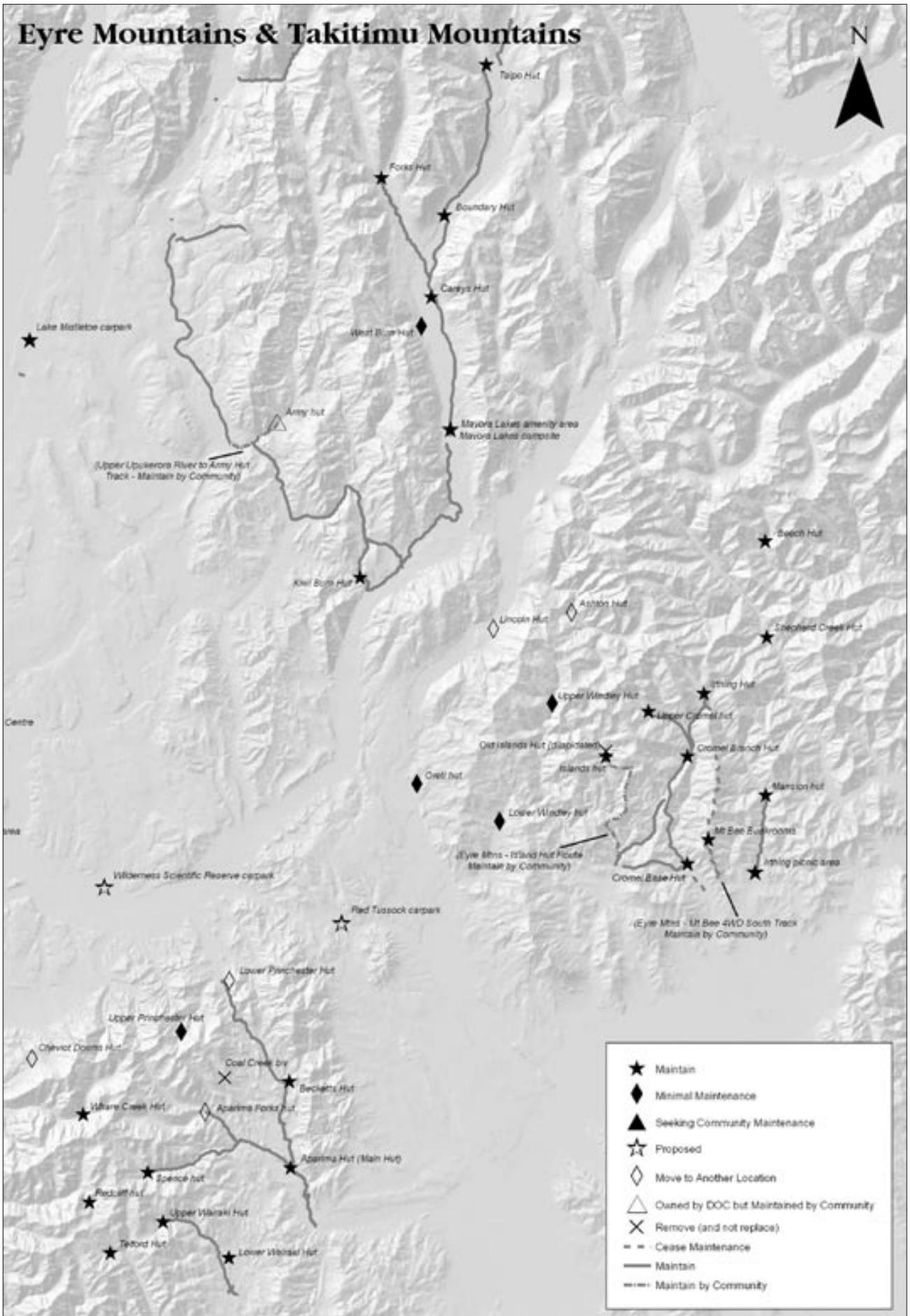
1. The number of tracks has increased since the Southland Discussion Document was released in September 2003 due to additions: Middle Ridge Track, Richardsons Track and proposed tracks at Waituna Lagoon and Curio Bay (as part of the Curio Bay redevelopment concept)



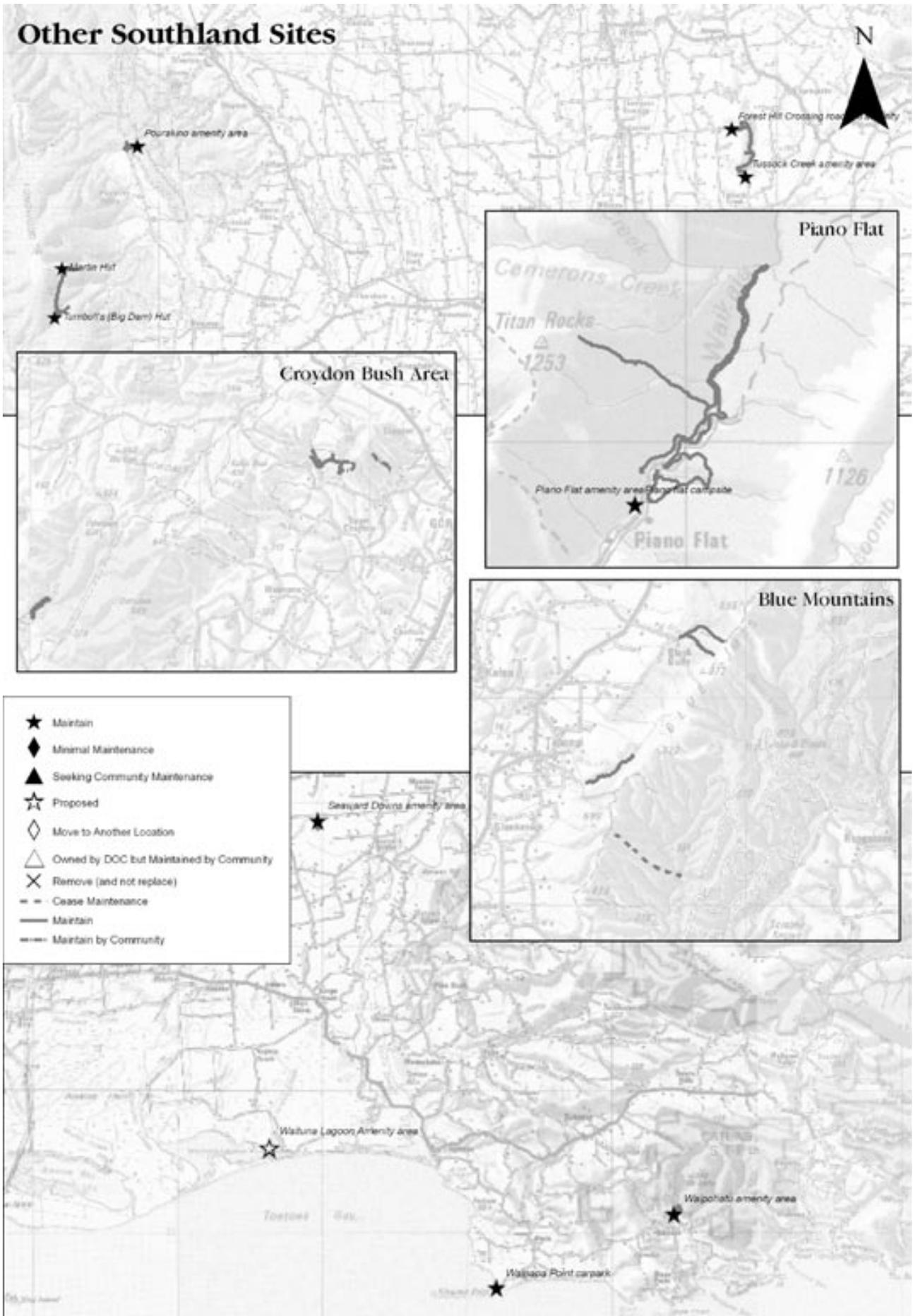
# Stewart Island/Rakiura - Amenity Facilities



# Eyre Mountains & Takitimu Mountains



# Other Southland Sites



# Appendix 3

## FACILITIES FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SEEKS COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

### HUTS AND SHELTERS

PARK/RESERVE	FACILITY	TYPE	DETAILS
<b>Southern Islands Area</b>			
Freshwater & Ruggedy Flat Conservation Area	Homestead Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Glory Cove Scenic Reserve	Little Glory Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Legal Road	Chew Tobacco Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust.
Port Adventure Conservation Land	Kellys Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	North Tikotatahi Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Port Adventure Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Pryse Peak Scenic Reserve	Hapuatuna Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Rakiura National Park	Christmas Village Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Martins Creek Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Cavalier Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Southwest Arm Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	North Pegasus Hunter's Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	South Pegasus Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	North Big Glory Hunter's Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Stewart Island Forest Conservation Area	Abrahams Bay Hunters Hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	The Bosom	Back Country Camping Shelter	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Lucky Hunters Platform & Shelter	Back Country Camping Shelter	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust

AMENITY AREAS/CAMPSITES

PARK/RESERVE	FACILITY	TYPE	DETAILS
<b>Southern Islands Area</b>			
Freshwater & Ruggedy Flat Conservation Area	Mason Homestead Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Glory Cove Scenic Reserve	Little Glory Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Port Adventure Conservation Land	Kelly's hunters camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Port Adventure Conservation Land	Tikotatahi hunters camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Port Adventure Scenic Reserve	Port Adventure Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Pryse Peak Scenic Reserve	Hapatuna campsite	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Rakiura National Park	Christmas Village Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Martins Creek Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Cavalier Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	SW Arm hunters camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Campsite - North Pegasus	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Sth Pegasus Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	North Big Glory Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Rollers Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Waituna Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
Stewart Island Forest Conservation Area	Abrahams Bay hunters camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Abrahams Bosom hunters camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Murray River Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Lucky Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Smoky Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	West Ruggedy Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Little Hellfire Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust

PARK/RESERVE	FACILITY	TYPE	DETAILS
	South Big Glory Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust
	Mid Big Glory Hunters Camp	Backcountry Campsite (maintained area)	Formalise agreement with Rakiura Hunters Trust

#### TRACKS

PARK/RESERVE	FACILITY	TYPE	DETAILS
<b>Murihiku Area</b>			
Catlins Conservation Park	Waipohatu Waterfall track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with South Catlins Promotions group
Croyden Reserve	Middle Ridge track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with Hokonui Tramping Club
	Richardson's track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with Hokonui Tramping Club
	Waimumu Falls track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with Hokonui Tramping Club
	Grants Knob track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with Hokonui Tramping Club
	Hidden Valley track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with Hokonui Tramping Club
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	Island Hut route	Route	Seek agreement with Southland Tramping Club
Hokonui Forest Conservation Area	Hokonui Mountain Bike track	Tramping Track	Formalise agreement with Gore Mountain Bike Club
Kingswood Bush Scenic Reserve	Kingswood Bush track	Walking Track	Seek agreement with a local community group

#### ROADS

PARK/RESERVE	FACILITY	TYPE	DETAILS
<b>Murihiku Area</b>			
Eyre Forest Conservation Area	Mt Bee four wheel drive south track	4WD Road	Seek agreement with Southland Landrover Club to maintain as a road access as far as Mt Bee Hut only
<b>Te Anau Area</b>			
Mavora Conservation Park	Red Stag Lodge access road	Gravel Road (2WD)	Formalise agreement with NZ Deerstalkers Association - Southland Branch
Waiau River, Rainbow Reach	Balloon Loop road	Gravel Road (2WD)	Look to transfer road maintenance and management to NZ Fish and Game - Southland

# Appendix 4

## FACILITIES FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

PARK/RESERVE	FACILITY	TYPE	DECISION	DETAILS
<b>Te Anau Area</b>				
Snowdon Forest	Army hut	Basic Hut/bivvy	Owned by DOC but Maintained by Community	Revise agreement with Te Anau Rod and Gun club. It is proposed that the hut is not replaced at the end of its useful life