



# West Coast Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Submissions analysis and decisions

OCTOBER 2004



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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

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# 1. Foreword

The following report details the content of submissions received by West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy as part of the recreation opportunity review public consultation period. It also reports on other feedback received through public meetings and discussion with stakeholders during this period.

Submissions have been analysed following advice and direction contained in the departmental process document 'Steps Required to Make Decisions'.

Proposals were all analysed on their individual merit. All submissions on the same proposal were then considered to determine the overall strength of submissions. Possible decisions were considered, and compared with the 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 this conservancy. These decisions were reached within the context of the strategic direction as covered by the West Coast Conservancy vision, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'B' followed by a series of connected, wavy lines that trail off to the right.

Barry Hanson  
Acting Conservator  
West Coast *Tai Poutini*

## 2. Executive summary

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The West Coast Conservancy undertook consultation by holding public meetings to outline the proposals to interested parties and key stake holders. Some user group and interest group meetings were then held where staff could learn more about their needs and thoughts on the proposals.

### SUBMITTERS AND SUBMISSIONS

102 submitters provided submissions representing 1171 individual submissions. Greymouth and Hokitika Area (central West Coast) attracted the most submissions.

Submissions came from three general sectors:

- Communities of interests
- General front country visitors
- Experienced and knowledgeable backcountry users.

General themes from submissions included:

- To apply further value on the more remote and challenging opportunities in the West Coast mix.
- Importance of traditional opportunities
- Keep all huts for their safety reasons
- The number of huts proposed for minimal maintenance
- Retention of bridges for safety and access
- Importance of weekend backcountry trips
- Importance of open tops access in central West Coast
- High quality developments close to tourism routes

### PROCESS OF REACHING DECISIONS

The West Coast Conservancy produced a strategic vision of recreational opportunities. It articulated this through public meetings and invited submissions. The Area Manager and a support group analysed the individual submissions on merit of adding value to the Areas vision and context statements, as well as the overall range of opportunities. Acceptance of submission points and the decisions reached, shaped the future strategic vision.

This future strategic vision represents a network reached through consultation. A network which provides an effective range of opportunity provision that covers the range of visitors using conservation lands on the West Coast.

## KEY OUTCOMES

### **Buller *Kawatiri* Area**

Continued maintenance for Scotts Beach as a backcountry camping area. Maintenance of a suite of day visitor opportunities at Punakaiki. Including the Pororari track, part of the Inland pack track and the completion of the Punakaiki River walk back to the highway.

### **Greymouth *Mawheranui* Area**

The provision of additional tramping opportunities and linkages between Canterbury and the West Coast. This includes the addition of short sections of marked route in the Waiheke and Tutaekuri valleys in order to allow for a Amuri - Hope Pass circuit. The provision of a new route to allow for access through the Haupiri and Trent valleys. Addition of a challenging 3 days / 2 night traverse through the Crooked / lake Morgan area. In conjunction with the local community hunting access is improved in the Waikiti catchment. Four backcountry huts have had their proposal changed to maintain; these include Jacko Flat Hut, Lake Morgan Hut, Elizabeth hut and the Mid Trent Hut. Future creation of marked route along Camp Creek the enable the opportunity to climb Mt Alexander. For less experienced visitors to the backcountry, the management of the Croesus track as an easy tramping track will add benefit to the existing range.

### **Hokitika Area**

The Hokitika Area has had some key additions of marked routes and maintained huts to enable more remote backcountry opportunities. These include the re-instatement of marked routes in the Griffen Creek catchment, Toaroha Range access, Diedrich Range access, high alpine routes out of the Whitcombe Valley, Mikonui Spur access route and the addition of the Scamper Torrent Circuit through the lower Waitaha Valley.

The reversal of proposals to full maintenance for some key swing bridges such as the Cropp 6 wire, the Kokatahi Swingbridge and the County Junction 6-wire as well as an additional ten huts and bivs in the backcountry that are now on a full maintenance regime. These are the Adventure Ridge biv, Browning Range biv, Gerhardt biv, Griffen hut, Kiwi Flat hut, Mikonui Spur biv, Moonbeam hut, Pinnacle biv, Scamper Torrent hut and the Toaroha Saddle bivvie. The addition of these more remote trips into the Hokitika backcountry through the Mikonui Spur - Mt Bowen trip and the Steadman brow - Mt Beaumont system will be through the re-instatement of marked routes. Key overnight backcountry opportunities have been added, such as the Toaroha Range, Diedrich Range and the Scamper Torrent circuit.

### **Franz Josef *Waiiau* Area**

Decisions include the maintenance of the Castle Rocks hut and the addition of a route to the Blue Look Out in the Wanganui River backcountry to enable hunting and alpine tramping/climbing. The addition of a route in order to provide climbers access to Mt Adams. A tramping track will be maintained in the Saltwater forest, and the tracks between Franz Josef township and the Glacier valley will be maintained as walking tracks.

## South Westland *Webeka* Area

Access will be provided as marked routes in both the Moeraki and Paringa River valleys in order for parties to cross into the Clarke Valley and access Marks Flat in the Hooker/Landsborough wilderness area. Provision of day visitor foot access into the Fox Glacier Valley as well as the re-instatement of the Lake Ellery walk between Haast and Jackson's Bay.

# 3. Introduction

## 3.1 HOW CONSULTATION WAS UNDERTAKEN

The West Coast Conservancy undertook the following steps to support the process:

- Public consultation was undertaken as part of the department's recreation opportunity review 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities'.
- Consultation was launched on 30th September 2003, with a press release from the Minister of Conservation, followed on by a press release from this conservancy. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers inviting local recreation groups and other key associates to attend public meetings during October 2003 to learn about the consultation process. Proposal documents and background resource material were provided as publications and on the DOC website to provide the basis for making submissions.
- Further information about the submission process was provided by a detailed hut CD, which outlined the extent and proposals for the West Coast backcountry hut network.
- Public meetings were held by all five areas.
- Meetings were held with; the Buller Tramping Club, West Coast Game Hunters, West Coast branch of the NZDA, West Coast branch of the Alpine Club and a representative of farmers from the Wanganui River Ratings District to explore some issues further.

In order to analyse public submissions the West Coast Conservancy created a vision/context document entitled: Towards a better network of visitor facilities - West Coast Vision.

The submissions were analysed within the context of this vision document. These decisions and adaptations from submissions have been reflected and incorporated into a final vision which describes the effective mix of recreational opportunities for future enjoyment and use of the public conservation estate of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy.

The Department of Conservation is making these decisions in order to provide the public of New Zealand and the associated user groups with some surety about the future recreational opportunities. These decisions will guide resource commitment and work programmes for the department.

Formal planning processes will continue to provide the mechanism for change of these decisions as needed and ensuring public input (e.g. CMS review, National Park Management Plan review), and Conservation Boards will assist the department to manage specific facility provision issues that will arise from time to time.

# Section One

## 4. Submitters and submissions

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

### 4.1 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- 102 submitters provided submissions representing 1171 individual submissions.
- Submitters were made up of 18 group submissions and 84 individual submissions
- 3 submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document).
- 4 submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues, as well as commenting on specific proposals.

SUBMITTER AFFILIATION	NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS
Individual	51
Tramping/climbing individuals or club	18
Hunting club/hunter or fisher	3
Residents group	11
SAR member	3
Tourism operator	9
Advocacy group	3
four wheel drive club/driver	1
Other	3

### 4.2 NATURE OF SUBMISSIONS

Submissions came from three general sectors:

- Communities
- General front country visitors
- Experienced and knowledgeable backcountry users.

#### 4.3 MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON, BY ORDER OF TOTAL SUBMISSIONS

Following are a ‘top 20’ of the submissions<sup>1</sup>, in relation to total numbers received for each proposal.

AREA	ASSET NAME	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUBMISSIONS
Hokitika	Scamper Torrent Hut	20	(20 against/ 0 for)
Greymouth	Lake Morgan hut	16	(15 against/1 for)
Hokitika	Dillons Hut (old)	16	(15 against/1 for)
Hokitika	Boo Boo Hut	14	(12 against/2 for)
Franz Josef	Castle Rocks Hut	14	(13 against/1 for)
Greymouth	Re-instatement – Crooked River Route	14	(0 against/14 for)
Greymouth	Elizabeth hut	13	(12 against/1 for)
Greymouth	Jacko Flat Hut	13	(13 against/0 for)
Hokitika	Kokatahi Swingbridge	13	(12 against/1 for)
Hokitika	Kiwi Flat Hut	13	(13 against/0 for)
Hokitika	Mikonui Spur Biv	12	(12 against/0 for)
Hokitika	Mid Taipo Hut	12	(9 against/3 for)
Greymouth	Tutaekuri Junction Hut	12	(6 against/6 for)
Hokitika	Bluff Hut	12	(4 against/8 for)
Greymouth	Pell Stream Hut	12	(10 against/2 for)
Greymouth	Mid Trent Hut	12	(11 against/1 for)
Hokitika	Yeates Ridge Hut	11	(9 against / 2 for)
Hokitika	County Stream Hut	11	(10 against / 1 for)
Greymouth	Top Crooked Hut	11	(9 against / 2 for)

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

Following is an abridged version of some of the proposals that received the most submissions by each Area. For a full breakdown of submissions and decisions, refer to section two.

It is intended to serve as an indication as to what proposals attracted interest for each area.

<sup>1</sup> The original proposals are contained within the September 2003 document entitled *Towards a better network of visitor facilities – West Coast proposal summary*

BULLER *KAWATIRI* AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
48698	Kakapo Hut	1	7	Minimal Maintenance	On the way into the Roaring Lion. Historic from deer cullers days. Links to the Wangapeka, makes for an interesting trip. A base for access onto the Scarlett and Herbert Range. Adds to the range of opportunities.
191355	Punakaki River to State Highway	7	nil	Proposed	Support for the proposal. Would make a complete day visitor loop in all weather. No need to cross river.
13379	Sinclairs Shelter (dilapidated)	1	5	Remove	Provides shelter for hunting in the North Branch of the Mokihinui River. Useful shelter when hunting and the main river has risen upon the return to the Mokihinui Forks Hut.
191221	Scotts Beach camping area	1	5	Cease Maintenance	Needs to be maintained as it currently is, for a more remote type of camping experience than the Kohaihai camp. Is utilised by school children.
9000	Johnson Hut	1	5	Minimal Maintenance	Associated with early mineral exploration. Provides a more remote experience. Only hut on the river linking the Wangapeka and the Matiri Areas.

GREYMOUTH *MAWHERANUI* AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
48425	Lake Morgan hut	1	15	Minimal Maintenance	Lake Morgan tops is a focal point for many tramping clubs and parties. Maintain the hut for accommodation in traverse from the Crooked River to the Haupiri via Lake Morgan.
302005	Tracks - Crooked River Route - to Lake Morgan Tops	14	nil	n/a	A classic and iconic place, when linked with the Crooked - Morgan tops - Haupiri circuit, a focal point for many tramping clubs and parties. This track should be re-instated.
13859	Elizabeth hut	1	12	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is part of an overnight accommodation provider in the Haupiri - Trent Saddle - Trent circuit. An important network hut.
45856	Jacko Flat Hut	nil	13	Minimal Maintenance	An important hut in the Crooked River valley system. Maintain a track to it and maintain this hut as accommodation for the trip through the Crooked and onto Morgan Tops.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
13851	Tutaekuri Junction Hut	6	6	Replace - bigger size	Do not replace the hut, when so many others are proposed as Minimal Maintenance. Other submitters stated to replace the hut to add to the Hope Pass crossing, as well as the Hope - Amuri pass circuit.
13841	Mid Trent Hut	1	11	Minimal Maintenance	Accommodation within the Haupiri - Trent Saddle - Trent circuit. This hut is more important than Top Trent / lagoon hut.
13782	Pell Stream Hut	2	10	Minimal Maintenance	Regular tramping club use. Beautiful valley with many unique features. An addition to the Lake Daniels track. Classic old backcountry hut.

HOKITIKA AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
48789	Scamper Torrent Hut	nil	20	Minimal Maintenance	Essential accommodation in the Waitaha - Scamper Torrent - Headlong Spur route. Classic backcountry hut. Classic backcountry weekend trip.
13940	Dillons Hut (old)	1	15	Remove	A historic heritage link to the Kumara and Taipo region. Pioneering history. Submitters believed it is not in a bad shape. Used a lot by family groups. Easy access. More character than new Dillon hut.
46273	Boo Boo Hut	2	12	Minimal Maintenance	With a name like Boo Boo - it deserves to be maintained. Needed as an accommodation asset in the Crinkle Tops Spur route, for late starters. Also an essential accommodation in the Lower Kokatahi River Route through to junction with the Crawford River.
48783	Kiwi Flat Hut	nil	13	Minimal Maintenance	Important accommodation in both the greater Waitaha Valley trip and the Scamper Torrent - Headlong spur route.
45859	Kokatahi Swingbridge	1	12	Maintain - but not replace	Kokatahi Swing bridge is essential in both the Crinkle Tops Spur route -Toaroa Range traverse, and the Lower Kokatahi Valley route. Needs to be maintained to ensure access to both the Toaroa Range and the through the lower Kokatahi River Valley.
13923	Mid Taipo Hut	3	9	Replace - bigger size	Need to provide over capacity data. Existing hut is in good condition and can be easily added onto. Is it necessary to replace this classic hut with a new one? Other submitters supported this proposal.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
48670	Bluff Hut	8	4	Move to another location	Bluff hut is in an idyllic location. Only requires a detour of one hour to where it is now. Others support the re-siting into the upper Hokitika as part of the Toaroaha – Frew Saddle tramp.
45720	Mikonui Spur Biv	nil	12	Minimal Maintenance	Nice hut in nice location. Good for the Mikonui – Mt Bowen – Noisy – Cropp circuit.
13191	Adventure ridge Biv	2	9	Minimal Maintenance	Part of the Toaroaha Range traverse. Idyllic location. Good shelter on the open tops. Good overnight destination.
303009	Tracks – Griffin / Rocky Creek	11	nil	n/a	Nice catchments for trampers from Christchurch. Allows linkages to be made onto the Tara Tama Range. Re-instate this track access through these catchments.
46268	Moonbeam Hut	1	10	Minimal Maintenance	Part of the Waitaha system. Challenging location to visit. Well placed as accommodation when traversing the valley en-route to Ivory lake.

FRANZ JOSEF WAIAMU AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
15015	Castle Rocks Hut	1	13	Minimal Maintenance	Strong support for the maintenance of the Hut. Idyllic location, good views, access is not difficult. Used for weekend destination and winter ski touring of the Fritz Range. Part of a spectrum.
191381	Lambert Ridge Route	10	1	Proposed	Overall very strong support for this route access close to the open tops of the Adams. One submitter in strong opposition, facilities in buffer zone to Wilderness areas, will erode wilderness qualities.
45759	Whymper Hut	2	2	Move to another location	Leave Whymper hut in its current location. Others acknowledged its move was required due to avalanche risk.
305003	Tracks – Mt Adams Route	4	nil	n/a	Only West Coast large peak which can be climbed without the need for long and arduous access. Part of a spectrum. Create access along Little Man River / Dry Creek to the open tops of Mt Adams.
14150	Twister Bivvy (dilapidated)	2	2	Remove	Is it in such a bad state? It should be replaced with a shelter. Others supported the proposal in the context of the valley system.
305001	Tracks – Blue Look out Route	3	nil	n/a	This route in conjunction with the Lambert Ridge route will allow a circuit to be made encompassing Newton Peak, Garden of Allah, Lambert Glacier, Mt Stoddart, Lord River and Blue Look Out. Also great for hunting.

SOUTH WESTLAND *WEHEKA* AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	SUBMISSIONS IN SUPPORT	SUBMISSIONS IN OPPOSITION	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
15661	Tunnel Creek Hut	3	6	Minimal Maintenance	Important hut (and track) in order to gain access to the Clarke River and Marks Flat (Hooker/Landsborough Wilderness Area).
306005	Tracks - Lake Ellery	5	nil	n/a	Disappointed it was disbanded. Visitors frequently ask about it. Would add to opportunities between Haast and Jacksons Bay. Re-instate this walk.
16081	Middle Head Hut	1	4	Minimal Maintenance	Middle Head hut is seen as more important than Horseshoe in relation to it being a staging post to cross over into the Clarke River.
15665	Lame Duck Hut (dilapidated)	3	2	Remove	Don't destroy it. It's dangerous and irresponsible to remove it. Others agree with proposal. One is willing to relocate another hut to its location for hunting purposes.
95662	Copland Valley - Douglas Rock Hut to Copland Pass	2	2	Maintain as a marked route	Need to ensure that the track to the bush line is cut as a tramping track. Maintain as a tramping track.
101141	Ship Creek car park	2	2	Upgrade size / capacity	Money should come from the tourism organisation. Set limits on involvement and development. Others support the upgrading and re-siting of toilet.

#### 4.5 OTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS

The West Coast received 1171 submissions. They covered most proposals. Most submissions were lodged against both Greymouth and Hokitika Area.

##### **Buller *Kawatiri* Area**

###### *Kaburangi - Northern Buller*

Main submissions in this sector were on Scotts Beach, to keep maintaining Scotts Beach as a backcountry campsite, in order to provide a more remote type of experience than the Kohaihai campground. Submissions regarding the Oporara Valley Trust development called for the department to keep working with the trust. Kakapo hut, in conjunction with a new loop track/route to access it, was viewed as a worthwhile addition to the opportunities of the Wangapeka track. The Johnson Hut was viewed as an en-route hut between the Mokihinui and the Matiri. The route into the Mokihinui and subsequently through into the Lyell was viewed as a possible extension to overnight 'traditional' tramping opportunities in the Buller region. Sinclair's Shelter in the Mokihinui attracted a number of submissions from the hunting fraternity, that it should be replaced. The department will work with this user group to foster the possible community initiated replacement of a community maintained hunter's hut. Submission on the Cape Foulwind car park upgrade were generally in favour, however it was asked to show economic restraint in any future developments.

### *Paparoa - Southern Buller*

Support was shown for the community initiated Argyle water race track. Further facility/opportunity development in and around Punakaiki came through in submissions, these included short walk to a penguin nesting area and a short walk to a place where a New Zealand feature movie was filmed.

There was strong support for the proposed continuation of the Pororari - Punakaiki loop track back to the highway. Retention of the two dilapidated huts in the Paparoas came through submissions with a submission to re-instate the track to one due to limited overnight tramping opportunities into the park.

### **Greymouth *Mawheranui* Area**

#### *Greymouth and Lower Grey Valley*

In the front country, submissions were focused on two areas. More opportunity development along the highway in the form of a walking track to a Giant Rimu tree. As well as opportunity development in the area of the Blackball township. This included two short walks for heritage appreciation and a community proposed Great Walk to link with the Croesus track.

#### *Lake Brunner*

Submission relating to Lake Brunner, called for further development in and around the growing township. Suggestions were: extending some existing facilities to make a loop track, new facilities such as a walk around the Western Shores of the lake and a mountain bike track.

#### *Abaura / Crooked - Southern Alps*

This was one of the areas which received a large number of submissions in relation to 'traditional' backcountry tramping opportunities. Further facilities were deemed to be required in this area in order to create the opportunity mix for which the West Coast backcountry was valued. These opportunities included the creation or re-instatement of route systems such as:

- The Crooked River Valley
- Mt Alexander climbing access
- Lake Morgan tops traverse
- Haupiri River Route linking with the Trent River Route
- Hope Pass and Amuri circuit
- Alpine links between passes such as Harpers and Trent.
- Routes from Waikiti through to the Haupiri and Trent.

Due to the nature of the West Coast flora, it was viewed that these land areas were becoming ever more difficult to traverse/explore and the opportunity slowly declining.

Such submissions included the retention/maintenance of huts for accommodation along the systems. These included: Jacko Flat, Top Crooked, Lake Morgan, Cone Creek, Elizabeth, Mid Trent, Tutaekuri and Slatey Creek.

These systems were valued by tramping clubs and tramping parties to undertake multi-day tramps.

### *Reefton*

Submission related to some of the deferred maintenance issues which surround some of the historic heritage walking tracks in the area.

### *Maruia and Grey Headwaters*

Tramping clubs, groups and guide book authors expressed the importance of areas such as Pell Stream and Wheel Creek. Submissions proposed that these huts and the routes to them should be taken 'onboard' as part of an opportunity spectrum. Other submissions placed importance on routes to access the open tops in and around the Lewis pass area. In order to facilitate open tops, traverses and linkages with other established systems, various marked routes were suggested.

## **Hokitika Area**

The Hokitika Area received the most number of submissions when compared to any other area on the West Coast. There were relatively few submissions regarding opportunity provision in the front country, compared with the number regarding the backcountry.

Submissions focusing on backcountry opportunity provision in the Hokitika area expressed that the original proposals did not provide for the full spectrum of opportunities available in the central West Coast. Further facilities were deemed to be required in this area in order to create the opportunity mix for which the Central West Coast backcountry was valued.

The West Coast contains some 'classic' valley floor tramping tracks, some linking the West Coast to the East Coast, such as the Three Passes trip, Arahura - Styx circuit, Toaroa - Frew circuit and the Whitcombe Valley. However it was expressed that open tops access and quick weekend trips were not present in the mix.

Opportunities which were expressed as being not present in the original proposals, included access to open tops traverses, access to ranges in the western flanks of the Main Divide, and linkages in order to undertake a general North to South approach in linking valley based tramping tracks.

General themes of submission were: the 'traditional' hut and tramping opportunity network was valued; bridges were valued for continued safety and the ability in accessing large areas of conservation estate and the former Forest Service huts were valued for their heritage appreciation. A full representative network should be maintained in order to safe guard low use opportunities in the future with a rise in tourism pressures.

The closeness of road-ends to significant recreational areas of the western flanks of the main divide was cited in submissions. Due to the nature of the West Coast flora, it was viewed that without access through the central West Coast 'beech gap' to reach the open tops, they would become ever more difficult to access and traverse/explore, and the opportunity would slowly decline.

Submissions raised some additional opportunities, viewed as being integral to representing accurately the mix for the Central West Coast backcountry. These additional opportunities included the re-instatement of route systems such as:

- Kelly Range traverse
- Rangī Taipo - Bald Range

- Tara Tama Range access, both through the Griffen catchment and Mt Kerr
- Griffin - Rocky Creek circuit
- Access onto Campbell Range
- Access onto Newton Range
- Support for Crawford - Upper Kokatahi system
- Lower Kokatahi Route
- Crinkle Top Spur - Mt Reeves - Toaroha Range traverse
- Mullins Basin and Yeates huts access
- Gerhardt Spur - Diedrich Range traverse
- Whitcombe - Steadman Brow - Mt Beaumont access
- Mikonui Spur - Mt Bowen - Noisy basin system
- Mikonui - Healey Creek - Galena ridge access
- Support for the Tuke River system
- Whitcombe - Mikonui - Douglas Pass - Kakapotahi track
- Scamper Torrent - Headlong Spur system
- Waitaha and County systems - including Smyth Range access.

Submissions were also received regarding the downgrading of existing 'classic' valley tramping tracks to marked routes due to the inherent difficulty of the Alpine passes or high altitude sections. These included the Taipo - Three Passes trip, the Toaroha - Frew circuit and the Whitcombe valley.

Submissions were received expressing value in upgrading the first section of the Toaroha valley as a Back Country Comfort Seeker easy tramping track opportunity for ease of access for inexperienced visitors.

The historical heritage of the network of deer cullers tracks, huts and bivvies in shaping outdoor recreation in New Zealand was cited. Importance was placed on retaining a set of remote places which could be visited and would serve as a representative suite of opportunities and facilities. This included retaining a representative sample of ex-forest service two person bivvies in the network.

A large number of submissions were received regarding the importance in regional history of the 'old' Dillons hut. Ties to pioneering history of the Taipo and Kumara area will need some further exploration prior to decision making.

### **Franz Josef *Waiiau* Area**

Franz Josef Area submissions were also focused mainly on the back country. Departmental facility provision in the front country, such as in and around Okarito and the Glacier valley, attracted a very small number of submissions. The proposed short walk for disabled link in the Glacier valley was viewed by one submitter as an opportunity which the tourism industry should fund.

Removal of the Five Mile Creek bridge drew submission in relation to its historical links to the community. Likewise the proposal to replace the Amethyst Road bridge

with a walk wire drew submissions from the local farming community which wished to continue sourcing rock from the quarry on the other side of the bridge.

The main number of the submissions were in relation to the Castle Rocks Hut. It was cited as not having difficult access for experienced users, and valued as a part of the alpine spectrum, specifically for alpine ski touring of the Fritz Range.

Current facility provision in the Wanganui, Whataroa and Perth valleys was commended and valued. These facilities were viewed as being an essential component of the West Coast spectrum, for both tramping/climbing access purposes and Thar and Chamois hunting.

Submissions expressed further routes be maintained out of these valleys, including access on to the Smyth Range from the Wanganui and the Blue Look Out route. The Blue Look Out route would enable a variety of trip options between the Blue Look Out and the proposed Lambert Spur Route.

The proposed Lambert Spur route received, in majority, supportive submissions. It was cited that this would add access to more remote opportunities on the West Coast, as well as being useful for SAR. However some opposition was evident, as it was felt that providing a marked route in the buffer zone to the Adams Wilderness Area would erode the wilderness area's qualities.

Submissions were also received that valued the addition of other marked routes to open tops traverses. They were viewed as being an essential part of West Coast opportunities. These included: Karn Back - Terra Quinn and the Mt Ferguson and Mt Willberg approaches to the Willberg Range. These were seen as open tops traverses with the added benefit of encouraging local hunting use.

Submissions on the adding of a marked route to the open tops of Mount Adams valued the fact that this was a relatively accessible West Coast peak to climb from the road-end. It was cited that route access to the open grass lands of the tops was required and this was seen as an intrinsic West Coast opportunity.

Submissions of support were received regarding the continued maintenance of Centennial Hut by the New Zealand Alpine Club.

### **South Westland *Weheka* Area**

Compared to the central West Coast, relatively few submissions were centred towards South Westland. Proposals in the front country such as the upgrading of various car parks attracted submissions citing that this type of opportunity development should fall within the tourism sector to provide. However, submissions from locals indicated support towards upgrading these aging facilities to a suitable standard.

Submissions were received regarding further facility provision in the region of Bruce Bay. These included day walks to scenic views and wetland areas as well as further stopping places along the State Highway.

Strong local submissions were received regarding more facility provision between Haast and Jacksons Bay, mostly addressing the re-instatement of the Lake Ellery and Lake Mary walks. These were felt to add important walks to the spectrum of available opportunities to visitors in Haast, and would encourage visitors to stay longer in South Westland.

The proposed management for the upper section of the Copeland valley, between Douglas Rock and the pass with Canterbury, as a marked route drew submissions. The main concern was that the low alpine scrub would require sufficient clearing to allow day trips from the Douglas Hut. The track would have to provide clear and unimpeded access to the open tops.

Submissions noted that certain facilities, such as the Copeland Track and the Haast - Paringa Cattle track needed to have some deferred maintenance undertaken in order to meet the required visitor group standard.

Submissions opposing hut removals such as Lame Duck Hut, Landsborough Valley Rangers Hut, Mc Cormacks Hut and Quail Flat Hut cited the irresponsible nature of hut removals in the backcountry, if they were still marked on maps and relied upon by users for shelter.

It was noted that while one hut in particular was a duplication in a valley for tramping, it was valued as a hunting base. A submission was received to remove the Lame Duck Hut and then replace it with the Mc Cormacks Hut (move this to the location), which could then be managed and maintained by the hunting fraternity. This would ensure hunting accommodation in this part of the Karangarua Valley for the life of the relocated hut.

Submissions regarding ease of access into the Hooker/Landsborough wilderness area, via both the Moeraki River and the Paringa River were also received. For recreationists who wanted to access Marks Flat via the Clarke River it was viewed that Middle Head Hut was more important for accommodation in the Moeraki valley than Horseshoe Flat hut. Likewise Tunnel Creek Hut in the Paringa River Valley was valued for accommodation en-route to the Wilderness area boundaries.

As part of a spectrum of opportunities in South Westland, it was cited that marked routes to the Rock Bivvies located in the upper reaches of both the Moeraki and Paringa valley should be maintained. This would allow faster access through this difficult terrain while attempting to enter the Hooker/ Landsborough wilderness area from the west via the Clarke River. It was cited that the Hooker is a prime destination for alpine tramping/ climbing and these marked routes should be added as it was believed to be part of the West Coast opportunity spectrum.

Submissions of support were received regarding the continued maintenance of Pioneer Hut by the New Zealand Alpine Club.

#### 4.6 PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

The proposals from the Conservancy proposal document that did not have any public submissions were the following:

NAME	PROPOSAL
Box Canyon Caves track	Maintain as walking track
Cave Stream Access road	Cease maintenance
Cone Rock bridge	Remove
Dorothy Fall rd walking track - Slip Bay	Proposed
Duffers Road	Cease maintenance
Flagstaff Hill track	Non - visitor management
Giant Matai Tree walk	Remove
Globe Hill Access Road	Cease maintenance
Jones Flat walk way	Remove
Jum Michel walk	Maintain for disabled access
Kahikatea walk	Maintain for disabled access
Lake Hochstetter track	Non - visitor management
Lake Mahinapua - Mananui Bush walk	Proposed
Lawyers Delight beach walk	Maintain as tramping track
Londonderry Rock walk	Maintain as a short walk
Mahinapua Rail bridge track	Proposed
Nelson Creek amenity area flying fox	To be maintained by the community
Pororari River walk - picnic area	To be maintained by the community
Robbie Road walk	Remove
Roberts Point track -to Douglas Point	Maintain as tramping track
Ross Historic Goldfield track	Maintain as a short walk

## 5. User group meetings

After the launch of the process each area hosted public meeting on the proposals. Many local interest groups and key stakeholders attended. Getting the involvement of user groups and other interest groups in meetings to further discuss proposals or to cover the particular areas of interest was a responsibility of the Area Managers. Areas have, throughout the process, remained in touch with their local contacts from recreation organisations.

Buller Area staff attended a meeting of the Buller Tramping Club. Greymouth Area staff met with the West Coast branch of the NZDA, the West Coast Gameshooters club and the West Coast branch of the Alpine Club. Staff in Franz Josef liaised with a representative of farmers from the Wanganui River Ratings District to explore some issues regarding the Amethyst Road bridge further.

All members of the public, whether through a public meeting or a focus group with a club were encouraged to enter their submissions into the process.

Standard practice for the public meeting was for the Area Manager to outline both the process and the proposals. Once this was completed there was a time for open floor questions and discussions. The information gathered from public and user group meetings was used as part of understanding public opinion on proposals, alongside the detail provided in submissions.

The Department provided Te Runaka o Kati Waewae and Te Runanga o Makaawhio with the proposal documentation. Hokitika Area liaised with Mawhera Incorporation regarding certain facilities within the Waitaiki Historic Reserve. The public consultation process was discussed within the regular Te Roopu meetings.

## 6. Summary of general points from submissions

Many submitters outlined general points of view regarding the West Coast proposals. Such submission points included:

*Apply further value on the more remote and challenging opportunities of the West Coast mix.*

Submissions cite the need to have further facilities in order to satisfy the full range for which the West Coast is valued. They include an assortment of slightly more challenging circuits/systems and routes through the 'beech-gap' forest to allow open tops traverses, and linkages to be made between existing valley tracks. It was noted that these may only lead to the open tops, upon which further traverses along open tops can be un-marked.

These themes in the submissions fit within both the principles to guide a core facility network as well as the visitor strategy. Submitters who used these themes explained the values that such opportunities added to the West Coast mix of experiences.

*Keep all huts for their safety reasons*

Some submitters felt that removing huts is dangerous and irresponsible, as they are often relied upon by users who plan their trips of old topographic maps. The huts should be left to 'rot in dignity'

This theme in submissions has relatively little merit for dilapidated huts which are not deemed to be part of a strategic network.

*Huts - minimal maintenance*

"...The placement of a large number of huts/bivvies on a minimal maintenance regime, and bridges on a maintain (but not replace), will over time severely limit the range of recreational experiences available. I have enjoyed trips into the catchments behind Hokitika, but the proposals seem to be limiting facilities to a few major valley systems. Low use facilities should be maintained as not everyone wished to use the valley based systems..." (quoted from submission)

The strong theme of submissions for the central West Coast was the retention of some more challenging opportunities. Routes to open tops and remote networks were valued.

Individual submissions on proposals were assessed on their individual merit of adding value to the context of the West Coast mix of experiences.

*Bridges - keep bridges for safety and access*

Submitters were generally in favour of retention of bridges on a maintain (but not replace) regime, for reasons of access and safety in the backcountry. Some bridges were considered part of a greater system which linked valleys or provided access through to the open tops.

### *Weekend trips*

A general theme in submissions was for the maintenance of more 'classic' West Coast backcountry trips of a weekend duration. These were valued by recreationists both based on the West Coast and in East Coast centres such as Christchurch. The subsequent suggestions were analysed on their individual merit of providing value to the mix of West Coast opportunities.

### *Open tops access*

A theme in many submissions was the value placed on access to the open tops of the ranges west of the Main Divide. It was cited that with the 'beech gap' it was of benefit to have route access onto the open tops. Without these maintained facilities, access and traverses would be come impossible, effectively eroding the opportunity as 'old' forest service hunting routes became harder to follow.

Routes that were submitted upon and suggested to be re-instated were analysed on their individual merit of providing value to the mix of West Coast opportunities.

### *Mountain biking*

Submissions of support were received in relation to the Conservancy's pro-active approach in the creation of a mountain biking strategy. This strategy has resulted in a range of mountain bike compatible tracks for a range of expertise.

### *High quality developments close to tourism routes*

Another theme in submissions was that front country visitor facility development should be funded by the various tourism organisations and operators. It was sought that the Department should direct its resources more into the retention of backcountry opportunities.

Other submissions reinforced the value that should be placed on an effective network of opportunities for front country visitors, especially in Buller, Punakaiki and South Westland. Submitters advocated for simple and effective, yet good quality facilities to be provided offering a quality experience and emersion into scenic parts of the West Coast.

Submissions were received questioning the national process of provision for a range of opportunities across all visitor groups.

### *Campervan opportunities*

Make further allowances and provisions for freedom campervan and motor homes along the main high ways.

The West Coast conservancy has in its facility base a range of serviced camp sites along the main highways. Ability to freedom camp outside of maintained facilities is a Conservation Management Strategy issue.

# Section Two

## 7. Process

The following outlines the process the West Coast conservancy followed to reach interim decisions relating to the appropriate network of visitor facilities.

- Proposal document created—September 2003.
- Public meetings convened—October–December 2003.
- Focus Groups held.
- Submissions received and stored into a database.
- Creation of the Area chapters of the Vision document—used as context in analysis.
- Draft Vision / context compiled for the West Coast conservancy.
- Submissions grouped in Area reports.
- Area and Technical support working group undertook submission analysis.
- Opportunity mix for West Coast developed through submission received from consultation.
- Conservator sign—off interim decision.
- National overview of interim opportunity network.
- Advice received from Conservation Board and National convenor on opportunity network.
- Final Area and Conservancy decisions on network reached through consultation.
- Decisions reached through consultation reflected in the future visitor opportunities vision.

The process the West Coast conservancy used enabled the context of the West Coast visitor facility and opportunity spectrum to be produced through consultation with recreational users, communities of interest, stakeholders and interested parties.

This has produced, through consultation, a vision which reflects the Department's intentions for visitor opportunity provision. It offers an effective mix for recreational enjoyment and use of the public conservation lands of the West Coast Conservancy.

The outcomes of these decisions align with the long term predicted funding, the West Coast Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy and draft General Policy. The outcomes of public consultation were also informed by the Statement of Intent for the Department of Conservation<sup>2</sup> and the Department's Visitor Strategy<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Conservation, Wellington, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Conservation, Wellington, 1996.

# 8. Making decisions

The following decisions on proposals are based on the understanding provided by the general points above.

The tables list the decisions which were reversals of original proposals, or decisions to add/re-instate assets, facilities and opportunities to the mix. The table includes any additional change to the original proposals.

## 8.1 BULLER KAWATIRI AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
153805	Argyle Dam and Water race track	Work with community to construct	Work with community. Walking track has historic heritage appreciation potential.	Supportive of working with communities and valued heritage walk.	Maintain	Idea developed through the Conservation with Communities and the Area community relations team working with the Charleston / Waitekere Community Group. The vision is to provide visitors with interaction with, and appreciation of, the historic gold workings of Charleston plus provide an attraction to the Charleston region for tourists. Walking track is now partly constructed with aid of community but will need to be completed. Maintain as a walking track for historic heritage appreciation.
13270	Bullock Creek Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Bullock Creek hut is in a dilapidated state, does not meet the New Zealand building code and is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Propose to remove the Bullock Creek Hut.	Hut has historic value and should be recorded before removal	Remove	This old hut is in a dilapidated condition. It is not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Tramping opportunities will be provided in this area by the Inland Pack track, as well as the marked route onto Mt Bovis. The hut doesn't serve as an accommodation provider in a maintained circuit or system. Before removal, undertake an historic assessment to ascertain whether it will be managed/retained for its historic heritage. If the hut will not be actively managed as a historic asset, record the hut (through photos) inline with ICOMOS principles prior to removal.
100932	Cape Foulwind Walkway - Tauranga Bay car park	Upgrade to higher standard	Upgrade the layout of this facility.	Needs to be undertaken with economic restraint	Upgrade to higher standard	Car park needs to be re-designed and constructed to meet demand. Needs to be undertaken with economic restraint in mind through scoping and design. Construct suitable facility to manage visitor numbers.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
9000	Johnson Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is in a remote experience area and is therefore inconsistent with the recreational zone.	Associated with early mineral exploration. Provides a more remote experience. Only hut on the river linking the Wangapeka and the Mairi Areas	Minimal Maintenance	The Johnson River Catchment is in a remote experience zone. This area's values are in its remoteness and recreationists/trampers will traverse this backcountry on nature's terms. The hut will remain on a minimal maintenance regime, which will entail a bi-annual inspection regime were minor maintenance can be undertaken. While a marked route to the hut will not be re-instated, a sign may be placed approx 400 mtrs from hut site on the ridge to aid/direct visitors until the hut reaches its retirement date.
48698	Kakapo Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	On the way into the Roaring Lion. Historic from deer cullers days. Links to the Wangapeka, makes for an interesting trip. Base for access onto the Scarlett and Herbert Range.	Minimal Maintenance	Kakapo Hut track will not be re-instated. Tramping opportunities will be provided for by the Wangapeka track. Other backcountry tramping opportunities include the Karamea Gorge route into Greys hut, a great location for backcountry fishing. Experienced backcountry users will make untracked linkages into this catchment and onto the Roaring Lion and the Garibaldi. The Kakapo Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, when small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2020.
13271	Pororari Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Pororari Hut is in a dilapidated state. Hut does not meet the New Zealand building code. Hut is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Currently the hut is closed for visitors. Propose to remove the Pororari Hut.	Replace by a small hut/shelter or let it deteriorate naturally.	Remove	This hut is also in a dilapidated condition. As with the Bullock Creek Hut proposal, the Pororari Hut it is not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Tramping opportunities will be provided in this area by the Inland Pack track, as well as the marked route onto Mt Bovis. The hut doesn't serve as an accommodation provider in a maintained circuit or system. Before removal, undertake an historic assessment to ascertain whether it will be managed/retained for its historic heritage. If the hut will not be actively managed as a historic asset, record the hut inline with ICOMOS principles prior to removal.
95017	Pororari River Walk	Relocate carpark	This carpark is not on departmental managed land. Proposed to relocate carpark onto the other side of the road as the Lower Pororari River track car park.	Make sure it handles the visitor management issues.	Relocate carpark / seek community maintenance of River Walk	Need to relocate the car park onto DOC tenure, and construct so as to manage visitor numbers safely. Then it will become the carpark for the Pororari River - Punakaiki River day walk system. Remainder of the River walk to be vested into community maintenance.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
191355	Punakaiki River to State Highway walk	Proposed	Along the side of the Punakaiki River. Will complete a day visitor walking loop.	Would make DV loop all weather. No need to cross river	Reinstate and Maintain	The Pororari/Punakaiki River loop track is currently formed and maintained but has a major river crossing which often causes problems for trampers. The option to establish a new section of track to link the present track to the highway is preferred to constructing a bridge to cross the Punakaiki river. It will make an outstanding day walk within easy reach of the Punakaiki township.
191221	Scotts Beach camping area	Cease Maintenance	Maintain Scotts Beach as an amenity area, not as a formal campsite.	Needs to be maintained as it currently is for a more remote type of camping experience than the Kohaihai camp.	Maintain	Continue to maintain Scotts Beach as it currently is. Offers a different opportunity than the nearby Kohaihai campground. Used by visitors to get a more 'remote' experience. Also used by local school groups.
13379	Sinclair's Shelter (dilapidated)	Remove	Sinclair's Shelter is considered to be in a dilapidated state. Hut does not meet the New Zealand building code. Hut is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Propose to remove the Sinclair's Shelter.	Important safety aspect for when river rises. Important for ground based hunting.	Remove	Shelter not part of a maintained track/route network. Recreation opportunity for backcountry hunting on nature terms in the North Branch of the Mokihinui River. The shelter is dilapidated and not required. It will be removed (and not replaced). Need to meet further with hunting fraternity and ascertain their needs in order to undertake recreational hunting in the area. Discuss and foster with hunting users the possibility of creating a community owned hunters hut on the site
95151	South Terrace zig zag track	Cease Maintenance	Discuss with community future maintenance for this site.	Adds to the mix of short walks and day walks around Kohaihai	Cease Maintenance	The issue over the tracks land tenure has been raised with the local community group and the Buller District Council. Track is not on DOC land tenure. Maintenance to be undertaken by owners of land tenure. Department to cease maintenance.
<b>From the Area Vision</b>						
95164	Inland Pack Track - Bullock Creek to Pororari River	N/A	N/A	N/A	Maintain at walking track standard	Bridge over the Pororari is already proposed. Maintain the track section as a day walking track in order to link the Bullock Creek road-end, Cave Creek track, and the Pororari-Punakaiki Loop all into one Day Visitor spectrum. Maintain within its actively managed historic features status.

## 8.2 GREYMOUTH MAWHERANUI AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
100958	Big River Carpark	Move to another location	Car park will be relocated along the edge of Prohibition road.	Walking time can be eliminated if it is not relocated, will provide a safer place for vehicles	Move to another location	Road access to Big River has degenerated and it is now more cost effective in the medium to long term to provide a good car park at the junction of Prohibition road which 2WD's can access, and make the old road part of the tramping track to Big River.
13846	Cone Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Maintain as a network hut in the linkage between the Haupiri and the Lake Morgan Tops/ Crooked Valley. Is in AI condition and should be kept that way.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Access and egress to the Lake Morgan Tops from the Haupiri River Valley is provided by the new Bryan O'Lynn route. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. There could be the distant future possibility of a move to another location for Cone Creek hut. Cone Creek Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2020.
13859	Elizabeth hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Hut is part of an overnight accommodation provider in the Haupiri - Trent Saddle - Trent circuit. An important network hut.	Maintain	Maintain the Elizabeth Hut for accommodation in the upper Haupiri Valley, along with the Mid Trent Hut. This will make appropriate spacing in the traverse of the Haupiri and Trent valleys via the Trent Saddle. The walk into Elizabeth Hut can be done as a weekend trip but most likely would be a longer trip linking with the Trent Valley. Maintain as a standard hut.
45856	Jacko Flat Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	An important hut in the Crooked River valley system. Maintain a track to it and maintain this hut as accommodation for the trip through the Crooked and onto Morgan Tops.	Maintain	Maintain Jacko Flat Hut as a basic hut. Provides basic accommodation for fishers, hunters and advanced trampers seeking more challenging tramping onto the Morgan Tops and into the Haupiri valley. Part of the greater 3 days / 2 nights Crooked River Lake Morgan Tops system.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
12962	Jim's Flat Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Visitor accommodation provision in conflict with policy. Propose to place Jim's Flat Hut on a minimal maintenance regime.	An important hunting base in lowland forest.	Remove	Can drive to this hut with 4WD. Prone to vandalism. Not required for facilitating recreation in this area. Hut is dilapidated at present therefore removal is the most practicable option. Hut is not required for hunting in area. Area is close to road access.
48425	Lake Morgan Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Lake Morgan tops are a focal point for many tramping clubs and parties. Maintain the hut for accommodation in traverse from the Crooked River to the Haupiri via Lake Morgan.	Maintain	Maintain Lake Morgan Hut as a basic hut. Provides basic accommodation on the open tops at a scenic location and facilitates advanced 2 - 3 day tramping journeys between the Haupiri and Crooked valleys. The Bryan O'Lynn marked route will be maintained to enable access onto these tops and the Lake Morgan Hut.
13630	Machine Hut (dilapidated)	Minimal Maintenance	Machine Hut is considered to be near to a dilapidated state and is not an historic 'actively' managed' hut. Proposed to place Machine Hut on a minimal maintenance regime.	Classic old backcountry hut, maintain for family type use. Ease of access, and proximity to river.	Non-visitor DOC-managed	Hut is considered to have historic attributes. To be maintained as a historic ruin, not suitable or safe for visitor accommodation.
95020	Maruia River Nature walk	Cease Maintenance	Only small portion of walk located on departmental administered land.	Support the cease maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Walk not available to the public due to accessibility issues from the Thermal resort, no interest shown by resort in maintaining. Continue original strategic management proposal of Cease Maintenance. Not part of an effective network of walking tracks. Other walking track opportunities in the area.
14869	Meikles Hut	Non Visitor - DOC management	To be retained as a historic ruin. Not for visitor accommodation.	Classic old back country hut.	Non-visitor DOC-managed	Hut has historic attributes. To be maintained as a historic ruin, not suitable or safe for visitor accommodation.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
13841	Mid Trent Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Accommodation within the Haupiri - Trent Saddle - Trent circuit. More important than Top Trent / lagoon hut.	Maintain	Maintain the Mid Trent Hut. In conjunction with Elizabeth Hut it provides adequate spacing in the traverse of the Haupiri and Trent valleys via the Trent Saddle. To be maintained as a standard hut, it reflects longer stay periods and comforts being sought by user groups. Consider Increasing hut size from 4 bunks to 6 bunks to allow for increased use.
191328	Moonlight Route - Moonlight to Croesus Track	Proposed	From Meikles Hut along the Paparua Ranges meeting with the Croesus track.	A good idea to link - oppose because experienced users can already undertake this route (esp with GPS)	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain as a marked route along the open tops from the current finish of the track in the Moonlight along the tops to the Croesus easy tramping track. Allows for a round trip, which includes good tops travel, to be undertaken in the southern Paparuas. May provide some challenging mountain biking, linking existing systems.
13782	Pell Stream Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Regular tramping club use. Beautiful valley with many unique features. An extension of the Lake Daniels track. Classic old backcountry hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Linkage to Lake Daniels or St James not practical and would not match these user groups. Challenging opportunities for this type of use better catered for in nearby Christabel/ Robinson area. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Unmarked access to Pell Stream Hut. It will remain an opportunity for experienced backcountry users with route finding experience. Hut will stay where it is currently situated, and the hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025. Unmarked access into this catchment can also be gained from the St James.
13547	Roomies Hut (dilapidated)	Non Visitor - DOC management	To be retained as a historic ruin. Not for visitor accommodation.	Remove the hut instead.	Non-visitor DOC-managed	Roomies is close to Big River Hut (serviced hut) therefore not required as visitor accommodation. Maintain as a historic ruin, not fit for visitor accommodation. Managed for historic values.
48426	Top Crooked Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	An important accommodation asset in the Crooked - Morgan Tops - Haupiri circuit. A classic circuit, the focus of many tramping clubs and parties.	Minimal Maintenance	Re-statement of maintained marked route system through the Crooked Valley to access the Lake Morgan tops will provide challenging 2-3 day tramping opportunities as well as access for fishers and hunters. Hut requirements can be met by maintaining Jacko Flat and Lake Morgan huts as Basic huts. Top Crooked Hut is surplus to requirements therefore will be retained on a minimal maintenance regime and not replaced at the end of its life. Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
13858	Top Trent / Lagoon Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Lovely Kiwi population. Also important in the Haupiri – Trent Saddle – Trent circuit. Also is important when linked to the Mt Mason – Waikiti circuit.	Minimal Maintenance	Elizabeth Hut in the Haupiri and the Mid Trent hut will provide standard hut accommodation in the traverse of the Haupiri and Trent Valleys via Trent Saddle. Distances between the Mid Trent and the Elizabeth Hut are reasonable and appropriate for the user group. Continue original strategic management and appraisal of Minimal Maintenance for the Top Trent/Lagoon hut due to its limited usefulness. Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025.
13797	Top Waitahu Bivvy	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is in a proposed remote experience area and is therefore inconsistent with the recreational zone.	A small refuge in a difficult to explore/hunt area. Classic old backcountry hut	Minimal Maintenance	Bivvy located in a Remote Experience Zone. This area's values are in its remoteness and recreationists/trampers will generally traverse this backcountry on nature's terms. While it facilitates some good localized hunting opportunities it's not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Not in Area's vision to re-instate this route system, due to the remote / nature's terms values. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance.
13851	Tutaekuri Junction Hut	Replace – bigger size	Replace current asset with new 6 bunk capacity hut. Strategically placed hut asset for recreational hunting opportunities. Then maintain the new hut.	Do not replace the hut, when so many others are proposed as Min / Maintenance. Replace the hut to add to the Hope crossing.	Replace – bigger size	Tutaekuri Junction hut is strategically placed in the Hope – Tutaekuri – Waiheke – Amuri circuit between Canterbury and the West Coast. This opportunity will be enabled through the maintenance of marked routes through the heads of the valleys, both in the approaches of Hope and Amuri passes. The remainder is mostly open river bed travel. The current Tutaekuri Junction hut site is under some threat from river breakaway channels and is also in a dilapidated state. New hut will be attempted to be sited slightly further up the Tutaekuri Valley on the true left to avoid existing river erosion threats. This may also reduce walking time for trampers travelling to / from the Hope Valley in Canterbury. Hut will be replaced by a 6 bunk Standard hut. A historic assessment is required to be undertaken on the existing hut in line with the ICOMOS charter, before removal.
13848	Waikiti Hut	Owned by DOC – Maintain by Community	Discuss with community future maintenance options for this hut. Hut is associated with deer hunting in the region.	Important destination for hunting. Also accommodation in the Waikiti – Mt Mason – Haupiri trip.	seeking community maintenance	A popular place for wild animal hunting. Support an "owned and maintained by Community" (NZDA) agreement. Subject to agreement, the Department's share in opportunity provision is the ownership/re-instatement (with a community day-to-day maintenance agreement) of the marked route into the hut site. The Department would also continue to maintain the swing bridge in-situ until major repair is needed upon which its value will be discussed with the NZDA. The default position will be that the hut defaults to a minimal maintenance regime and the access route will not be re-instated.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
13790	Wheel Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Strategic and highly valued hut on remote tramping circuit. Access to low level Waitahu Saddle. Few huts in the Victoria Ranges.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Has no strategic position in terms of accessing popular areas of the Victoria mountains. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. An opportunity for experienced backcountry users with route finding experience. The hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025. Has distant future potential to be relocated to a more strategic location for multi-user access to the Victoria mountains.
<b>From the Area Vision</b>						
None	Waiheke River Valley Route	N/A	N/A	N/A	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain the opportunity of a traverse across Amuri Pass. Establish a small section of marked route in the upper reaches of the Waiheke river valley only. To link with Canterbury's route to Doubtful Hut. For experienced parties. Can then link to the Tutaekuri Valley open travel -Hope pass or the Trent - Haupiri Valleys.
None	Groesus Easy Tramping track	N/A	N/A	N/A	Maintain as a easy tramping track	Small Western part of the Groesus track would require an upgrade to meet this standard. The remainder currently meets this standard, in conjunction with the Serviced hut. Will provide a two day opportunity for less experienced users with easy access, great views and historic appreciation. Will fill the range and mix of West Coast BCC tracks along with the St James, Lake Daniels and the Copeland Valley.
<b>New Additions – Submissions for new additions which are supported</b>						
95552	Tracks - Duffy Creek Route	N/A	N/A	An easily accessible spot for backcountry camping and hunting. Family based. This marked route should be maintained as a tramping track.	Maintain as a tramping track	Duffy Creek currently maintained as a marked route. Provides relatively straight forward access to a weekend camping/hunting destination with growing popularity. Agree to maintain as a tramping track.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
None	Bryan O'Lynn Access Route	N/A	N/A	Needed for access / egress onto the lake Morgan tops. Part of a wider Haupiri – Lake Morgan – Crooked circuit. Lake Morgan Tops are a focal point for many clubs and parties.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a marked route from the Haupiri Valley floor up a spur to Bryan O'Lynn and finishing at the open tops of Mt O'Shannessy. This will provide access and egress to the Lake Morgan Tops. Part of the greater 3 day / 2 night Crooked River and Lake Morgan system. This has been a popular traditional route to gain access to Lake Morgan, the hut and tops travel. The section along the open tops of Lake Morgan will remain unmarked and part of a challenging traverse for experienced and self-reliant recreationists, with route finding abilities.
None	Camp Creek Access Route	N/A	N/A	Maintain a route onto the open tops/flanks of Mt Alexander, a mountain that many West Coast and Christchurch/ Canterbury trampers climb.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a marked route from boundary of the Conservation estate, up Camp Creek to the open tops. This will allow for climbing access to Mt Alexander, for experienced users. Popular weekend climb as it's the prominent peak in district.
None	Crooked River Route - to Lake Morgan Tops	N/A	N/A	A classic and iconic place, when linked with the Crooked – Morgan tops – Haupiri circuit. A focal point for many tramping clubs and parties.	Reinstate and Maintain	Jacko Flat and Lake Morgan Huts will be retained as Basic huts and a marked route will be established through the Crooked River Valley, exiting in the head of the catchment via one of the tributaries. Route will lead to the open tops of Lake Morgan, where suitably experienced users will traverse, on nature's terms, via Lake Morgan and use the re-instated Bryan O'Lynn route for egress. A marked route up the Crooked Valley will provide more challenging 3 day / 2 nights tramping opportunities in this backcountry area.
None	Haupiri River valley Route	N/A	N/A	Part of a spectrum of opportunities. Links with the Trent valley to make a circuit.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a circuit traverse of the Haupiri and Trent river valleys via the Trent Saddle. Maintain Elizabeth Hut (as a standard hut) in the Haupiri. Maintain a marked route only in the upper parts of the Valley to aid the traverse towards and over Trent Saddle into the Trent River valley. A marked route will facilitate access and use of this area by experienced users.
None	Trent River valley Route	N/A	N/A	Tramping clubs would use this route via the Trent – Saddle– Haupiri. Part of a spectrum of backcountry tramps.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a circuit traverse of the Haupiri and Trent river valleys via the Trent Saddle. Maintain Mid Trent Hut, which will link with Elizabeth Hut. Maintain a marked route in the upper parts of the Valley. From just below the Top Trent/ Lagoon Hut to the Trent Saddle. It will provide a valuable backcountry route for experienced users keen to explore this country with well spaced huts.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
None	Tutaekuri River valley Route	N/A	N/A	Connect the Hope Valley with the West Coast through the Hope Pass.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain the opportunity of a traverse across Hope Pass. Maintain a small section of marked route in the upper reaches of the Tutaekuri river valley only to link with Canterbury's route to Top Hope Hut. For experienced parties. Can then link to the Waiheke open travel -Amuri pass or the Trent - Haupiri Valleys. Provides for relatively easy Southern Alps crossing, and also a round trip linking four valleys together.
None	Waikiti Hut Access Route	N/A	N/A	Should be maintained for continued access, good hunting and for safety purposes. Support a community initiative in the Waikiti.	Owned by DOC - maintain by community	Foster a 'manage and maintain by the community' agreement. If this is reached for the Hut, maintenance agreement will be needed for marked route. The Department's share in opportunity provision is the ownership/re-instatement (with a community day-to-day maintenance agreement) of the marked route into the hut site. The Department would also continue to maintain the swing bridge in-situ until major repair is needed upon which its value will be discussed with the NZDA.
None	Waiheke Valley route	N/A	N/A	Maintain short section of route in the head of the Waiheke Valley.	Reinstate and Maintain	A short section of marked route in the head of the Waiheke Valley would complement the proposed future replacement of Slatey Hut. Together they would facilitate use of the alpine crossing over Amuri Pass and into the Doubtful Valley (and associated huts) on the Canterbury side. This short section of marked route through the bush is all that is required on this otherwise open riverbed route.

### 8.3 HOKITIKA AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
13191	Adventure Ridge Bivvy	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Maintain this biv in relation to accommodation in the Toaroha Range traverse - through the Pinnacle - Crinkle Tops Spur Route. Biv is part of a representative sample of 2 person cullers bivs.	Maintain	Bivvy offers high level shelter in the Styx-Lathrop Saddle-Crawford-Upper Kokatahi-Zit Saddle-Toaroha circuit. The main accommodation for recreationists in this circuit will be provided by relocating the Top Kokatahi Hut near to the present Kokatahi bivvy site on the Kokatahi side of Zit saddle. Also Adventure Ridge bivvy is a popular weekend destination, and used as accommodation for the traverse of the Toaroha Ranges.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
48670	Bluff Hut	Move to another location	It is proposed to relocate this hut to a site in the upper Hokitika River catchment to provide accommodation between Poet Hut and Frew Hut.	Bluff hut is in a idyllic location. Only requires a detour of one hour to where it is now. Some also support the re-siting.	Consider options / Maintain	Further decision required regarding the routing of the Toaroa - Frew - Whitcombe circuit. Either over Homeward Ridge or through the 'old' swing bridge site. Either way, maintain a hut in this system, between Top Toaroa and Frew Hut. Further discussion will be held with user groups.
46273	Boo Boo Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	With a name like Boo Boo - it deserves to be maintained. Needed as a accommodation asset in the Crinkle Tops Spur route, for late starters. Also essential accommodation in the Lower Kokatahi River Route.	Minimal Maintenance	Hut accommodation is not essential in the Lower Kokatahi River valley. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Users will utilize the reinstated route up the Lower Kokatahi River valley to Boo Boo then up to Crinkle Tops and the Pinnacle Biv site. The Pinnacle Biv, along with Adventure Ridge Biv will be maintained. There will be no maintained route through the Lower Kokatahi to link with the Crawford Junction.
45711	Browning Range Bivvy	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Excellent safe refuge in emergency. Classic backcountry huts. Part of the Lathrop area.	Maintain	Bivvy offers high level shelter in the Styx-Lathrop Saddle-Crawford-Upper Kokatahi-Zit Saddle-Toaroa circuit. The main accommodation for recreationists in this circuit however will be provided by relocating Top Crawford Hut to near the present Crawford bivvy site on the Crawford side of Lathrop saddle. Browning Range Ridge bivvy and consequently Lathrop Saddle is a popular weekend destination.
45860	Campbell Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Highly valued hut in a remote circuit. Consider removal perhaps to be a better option if it is going to 'tie-up funding'.	Remove	Campbell Range Bivvy receives very low use. It is in a remote location and is not part of any route that will be maintained. It does not form part of any recognised circuit or network.
48182	Cedar Flat Hut (older one)	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is located next to the 'new' Cedar Flat hut.	Classic backcountry hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Submitters provided support for the minimal maintenance regime for Cedar Flat Hut (older one). A bigger size hut is proposed on Cedar Flat in the Toaroa Valley. Currently not maintained as a "Historic Asset", however a heritage assessment of the 'old' Cedar Flat Hut is to be provided. This will help determine whether it should be retained when a new hut is built.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
46271	County Junction 6 Wire	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain County Junction 6 wire swing bridge until retirement date.	Essential in the entire link to the upper Waitaha Valley and County Stream area. Needed for continued access. Important facility for foot access.	Maintain	Original proposal was to maintain but not replace. County Junction bridge is the only 'critical' bridge in the Waitaha Valley and enables a full traverse of the Waitaha Valley floor to Top Waitaha Hut & beyond. (Kiwi and Moonbeam swing bridges deemed not critical). Without this bridge this would become impossible. Offers a 'wilderness' opportunity in the spectrum of Hokitika backcountry opportunities.
46262	County Stream Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	The rugged Waitaha terrain makes it vital that these huts be maintained. Part of the accommodation needs.	Minimal Maintenance	Area vision is for minimal facility provision in the upper Waitaha Valley. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. County Stream Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2020.
45849	Crawford Junction 6 Wire	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain the Crawford Junction 6 wire swingbridge until retirement date.	Needed to give access to Whitehorn ridge and the Lower Kokatahi, part of a spectrum.	Maintain (but not replace)	No route or track will be maintained in the Lower Kokatahi Valley between Crawford Junction and Boo Boo Hut site. Continue original strategic management proposal of "maintain but not replace". For fit and experienced users it is possible to use the Crawford Junction Cableway over the Kokatahi River to gain access to the true left, then make the un-tracked link to the Boo Boo hut site, and Crinkle Tops route to Kokatahi Road-end.
12988	Cropp 6 Wire	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain the Cropp 6 wire swingbridge until retirement date	Needed as a bridge within the Mikonui - Mt Bowen - Whitcombe trip. Need bridge for egress back to main Whitcombe Valley track.	Maintain	Route will be re-established and will be maintained down from Noisy Basin to the Cropp swing bridge in the Whitcombe. Cropp swing bridge is essential to enable this opportunity. Maintain the Cropp swing bridge as this will enable a traverse between the Whitcombe Valley and the Mikonui, via Mt Bowen.
48674	Crystal Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	In pleasant location, iconic small refuge, classic backcountry hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Continue original strategic intent of minimal maintenance for this bivvy. Further discussion is required in relation to its historic evaluation. Not on any maintained route. Toaroha Saddle Biv, Frew Biv, Gerhardt Spur Biv, Mikonui Spur Biv, Adventure Ridge Biv and Browning Range Biv will all be maintained and will all be on maintained routes or tracks.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
13940	Dillon's Hut (old)	Remove	A new hut in this location has now become a part of the Waimakariri River/Taipo Valley/Kelly Range trip. Propose to remove the old Dillions Hut.	A historic heritage link to the Kumara and Taipo region. Pioneering history. It is not in a bad shape. Used a lot by family groups. Easy access. More character than new hut.	Seeking Community Maintenance	Structure earlier assessed as having no historic integrity due to various "renovations" over the years. Options for this hut are remove or maintain by the community. Further discussion required to gauge 'maintain by the community' support. Contact submitters to assess community support for a full maintenance agreement. Independent assessor to review historic content. Hut is not essential accommodation in the Lower Taipo, the Kelly Range or the Three Passes systems.
191365	Dorothy Fall Rd to East Lake kaniere viewpoint waking track (Slip Bay Walk)	Proposed	An access track from Dorothy Fall Rd into Slip Bay for scenic view and picnicking opportunities	none	Un-proposed	The whole Lake Kaniere Walkway will be maintained as a Walking track.
45710	Dunns Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Needed for accommodation in Dunns Watershed and crossing over Newton Saddle. Important for the link with the Tara Tama Ranges. Classic b/country hut for tramping.	Minimal Maintenance	Newton Creek hut is the strategic hut in the marked route system that links the Taipo Valley with the Arahura via Newton Saddle. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Parties undertaking un-tracked traverses of the Tara Tama Ranges using the Dunn's Creek route as egress will be self reliant or use Mid Taipo Hut on the Valley floor. Dunn's Creek Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2040.
49069	Explorer Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Important hut in the low land track between Hokitika/Whitcombe - Mikonui - Kakpotahi valleys. An easy trip to undertake. Classic old backcountry hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Not on a route or track proposed for maintenance. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Explorer Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025-2030.
49065	Frisco Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Part of a backcountry spectrum. A challenge to go there. Links to the Hokitika Catchment and the Diedrich range. Facilitates wild animal control.	Minimal Maintenance	Not on a route or track proposed for maintenance. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. This is a challenging location to visit, and there may be the future possibility to foster a maintain by community agreement with a user group called 'permolat'. Frisco Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2035.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
48580	Gerhardt Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Part of the Diedrich range traverse. Good overnight destination. Classic 2 PAX bivvy.	Maintain	Classic example of deer culler biv. Gerhardt Biv access route will be re-instated. Part of a mix of Bivs to be maintained in the Toaroha Valley. Also provides access to, and a starting point in the untracked traverse of the Diedrich Range.
914303	Grassy Flats Hut	Replace - bigger size	Replace with a ten bunk hut in order to deal with occupancy.	Need to provide over capacity data. Existing hut is in good condition and can be easily added onto. Is it necessary to replace this classic hut with a new one.	Replace - bigger size / Upgrade capacity	Grassy Flats hut will be replaced. It is a 'hub' hut in a variety of systems, can get usage of the Styx - Arabura circuit, Three Passes or from the Lathrop-Zit circuit, or weekend use from the road end.
48787	Griffin Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Is a spectacular area. Popular with tramping clubs/parties from Christchurch. Part of the circuit gives access to Tara Tama's. Essential in the Griffin - Rocky Creek circuit.	Maintain	A route will be re-instated and maintained to the Griffin Creek Hut. Popular weekend destination especially for trampers from Canterbury seeking a "West Coast" experience. Allows further exploring in the catchment and linkages for experienced users onto the Tara Tama Range. Griffin Creek Hut will be maintained.
45707	Healey Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Useful to access the Galena ridge, another access/egress to link with both Mikonui and the Tuke. Classic backcountry hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Access to Mt Beaumont / Whitcombe / Waitaha will be provided from the Mikonui via Mikonui Spur route, and Dickie Spur/Upper Tuke Route or by the Gropp Knob/Steadman Brow route from the Whitcombe. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Healey Creek Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2035.
13856	Hokitika River Cableway ((Confluence))	Remove	Cableway is surplus to requirements within the Whitcombe valley tramping track	Should be kept until unsafe. Needs to be maintain in order to ensure access.	Remove	Not part of any maintained route system. No tracks or routes through the Hokitika Canyon are proposed in the Area vision. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal. Access to the true right of the valley in this locality is provided by Collier Gorge swingbridge which will be maintained.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
14343	Hokitika Road end Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Hut is derelict. Hut is not weather proof. Road-end huts are not retained. Propose to remove this hut.	Destruction of old hut which provides shelter. Other support removal.	Not owned by DOC	This old and derelict Ministry of Works hut is owned by Land Information New Zealand.
33081	Kereru Creek Hut	Remove	Investigate the proprietor of this hut, and any legal agreements with the Department.	Destruction of backcountry huts. Others support removal.	Remove	Old hut in partially collapsed condition. Hut is on low terrace immediately above Toaroha Road-end and is not required. Remove hut.
48783	Kiwi Flat Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Important accommodation in both the greater Waitaha Valley trip and the Scamper Torrent - Headlong spur route.	Maintain	Hut is required for overnight accommodation within the Lower Waitaha - Scamper Torrent - Smythe Range - Headlong Spur circuit. Receives usage from Allen Road end as hunting accommodation.
45719	Kokatahi Biv	Minimal Maintenance	Propose to place Kokatahi Bivvy on a minimal maintenance regime. When the bivvy reaches its retirement date, transfer Top Kokatahi Hut to a site close to the current bivvy location.	Strong support for rationalizing of huts in system. Strong support to undertake sooner rather than later.	Minimal Maintenance	Kokatahi Biv will eventually be replaced by the Top Kokatahi Hut, on a site near the current Bivvy. Actively pursue this rationalization. Continue original strategic management proposal in the meantime.
45859	Kokatahi Swing bridge	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain the Kokatahi swingbridge until retirement date.	Kokatahi Swing bridge is essential in both the Crinkle Tops Spur route - Toaroha Range and the Lower Kokatahi Valley route. Needs to be maintained to ensure access.	Maintain	Maintain the Kokatahi (Whakarira Gorge) swing bridge in conjunction with marked route through the lower Kokatahi and onto the Toaroha Range (Crinkle Tops) - Mt Reeves system. Investigate future viability of route down true left of the Lower Kokatahi River by passing Kokatahi Singbridge. (This is not a likely option in the medium term).

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
95203	Lawyers Delight Beach walk	Maintain to tramping track standard	Maintain as a tramping track, in line with the day length tramping opportunity of the Lake Kaniere Walkway.	none	Maintain to walking track standard	Maintain the whole Lake Kaniere Walkway to walking track standard.
15272	Lawyers Delight Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Lawyers Delight is not essential for overnight accommodation on the Lake Kaniere Walk way. Propose to place hut on a minimal maintenance regime.	Hut is essential for people who wish to use it. Poor condition - agree.	Remove	Overnight or picnic accommodation not required on the Lake Kaniere Walkway. Remove this hut.
45843	Lower Olderog Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Highly valued hut in remote network. Classic backcountry hut. Other agree. Proposed to be used as an eventual replacement of the Mikonui Spur Biv.	Remove	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Top Olderog Biv (while on a minimal maintenance regime) is the preferred accommodation in relation to open tops travel or as a destination. Continue with strategic intention of removal
191250	Mahinapua Rail Bridge track	Proposed	Facility development to enable views of the Historic Mahinapua Railbridge.	none	Proposal withdrawn	Maintain the Railbridge for its historic importance. Inherent difficulties with traffic management at this site. Visitor interaction with historic heritage is provided for at Ross.
14310	Mid Styx Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Classic backcountry hut. Valued hut on remote circuit. Others support.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Foster a possible 'maintain by community' agreement, otherwise revert to original strategic management direction of Minimal Maintenance.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
13923	Mid-Taipo Hut	Replace - bigger size	Part of the Waimakariri River/Taipo River/Kelly Range trip. Replace current facility with a standard 10 bunk hut.	Need to provide over capacity data. Existing hut is in good condition and can be easily added onto. Is it necessary to replace this classic hut with a new one.	Maintain	Original proposal was to replace - bigger size. Amend to maintain at current capacity. Hut is linked to the Newton Saddle crossing.
45720	Mikonui Spur Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Nice hut in nice location. Good for the Mikonui - Mt Bowen - Noisy - Cropp circuit.	Maintain	Mikonui Spur route is re-instated and maintained to the open tops / bivvy location. Maintain the Biv. Can be used as the first night in the traverse of Mt Bowen.
48792	Moonbeam 6 Wire	Remove	Remove Moonbeam 6 wire	Should be kept until unsafe. Needs to be maintained in order to ensure access. Access in bad conditions to shelter and huts.	Remove	The bridge is not an essential link in access to the top reaches of the Waitaha Valley or part of any route or track that will be maintained. Continue original strategic intent of removal.
46268	Moonbeam Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Real problems with the whole Waitaha being abandoned. Good for links (low alt) into Smyth - Wanganui and the Hitchen range. Hut is essential accommodation within the Waitaha Valley traverse.	Maintain / replace smaller size	Original proposal was for minimal maintenance, along with Top Waitaha and County hut. However the Moonbeam Hut and the County Junction Swingbridge are deemed 'critical' assets to allow an untracked traverse of this wild valley. Without the bridge in particular and accommodation at Moonbeam this would become very difficult. Maintain accommodation at Moonbeam hut site. Upon hut's retirement the hut is likely to be replaced with something suitable but of smaller size.
48796	Morgan Gorge 6 Wire	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain the Morgan Gorge 6 wire until retirement date.	Is essential in the usage of the Waitaha valley - school outdoor pursuits use it. Leads to important recreational hunting areas.	Maintain (but not replace)	This bridge is not an essential link in access to the top reaches of the Waitaha Valley. Untracked access to Hitchen Range is available from County Junction swingbridge or Mt Allen. The Area vision is for minimal facility provision in the upper Waitaha Valley. Continue original strategic management proposal of Maintain (but not replace).

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
14348	Mount Brown Hut	Remove	Temporary asset built by the New Zealand Forest Service for vegetation surveys. Not ideally suited or located within a recreational system. Propose to remove the Mount Brown Hut.	Good round trip. Accommodation essential. Used or school outings	Remove	Hut accommodation not essential in this location. Not on a track/route system that will be maintained. Hut is clad with bituminous paper that poses a fire risk. It has limited capacity (sleeps 3 with no open space for camping outside). Carroll hut on the Kelly range is considered a better option for education groups as an open tussock hut with straight forward access – it sleeps 10 and has open space for camping outside. Continue original management proposal of removal.
48566	Mullins Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was “retain” for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Excellent staging post to climb Mt O’ Conner. Very few above bush line four bunkers being maintained. Good weekend trip. Great location. Egress of Diedrich Range.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Mullins Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2035.
12985	Mungo Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Mungo River route does not lead to the hut. Route provides access from the Toaroha circuit into the Mungo River bed only. Recreationists who venture of this route will be required to provide their own overnight accommodation in the long term. Propose to place Mungo hut on a minimal maintenance regime.	Maintain this hut instead of Poet (move Bluff Hut). Adds in another East/West traverse. Beautiful - remote location. Nice side trip – has hot pools. Enables a variety of routes.	Minimal Maintenance	Consider along with Bluff / Poet (and the decision for the Toaroha – Frew circuit alignment). Accommodation not needed for user groups in the Mungo River. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Access route will be maintained into the Mungo River catchment past canyon, from the Toaroha Valley track. User will be self reliant. Mungo Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
12998	Mungo River Swing bridge	Maintain – but not replace	Maintain Mungo River swing bridge until retirement date.	Need to keep this swing bridge for all weather access. Important recreational area.	Maintain (but not replace)	Trampers have to cross the Mungo further down without a bridge. Bridge not required in service standards for this advanced user. Continue original strategic management proposal of Maintain but not replace
45841	Newton Range Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was “retain” for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Highly valued hut in remote network. Iconic sublime little biv.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Newton Range Biv will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2020-25.
45705	Noisy Biv (dilandated)	Remove	Noisy Biv is in a dilapidated state; Bivvy does not meet the New Zealand building code and is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Propose to remove Noisy Biv.	Do not destroy this biv. Part of classic Mt Bowen crossing, if you leave kimono on clear day you can reach the Noisy Basin in a day.	Remove	Bivvy is beyond repair and not required as accommodation within Noisy Basin. Egress can be gained down to the Cropp swing bridge, via the reinstated route leading down to the Whitcombe Valley floor. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal.
45845	Old Crawford Junction Hut	Remove	Crawford Junction Hut is in close proximity. Propose to remove the Old Crawford Junction Hut.	Support removal.	Remove	One submitter only on proposal, supported. Hut not required next to Crawford Junction. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal (photograph – record – inline with ICOMOS charter).
27118	Old Hut	Remove	Find out the proprietor of this hut and research any past legal agreements with the Department.	Support removal.	Remove	Two submitters only on proposal, both supported. Hut not required in this location. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
14828	Old Julia Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is located five minutes from the new Julia hut. Propose to place the Old Julia Hut on a minimal maintenance regime.	Nice to see classic backcountry hut. However, others stated to consider removal of the old hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Located next to the new Julia Hut. Check historic values with specialists. In the meantime continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance unless historically significant.
13197	Olderog 6 Wire	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain Olderog 6 wire swingbridge until retirement date.	Bridges essential for safe all weather access. For both hunting and tramping. Access to important recreational area.	Remove	No maintained tracks or routes. Mawhera corporation would like to have the bridge removed. Remove this bridge in the Waitaiki Historic Reserve.
49067	Pinnacle Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Essential accommodation in the Toaroha Range traverse. Great location - good views.	Maintain	Accommodation in the reinstated and maintained Crinkle Tops route, and leads onto accessing the open tops of the Toaroha range for an untracked traverse (via Mt Reeves). Maintain this biv and the Adventure Ridge biv.
45852	Polluck Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Important hut in the low land track between Hokitika/Whitcombe - Mikonui - Kakapotohi valley. An easy trip to undertake. Classic old b/country hut.	Minimal Maintenance	Not on a maintained route or track. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Polluck Creek Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025-30.
45753	Price River 6 Wire	Remove	Remove Price river 6 wire	Provides access to Steadman Brow and Mt Beaumont. Provides all weather access.	Remove	This asset is the Price River bridge not the Price's Flat Swingbridge. The Price's Flat swingbridge will be maintained. The Price River 6-wire is not required within maintained track or route systems. River can be forded near this point in normal to low flow and conditions. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
48781	Rocky Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Part of the Rocky - Griffin circuit Also facilitates wild animal control.	Minimal Maintenance	No tracks or routes within Area vision. Continue original management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Possibility of a wider 'maintain by community' agreement from the re-instated and maintained Griffin Creek catchment route and hut. Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2030.
48789	Scamper Torrent Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Essential accommodation in the Waitaha - Scamper Torrent - Headlong Spur route. Classic backcountry hut.	Maintain	Maintain Scamper Torrent Hut as an accommodation asset in the Scamper Torrent - Smythe - Headlong - Waitaha circuit. May require a toilet with any higher use.
48569	Scotties Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Classic backcountry biv , highly valued.	Remove	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. The re-instatement of the Griffin Creek Hut route and the Dunns Creek route, will support the un-tracked traverse of the Tara Tama range. Users will be self-reliant; Biv situated away from the normal line of travel. Remove the biv.
46264	Serpentine Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Is in a spectacular canyon, part of the Hokitika River trip/ challenge. Facilitates wild animal control.	Remove	Accommodation not required. Not on maintained track / route. Not in area vision to re-instate a route through the Hokitika Canyon. Remove hut.
13931	Seven Mile Creek Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Accommodation provided by Dillions Hut. Propose to remove the Seven Mile Creek Hut.	Historic heritage connection. Good place to shelter while the creek is up. Piece of cullers history.	Remove	On freehold land. See Paul Schramm's 'maintain by community' proposal. Has been offered to the Fitzgerald's. Seek response from Fitzgeralds first - let them know of Schramm's interest. If hut is not wanted by Fitzgeralds, seek their consent to remove.
48662	Sir Robert Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Spectacular basin, real challenge to visit. Classic backcountry hut. Remote circuit.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Sir Robert Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2025.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
45851	Squid Hut (dilapidated)	Maintain by Community	There is a local expression of interest in a maintain by community agreement. If no official agreement is reached the hut will be removed.	Highly valued hut, classic backcountry hut. Or simply remove.	Seeking Community Maintenance	If no 'maintain by community' agreement is reached, revert to the stated intent of removal. Hut not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed.
13198	Toaroha Saddle Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Biv gives great flexibility, good views. Popular circuit for trampers - shelter. Iconic small refuge. Classic backcountry biv.	Maintain	Maintain the biv in line with the retention of iconic bivs in the Toaroha. Offers shelter/accommodation at a high point on a 'classic' tramping track.
45858	Top Crawford Biv	Minimal Maintenance	Propose to place Top Crawford Bivvy on a minimal maintenance regime. When the bivvy reaches its retirement date transfer Top Crawford hut to this site in order to provide accommodation in this route system.	Strong support for rationalizing of huts in system. Strong support to undertake sooner rather than later.	Minimal Maintenance	Actively pursue the original strategic intent of replacement of Top Crawford biv with Top Crawford Hut. In meantime, minimal maintenance.
45702	Top Kokatahi Footbridge	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain Top Kokatahi swing bridge until retirement date	This bridge is needed as long as the hut is in its current position. It is however also needed to gain access to the proposed hut/biv site.	Maintain (but not replace)	Maintain until the Top Kokatahi Hut is shifted at or near to the current Top Kokatahi Biv site. Then bridge to access accommodation will not be needed. River can be forded in vicinity at normal to low flow if required.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
45708	Top Olderog Biv	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Ideal for Weekend trip using the Mt Kerr track - links to the Tara Tama's. Needed for accommodation. Some submitters state this biv (in good condition) should be placed at the Mikonui Spur site.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance.
48797	Top Waitaha Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Maintain in the long term for recreational hunting. Essential in the upper valley as accommodation.	Minimal Maintenance	Area vision is for minimal facility provision in the upper Waitaha Valley. Top Waitaha Hut will be visited on a Minimal Maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2020.
45844	Twins Swing bridge	Maintain - but not replace	Maintain Twins swing bridge until retirement date	Vital in continued use of the Lower Kokathai track. Gives quick access to a variety of trips. Otherwise access can be had up the true left of river.	Maintain (but not replace)	No re-instatement of a marked route from Boo Boo Hut site through to the Crawford Junction. Continue original management proposal of maintain but not replace. Access along true left bank of Kokatahi River on nature's terms to Crawford Junction cableway, which will be maintained, is possible for fit and experienced users with route finding abilities.
45701	Whitehorn Biv (dilapidated)	Maintain by Community	There is a local expression of interest in a 'maintain by community' agreement. If no agreement is reached the hut will be removed.	Highly valued hut, classic backcountry hut. Some agree with proposal.	Remove	No maintain by community agreement has been reached (Individual concerned acknowledges Bivvy is "past it"). Revert to the stated intent of removal. Hut not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
46266	Whites hut	Remove	Whites Hut is in a derelict state. It does not meet the New Zealand building code and is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Propose to remove White Hut.	Do not destroy.	Remove	Hut is 50% collapsed. Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal.
14836	Wilkinson Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is less than 3 hrs from Neave Hut. Neave Hut provides the accommodation for this part of the Whitcombe Valley tramp. Propose to place Wilkinson Hut on a minimal maintenance regime.	Highly valued hut, classic backcountry hut. Very fond of location. Great outlook, good hunting.	Minimal Maintenance	Slip above Hut. Not strategic accommodation in the Whitcombe journey. Continue original management proposal of minimal maintenance. Currently Wilkinson Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2020. Will keep inspecting threat from slip.
13200	Yeates Ridge Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Nice hut in perfect location. Should be maintained along with the Toaroha Range trip. Classic backcountry hut for tramping.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed in the Toaroha Valley. Continue original strategic management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Yeates Ridge Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2030.
<b>New Additions – Submissions for new additions which are supported</b>						
None	Crinkle Top Spur Route	N/A	N/A	A essential route in order to get through to the open tops to undertake the Toaroh range traverse. Classic weekend trip.	Reinstate and Maintain	The Toaroha range can already be accessed via the Adventure Ridge route. Provision of a marked route from the Lower Kokatahi up to the open tops at the Pinnacle Biv site, will allow the untracked linkage to be made back to the Adventure Ridge biv along the Toaroha range tops, via Mt Reeves, by experienced users. Maintain as a marked route.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
None	Dunns Creek Route	N/A	N/A	Allows the linking of two valleys via the Newton Saddle.	Reinstate and Maintain	Would connect with the Newton Creek route at the top of the Newton Creek Saddle (Newton Creek route will also be maintained to the saddle - past the hut). Allows for a traverse between valleys. Maintain as a marked route from the Taipo Valley to the Newton Saddle. Newton Hut will be maintained and provide accommodation within these two route systems.
None	Gerhardt Spur Route	N/A	N/A	Lovely weekend tramp destination, provides access to the open tops of a Diedrich traverse.	Reinstate and Maintain	Re-instate and maintain access to the maintained Gerhardt Spur biv. Seek possible future community maintenance agreement. Also provides access to the Diedrich Range, for an un-tracked traverse to the Toaroha Saddle as well as a high altitude approach to the Mullins Hut. Maintain as a marked route.
None	Griffin Creek Route	N/A	N/A	Focal point of many tramping clubs / parties. Allows a weekend trip in West Coast forest. Also aids access onto the Serpentine Mine and the Tara Tama - Mt Kerr.	Reinstate and Maintain	Re-instate and maintain a marked route into the Griffin Creek catchment to Griffin Hut. Will provide for a weekend destination trip. Experienced users will make un-tracked linkages to the Rocky Creek catchment, as well as access the Tara Tama range for a self-reliant, un-tracked traverse.
None	Headlong Spur Route	N/A	N/A	Enables a round circuit back of the Scamper Torrent / Smyth Range into the Lower Waitaha. Classic weekend trip.	Reinstate and Maintain	Marked route will give egress off the Smyth Range (in the Waitaha-Scamper Torrent-Smyth Range-Headlong Spur circuit). Re-instate and maintain as a marked route from open tops bush edge to Kiwi Flat.
None	Lower Waitaha / Kiwi Flat Route	N/A	N/A	Enables access into Kiwi Flat and onto both the a round circuit via Scamper Torrent onto the Smyth Range and back via Headlong Spur into the Lower Waitaha. Classic weekend trip.	Reinstate and Maintain	Re-instate and maintain a marked route from the Allen Road end to the Kiwi Flat. Used in conjunction with the Scamper Torrent - Smyth Range - Headlong Spur circuit. Will also get hunting use from Allen Road-end.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
None	Mikonui Spur Access Route	N/A	N/A	Essential part of the Mikonui - Mt Bowen - Noisy trip. Will provide access through forest to the open tops in order to traverse Mt Bowen. Classic weekend trip.	Reinstate and Maintain	Re-instate a marked route along the Mikonui Spur to the Mikonui Spur Biv site (will link with the Cropp Bridge-Noisy Basin route to provide untracked thoroughfare over Mt Bowen). For experienced users. Maintain a marked route from the Mikonui Flat along the Spur only to the Mikonui Biv site. Access beyond here via Mt Bowen to the SE reaches of the Noisy basin is untracked.
None	Noisy Basin Access Route	N/A	N/A	Essential egress from the traverse of Mt Bowen, via the Cropp and Whitcombe valley floor.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a marked route from the Whitcombe valley over the Cropp bridge to the SE open tops of the Noisy Basin. Provides access/egress from the untracked traverse of Mt Bowen, linking again with a marked route from the Mikonui Biv down to the Mikonui Flats. For experienced users.
None	Scamper Torrent Access Route	N/A	N/A	Enables a round circuit via Scamper Torrent onto the Smyth Range and back via Headlong Spur into the Lower Waitaha. Classic weekend trip.	Reinstate and Maintain	Re-instate and maintain a marked route from the Waitaha Valley up and over into the Scamper Torrent and Hut. Will then provide to the open tops of the Smyth Range, where an untracked linkage can be made with the Headlong Spur egress.
None	Steadman Brow Access Route	N/A	N/A	Essential for egress and opportunities in and around Mt Beaumont and into the Tuke.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a marked route from the Prices Flat bridge along to the open tops of Cropp Knob only. This then gives opportunity for a untracked traverse of Mt Beaumont to the marked route in the upper Tuke Valley which leads to Dickie Spur Hut and on to the Mikonui Flats. All link towards Ivory Lake at the Head of the Waitaha. For experienced alpine users.

## 8.4 FRANZ JOSEF WAIAU AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
15015	Castle Rocks Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Difficult access. Hut receives little use but incurs standard management costs. Minimal Maintenance regime proposed for Castle Rocks Hut.	Strong support for the maintenance of the Hut. Idyllic location, good views, access is not difficult. Used for weekend destination and winter ski touring of the Fritz Range. Part of a spectrum.	Maintain	Maintain the Castle Rocks Hut, as an important overnight accommodation asset for climbers and Ski tourists in winter. Maintain as a standard hut.
27619	Centennial Hut	Maintain by Community	Develop a management agreement with the New Zealand Alpine Club.	Support a NZAC maintenance agreement. Hut is part of the Alpine spectrum.	Owned and Maintained by Community	Continue with the management agreement with the New Zealand Alpine club, which was signed in 2003.
45757	Nolans Hut	Maintain by Community	Work with local community to develop a management agreement.	Supportive of community maintenance.	Seeking Community Maintenance	Pursue and foster a 'maintain by community' agreement for Nolans hut. If this is unsuccessful it will default to minimal maintenance. Hut is in good condition. Seeking a full management agreement.
33568	Reynolds Creek Hut	Maintain by Community	Discuss future with concessionaire.	All supportive of community maintenance.	Remove	Remove hut from Remote Experience zone.
14150	Twister Bivvy (dilapidated)	Remove	Bivvy is in a dilapidated state. Not required as part of overnight accommodation along the Whataroa tramping track.	Is it in such a bad state? Should be replaced with a shelter.	Remove	No constructed shelter required in this area. Continue with original strategic intent of removal of dilapidated biv.
45759	Whymper Hut	Move to another location	Avalanche hazard zone.	Leave Whymper hut in its current location.	Maintain	The hut was relocated early in 2004 after advice was received from avalanche and geological experts. It has been moved about 100 meters and is now out of the two avalanche paths. Seasonal closures are now not required. Maintain the hut as part of the Whataroa system. Maintain as a standard hut.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
15383	3 Mile Bridge	Replace - smaller size	Maintain 3 Mile pack track as a walking track. Replace this bridge with a structure of smaller size.	Is this the most economic option? Is it necessary?	Replace - smaller size	Ultimately replace the bridge with a purpose design structure. Or a swing bridge when time requires. Continue with strategic intend of replacement - with smaller size.
48761	Amethyst Ravine Road Bridge	Replace - smaller size	Replace with a smaller 6 wire pedestrian bridge to allow foot access to the Wanganui River tramping track.	Need road bridge for rock extraction form quarry. Other submitter support proposal to replace with walking bridge.	Owned and Maintained by Community	This bridge is owned by the West Coast Regional Council. Doc visitors are able to use it for foot access only at present. If this present bridge is lost or removed replace it with a pedestrian suspension bridge.
33713	Five Mile Creek Bridge	Remove	Remove the old, dilapidated Five Mile Creek bridge.	Historically significant. Maintain as a historic relic.	Non-visitor DOC-managed	Bridge has historic features. Maintain the bridge as an historic ruin. Not a structure for visitor use. Historic section to install permanent barriers at each end to prevent access.
191381	Lambert Ridge Route	Proposed	Improved access. Route from the Lambert Swing bridge to Lambert tops.	Overall very strong support for this route, providing access into the open tops of the Adams. One submitter in strong opposition, facilities in buffer zone to Wilderness areas, erode wilderness qualities.	Reinstate and Maintain	Bridges and marked routes are enabled in Wilderness Buffer areas, as long as overall effect is minor. Route would lead part way along the spur to bush line only. Effects on wilderness values are deemed minor. Maintain a marked route to bush line. Effectively aids access and recreational opportunities from Hunters Hut in the mid Perth River Valley.
191379	Peter's Pool to Franz Josef Glacier car park	Proposed	A short walk to Peter's Pool from the Franz Josef Glacier car park. Will eliminate the need for the current small Peter's Pool car park.	One supportive, other believes funding for these type of assets should come from the tourism sector.	Reinstate and Maintain	A walk to the Peter's Pool from the main car park will link with the Douglas walk and integrate the opportunities from the main car park. Explore the possibilities for quality views of the Glacier terminal face from this position and examine the opportunity for disabled access. Will allow a disabled access opportunity from the car park in the Glacier Valley. The Douglas Walk, walking track, will commence from the Peters Pool.
95032	Willberg walk	Maintain by Community	Work with community to develop a management agreement.	Supportive of community maintenance.	Maintain	Maintain this site to Short Walk standard. Reduce overall structure numbers through use of culverts, gravel and rock. Realign where necessary, drain and resurface. Support and foster community aid in maintenance, through working bees etc.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
<b>From the Area Vision</b>						
None	Tunnel Creek Tramping track	N/A	N/A	N/A	Reinstate and Maintain	Allows access into the School hut site and the Lagoon
<b>New Additions – Submissions for new additions which are supported</b>						
None	Blue Look Out Route	N/A	N/A	This route in conjunction with the Lambert Ridge route will allow a circuit to be made encompassing Newton Peak, Garden of Allah, Lambert Glacier Mt Stoddart Lord River and Blue Look Out. Also good for hunting.	Reinstate and Maintain	A marked route to the open tops of Blue Look Out from Hunters Hut in the Wanganui River Valley. This will allow a combination of trips as well as hunting access. Maintain a marked route to the open tops of Blue Look Out.
None	Mt Adams Route	N/A	N/A	Only West Coast large peak which can be climbed without the need for long and arduous access. Part of a high alpine / climbing spectrum.	Reinstate and Maintain	A good climb from close access. Mt Adams is a popular climb of a high peak which is within close proximity of the highway (as well as the maintained route up Camp Creek to Mt Alexander). Maintain a marked route from edge of conservation tenure to the open tops. No hut required at bush edge, users will be experienced and self-reliant when reaching the open tops.

## 8.5 SOUTH WESTLAND WEHEKA AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
95662	Copland Valley - Douglas Rock Hut to Copland Pass	Maintain as a marked route	Maintain this alpine access way from Douglas Rock Hut to the Copland Pass as a marked route.	Need to ensure that the track to the bush line is cut as a tramping track. Maintain as a tramping track.	Maintain as a marked route	Maintain (and record) the track as a marked route above the Douglas Rock Hut. This will match the marked route classification on the Canterbury management side of the Copland Pass. Will ensure the marked route will be maintained to the standards. Care will be provided that the section between Douglas rock and the open tops, past the bush edge (near the start of the Zig-Zag) will be kept well open, for any eventual day excursions to the open tops form Douglas Rock.
95050	Dune Lake walk - Ship Creek	Upgrade to short walk for disabled	Identified as suitable for upgrading to improve opportunities for wheelchair access.	Money should come from the tourism organization. Munro Beach walk is a much better option.	Upgrade to short walk for disabled	Part of the spectrum of wheelchair accessible opportunities on the West Coast. Scenic location. Meet the standards of access for disabled.
95216	Galway Beach track	Upgrade to walking track standard	Requires upgrade to suit the predominant visitor group, Day Visitors.	Money should come from the tourism organization.	Upgrade to walking track standard	Part of the spectrum of walking track opportunities on the West Coast. Scenic location. Meet the standards of walking track. Maintain within its actively managed historic features status.
101000	Knights Point view point car park	Upgrade size / capacity	Upgrade car park and toilet	Money should come from the tourism organization. Car park already large enough just needs landscaping and upgrade to the standard.	Upgrade to standard	A scenic lookout point of the Tasman ocean from the State Highway in South Westland. Toilet has been upgraded. Car park still needs to be landscaped.
101150	Lake Matheson car park	Upgrade size / capacity	Upgrade capacity of the Lake Matheson car park. Propose to remove the track shelter at the commencement of the walk.	Money should come from the tourism organization. Set clear limitations on the future size and involvement in upgrades.	Upgrade size / capacity	Upgrade the car park in order to meet the capacity and demand of this icon South Westland visitor site. Ensure clear limitations/TOR, in relation to size and involvement are set prior to the commencement.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
15665	Lame Duck Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Lame Duck Hut is in a dilapidated state. Does not meet the New Zealand building code and is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Accommodation is provided by Cassel Flat Hut and Christmas Flat Hut. Propose to remove Lame Duck Hut.	Don't destroy it. Its dangerous and irresponsible to remove it. Others agree with proposal. One submitter suggested to relocate another hut to its location, due to the locations value to hunters.	Seeking Community maintenance	Lame Duck Hut is not required as part of the long term accommodation within the Karangarua Valley. Cassel Flat and Christmas Flat will offer overnight accommodation. The department's default position is that Christmas Flat offers the best base for hunting in the upper reaches of the catchment. There is the possibility to foster a 'maintain by community' agreement (possibly with another hut relocated to the site - McCormacks Hut), otherwise continue with strategic intent of removal. The agreement options will be explored and preferably be made with a wider representative deer hunting club/association (i.e. NZDA support, etc). It will have clear limitations and conditions. Christmas Flat Hut will continue to provide a future base for hunting of deer down valley and Thar and Chamois in the head waters.
15770	Landsborough Valley Rangers Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Hut currently closed for visitor use. Hut is in a dilapidated state. Does not meet the New Zealand building code and is not deemed to be safe and sanitary. Propose to remove remains of the Landsborough Valley Rangers Hut.	Is an important watershed for tramping parties, replace with 6-10 bunker. Other agree with removal.	Remove	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original management proposal of removal. Removal subject to historic assessment.
15444	McCormacks Hut	Remove	The hut is only 1.5 hrs from the road-end. It is not required for overnight accommodation.	Hut should stay where it is. Due to extreme weather. One sub is willing to relocate it to Lame Duck site. Others support the removal.	Remove	Not required for overnight accommodation within the Copland or Karangarua system. Continue original strategic management proposal of removal. Note: it could possibly be relocated for the remainder of its life and maintained through a full management agreement with a hunting club at the Lame Duck Hut site.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
16081	Middle Head Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Accommodation provided by Horseshoe Flat hut on the Moeraki Valley tramping track. Minimal Maintenance regime proposed for Middle Head Hut.	Middle Head Hut is seen as more important than Horseshoe in relation to it being a staging post to cross over into the Clarke River.	Minimal Maintenance	Horseshoe Flat receives the large proportion of visitors and has use as an overnight weekend destination for hunting, fishing as well as tramping. Middle Head and Horseshoe hut are close together. A Rock Biv will provide long term shelter on the adventurous crossing into Zeilian Creek and the Clarke River valley.
191409	Minnehaha walking track - Fox Township to Glacier Valley	Proposed	Will allow foot access into the Glacier Valley. Will link with the River walk (historic bridge site).	Money should come from the tourism organization.	Reinstate and Maintain	Walking track will provide foot traffic link between township and the valley via the historical bridge site and the River walk leading to the Chalet Lookout track. Will negate the need for visitors to walk down the sides of the access road. Will make the Fox Glacier Valley a day length discovery experience by walking.
191435	Monro Beach walking track	Proposed	A short section of walking track which will allow the Monro Beach track to start from the car park.	Money should come from the tourism organization. A toilet is also needed.	Reinstate and Maintain	A short section of walking track from the car park will integrate this important wildlife appreciation opportunity.
15833	Pioneer Hut	Maintain by Community	Develop a management agreement with the New Zealand Alpine Club.	Pioneer Hut	Owned and Maintained by Community	Continue to operate management agreement with the New Zealand Alpine Club where DOC maintains the hut on their behalf. Part of the alpine spectrum.
15740	Quail Flat Hut (dilapidated)	Remove	Hut asset currently closed for visitor use. Dilapidated hut in remote location. Propose to remove Quail Flat Hut.	A relic of the old meat hunting days, leave as is. Others support proposal.	Remove	Undertake an historic analysis. Hut is not part of any route system that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original management proposal of removal depending upon the completion of its historic significance.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
15732	Roaring Billy Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Very few shelters left in these valleys, extreme weather, maintain.	Minimal Maintenance	Not part of any route that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Experienced backcountry users will make untracked linkages into this catchment. Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of post 2035-2040.
101005	Roaring Billy walk car park	Upgrade size / capacity	Upgrade the capacity of this car park of this short walk for disabled visitors to the Roaring Billy Falls.	Money should come from the tourism organization. Set limits on involvement and development. Consider extending the track.	Upgrade capacity	Upgrade the car park in order to meet the capacity and demand of this South Westland disabled access visitor site. Maintain the track to the falls for disabled visitors. Ensure concept planning is undertaken, and limits/TOR is set on its size/capacity.
101141	Ship Creek car park	Upgrade size / capacity	Upgrade the toilet asset and the car park capacity.	Money should come from the tourism organization. Set limits on involvement and development. Consider upgrading and re-siting toilet.	Upgrade capacity	Toilet requires upgrading (best site will be scoped) and car park capacity needs upgraded in order to meet the capacity and demand of this road side site. Ensure concept planning is undertaken, and limits/TOR are set on size/capacity.
15736	Spoon Hut	Minimal Maintenance	1999 review was "retain" for the useful life of the structure. Minimal Maintenance has the same meaning.	Very few shelters left in these valleys, extreme weather, maintain.	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is not part of any route system that is going to be maintained or managed. Continue original management proposal of Minimal Maintenance. Hut will be visited on a minimal maintenance regime every two years, and small tasks of maintenance may be undertaken. It has an expected retirement date of 2015.
15755	Thomas River Hut	Maintain as Basic Hut	Basic hut is what is required to sustain hunting opportunity. Maintain a basic hut in this location.	Support Basic hut.	Maintain as Basic Hut	Important hunting destination, a basic hut standard offers the service the users require. Maintain as a basic hut.
15661	Tunnel Creek Hut	Minimal Maintenance	Hut is in a remote experience area and is therefore inconsistent with the recreational zone.	Important hut (and track) in order to gain access to the Clarke River and Marks Flat (Hooker/Landsborough Wilderness Area).	Minimal Maintenance	Hut not required for accommodation in the Paringa Valley, with the re-instatement of the marked route through the Paringa River Valley from the confluence with the Otoko. The Rock Biv will provide long term shelter on the adventurous crossing of Clarkes Pass en-route to Marks Flat.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	PROPOSAL NUMBER	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY	DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
<b>New Additions – Submissions for new additions which are supported</b>						
None	Lake Ellery Walk	N/A	N/A	Disappointed it was disbanded. Visitors to the area frequently ask about it. Would add to opportunities between Haast and Jackson's.	Reinstate and Maintain	A scenic location. Reinstate the day walking track from the road to the shore edge of the lake. Will add to the range of visitor opportunities between Haast and Jackson's.
None	Moeraki River Track	N/A	N/A	Maintain the track to Middle head hut while the hut is insitu.	Maintain	Maintain as a tramping track between Horseshoe and Middle Head Hut. Upon Middle Head Hut's retirement date, maintain as a marked route from Horseshoe Hut to the Rock Bivvy at the head of the Moeraki River valley. Will provide for access into the Clarke River valley (via Zeilian Creek). Progress past Rock Biv, will be for experienced users, and will be on nature's terms.
None	Paringa River Route	N/A	N/A	A key facility is required to provide access up the Paringa River, in order to speedily access the Clarke Head water, Marks Flat and the Hooker/Landsborough Wilderness Area.	Reinstate and Maintain	Maintain a marked route along the Paringa river from the confluence with the Otoko River to the Rock Biv at the head of the Paringa River valley. Will provide for access into the Clarke River valley en-route to Mark's Flat. Progress past Rock Biv, will be for experienced users, and will be on nature's terms.

## 9. Summary of West Coast Conservancy decisions

The West Coast Conservancy decisions have ensured that a network exists which reflects the values of each place. From day visitor opportunities in and around the Paparoa National Park, to traditional tramping track systems in the Arahura, Lewis and Central West Coast region. Classic valley-based tramps and open tops traverses feature in the Hokitika Area. While hunting, climbing and remote networks, in conjunction with front country tourist corridors are a feature of Te Wahipounamu / South Westland.

The range of recreational opportunity on the West Coast, reached through public consultation with recreational users, communities of interest, stakeholders and interested parties, reflect the recreational values and strategic visions of the West Coast conservancy.

While 'classic' West Coast tramping trips have always been represented, more remote access network to places of high recreational value have now been incorporated.

At the more experienced end of the spectrum, opportunities actively reflect the mix available. Marked route access along the Paringa and Moeraki River valleys will ensure that access to wilderness recreation ensues.

A marked route to Blue Look Out will enable high alpine opportunities west of the Main Divide. Access to the open tops of both Mt Adams and Mt Alexander allow for easily accessible West Coast peaks to be climbed.

Through the central West Coast beech gap, marked routes allow access to tramping/climbing routes and systems such as Mt Bowen and Mt Beaumont. Open tops weekend destinations are provided for by the Toaroa Range access route and the Scamper Torrent system, both of which are in the Hokitika Area. Destination experiences, such as the Griffin Creek catchment and the Gerhardt Spur/Diedrich Range add to the range of opportunities and possibilities to make untracked linkages to other systems.

Traditional valley-based tramping and hunting, as well as multi-pass trips are possible within the Ahaura area and through small lengths of marked route provision in the Haupiri, Trent, Tutaekuri and Waiheke valleys. This allows a variety of trips to be undertaken between the Canterbury and the West Coast across passes such as Amuri, Hope and Trent Saddle. A more challenging undertaking is the trip through the Crooked River Valley linking with the Lake Morgan tops.

Hunting access for deer, chamois and thar has been improved by the route into Waikiti and the community maintenance of the Waikiti Hut as well as the Blue Look Out route in the Wanganui River valley.

Lowland tramping tracks have been enhanced with the addition of the Tunnel Creek track in Saltwater Forest, an area with no other tramping tracks. The popular Croesus track will be managed for less experienced visitors to undertake opportunities in the backcountry.

High visitor sites such as Punakaiki and the Glacier valleys have had day visitor access improved. This includes the management of a walking track along the section

of the Inland Pack track – Bullock Creek to the Pororari River. The Roberts Point track – township to the Douglas bridge will be managed as a walking track in order to offer access to the valley. The creation of a walking track link into the Fox Glacier Valley allows day visitors to explore the Glacier Valley by foot. These decisions allow a system of walking tracks to be undertaken from these high profile locations for visitors. The decisions have paved the way for sections of these systems to be identified as not suitable for management as tramping tracks, but rather walking tracks for their prime user group. The re-instatement of the Lake Ellery walk will enhance opportunities for day visitors between Haast and Jacksons Bay.

High visitor growth and urban development is a factor to be considered in the Department's future planning for provision of visitor facilities and opportunities at Lake Brunner. The department shares this responsibility for visitor opportunity provision with others. Strategies for growth need to recognise limitations and preserve the essential qualities of the area. There is some need to plan further for visitor growth both within the basin generally and at the Moana and Iveagh Bay areas.

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

### 10.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

The West Coast is unique for its dramatic scenery, temperate climate and diverse geography and ecology.

As one of the largest of New Zealand's 13 conservancies, the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancy contains approximately one quarter of the country's protected land. Visitors to the West Coast are attracted by the largely unmodified natural landscapes that characterise this wild and beautiful part of New Zealand.

The West Coast offers numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation. Alpine climbing, ski touring, tramping, hunting, historic sites, fishing, rafting, kayaking and boating opportunities abound. The conservancy attracts more than 400,000 international and 500,000 domestic visitors, who place a high value on the region's recreational opportunities.

These opportunities range from easily accessible front country sites focusing on natural features such as lakes, sea, lowland forests through to more challenging recreational endeavours in the remote reaches of the backcountry, which are characterized through self-reliance.

This is a land of rough coastline and rugged mountains, and includes the full mountains-to-the-sea habitat range; sub-alpine, montane, lowland and coastal forest. Icon attractions are the glaciers at Franz Josef and Fox, Punakaiki's pancake rocks and the mirror-like Lake Matheson. The transport corridor, from north to

south, gives people access through this scenic wonderland and is characterised by camping, short stop destinations and day visit attractions. It takes the more intrepid trumper to access the many huts and tracks, found in the more remote parts of the western Southern Alps and Paparoas. There are also alpine climbing and skiing opportunities, supported by dedicated huts usually accessed by helicopter. The Adams, Paparoa, Olivine, Hooker/Landsborough and Kahurangi areas provide wilderness opportunities. These backcountry opportunities are enjoyed by New Zealanders and international tourists alike, seeking a remote wilderness experience.

## 10.2 BULLER *KAWATIRI* AREA

The Buller Kawatiri Area covers the northern part of the South Island's West Coast, extending from the Barrytown coastal plain in the south to Kahurangi Point in the north. Its inland boundary runs along the crest of the Paparoa Range, crossing the upper Buller gorge at Newton Creek and continuing north via the crest of the Radiant, Herbert, Grange and Gouland Ranges to the western edges of the MacKay and Gouland Downs. It includes virtually the entire Mokihinui River Catchment, all of Paparoa National Park and part of Kahurangi National Park.

Visitors are attracted to the numerous recreational opportunities which the Area offers. Key features include exploration of caves and limestone formations of the Oparara Basin near Karamea; the Karamea, Buller and Mokihinui rivers with white-water rafting, tramping and backcountry hunting and fishing opportunities, the Heaphy Great Walk and Wangapeka tracks are popular with trampers. Buller Kawatiri Area has two icon sites, the Cape Foulwind seal breeding colony and the spectacular pancake rock formations at Dolomite Point, Punakaiki. The colourful colonial history of gold and coal mining and timber milling has left a range of historic sites and walking opportunities based on former tracks, water races and railways.

The Punakaiki area provides opportunities in a range of environments: from the wheelchair-accessible track at the Pancake Rocks formation to coastal walks and overnight inland walks that explore the forest and numerous karst features of Paparoa National Park. Opportunities for a day length walk at Punakaiki will be enhanced by the creation of a full loop walk through the Pororari and Punakaiki river systems. The Croesus track commences from Barry town and is a popular track for less experienced backcountry users.

## 10.3 GREYMOUTH *MAWHERANUI* AREA

The Greymouth Mawheranui Area manages north from the Taramakau River to the 13 mile on the sea coast; the inland side of the Paparoa ranges; up the Buller River to the Maruia River confluence and through to the upper Maruia and Lewis Pass National Reserve. The area encompasses mountainous backcountry west of the Main Divide through to low land lakes and forests and valley floors.

At 200,000 ha the Victoria Conservation Park is a significant recreational area. This is promoted along with its numerous historic sites and related visitor opportunities from the Reefton visitor centre.

Visitors are provided with a wide range of recreational settings throughout the Area. These include wilderness, remote experiences, backcountry with facilities, plus a number of short stop sites close to highways. These settings offer both historic and natural experiences catering for short stop travellers, day visitors and overnight users.

Sites and remains of alluvial gold and coal mining are historic features around which numerous visitor facilities are based in Greymouth and the Lower Grey valley. Historic features associated with quartz gold mining are highlighted in the visitor opportunities in the Reefton part of the Area.

Lake Brunner is a focus for water-based activity, while beyond in the nearby Southern Alps much of the backcountry area provides more challenging remote experience opportunities with various huts and routes linking open valley floors. The Maruia and Grey headwater catchments, however, have a wider range of access opportunities catering more to the Back Country Comfort seekers. Backcountry hunting in the Greymouth Mawheranui Area is a valued opportunity. The Department is working with the West Coast New Zealand Deerstalkers association on hut and access provision into the Waikiti Basin. Routes like Mt French on the Hohonu Range provide day long hunting opportunities for Chamois.

Various routes will be re-instated; these include Camp Creek to aid climbing access onto the flanks of Mt Alexander, the Haupiri and Trent river valleys as well as a 3 day advanced tramping opportunity through the Crooked River valley linking with the spectacular Lake Morgan tops. Easier tramps will include the St James, Croesus and Lake Daniells tracks.

The Greymouth Mawheranui Area will continue to provide an excellent range of visitor facilities to nationally important historic sites, predominantly focusing on the Reefton region and sites around Greymouth, especially the Brunner Mine site. Opportunities for extended backcountry trips west of the Main Divide have been enhanced through the re-instatement of various routes and maintenance of huts. This will provide further traditional hunting, fishing and tramping opportunities for suitably experienced users. The Department will continue to work in conjunction with local communities of interest in order to recognize and foster their long term needs.

#### 10.4 HOKITIKA AREA

Hokitika Area occupies the central part of the West Coast from the Taramakau River in the north to, and including, the Waitaha catchment in the south. Its eastern boundary is the main divide. The Area includes the part of Arthurs Pass National Park that lies west of the main divide.

The Area has a comprehensive network of backcountry visitor sites. Almost all the valleys of the backcountry contain tracks huts and bridges. In the front country there are sites around Lake Kaniere and at Goldsbrough for day length visits. Lake Mahinapua and Ross have recreational opportunities which are used by tourists travelling State Highway 6.

The southern alps between the Taramakau and Waitaha Rivers is regarded by New Zealanders as the backcountry “capital” of New Zealand because it is accessible

and presents a complete spectrum of opportunities. These range from multi-day valley and trans-alpine tramping in challenging terrain to day tramps and weekend length opportunities along open tops to accessible huts. Of particular note are the numerous opportunities for extended north to south traverses utilizing routes and passes to link existing visitor sites and valleys. The Hokitika area is also recognised as a rafting and whitewater kayaking destination of international significance.

There are some 'classic' backcountry tramps in the Hokitika backcountry. These include the Three Passes circuit, the Toaroa Valley/Frew Saddle/Whitcombe valley circuit and the Whitcombe linkage to Canterbury.

A variety of overnight or weekend excursions into spectacular parts of the Hokitika backcountry can be experienced. Examples include, the Kelly Range, Griffin Creek, most valley floor based huts, Browning Range, Pinnacle biv, Adventure Ridge, Gerhardt Spur, the Scamper Torrent circuit and Mikonui Spur biv. Routes and tracks to these huts and bivvies will be re-instated and maintained.

High alpine tramping is fostered through re-instated marked routes, which lead off the Whitcombe Valley floor and provide access to the open tops. These include the Cropp Knob route to Steadman Brow and access into Noisy Basin. Links can then be made with facilities in the Mikonui, Tuke and Wanganui River Valleys via Mt Bowen and Mt Beaumont.

North to south linkages can be made across open tops between valleys, utilising the maintained routes through the Carroll Range, re-instated Newton Saddle route, the link between the Styx and Toaroa Valleys and a variety of trip options between the Whitcombe and the Mikonui and Tuke Basin.

The Waitaha valley will offer recreationists the ability to undertake a wild valley traverse on nature's terms in the Hokitika backcountry. This will be supported through the retention of the key facilities only.

Some huts are maintained in remote backcountry locations. These will not only act as bases for hunting Thar and Chamois but will provide accommodation in a variety of untracked linkages or traverses. They include huts located in Price Basin and Ivory Lake.

Consultation reinforced the value placed by traditional backcountry users on the valley based 'classic' tramps. The provision of marked routes through the scrubline to the open tops, in the central Westland Beech gap, was also deemed as important facility provision to offer a variety of untracked linkages to other valleys. Routes will be re-instated and maintained at the following locations; Griffen Creek, Dunns Creek - Newton Creek, Crinkle Tops spur, Jumble Tops Spur, Cropp Knob, Noisy Basin, Mikonui Spur, Scamper Torrent and Headlong Spur. A variety of swingbridges which are crucial in these linkages will be maintained. Some other duplicate huts will be removed, these include; Scotties Bivvy, Lower Olderog Bivvy, Campbell Bivvy and Serpentine Hut.

Through consultation, an emphasis has been placed on a mixture of backcountry opportunities in the Hokitika Area. These include day length tramping excursions, the retention of the 'classic' valley based tramping circuits, and the re-instatement of many marked routes which experienced users will utilise for access to the alpine environment. This will ensure a mix of backcountry recreation opportunities are provided into the future.

## 10.5 FRANZ JOSEF *WAIIAU* AREA

The Franz Josef Waiiau Area occupies the central part of the West Coast, from the Waitaha River in the north to the Cook Saddle in the South. Its eastern boundary is the Main Divide and the western boundary is the Tasman Sea. The Area includes the northern half of Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

The Area provides a range of opportunities along State Highway 6 including day visits at the coastal settlement of Okarito. The Franz Josef Glacier Valley is noted as an Intense Interest Site owing to its profile as an icon tourist destination.

The two main backcountry areas are the Wanganui and Whataroa Catchments. The Wanganui River Valley provides access to its headwaters, from which high alpine linkages can be made with the Waitaha and Whitcombe Valleys. Access onto Blue Look Out and the Lambert Ridge provide for hunting and give access towards the Mt Adams Wilderness Area and Lambert Glacier.

The Whataroa Catchment is a popular destination with hunters, trampers, climbers, kayakers and rafters. A similar level of visitor assets will remain in the valley systems although dilapidated Twister Biv is marked for removal. Nolan's Hut will be managed through a community agreement and be available for public use. The Perth headwaters and into the Adams Wilderness Area will remain free of tracks and routes. The Bettison and Scone marked routes provide access for hunting and alpine traverses through the Dennistoun and Sealey pass into Canterbury. Access into the upper Whataroa Valley, the Gunn Ridge and Butler River to Ice Lake will be maintained, for hunters and trampers.

Additional isolated day tramping opportunities are available in Saltwater Forest and North Okarito Forest, both of which are contained within the national park.

Foot access into the Franz Josef Glacier valley is via the Roberts Point track linking with the Douglas walk. Within the Glacier valley a range of opportunities is available from the wheelchair accessible Peter's Pool walk through to the demanding Alex Knob track.

Importance of day visitor opportunities in and around Franz Josef and Okarito were reinforced through consultation. Additions of marked routes in backcountry were seen as adding to the available opportunities in the future mix. Re-instatement of routes offering challenging climbs and tramps in the Franz Josef Area remote back country included the Blue Look Out route and the Mt Adams access route via Little Man River.

## 10.6 SOUTH WESTLAND *WEHEKA* AREA

The Department's South Westland Weheka Area manages from the Waikupupa River just north of the Fox Glacier Township down to Awarua Point at the northern end of Big Bay in the South. Stretching from isolated beaches along the coast to some of New Zealand's highest mountain peaks, there is a great variety of natural landscapes within the Area's boundaries that extends from the coast inland to the Southern Alps. Within the Area are parts of the Te Wāhipounamu South West New Zealand World Heritage Area along with part of Mount Aspiring National Park, Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park and Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

The South Westland area is characterised by its remote and rugged landscapes. While it is valued for its remote and wilderness experience opportunities, there is also a good selection of front country opportunities. A variety of day visit and short stop opportunities are available along the scenic journey of the State Highway 6. These include Knights Point Monro Beach, Lake Moeraki and Paringa, Ship Creek and Roaring Billy Falls. For the visitor which spends a day between the Township of Haast and Jacksons Bay there are a variety of opportunities to interact with the wild landscapes of South Westland.

Fox Glacier and Lake Matheson are world renowned visitor sites and receive high visitor numbers. The Area has a fairly even spread of visitor opportunities between front and back country sites. Remote and Wilderness recreation zoning predominate away from the State Highway corridor. The Hooker/Landsborough and Olivine Wilderness Areas form part of the South Westland Area. These zonings are intended to provide users with backcountry opportunities that are not dependent on huts and tracks.

Tracks and routes are provided for in the Karangarua River catchment, the Douglas Valley and the Copland Valley. These areas provide for hunting, tramping, and trans-alpine crossings and are all serviced by huts.

The Paringa Cattle track is the old stock route between Paringa and Haast. This is a graded and benched track suitable for back country adventurers and provides an opportunity for experienced mountain bikers. A track for hunting and tramping leads up the Moeraki River valley. The re-instatement of a marked route along the Paringa River valley will ensure that suitably experienced recreationists can access the head of this valley enroute to Marks Flat in the Hooker/Landsborough Wilderness Area. These routes will aid access to remote parts of South Westland. Huts such as the Gorge River hut will be maintained for big game hunting.

## 10.7 CONCLUSION

The decisions reflect the Department's intentions for visitor opportunity provision, to offer an effective mix for future recreational enjoyment and use of the public conservation estate of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancy.

This range of opportunities is based on the public consultation undertaken through the period of September 2003 to January 2004, which was part of the national 'Towards a better network of Visitor Facilities' process. The outcomes of these decisions align with the long term predicted funding, the West Coast Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy and draft General Policy. The outcomes of public consultation and the range of visitor opportunities contained within these West Coast decisions are also informed by the Statement of Intent for the Department of Conservation<sup>4</sup> and the Departments Visitor Strategy<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Department of Conservation, Wellington, 2003

<sup>5</sup> Department of Conservation, Wellington, 1996

# Appendix 1

## WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

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

### **Maintain**

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

### **Proposed (new)**

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

### **Replace**

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

### **Upgrade to higher standard**

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

### **Maintain to lower standard**

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

### **Remove**

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

### **Minimal maintenance**

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

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

### **Cease maintenance**

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

### **Close site/remove all assets**

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

### **Own by DOC but maintain by community**

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

### **Owned and maintained by the community**

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

### **Seeking community maintenance**

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

### **Non-visitor DOC management**

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