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Significant Natural Area Assessment

Project No: 11001/003	Property Name: <i>Mt Burke</i>		Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis</i>
	Site Name: <i>Mt Burke SNA A</i>		Date: 2 September 2010
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis and Ralph Henderson</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>E: 220 3222 N: 561 7705</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>N5.1c</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See below.</i>	
Ecological District: <i>Wanaka Ecological District</i>			
Topography: <i>Hillslope</i>	Slope: <i>>25°</i>	Altitude: <i>500 - 760 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>SW</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Acutely threatened.</i>		Area Size (ha): 8.7	
Representativeness: Historically kanuka woodland was a dominant indigenous vegetation cover in the drier areas of the Wanaka Ecological District, Lakes Ecological Region, and N5.1c environments.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species	Threat Status		
<i>None observed</i>			
Provide onsite description of vegetation:			
Vegetation type: Shrubland consisting of kanuka (<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>), manuka (<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>), matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), kowhai (<i>Sophora</i> sp.), briar (<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>).			
Degree of Modification: The area has experienced historical disturbance (fire), but has not been disturbed for a long period. Rabbits are an ongoing presence effecting regeneration and the understorey vegetation.			
Overall Health: The shrubland is largely intact and is dominated by mature indigenous species with a minor introduced component of briar.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: The shrubland provides habitat for a variety of passerines that are prey for the eastern falcon.			
Threats/Risks to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Key threats include grazing of regenerating shrubland and the risk of inadvertent events such as fire given the use of Stevensons Arm for recreation boating.			

Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the N5.1c environment to have 2.7% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 0.8% protected.
Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining): The size and shape of the shrubland is dictated by ecological processes rather than pastoral activity and is therefore inherently self-sustaining.
Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): The shrubland contains a diverse range of the grey shrubland species and is notable for the presence of a large number of healthy kowhai.
Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): The shrubland is distinctive within the ecological district for the population of kowhai within the shrubland. Many of these shrublands are dominated by matagouri and briar.
Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): The shrubland is directly connected to regenerating indigenous hardwood shrubland and kanuka woodland situated further upstream in the East Wanaka Creek. The shrubland is also connected to other regenerating kanuka woodland that is situated outside the acutely threatened environment. There is also an ecological connection with Stevensons Island. Stevensons Island is dominated by kanuka woodland and there is likely to be movement of birds, seeds and pollen between the two areas.
Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): The shrubland is currently in good condition with developed stands of mature kanuka woodland, however regeneration will be effected by the presence of rabbits and any other grazing that may occur.
Recommendation (Accept/Decline): The woodland is a good example of vegetation that is representative of this acutely threatened environment. Given the high level of representativeness and rarity of quality indigenous vegetation cover within the N5.1c LENZ environment, we consider the area should be considered for designation as a SNA.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Mt Burke SNA A - B3A.



June 22, 2015

- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area

1:8,000
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.



Figure 2: A representative photograph of the proposed '*Mt Burke SNA A*'.



Figure 3: A representative photograph of the proposed '*Mt Burke SNA A*'.



Figure 4: A representative photograph of the proposed 'Mt Burke SNA A'.