



Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: 11001/039	Property Name: <i>Crosshill Farm</i> Site Name: <i>Crosshill SNA A</i>	Ecologists: <i>Neill Simpson & Rebecca Lawrence</i> Date: <i>2nd October 2012</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Neill Simpson & Rebecca Lawrence.</i>		Waypoint No (midpoint of survey area): <i>See attached plan for location.</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>N5.1c</i> Ecological District: <i>Lindis Ecological District.</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Topography: <i>Old river terrace.</i>	Slope: <i>Relatively flat.</i>	Altitude: <i>320 masl.</i>	Aspect: <i>South-west.</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Acutely Threatened.</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>10.28</i>	
Representativeness: Pre-European settlement vegetation representative of the N5 LENZ environments is understood to have consisted of continuous grasslands with kanuka. The vegetation on the Crosshill property lacks the diversity of the original grassland vegetation, but is still considered representative of the original vegetation cover.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Pimelea sericeovillosa</i> subsp. <i>pulvinaris</i>		At Risk - Declining	
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: Short tussock grassland and cushion field with the following species present: <i>Festuca novae-zelandiae</i> , <i>Leptospermum ericoides</i> , <i>Melicytus alpinus</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i> , <i>Raoulia species</i> , <i>Luzula rufa</i> var. <i>rufa</i> , <i>Microtis oligantha</i> , <i>Pimelea sericeovillosa</i> subsp. <i>pulvinaris</i> , <i>Rytidosperma maculate</i> , <i>Leucopogon fraseri</i> , various lichens and mosses, with occasional shrubs of <i>Ozothamnus leptophylla</i> and <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> .			
Degree of Modification: The area has experienced historical disturbances, with the invasion of exotic grasses and <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> a clear indication species have been lost through multiple disturbance events, including continued grazing by introduced rabbits. However, the surviving short tussock grassland and cushion fields provide a representative example of a community within the N5 LENZ unit that is fast disappearing.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: The short tussock grassland and cushion field has the potential to sustain lizards and invertebrates, however none were observed during the site visit.			

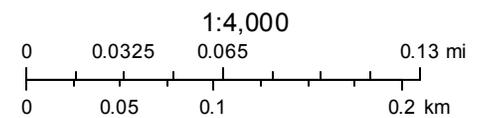
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Key threats include rabbit grazing and housing development.</p>
<p>Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the N5.1c environment to have 2.7 % indigenous vegetation cover remaining, with 0.8 % formally protected.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining): The short tussock grassland and cushion fields on the Crosshill property are connected with the surrounding cushion/herb fields that dominant the vegetative cover along the alluvial fans of the Clutha River.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): The continued disturbance is shown in the lack of diversity of plant species, but the presence of the threatened <i>Pimelea sericeovillosa</i> subsp. <i>pulvinaris</i> and the areas of short tussock grassland show that the area of interest has the potential to sustain an ecologically important community.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): The remnant short tussock grassland community is one of the few remaining representations of pre-European vegetation along the Clutha Valley.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): The short tussock grassland and cushion field is connected to similar vegetation communities along the alluvial fans of the Clutha River.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): The short tussock grassland and cushion fields have maintained a moderate degree of ecological integrity despite rabbit grazing. Thus, the area is sustainable even without protection from rabbits; however the ecological integrity and processes would be greater still with decreased pressure from grazing.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline): While the short tussock grassland and cushion fields lack the diversity of the original vegetation cover along the Clutha River, given the size and number of plant species surviving, the area provides a sustainable area of indigenous vegetation that is acutely threatened. Based on the above considerations we recommend this area for inclusion as an area of Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Crosshill SNA A - E39A



October 6, 2014

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



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



Figure 2: The potential area of significance on the Crosshill Farm property.