

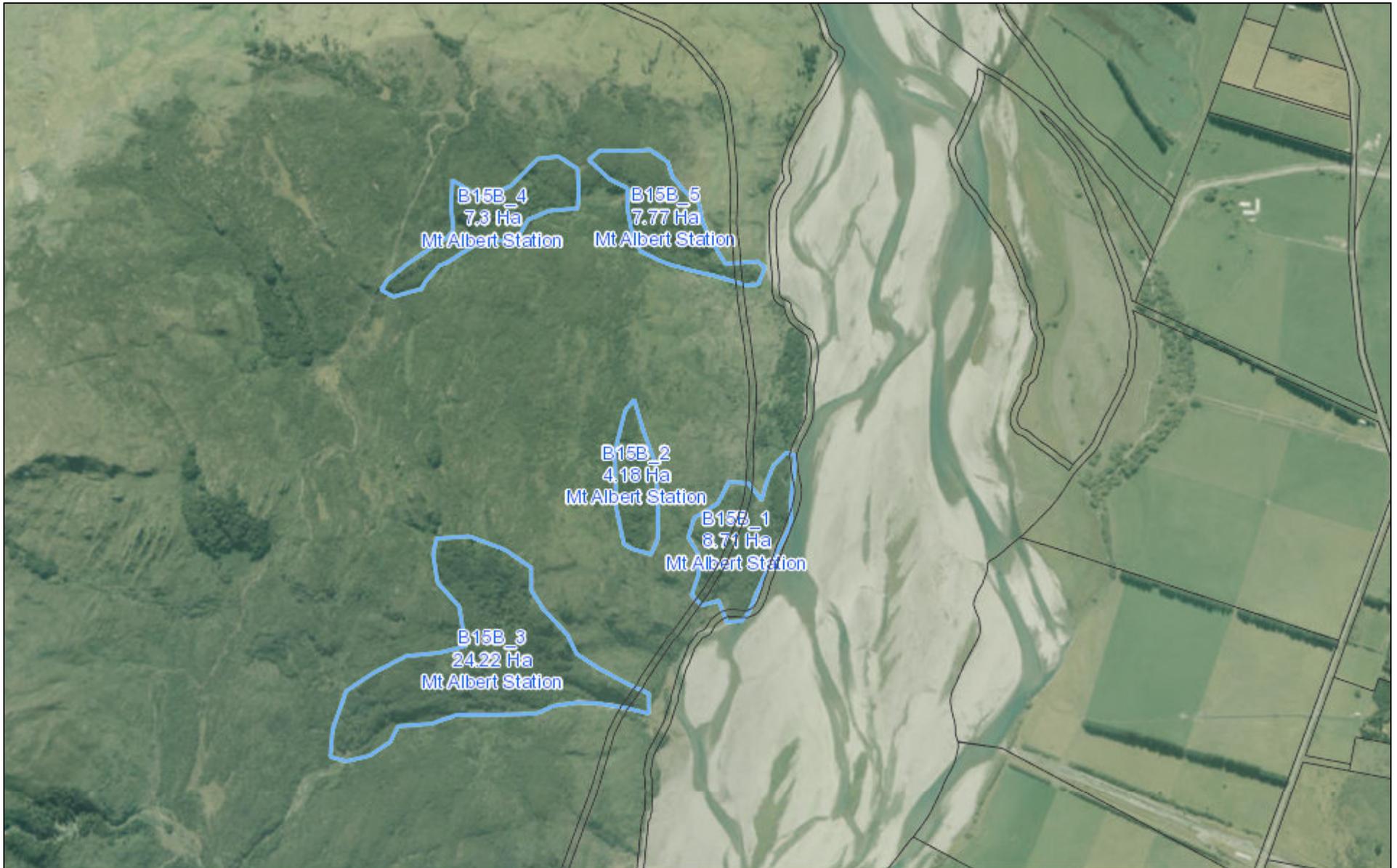


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Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: <i>11001/015</i>	Property Name: <i>Mt. Albert</i> Site Name: <i>Lake face shrublands and forest SNA B</i>	Ecologist: <i>Glen Davis & Neill Simpson</i> Date: <i>15 December 2011</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glen Davis, Neill Simpson & Ralph Henderson</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>See plan attached.</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>P5.1e and P5.2a</i> Ecological District: <i>Wanaka</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Topography: <i>Rolling to steep mountain slopes</i>	Slope: <i>Flat to Variable with some areas in excess of 30°</i>	Altitude: <i>300 – 600 m asl</i>	Aspect: <i>East facing</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Comparatively safe from clearance.</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>52.18</i>	
Representativeness: Beech forest gullies and broadleaved shrubland and manuka woodland - highly representative of different stages of succession in this environment.			
Are there threatened species expected in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status. Please note the species listed below are threatened species that are inferred to be present based on the habitats recorded during the site visit.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Alepis flavida</i>		At Risk- Declining	
<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i>		At Risk- Declining	
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: Good beech forest remnants in several gullies and spreading onto some adjacent rolling country and generally surrounded by regenerating manuka shrubland. Some diverse lakeshore communities on steep shoreline scarps. Degree of Modification: The areas dominated by manuka have clearly been the subject of multiple disturbance events. Degree of Recruitment: Strong recruitment over much of the land adjacent to the lake. Overall Health: Good health overall, with regenerating and mature communities.			

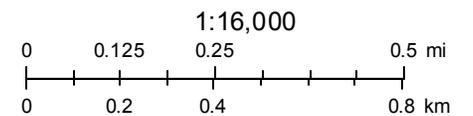
<p>Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: Fauna is typical of shrubland and forest communities.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): The threats to the vegetation include fire, possible weed infestation and proposed property development. The site manager indicated that there was some intention to develop more of the rolling hill slopes presently covered with shrubland, into pasture. It is not planned to remove any beech forest.</p>
<p>Rarity: The threatened environment classification indicates the indigenous vegetation cover exceeds 70% for both LENZ environments (i.e. P5.1e and P5.2a). We consider it is likely that the threatened mistletoes (<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i> and <i>Alepis flavida</i>) are present in the beech forest.</p>
<p>Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio: While the proposed SNA is made up of multiple areas giving it a high edge to area ratio, it is well connected to other areas of native vegetation.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): There is a good diverse range of communities, species and habitats.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): The likely presence of the threatened mistletoes are special ecological characteristics of the proposed SNA.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): Well connected to upper slopes of largely natural plant communities and to the Mt. Aspiring National Park.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): Sustainable and likely to return, more or less, to its original state over time if no longer farmed.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline): The patches of beech forest and broadleaved indigenous hardwoods that are situated on the lake faces are highly representative of this environment and appear to have a full range of ecosystem functions. These areas should be taken forward for further consideration as Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat. Please note, the extensive manuka woodland is excluded from the SNA area due to the extensive distribution of this community throughout the wetter parts of the district.</p>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Lake face shrublands and forest SNA B - B15B_1-5



September 30, 2014

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



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



Figure 2: Photo showing a tongue of beech forest extending to the edge of the Makarora River and grading into thick stands of manuka on the higher slopes.

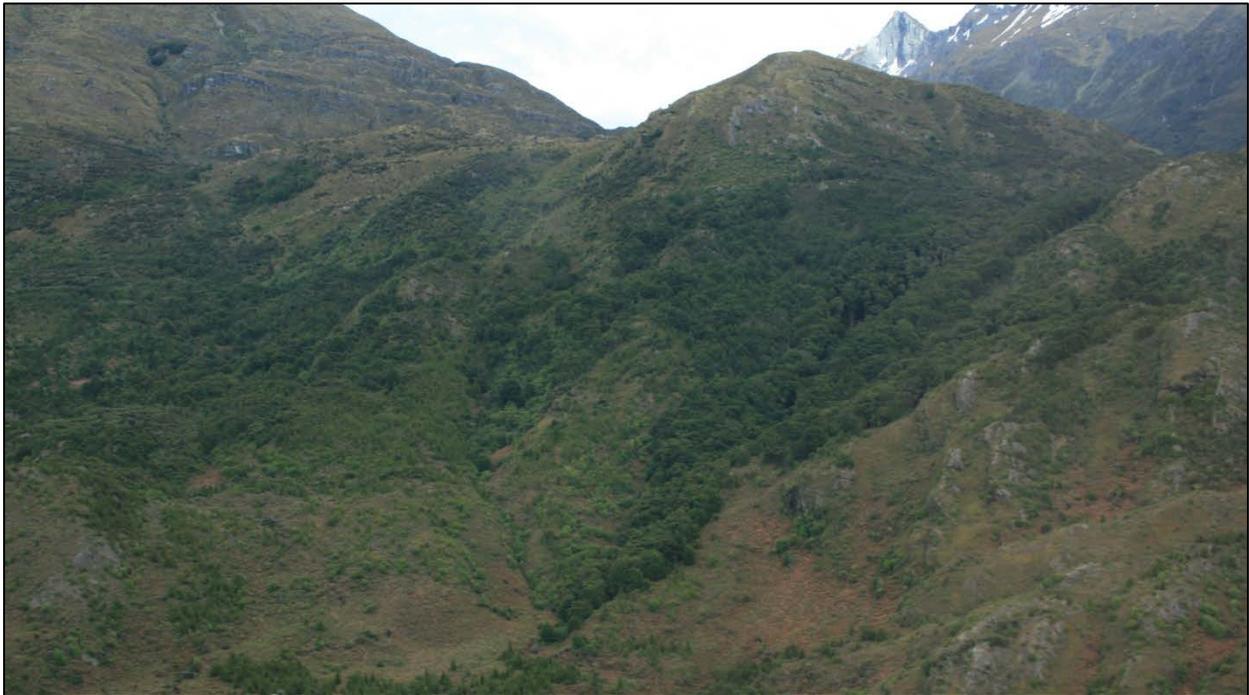


Figure 3: Photo showing beech forest and strongly regenerating shrubland and manuka woodland.



Figure 4: Photo showing beech forest grading into broadleaved indigenous hardwood vegetation.



Figure 5: Photo showing strong manuka cover (excluded from SNA B).