

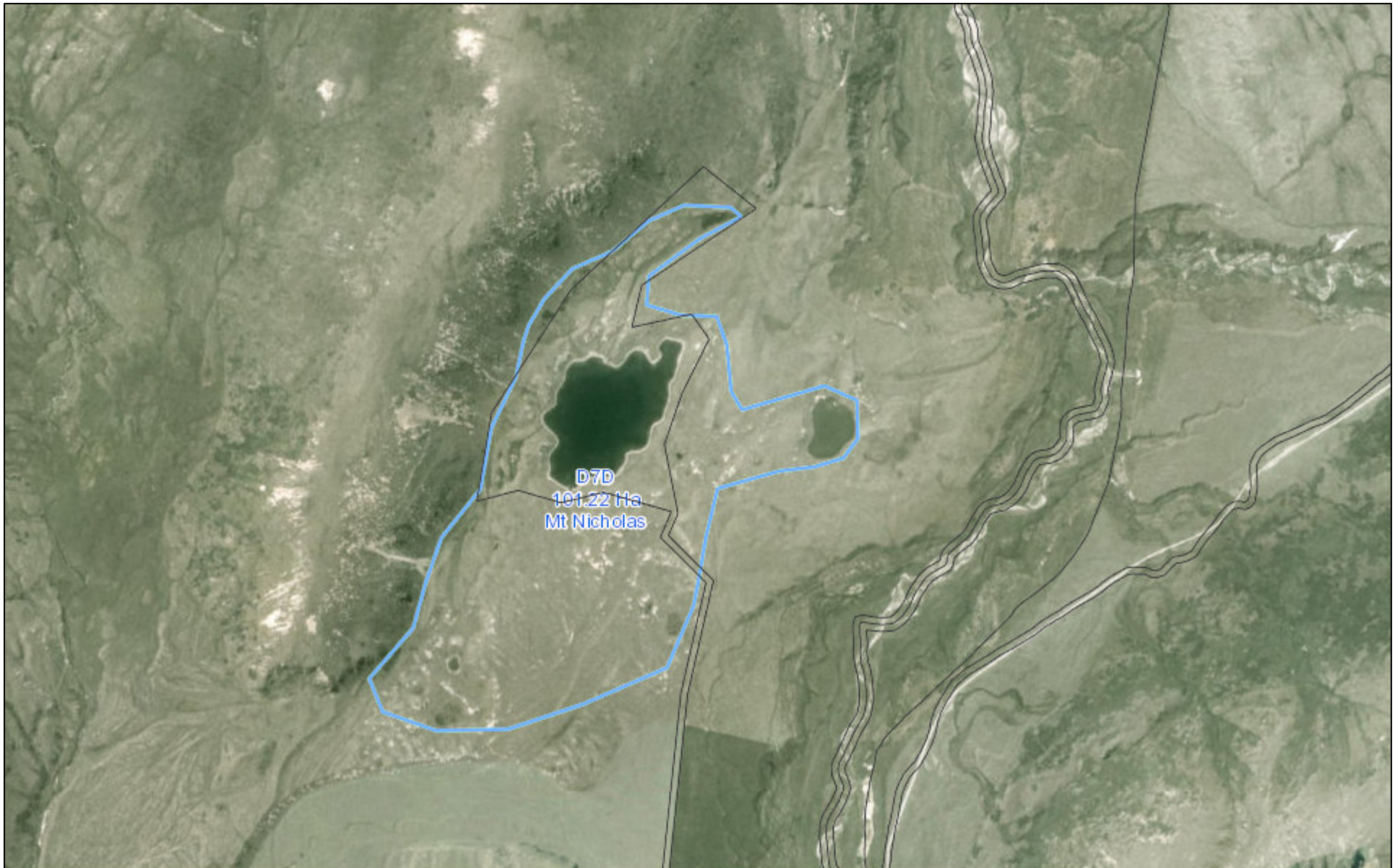


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<b>Significant Natural Area Assessment</b>			
Project No: <i>11001/007</i>	Property Name: <i>Mt. Nicholas</i> Site Name: <i>Von Lakes SNA D</i>	Ecologist: <i>N. Simpson</i> Date: <i>26/04/11</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>N. Simpson, D. Palmer and R. Henderson.</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): E: 310 Topo50 CC10 N: 715	
LENZ Unit: O1.4a, Q 1.1d Ecological District: <i>Livingston</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>No photos.</i>	
Topography: <i>Gently rolling valley floor</i>	Slope: <i>Relatively flat.</i>	Altitude: <i>700 m</i>	Aspect: <i>SE</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Comparatively safe from clearance</i>		Natural Area Size (ha): <i>101.22</i>	
Representativeness: A kettle lake, kettle holes and adjacent wetlands and ephemeral wetlands are present and are a rare combination. This is the only kettle hole system in the QLDC District. Highly representative.			
Are there threatened species expected in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Myosotis glauca</i>		Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>		At Risk - Declining	
<i>Carex berggrenii</i>		At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	
Provide onsite description of vegetation:  Vegetation type: Lake, Palustrine Wetland, Ephemeral Wetland, Swamp, Bog.  Structural Class: Lakeshore turf community, rushland/sedgeland, cushion bog with sphagnum moss and turf of the ephemeral depression, stream edge. This variety of moisture regimes exhibits a diverse range of plant species and communities and forming the southernmost example of a kettle hole landscape.  Degree of Modification: Exotic species present and dominant in places on the drier surrounding land although hard tussock is common with numerous indigenous small shrubs and herbs but wetlands largely natural.  Degree of Recruitment: A stable wetland system that is in good health.  Overall Health: Good health.			

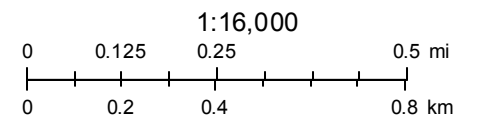
<p>Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: Open country and wetland fauna present.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Grey willow is present and a threat to the integrity of the wetland, as well as increased stock numbers.</p>
<p>Rarity: A number of rare and threatened plants are present and the kettle hole system is rare and the only example in the Queenstown Lakes District.</p>
<p>Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio: Reasonably sized kettle hole and wetland system, with moderate area/edge ratios.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): High diversity of species, within a notable range of plant communities (i.e. lake, palustrine wetland, ephemeral wetland, Swamp and Bog communities).</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. &amp; landform features, distribution limits?): A very distinct community being the only kettle hole system known in the Lakes District.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): Connects with the wider dryland grassland landscape.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): Sustainable under the present management of pastoral grazing.</p>
<p>Recommendation: We recommend the area is considered for designation as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat, based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wetland is highly representative of this environment and is a very distinct community being the only kettle hole system known in the lakes district;</li> <li>• Nationally, the extent and distribution of wetlands is severely restricted which is supported by the proposed NPS that includes wetlands in the description of significant vegetation and habitat; and,</li> <li>• The wetland contains a number of rare and endangered plant species.</li> </ul>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Von Lakes SNA D - D7D.



September 29, 2014

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



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