

**PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS REPORT:
TENURE REVIEW OF FERINTOSH PASTORAL LEASE HELD BY GD SEYMOUR
UNDER PART 2 CROWN PASTORAL LAND ACT**

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1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the proposals described below be submitted to the CCL's Agent, during the consultation process on the preliminary proposal for this tenure review, as representing the views developed under delegated authority from the Director-General of Conservation.
[Note that additional proposals, developed after the initial report is written, may also be put forward at the consultation stage.]
- 1.2 Note that statutory consents will be required before the CCL can include (in the preliminary proposal for this tenure review) the designations set out in paragraphs: 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.6.1 and 2.6.2 below.
- 1.3 Note that any disposition of land by the Crown will be subject to the relevant provisions of part IVA Conservation Act.

2 PROPOSALS AND JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Land to be Restored to or Retained in Full Crown Ownership and Control

2.1.1 Boundary Creek Block

Existing status: Pastoral lease

Authority: s.35(2)(a)(i) CPLA

Proposal: That an area of approximately 230 hectares be designated as a Conservation Area for the purpose of protecting the natural and historic resources and that this area be managed by the Department of Conservation.

Description: This area includes Boundary Stream and its margins, and the upper montane plateau above 800 metres extending northwards from Boundary Stream to near Betty Hill.

Justification: The land is characterised by areas that have the following significant inherent values:

1. Attributes which sustain the special natural quality and integrity of the High Country landscape.
 - This area is a significant glacial landscape characterised by moraines, kettleholes and associated wetlands.
 - Boundary Stream provides a significant landscape linkage between the high hills, the montane plateau and the lake.
2. Meet some of the Protected Natural Area Programme criteria for protection as priority natural areas.
 - Contains wetlands, which are rare in the Mackenzie Basin.
 - The rare *Hebe pimeliodes* is present in this area.

- Matagouri shrubland is relatively mature and robust and the best representative of this community in the area.
 - The riparian shrublands associated with Boundary Stream are relatively diverse and were recognised as RAP (recommended area for protection) 4, Boundary Stream in the McKenzie PNAP (protected natural areas programme) survey.
 - The stream and tarns provide diverse habitat for avi fauna including New Zealand scaup, paradise shelduck, grey duck and New Zealand shoveller.
 - The relatively rare jewelled gecko is found in the area.
 - Two species of endemic freshwater fish have been noted in the stream – Koaro, which is relatively common and upland bully, which is not so common.
- 3 Attributes which add to the ecological integrity of the ecosystem.
- The protection of an altitudinal sequence from the mountain tops to the lake will add significantly to the ecological integrity of the ecosystem.
 - This area links with the public conservation land on the Ben Ohau Range creating a large integrated protected area.

Management and boundary issues:

Management issues to be taken into account if this proposal proceeds include:

- Fencing. Some existing fencing should be able to be used though some upgrading may be needed. A further 4 kms of fencing may be needed to ensure that no grazing occurs.
- Animal pest control. Not a problem at present but should be monitored.
- Fire control. Firebreaking should not be needed but should be reassessed as time goes on.
- Weed control. Wilding pines should be removed. *Nordus stricta* infestation represents a serious modification but removal of grazing should limit and control this plant.

2.1.2 Jacks Stream Block

Existing status: Pastoral lease

Authority: s.35(2)(a)(i) CPLA

Proposal: That an area of approximately 300 hectares be designated as a Conservation Area for the purpose of protecting the natural and historic resources and that this area is to be managed by the Department of Conservation.

Description: The riparian areas beside Jacks Stream and Whale Stream and the glacial plateau above 900 metres between the two streams.

Justification: The land is characterised by areas that have the following significant inherent values:

1. Meet some of the Protected Natural Area Programme criteria for protection as priority natural areas.
 - Wetlands which still have a high degree of naturalness and are different from the Boundary Creek block, being shallower and

containing a layer of *Sphagnum*. The absence of *N. stricta* also gives these wetlands a high conservation value.

- One of the largest wetlands on the entire length of the moraine is found in this area
 - Remnants of *Chionochloa rigida* that occur above 1000m are good examples of this depleted grassland. The grasslands will respond well as soon as grazing is removed.
2. Attributes which add to the ecological integrity of the ecosystem.
- Protection of this area will link the high hills and the inter-montane plateau via the waterways to the lake producing a valuable altitudinal sequence.
 - This area links with the public conservation land on the Ben Ohau Range creating a large integrated protected area.

Management and boundary issues:

Management issues to be taken into account if this proposal proceeds include:

- Fencing. Approximately 3km of fencing will be needed to exclude stock from the plateau and the riparian areas.
- Animal pest control. Not a problem at present but should be monitored.
- Fire control. Firebreaking should not be needed but should be reassessed as time goes on.
- Weed control. Wilding pines should be removed if they establish.

2.2 Land to be Restored to or Retained in Crown Control (Qualified Designation)

Not applicable.

2.3 Existing Reserve

Not applicable.

2.4 Existing Conservation Area

Not applicable.

2.5 Land Being Disposed of Subject to a Protective Mechanism

2.5.1 Boundary Stream Easement.

Existing status: Pastoral Lease

Authority: s.40(1)(b) CPLA

Proposal: That an area of approximately 1 hectares (1km x 10m) be designated as land that may be disposed of subject to the creation of a protective mechanism for the purpose of public access.

Description: The track leaves the State Highway north of Boundary Creek and climbs steeply to the plateau. Access would be as of right, 365 days per year, for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

Justification: The track provides access to the inter-montane plateau proposed for protection. Good views of the lake and the mountains beyond will be obtained from the track, and on reaching the plateau, the wetlands will provide visual and botanical interest.

Management and boundary issues: The track should not need to be fenced. Styles and signposting may be needed.

Type of qualification: Easement under s.7(2) Conservation Act

2.5.2 Jacks Stream Easement

Existing status: Pastoral Lease

Authority: s.40(1)(b) CPLA

Proposal: That an area of approximately 2 hectares (2km x 10m) be designated as land that may be disposed of subject to the creation of a protective mechanism for the purpose of public access.

Description: The track leaves the State Highway south of Jacks Stream and climbs via a rough 4wd track up the hill and around to Jacks Stream to meet with a track that joins Jacks Stream and Whale Stream. Access would be as of right, 365 days per year, for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

Justification: The track provides access to the inter-montane plateau proposed for protection between Jacks and Whale Streams. Good views of the lake and the mountains beyond will be obtained from the track, and on reaching the plateau, the wetlands will provide visual and botanical interest.

Management and boundary issues: The track should not need to be fenced. Styles and signposting may be needed.

Type of qualification: Easement under s.7(2) Conservation Act

2.6 Other qualified designations

2.6.1 Boundary Stream Crown Access

Existing status: Pastoral Lease.

Authority: s. 36(3)(b) CPLA

Proposal: That the designation of land under s.35(3) CPLA, for disposal, be subject to the creation of an easement for the use of the crown agency managing the conservation area.

Description: Access would be over the track leaving the State Highway north of Boundary Stream.

Justification: Vehicle access is required for management of the proposed Conservation Area.

Management and boundary issues: Fencing of the track should not be required.

Type of qualification: Easement under s. 60 Land Act

Attachment: Term and conditions

2.6.2 Jacks Stream Crown Access

Existing status: Pastoral Lease.

Authority: s. 36(3)(b) CPLA

Proposal: That the designation of land under s.35(3) CPLA, for disposal, be subject to the creation of an easement for the use of the Department of Conservation.

Description: Access would be over the track leaving the State Highway south of Jacks Stream.

Justification: Vehicle access is required for management of the proposed Conservation Area.

Management and boundary issues: Fencing of the track should not be required.

Type of qualification: Easement under s.60 Land Act

3. Exemption or variation of a marginal strip width

When the CCL gives notice under Part IVA Conservation Act of any disposition of land these matters will be further investigated.

4. Other Matters

The recommendations made in this report are in line with what the NGOs were seeking.

5. Attachments

5.1 Additional Information

(i) Terms and conditions of protective mechanism

5.2 Illustrative Map