



# Department of Conservation

## FACTSHEET

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*The Department of Conservation (DOC) manages over 12,000 hectares of public conservation land and waterways in the Mackenzie Basin. This land includes some of New Zealand's iconic high-country scenery, and is culturally, environmentally, and economically significant.*

All public conservation lands and waterways must be managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and general policies.

A Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) is one way DOC does this.

### CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A CMS provides a ten-year overview of conservation issues for a region. They give direction for the management of public conservation land and waterways, and of species for which DOC has responsibility. They aim to prioritise the region's most important places, waterways native plants and animals.

Each draft CMS is prepared by DOC in consultation with the relevant conservation board, whanau, hapū and iwi and the community.

Conservation Management Strategies are also recognised under the Resource Management Act 1991.

### THE CANTERBURY (WAITAHA) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Canterbury (Waitaha) CMS describes the conservation values present in Canterbury and provides guidance for the Department's work.

The importance of the Mackenzie Basin and its many special features and management issues are featured

in the National Parks, Southern Conservation Parks, High-Country Basins, Foothill Forests and Braided River chapters of the CMS.

This strategy also considers how DOC manages important places outside of the Mackenzie Basin such as Arthurs Pass National Park, Christchurch City/Ōtautahi; Banks Peninsula/Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū; and Coastal Land and Marine/Ki Tai.

*This factsheet is a summary only. Applicants should refer to the DOC website for the current information around application processes and the most up to date versions (including interpretation) of the relevant legislation and statutory planning documents.*

## WHEN MIGHT AN AUTHORISATION BE NEEDED FROM DOC?

To use public conservation land and waters (including marginal strips) other than for personal recreation, or to interact with or handle wildlife, an authorisation (sometimes in the form of a permit or concession) from DOC is required. For example:

- for access across public conservation land to install infrastructure; or vehicle access to adjacent land
- to graze animals on public conservation land
- to take guided tours on public conservation land
- to undertake aircraft landings on public conservation land to use an aircraft for wild animal control on public conservation land.

## WHAT IF SOMEONE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING ON LEASEHOLD OR PRIVATE LAND – DOES THAT REQUIRE A SEPARATE AUTHORISATION FROM DOC?

- If they wish to undertake an activity on private or leasehold land which will affect in some way wildlife such as birds/lizards/invertebrates (ie disrupt their habitat/kill them/require them to be moved so they aren't killed) then a Wildlife Act authorisation may be required.
- If they wish to apply for access across public conservation land to install above or below ground infrastructure for example telecommunications, environmental monitoring equipment etc; or vehicle access to adjacent land.
- Some specific activities, such as installing a structure that impedes fish passage, require DOC's approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

## WHAT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORISATION?

- As part of the detail an applicant should ensure (either as a part of, or in attachment to the application) the following is provided along with the completed application form:
  - » A very clear description of the proposed activity.
  - » A very clear description of the proposed location(s) and the public conservation land that is subject to the application, ideally including a map.
  - » A very clear assessment of the potential effects (negative and positive) of the proposed activity and how the applicant proposes to avoid, remedy or mitigate the potential negative effects of the activity.
  - » Any other documentation attached in support of their application.

Note: different applications may have differing information requirements as they are assessed under different legislation. Applicants are encouraged to speak to their local DOC office ahead of making an application for any pre-application guidance and to visit the DOC website.

- Applications that meet the requirements for public notification (under Part 3B of the Conservation Act) may now be publicly notified before a decision is made on whether DOC intends to grant the authorisation.
- Applications that require public notification include:
  - » a lease
  - » a licence for a term of more than 10 years (this includes renewal of an existing licence)
  - » a licence, permit or easement that is likely to have significant environmental effects over the duration of the activity.



- Applications for activities on public conservation land, that are assessed via Part 3B of the Conservation Act (this does not include Wildlife Act permits) are assessed to see if the proposed activity is consistent with:
  - » the purpose for which the land is held
  - » the relevant Conservation Management Strategy
  - » the relevant Conservation Management Plan

## WHAT OTHER AUTHORISATION PROCESSES IS DOC INVOLVED IN?

- DOC has a role in providing advice to the Commissioner of Crown Lands on applications for activities which require consent under section 18 of the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998. This advice includes identification of the inherent values present in an application area and how to best manage and protect these values; or to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effect of the proposed activity.
- In resource consent applications the local authority may ask applicants to consult with DOC, or to obtain DOC's written approval (as an 'affected person'), where an activity occurs on or close to areas administered by DOC (such as public conservation land).
- DOC is required through the Conservation Act 1987 to advocate the conservation of natural and historic resources, both on and off public conservation land. It also has statutory responsibilities for the protection of indigenous freshwater fish and wildlife regardless of the ownership of the land or water. One of the ways DOC can fulfil these requirements is to comment on resource consent applications under the Resource Management Act 1991.