



Department of Conservation

FACTSHEET

The Department of Conservation (DOC) manages over 12,000 hectares of public conservation lands and waters 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 waters 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 is a 10-year regional strategy that implements general policy and provides for integrated management of natural, historic, recreation and cultural values including species managed by the Department.

A CMS prioritises the region's most important places, waterways, native plants and animals.

Each draft CMS is prepared by DOC in

consultation with whanau, hapū and iwi, the relevant conservation board, and the community.

Conservation Management Strategies are 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 how this Region is managed.

The importance of the Mackenzie Basin and its many special features and management requirements are featured in the National Parks,

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

The CMS 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 Rākohaitū; 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 lands 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) is required. For example:

- for access to install infrastructure; or vehicle access to adjacent land
- to graze animals
- to undertake guided activities
- to undertake aircraft landings or wild animal control.

What if someone wants to do something on leasehold or private land – does that require a separate authorisation from DOC?

- If the activity affects habitat of indigenous species (such as birds/lizards/invertebrates) and the activity may disturb or kill any individuals of the species then a Wildlife Act 1953 authorisation will be required.
- If access is required across public conservation lands and waters to install above or below ground infrastructure for example telecommunications, environmental monitoring equipment etc; or vehicle access to adjacent land an access agreement may be required.
- Installing structures that may impede fish passage, require approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

WHAT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORISATION?

- An application form for an authorisation is required to be completed and should include:
 - » A very clear description of the proposed activity.
 - » A very clear description of the proposed location(s) and the public conservation lands and waters where the activity is to be undertaken, ideally including a map.
 - » A very clear assessment of evident and 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.

It is important to 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 for copies of the applications required.

- Applications that meet the requirements for public notification (under Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987) are publicly notified before a decision is made on whether DOC intends to grant the authorisation.
- Applications requiring 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 lands and waters assessed via Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987 (not including Wildlife Act 1953 permits) to determine 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 lands and waters).
- DOC is required through the Conservation Act 1987 to advocate the conservation of natural and historic resources, both on and off public conservation lands and waters. 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.