



Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: 11001/033	Property Name: <i>Ben Lomond Station</i> Site Name: <i>Shotover River SNA A and B</i>	Ecologist: <i>Simon Beale</i> Date: <i>12 April 2013</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Simon Beale and Glenn Davis</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point between SNA A and B): <i>E41 - E: 2168000, N:5581500</i>	
LENZ Units: Q2.2a Ecological District: <i>Shotover</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Topography: <i>Steep hillslopes above the Shotover River opposite Pinchers Bluff and Devils Elbow.</i>	Slope: ($>20^\circ$)	Altitude: <i>450 – 700 m asl</i>	Aspect: : <i>E - SE</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically Underprotected</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>SNA A: 14.59; SNA B: 26.95.</i>	
Representativeness: Scrub/shrubland communities form dominant cover on steep hillslopes and prominent gullies and terrace faces. Vegetation pattern reflects succession towards a scrub/shrubland dominated by matagouri, mingimingi and <i>Olearia</i> spp.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon)		At Risk – Recovering.	
Provide onsite description of vegetation:			
Vegetation types:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed mingimingi (<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>)–matagouri–<i>Olearia</i> spp. shrubland. 			
Structural Classes: Scrub, shrubland and mixed pasture/short tussock grassland			
Shrubland Canopy: mingimingi–matagouri– <i>Olearia</i> spp. (<i>Olearia odorata</i> & <i>Olearia bullata</i>).			
Degree of Modification: The area has experienced disturbance events in the past (e.g. fire).			

Degree of Recruitment: Regeneration of shrubland communities evident on these steeper areas and close to the Shotover River.

Overall Health: Some of the patches of shrubland with a closed canopy. Sweet briar and hawthorn present as a sub-dominant component of shrubland.

Provide onsite description of fauna habitat:

The grey shrubland provides quality habitat for insectivorous birds (fantail and grey warbler), while the mix of terrain and shrubland-grassland and creek bed margins provides favourable hunting opportunities for NZ falcon and Australasian harrier.

The scrub and shrubland vegetation cover in combination with rocky terrain provides potentially high quality habitat for lizards such as the Common Skink, Common Gecko and McCann's Skink.

The shrubland is likely to provide important habitat (refugia and food supply) for a range of invertebrates including various beetle and moth species.

Threats/Risks to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):

The threats to the shrubland are moderate with wilding coniferous and broadleaved weed species (i.e. briar and sycamore) present in the wider area on both sides of the Shotover River.

Rarity:

The threatened environment classification identifies the Q2.2a environment to have 39.92% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 5.07% protected.

The threatened plant species *Leonohebe cupressoides* and at risk plant species *Coprosma intertexta* have been recorded in the nearby lower Deep Creek catchment, and may be present within the proposed Shotover River SNA A and B.

Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):

Area of shrubland of variable canopy cover. Low to moderate area/edge ratios.

Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):

The area contains an assemblage of shrubland and grassland species. The variability of species morphology (colour, texture and form) contribute to the vegetation pattern.

Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?):

Distinctive in terms of the extensiveness of the shrubland cover on steep terrain and within the gullies situated within both areas.

Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):

SNA A and B are isolated from other extensive areas of shrubland within this reach of the Shotover River.

Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):

The absence of further human induced disturbances (e.g. fire) will allow a more diverse shrubland cover to develop in these discrete areas.

Recommendation (Accept/Decline):

We consider areas SNA A and B should be designated as SNA's in view of the following ecological attributes:

- Extensive shrubland vegetation with a good degree of diversity and canopy closure;
- Likely to provide high quality habitat for lizards such as the Common Skink, Common Gecko and McCann's Skink;
- The variety of habitats the area affords to indigenous fauna, providing suitable habitat for 'at risk' species, e.g. the eastern NZ Falcon.

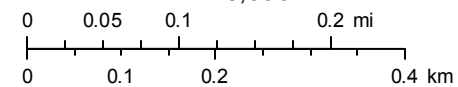
Figure 1a: The area of potential significance - 'Shotover River SNA A' - G33A.



September 23, 2014

1:8,000

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





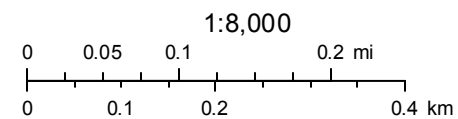
Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.

Figure 1b: The area of potential significance - 'Shotover River SNA B' - G33B.



September 23, 2014

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



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

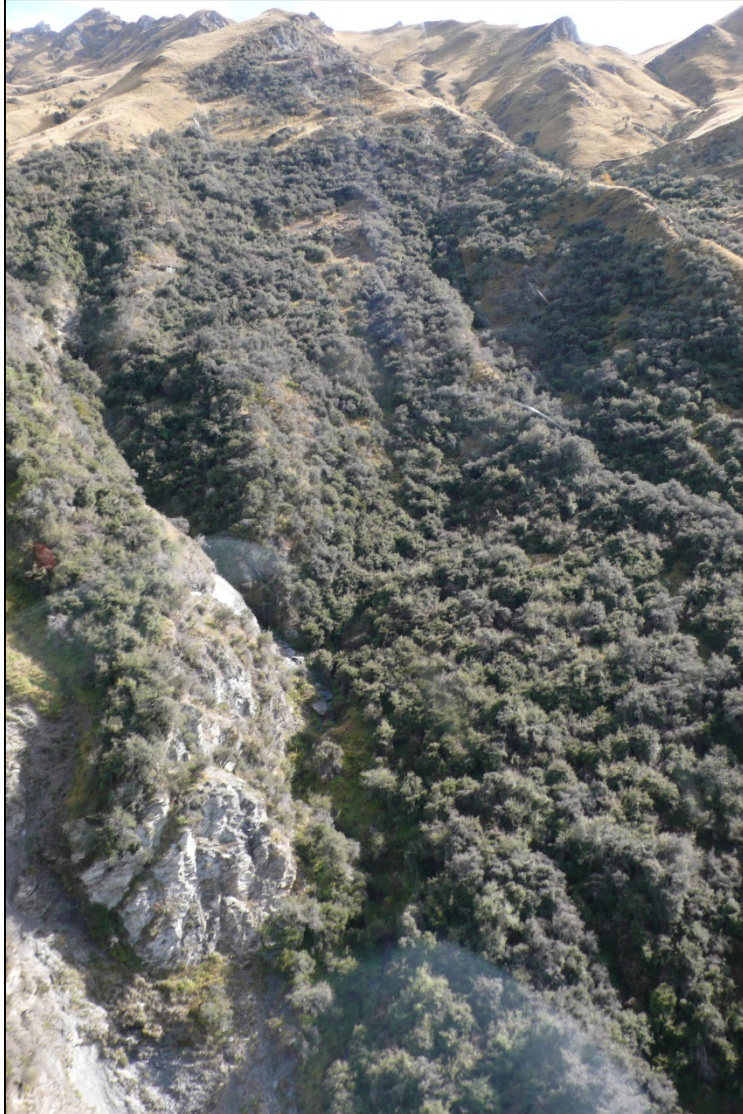


Figure 2: Aerial view of mingimingi dominated shrubland within SNA A.