



Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: 11001/040	Property Name: <i>Gibbston Valley Station</i>	Ecologists: <i>Glenn Davis & Rebecca Lawrence</i>	
	Site Name: <i>Gibbston Valley SNA B</i>	Date: <i>12th October 2012</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis, Ralph Henderson & Rebecca Lawrence.</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>See attached plan for location.</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>Q2.2a</i> Ecological District: <i>Remarkables</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Topography: <i>Upper valley slope</i>	Slope: <i>Moderate</i>	Altitude: <i>700 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>North</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically Underprotected</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>3.94</i>	
Representativeness: Whilst the LENZ unit Q2.2a environment is understood to have supported a pre-settlement vegetation dominated by forest species (e.g. beech forest), the grey shrubland present in SNA B is a representative community within the Wakatipu Lakes District dryland areas, with extended distribution due to historic farming practices.			
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	
<i>Olearia lineata</i>		At Risk - Declining	
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: The grey shrubland includes <i>Olearia odorata</i> , <i>Olearia lineata</i> , <i>Discaria toumatou</i> , <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> , <i>Melicytus alpinus</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i> , <i>Rubus schmidelioides</i> , <i>Carmichaelia petriei</i> , <i>Clematis quadribracteolata</i> and <i>Hebe salicifolia</i> . Briar and elder, both introduced weed species, are also present. Degree of Modification: The area is thought to have experienced historical disturbance through burning and grazing, however, no burning or livestock grazing appears to have occurred recently.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: This grey shrubland area (i.e. SNA B) provides habitat for both introduced and indigenous passerines, which provide a food source for the eastern falcon which has been recorded in the vicinity of the SNA area. At least two grey warblers (<i>Gerygone igata</i>) were seen during the site visit. The shrubland is also expected to support common species of lizards (e.g. McCann's skink and Common skink), as well as possibly the Cromwell gecko, Otago/Southland large gecko (Western Otago form) and the Southern mini gecko. The shrubland will also attract a range of indigenous invertebrates given the presence of <i>Olearia</i> species.			

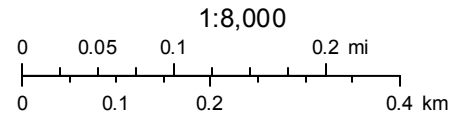
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):</p> <p>The key threats to this area of grey shrubland are inadvertent fire events and the invasion of briar (a woody weed).</p>
<p>Rarity:</p> <p>The threatened environment classification identifies the Q2.2a environment to have 39.92 % indigenous vegetation cover remaining, with 5.07 % formally protected.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):</p> <p>This grey shrubland area is self-sustaining with areas of closed canopy. However, the size of the self-sustaining area could be improved with the control of briar.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):</p> <p>The shrubland will contain a diverse range of shrubland specific plant and invertebrate species and the area covers both stream edge and hill slope substrates.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?):</p> <p>The shrubland contains multiple stands of <i>Olearia lineata</i> and <i>Olearia odorata</i>. The size of the <i>Olearia</i> populations is a special ecological characteristic of the area.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):</p> <p>The proposed area is connected to nearby shrubland communities along the side of the hill slope.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):</p> <p>The shrubland is currently in good ecological condition with a diverse range of mature shrubs and a predominantly closed canopy. Providing disturbance activities such as fire do not occur, the shrubland will continue to persist and improve, and provide valuable habitat for native birds, invertebrates and lizards.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline):</p> <p>This area is a good example of grey shrubland vegetation and is an important habitat for supporting a diverse and abundant invertebrate fauna, along with passerines that are critical for the maintenance of the eastern falcon population. Based on the above considerations we recommend this area for inclusion as an area of Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Gibbston Valley SNA B - F40B.



November 4, 2014

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



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



Figure 2: A photographic representation of the potential area of significance, i.e. '*Gibbston Valley SNA B*', on the Gibbston Valley Station property.