



<b>Significant Natural Area Assessment</b>			
Project No: 11001/014	Property Name: <i>Remarkables Station</i> Site Name: <i>Remarkables Face SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>N. Simpson</i>  Date: <i>7/07/11</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>N. Simpson</i>		<u>Waypoint No (mid point of survey area):</u> <i>See map attached.</i>	
LENZ Units: <i>N4.1d, Q1.1c, Q2.2a, Q2.2b.</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>No Photos.</i>	
Ecological District: <i>Remarkables</i>			
Topography: <i>Steep hill slope.</i>	Slope: <i>10 – 50 %</i>	Altitude: <i>380 - 800 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>West</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Chronically Threatened (N4.1d), Underprotected (Q1.1c), and Critically Underprotected (Q2.2a and Q2.2b).</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>326.49</i>	
Representativeness: There is remnant broadleaf forest forming a buffer to Wye Creek and a good representation of subalpine shrubland occurring on several of the south faces of the steep spurs descending from these west faces of the Remarkables, as well as remnant totara logs. Nest sites for NZ Falcon also occur.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Pachycladon cheesemanii</i>		Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable	
<i>Alepis flavida</i>		At Risk - Declining	
<i>Myosotis goyenii</i>		At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	
<i>Anisotome cauticola</i>		At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	
<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> “eastern”		At Risk – Recovering	
<i>Connorochloa tenuis</i>		At Risk - Declining	
Provide onsite description of vegetation:			
Vegetation type: Remnant broadleaf forest - broadleaf and kohuhu forest with the following native plant species present: wineberry, marbleleaf, Coprosma species, Olearia species, kowhai, tutu, bracken (in patches), and threatened and at risk plants (e.g. <i>Alepis flavida</i> ) although most mainly confined to bluff areas (i.e. <i>Pachycladon cheesemanii</i> , <i>Myosotis goyenii</i> , <i>Anisotome cauticola</i> ).			
Induced subalpine/montane shrubland - a mix of grassland, bracken fernland and shrubland			

with a few patches of mountain beech high up where it has escaped from fire. Shrubland diverse with montane and subalpine species present including *Dracophyllum longifolium*, *Ozothamnus vauvilliersii*, *Coprosma dumosa*, *Olearia cymbifolia* and *Carmichaelia petriei* with *Aciphylla glaucescens* and *Aciphylla* sp. "lomond" common and numerous small herbs and grasses. Hall's totara logs indicate that this was a common component of the original beech forest here.

Degree of Modification: Modified to severely modified by fire and grazing but good regeneration in many places.

Degree of Recruitment: Good recruitment, especially on south facing slopes and fans where not recently burnt. Recruitment is also likely to be high if grazing reduced/stopped in areas currently grazed.

Overall Health: Improving health and areas of good health with most natural ecological processes expected to be functioning.

Provide onsite description of fauna habitat:

Falcon, tui, bellbird, tomtit, grey warbler, fantail, silver eye, brown creeper and introduced birds present from time to time and a diverse invertebrate fauna likely. Eastern falcon nesting sites.

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

Threats to the vegetation include fire, wilding trees and also grazing to some extent.

Rarity:

Threatened plants present and the occurrence of totara logs along these faces is significant. The threatened environment classification identifies the N4.1d, Q1.1c, Q2.2a and Q2.2b environments to have 18.6%, 91.23%, 39.92% and 44.68% indigenous vegetation cover remaining respectively; these threatened environment classifications have 2.3%, 19.26%, 5.07% and 1.96% protected, respectively.

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

The proposed area is large and adjoins good broadleaf forest along Wye Creek with beech forest upstream, as well as being contiguous with the Remarkables Conservation Area above, along its length.

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

There is a good diversity of avifauna species, as well as plant species, including five plant species that are either threatened or at risk.

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

The bluff vegetation is an important and distinctive ecological characteristic. The lower slopes of the Remarkables west face are distinctive and has the opportunity over time to return to beech forest, broadleaved forest and shrubland somewhat similar to the original vegetation.

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

The area is directly connected to broadleaf forest along Wye Creek, which in turn is connected to beech forest upstream, as well as the mountain slopes in the Remarkables Conservation Area above.

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

The site is sustainable, and its capacity to regenerate would be improved further if there was no grazing anywhere within the area proposed.

Recommendation (Accept/Decline):

We consider this area should be considered a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat, in view of the following values:

- Supports both at risk and threatened (*Pachycladon cheesemani*) plant species;
- Good habitat for a diverse range of bird species;
- Provides a buffer to the Wye Creek Conservation Area and Remarkables Conservation Area.

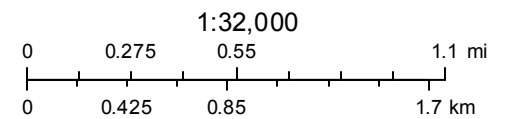


Figure 1a: The area of potential significance - Remarkables Face SNA A - C14A\_1



September 30, 2014

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



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

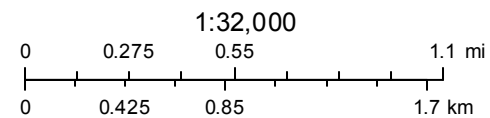


Figure 1b: The area of potential significance - Remarkables Face SNA A - C14A\_1&3



September 30, 2014

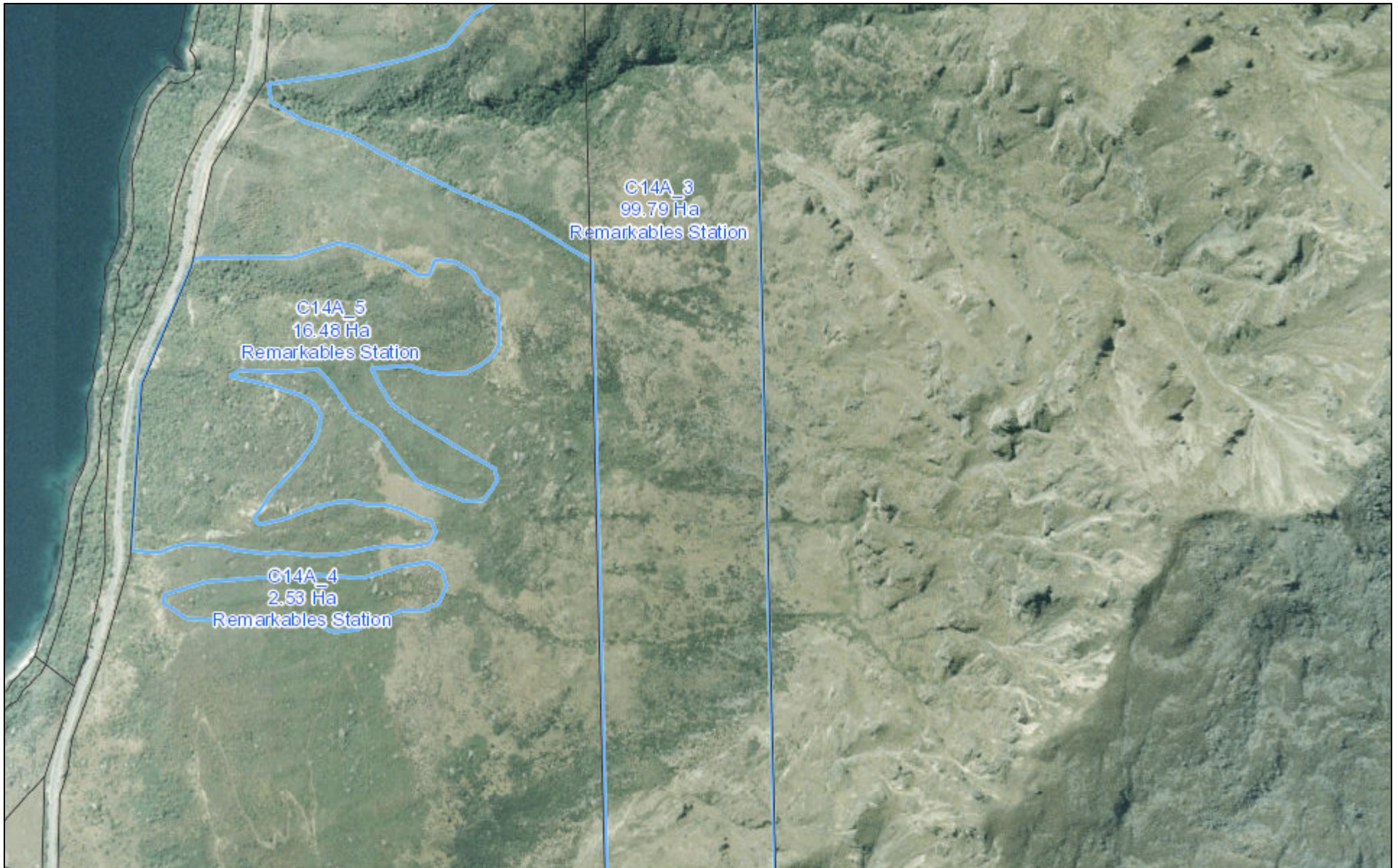
- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



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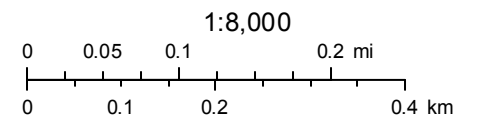


Figure 1c: The area of potential significance - Remarkables Face SNA A - C14A\_3-5



September 30, 2014

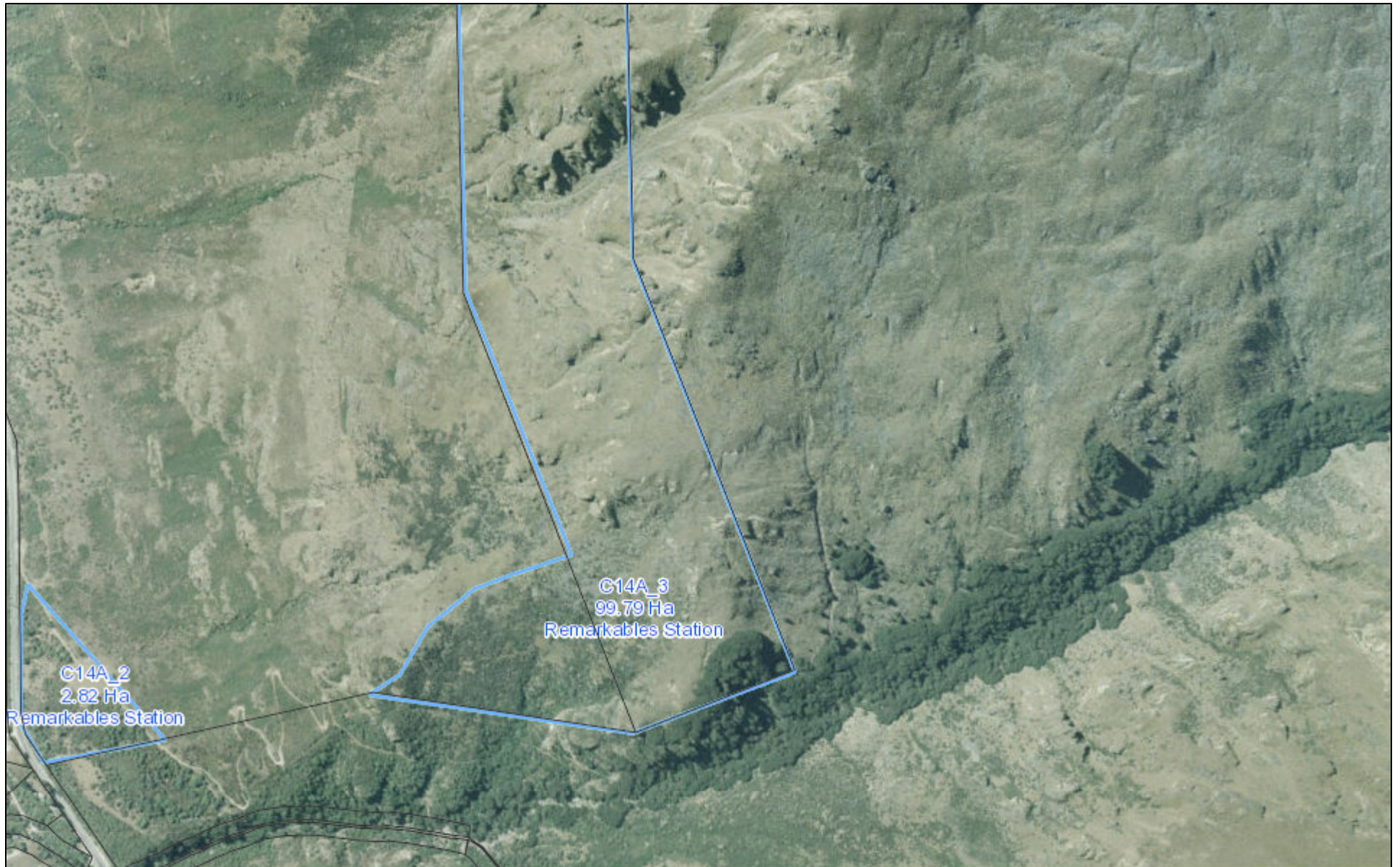
- Proposed Significant Natural Area
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- Proposed Significant Natural Area



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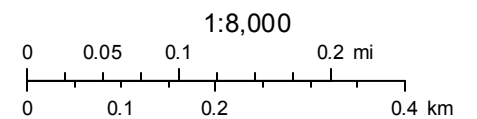


Figure 1d: The area of potential significance - Remarkables Face SNA A - C14A\_2-3



September 30, 2014

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- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



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