



<b>Significant Natural Area Assessment</b>			
Project No:  11001/007	Property Name: <i>Mt. Nicholas/ Walter Peak.</i> Site Name: <i>North Von, Lower wetlands SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>N. Simpson</i>  Date: <i>26/04/11</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>N. Simpson, D. Palmer and R Henderson</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>E: 310 Topo50 CC10 N: 795</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>Q3.1a &amp; Q3.3a, O1.4a</i>  Ecological District: <i>Livingston</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>No Photos.</i>	
Topography: <i>Valley floor</i>	Slope: <i>5%</i>	Altitude: <i>750 m</i>	Aspect: <i>Open</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Comparatively safe from clearance.</i>		Natural Area Size (ha): <i>432.84</i>	
Representativeness: Highly representative of small lakes with fluctuating lake levels, with few examples present in the Lakes District. Good adjacent wetlands and dry tussockland with deflated hollows containing a threatened plant ( <i>Pseudognaphalium ephemerum</i> ).			
Are there threatened species expected in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Pseudognaphalium ephemerum</i>		Threatened - Nationally Critical	
<i>Isolepis basilaris</i>		Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>		At Risk - Declining	
<i>Ranunculus ternatifolius</i>		Threatened – Naturally Vulnerable	
<i>Brachyscome linearis</i>		Threatened - Nationally Critical	
<i>Carex berggrenii</i>		At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	
<i>Carex carsei</i>		At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	
<i>Ranunculus maculatus</i>		At Risk – Naturally Uncommon	
<i>Kirkianella novae- zelandiae</i>		Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable	
Provide onsite description of vegetation:			
Vegetation type: Lacustrine wetland, swamp, marshland, bog.			
Structural Class: Lacustrine wetland, swamp, marshland, bog.			
A small shallow lake with fluctuating water levels and turf community around its edge that contains a diverse plant community with threatened and at risk plants. Nearby rushland and sedgeland with much grey willow, small sphagnum bogs also with threatened plants, and to the north deflation hollows that are wet in winter and dry in summer and that contain the Nationally Critical <i>Pseudognaphalium ephemerum</i> . Snow totara grows on dry land in hard tussockland nearby. Red tussock grows in parts of the wetland.			

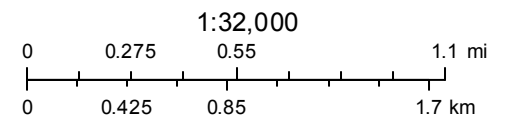
<p>Degree of Modification: Slightly modified by grazing and probable past fires but largely intact.</p> <p>Degree of Recruitment: A stable system.</p> <p>Overall Health: Good health.</p>
<p>Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: Fauna typical of high country open country and wetlands.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): The key threats are grey willow and fire, as well as increased stock numbers.</p>
<p>Rarity: A rare system within the Queenstown Lakes District with several rare and threatened plants. Wetland communities are severely restricted nationally from their original extent and distribution.</p>
<p>Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio: A relatively large homogeneous area contained by small hills on two sides.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): High diversity of plant species and communities (e.g. Lacustrine wetland, swamp, marshland, and bog communities).</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. &amp; landform features, distribution limits?): Quite distinctive, given the presence of threatened plant species and the rarity of such wetland systems within the Lakes District.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): Well connected with surrounding tussockland.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): Sustainable - a stable system.</p>
<p>Recommendation: We recommend the area is considered for designation as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat, based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wetland is highly representative of this environment;</li> <li>• Nationally, the extent and distribution of wetlands is severely restricted, which is supported by the proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity that includes wetlands in the description of significant vegetation and habitat; and,</li> <li>• The wetland contains a number of rare and endangered plant species.</li> </ul>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - North Von, Lower wetlands SNA A - D7A\_1-2.



June 22, 2015

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



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