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Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: 11001/008	Property Name: <i>Mt. Creighton</i> Site Name: <i>Lake Face Shrublands SNA B</i>	Ecologist: <i>G. Davis.</i> Date: 16/04/11	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>N. Simpson and G. Davis.</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>N: 4998569.8</i> <i>E: 1243301.0</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>Q2.2a, Q2.2b, Q2.1b and P5.1e</i> Ecological District: <i>Shotover</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Topography: <i>Steep mountain faces.</i>	Slope: <i>20 – 30 %</i>	Altitude: <i>400 – 700 m</i>	Aspect: <i>Mainly westerly</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically underprotected (Q2.2a, Q2.2b, Q2.1b) and Less reduced & better protected (P5.1e).</i>		Natural Area Size (ha): <i>43.02</i>	
Representativeness: Broadleaf indigenous hardwoods are representative of seral (i.e.mid successional community) vegetation on the lake faces of Lake Wakatipu.			
Are there threatened species expected 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 type: Broadleaf indigenous hardwood community. Common species within this community include: broadleaf, Olearia, cabbage tree, Pseudopanax sp., marble leaf and Coprosma spp..			
Degree of Modification: Thought to be modified from the original beech forest by fires, however there are large areas where the soil depth is skeletal and it is possible that the manuka woodland may be a dominant (i.e. climax) community on these sites.			
Degree of Recruitment: High – strongly regenerating, indicating high levels of recruitment into the community.			
Overall Health: Good health – these communities a regenerating strongly along the lake faces where disturbance from pastoral activities are limited.			

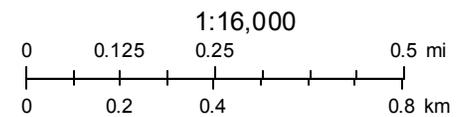
<p>Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: Expected fauna is that typical of broadleaf indigenous hardwood habitat, which includes a range of native insectivorous and frugivorous birds, as well as the Eastern falcon.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Threats to the vegetation include: fire, wilding pine spread, and spray from neighboring vegetation clearing operations.</p>
<p>Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the Q2.2a, Q2.2b, Q2.1b and P5.1e environments to have 39.92%, 44.68%, 66.39%, and 86.02% indigenous vegetation cover remaining respectively. These four environments have 5.07%, 1.96%, 4.72%, and 32.12% protected respectively.</p>
<p>Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio: While the edge to area ratio is relatively high, given the advanced stage of regeneration along with a closed canopy, the area is self-sustaining.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): Broadleaf indigenous hardwood forests are relatively diverse systems and provide excellent habitat for a range of insectivorous and frugivorous birds.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): The indigenous broadleaf hardwood community is a distinctive seral (mid successional community) vegetation of the lake faces of Lake Wakatipu.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): Well connected to lakeshore forest/shrubland.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): Sustainable as a largely seral plant community that will eventually give way to mountain beech forest.</p>
<p>Recommendations (Accept/Decline): We consider this area should be designated as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat in view of the following ecological attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadleaf indigenous hardwoods support a diverse range of indigenous bird species, including the 'At Risk' Eastern falcon; • Advanced stage of regeneration with a closed canopy – clear evidence of natural successional processes in place; and, • Contiguous with lakeshore shrublands.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Lake Face Shrublands SNA B - A8B.



September 29, 2014

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



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



Figure 2: Mt Creighton Lake Faces (looking south toward Rat Point).