

21.22.11 Mount Iron ONF

General Description of the Area

Mount Iron PA ONF comprises the summit and slopes of the hill between Wānaka and Albert Town, extending to the toe of the hill on the southern and eastern sides and to the urban-zoned land on the western and northern sides.

Physical Attributes and Values

Geology and Geomorphology • Topography and Landforms • Climate and Soils • Hydrology • Vegetation • Ecology • Settlement • Development and Land Use • Archaeology and Heritage • Mana whenua

Important landforms and land types

1. A classic, highly visible large roche moutonnée landform. The 'upstream' north-western side is generally smooth, while the south-eastern 'downstream' side is steep, rough and craggy; the characteristic form of a roche moutonnée. Listed in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory as a site of National Importance as a 'particularly good example of a *rôche moutonnée* and 'an extremely well-defined landform of scientific/educational value'. The landform feature extends beyond the PA into urban areas on the western and northern flanks.

Important ecological features and vegetation types

2. Extensive areas of regenerating kānuka woodland (*Kunzea serotina*) across much of the landform, mixed with grey shrubland dominated by matagouri, mingimingi and bracken, generally on the steeper and rockier terrain. More discrete areas of short tussock grassland, exotic grassland, cushionfield and turf communities occur on the summit plateau and western slopes of Mount Iron. The cushionfields and turfs in particular support nationally threatened plant species such as *Carmichaelia kirkii*, *Acaena rorida*, *Myosotis brevis* and *Pimelia serviceovillosa*. Kānuka and matagouri have a threat classification of At-Risk Declining.
3. Mount Iron is one of the best examples of roche moutonnée habitats in the Pisa Ecological District with a diversity of habitats and moderate species richness. The relatively large size of the site and its compactness are conducive to ecological attributes being self-sustained, but it is also an important component of a network of kānuka woodlands in the vicinity of the upper Mata-Au Clutha River.
4. Revegetation with indigenous species is being implemented in some of the more open areas of the ONF.
5. The diversity of habitats afforded by the rocky terrain and various vegetation types provides suitable habitat for New Zealand falcon, bellbird, grey warbler, fantail and silvereye, skinks and geckos and an assemblage of native invertebrates.
6. Pest plants including wilding conifers, hawthorn and sycamore are scattered across much of the steeper southern and eastern sides of Mount Iron and have the potential to invade the kānuka woodland and the sensitive cushionfield and turf communities if not controlled.
7. Animal pest species include possums, stoats, rabbits, mice and rats.

Land use patterns and features

8. The majority of the PA is kānuka woodland or grey shrubland protected as conservation reserve, council reserve or by Significant Natural Area overlay. Some open retired pastoral areas are present on the western side and the rocky cliffs on the southern and south-eastern sides do not support tall vegetation. A network of walking tracks criss-crosses the landform and there are Wānaka water supply tanks on the

north-western flank, as well as two dwellings amidst the kānuka forest. There is one dwelling and one other consented building platform on the eastern flank of the hill.

Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations

9. No historic heritage or archaeological features have been identified/recorded to date within the ONF.

Mana whenua features and their locations

10. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori.

Associative Attributes and Values

Mana whenua creation and origin traditions • Mana whenua associations and experience • Mana whenua metaphysical aspects such as mauri and wairua • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values

Mana whenua associations and experience

11. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.

Important historic attributes and values

12. Mount Iron has some contextual significance as a key reference point within the early survey of the area.
13. Historic value as a visitor destination from the early 1900s on. A track to the summit was completed in 1906.

Important shared and recognised values

14. Very important values as part of the identity and sense of place of Wānaka – a key feature in the everyday life of residents and a widely visible landmark from surrounding urban areas. Very strong shared values as a popular recreational destination for locals and for domestic and international visitors and as a quiet and natural environment in close proximity to the township.

Important recreation attributes and values

15. Very popular walking destination for locals and visitors, with a network of trails, multiple access points from State Highway 84 and surrounding urban areas. Panoramic views of Lake Wānaka and the Upper Clutha Basin from the slopes and summit.

Perceptual (Sensory) Attributes and Values

Legibility and Expressiveness • Views to the area • Views from the area • Naturalness • Memorability • Transient values • Remoteness / Wildness • Aesthetic qualities and values

Legibility and expressiveness attributes and values

16. Very prominent and isolated distinctive landform with a high degree of legibility and a strong visual contrast with the surrounding urban landscape.

Particularly important views to and from the area

17. A prominent and distinctive component of views from surrounding areas of the Upper Clutha Basin, including Wānaka township, Albert Town and the southern parts of Lake Wānaka. Natural landmark at the entry to Wānaka from the east, where it dominates the entry experience.
18. Very highly valued panoramic views from the slopes and summit of the hill that allow people to locate themselves within the Upper Clutha Basin and to take in the urban and rural areas of the basin and the enclosing mountain ranges and lakes. Elevated viewpoints allow appreciation of the array of legible and expressive landforms within and surrounding the basin.

Naturalness attributes and values

19. High level of naturalness due to the extent of regenerating indigenous vegetation and the largely unmodified nature of the landform. This is despite some more modified areas containing tracks, roading and structures.

Memorability attributes and values

20. Highly memorable landform due to its size, isolation, dramatic cliffs, and indigenous vegetation cover.

Transient attributes and values

21. The early summer mass flowering of kānuka, the passing effects of light and shade, and the variable presence of wildlife.

Aesthetic attributes and values

22. High aesthetic attributes associated with the experience of the values identified above by a significant number of residents and visitors.
23. More specifically, this relates to:
 - a. The visual prominence and memorability of the landform;
 - b. The regenerating indigenous vegetation;
 - c. The high degree of contrast with surrounding urban areas; and
 - d. The easy accessibility and high level of use by locals and visitors.

Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Associative • Perceptual (Sensory)

Rating scale: seven-point scale ranging from **Very Low** to **Very High**.

very low	low	low-mod	moderate	mod-high	high	very high
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The physical, associative and perceptual attributes and values described above for the PA ONF Mount Iron can be summarised as follows:

- (a) **Very high** physical values relating to the prominent and classic roche moutonnée landform, the predominance of regenerating indigenous vegetation with important habitat values for indigenous fauna, and the mana whenua features association with the area.

- (b) **Very high** associative values relating to the mana whenua associations of the areas, the significant recreational attributes, and the strong shared and recognised values as part of the local and regional sense of place.
- (c) **High** perceptual values relating to the legibility, visual prominence, memorability and naturalness of the hill, its contrast with surrounding urban areas and the ability for people to access and experience the feature.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA ONF Mount Iron for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **commercial recreational activities** – no landscape capacity.
- ii. **visitor accommodation and tourism related activities** - **very limited** landscape capacity to absorb visitor accommodation within existing buildings or building platforms. **No** landscape capacity for tourism-related activities.
- iii. **urban expansions** – no landscape capacity.
- iv. **intensive agriculture** – no landscape capacity.
- v. **earthworks** – **very limited** landscape capacity for earthworks and additional trails or access tracks that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values, and are sympathetically designed to integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **farm buildings** – no landscape capacity.
- vii. **mineral extraction** – no landscape capacity.
- viii. **transport infrastructure** – no landscape capacity.
- ix. **utilities and regionally significant infrastructure** – no landscape capacity.
- x. **renewable energy generation** – no landscape capacity.
- xi. **production forestry** – no landscape capacity.
- xii. **rural living** – no landscape capacity.