



<b>Significant Natural Area Assessment</b>			
Project No: 11001/040	Property Name: <i>Gibbston Valley Station</i>	Ecologists: <i>Glenn Davis &amp; Rebecca Lawrence</i>	
	Site Name: <i>Gibbston Valley SNA C</i>	Date: <i>12<sup>th</sup> October 2012</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis, Ralph Henderson &amp; Rebecca Lawrence</i>		<u>Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area):</u> <i>See attached plan for location.</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>Q2.2a</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See attached.</i>	
Ecological District: <i>Remarkables</i>			
Topography: <i>Upper valley slope</i>	Slope: <i>Moderate</i>	Altitude: <i>820 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>North</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically Underprotected</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>3.14</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 the SNA C area 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	
Provide onsite description of vegetation Vegetation type: The grey shrubland will include <i>Olearia</i> species, <i>Discaria toumatou</i> , <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> , <i>Melicytus alpinus</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i> and <i>Rubus schmidelioides</i> . Briar, an introduced weed species, is most likely present.  Degree of Modification: The area is thought to have experienced historical disturbance via 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 C) 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. 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 with 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 grey shrubland area 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. However, the size of the self-sustaining area might 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.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. &amp; landform features, distribution limits?):</p> <p>The shrubland will contain stands of <i>Olearia</i> species, which 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, including the Gibbston Valley SNA B area.</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. 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. Based on the above considerations we recommend this area for inclusion as an area of Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

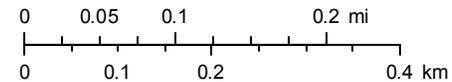
Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Gibbston Valley SNA C - F40C.



November 4, 2014

1:8,000

- 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 C*', on the Gibbston Valley Station property.