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| Significant Natural Area Assessment | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| Project No: <i>11001/001</i> | Property Name: <i>Loche Linnhe</i> Site Name: <i>Loche Linnhe SNA E</i> | Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis and Neill Simpson</i> Date: <i>7 September 2010</i> | |
| Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis, Neill Simpson and Ralph Henderson</i> | | Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>E: 217 9363</i> <i>N: 554 0035</i> | |
| LENZ Unit: <i>Q2.2a</i> Ecological District: <i>Lakes Ecological District</i> | | Photo No.(s): <i>No photos.</i> | |
| Topography: <i>Riparian and hillslope</i> | Slope: <i>Variable</i> | Altitude: <i>460 - 960</i> | Aspect: <i>Westerly</i> |
| Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically underprotected</i> | | Area Size (ha): <i>41.45</i> | |
| Representativeness: <i>Beech Forest</i> – beech forest is highly representative of the environment and would have covered much of the lower slopes lake faces of the Remarkables prior to human settlement. | | | |
| Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status. | | | |
| Threatened Species | | Threat Status | |
| <i>Alepis flavida</i> | | At Risk - Declining | |
| Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: Beech forest dominated by mountain beech (<i>Nothofagus solandri. cliffortoides</i>), with occasional mature red beech (<i>Nothofagus fusca</i>). Understorey: Halls totara (<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>), broadleaf (<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>), marbleleaf (<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>) mountain ribbonwood (<i>Hoheria lyallii</i>) and lancewood (<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>). Ferns: <i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i> , <i>B. montanum</i> , <i>B. vulcanicum</i> , <i>B. chambersii</i> , <i>B. fluviatile</i> , <i>Asplenium appendiculatum</i> subsp. <i>appendiculatum</i> , hen and chicken fern (<i>A. bulbiferum</i>) and <i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i> . Degree of Modification: We understand the understorey has been grazed. | | | |
| Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: A range of native bird species are understood to inhabit the area including grey warbler, tomtit, bellbird, tui and fantail. | | | |
| Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): The threat to the beech forest is considered low, however there is ongoing threats to the vegetation and fauna present from possums and other introduced species such as deer, pigs, stoats and ferrets. | | | |

Rarity:

The threatened environment classification identifies the Q2.2a environment to have 39.92% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 5.07% protected. The remaining cover is considered sufficient to maintain the biodiversity of the indigenous vegetation and habitats. Notwithstanding the above, viewed in a local context, beech forest distribution on the western Remarkables is restricted considerably from its previous extent and this stand is a good example of the vegetation that covered the area prior to human settlement.

Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio:

The forest is a considerable size, with a moderate edge to area ratio.

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

The beech forest is critical to the preservation of an indigenous vegetation cover sequence from the lake to the alpine environment.

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

Whilst the composition of the beech forest is similar in nature to large areas of beech further to the west of the ecological region, the forest is very distinctive to the Remarkables range.

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

The beech forest is connected to nearby lakeside vegetation, shrubland vegetation near its margins and tall tussock grassland above.

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

The beech stand is an appropriate size to ensure ecological processes such as recruitment and regeneration are maintained into the future.

Recommendation (Accept/Decline):

The beech forest is a good example of vegetation that is understood to have dominated the lower slopes of the Remarkables. Indigenous vegetation cover in these environments is severely reduced from its original extent and less than 6% has any formal protection. It is also important habitat for indigenous birds and invertebrates. Given the high level of representativeness and rarity of beech forest on the Remarkables Range we recommend the area should be considered for designation as a SNA.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Loch Linnhe SNA E - D1E



September 24, 2014

Proposed Significant Natural Area

Proposed Significant Natural Area

Parcels

1:16,000

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 mi
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 km

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