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Significant Natural Area Assessment

Project No: 11001/026	Property Name: <i>Avalon Station</i> Site Name: <i>Avalon Station SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis and Neill Simpson</i> Date: 29 March 2012	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis, Neill Simpson and Ralph Henderson</i>		<u>Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area):</u> <i>See attached plan for location.</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>N4.1d</i> Ecological District: <i>Wanaka Ecological District</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>No photos.</i>	
Topography: <i>Steep stream terrace scarp.</i>	Slope: <i>Steep</i>	Altitude: <i>approx. 490 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>South</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Chronically threatened</i>		Area Size (ha): 5.48	
Representativeness: <i>Grey shrubland</i> – dominant indigenous vegetation cover in the drier areas of the Wanaka Ecological District and Lakes Ecological Region.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species	Threat Status		
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon)</i>	At Risk - Recovering		
Provide onsite description of vegetation:			
Vegetation type: The vegetation was only viewed from the air but the vegetation composition consists of <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> , matagouri, <i>Olearia odorata</i> and briar.			
Degree of Modification: The area has experienced historical disturbance and lacks the diversity that this vegetation would originally have had. The area has a long history of modification, particularly fires, but has not been disturbed for some time.			
Overall Health: The shrubland is largely intact and is dominated by mature indigenous species.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: The shrubland provides habitat for a variety of passerines that are prey for the eastern falcon that was seen in the area during the flight. The population of mature olearia may support a unique invertebrate fauna.			
Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Changes to management or inadvertent fire are the key threats to the vegetation.			

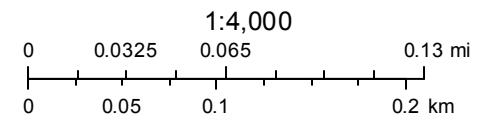
Rarity:
The threatened environment classification identifies the N4.1d environment to have 18.6% indigenous vegetation cover remaining, with 2.3% protected.
Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining) : It is unlikely the area has the ability to naturally regenerate.
Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): The shrubland contains a range of grey shrubland species and is notable for the presence of tree daisys.
Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): The population of tree daisys is a distinctive feature within this lowland environment.
Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): The site is isolated from shrublands in neighbouring catchments, although is connected to briar and matagouri dominated shrubland at a higher elevation. We do note that the site is part of a mosaic of grassland/shrubland that extends through the lower to mid hillslopes in the Cardrona Valley which can be viewed as a unit particularly important for insectivorous birds and eastern falcon.
Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): While the area is stocked it is unlikely the area has the ability to naturally regenerate. It is therefore likely that there are key ecological processes lacking to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stand.
Recommendation (Accept/Decline): The area is moderately representative of grey shrubland within this environment and is a part of the wider habitat for eastern falcon in the Cardrona Valley. It is also good habitat for a unique invertebrate fauna associated with the tree daisy's and passerines that are critical for the maintenance of the eastern falcon population. Limiting the significance of the vegetation is that the stand may lack important ecological processes to support the regenerative ability and therefore long term sustainability of the stand. Given the vegetation is moderately representative of this lowland environment we consider the area should be considered for designation as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Avalon Station SNA A - F26A.



October 3, 2014

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



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