

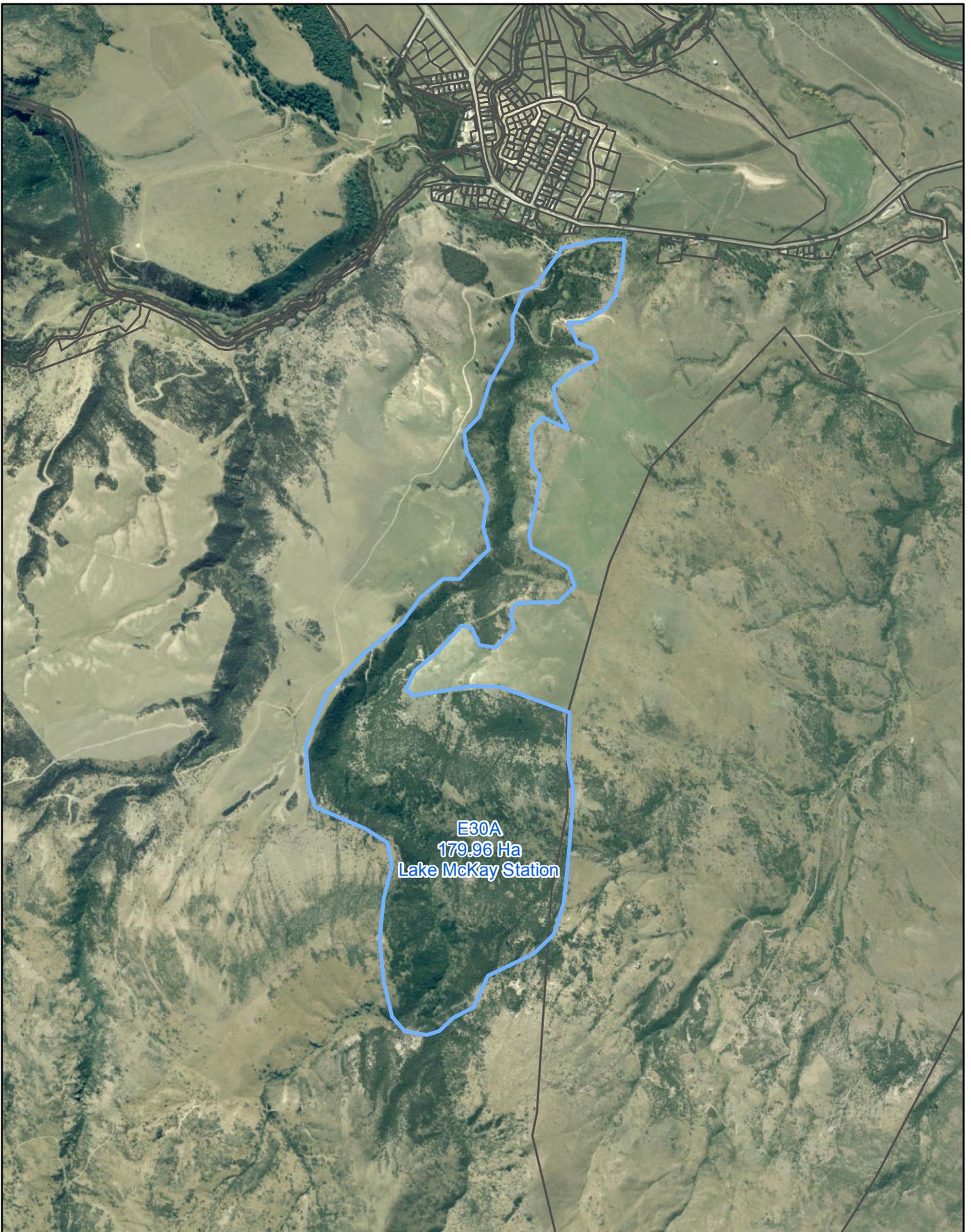


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Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: <i>11011/030</i>	Property Name: <i>Lake McKay Station</i> Site Name: <i>Deadhorse Crk SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis</i> Date: <i>2 February 2012</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis, Ralph Henderson</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <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>Gully system</i>	Slope: <i>Steep</i>	Altitude: <i>approx. 500 m asl</i>	Aspect: <i>Various</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Chronically threatened</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>179.96</i>	
Representativeness: Kanuka woodland, which is highly representative of the pre-settlement vegetation.			
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	
<i>Olearea lineata</i>		At Risk – Declining	
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: Kanuka woodland – kanuka woodland is dominated by kanuka but also includes a range of other shrubland species such as matagouri, native broom, <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> and the lianes: <i>Rubus</i> spp. and <i>Muehlenbeckia</i> spp. Mature stands of <i>Olearea lineata</i> are also present. Degree of Modification: The area will have been disturbed by fire historically, but has not been disturbed for a long period given the presence of a well-developed kanuka cover. Overall Health: The area is in excellent overall health.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: A range of passerines will be present such as grey warbler, brown creeper, fantail and tomtit. This vegetation is also expected to provide good habitat for a range of lizard species including the threatened jewelled gecko.			

<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):</p> <p>Existing farm management practices are clearly sympathetic to the kanuka woodland, therefore there is a low risk of intentional disturbance to the woodland. There is however a threat of inadvertent fire. Other threats include wilding pines with large mature trees established within the woodland.</p>
<p>Rarity:</p> <p>The threatened environment classification identifies the N4.1d environment to have 18% indigenous vegetation cover remaining and 2% under formal protection. Furthermore, the area supports good populations of <i>Olearea lineata</i> and is expected to support good year round populations of insectivorous birds which are important prey for the eastern falcon.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):</p> <p>The area is contained on the steep faces of the gully system and is self-sustaining.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):</p> <p>The kanuka woodland has a range of shrubland species representative of the area and will also provide habitat for a range of bird and lizard species.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?):</p> <p>The size of the kanuka woodland is distinctive and provides a good representation of the pre-settlement vegetation.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):</p> <p>The kanuka is directly connected to grey shrubland on the mid slopes and tall tussock grassland at higher elevations, i.e. >1000 m asl.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):</p> <p>The management of the site is clearly sympathetic to the maintenance of the indigenous vegetation and it is of a size that is sustainable.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline):</p> <p>Highly representative vegetation in a chronically threatened environment that is self-sustaining and providing excellent habitat for a range of bird, lizard and invertebrate species. We recommend this area is considered as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Deadhorse Crk SNA A - E30A



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

Legend

-  Proposed Significant Natural Area
-  Land Parcels

