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Significant Natural Area Assessment

Project No: 11001/024	Property Name: <i>Wye Creek</i> Site Name: <i>Wye Creek SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>Rebecca Lawrence</i> Date: 9 August 2012	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Rebecca Lawrence</i>		<u>Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area):</u> See attached plan for location.	
LENZ Unit: <i>N5.1c & N4.1d</i> Ecological District: <i>Remarkables Ecological District</i>		Photo No.(s): See attached.	
Topography: <i>slightly sloping terrain</i>	Slope: <i>slight slope to lake.</i>	Altitude: <i>335 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>West</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Acutely Threatened & Chronically Threatened</i>		Area Size (ha): 1.41	

Representativeness:

Prior to European arrival, from the lake shore to three quarters of the way up the site there would most likely have been grassland with patches of kanuka, and at the top end of the site there would have been woodland comprised of kowhai, kanuka, matagouri, coprosmas and olearias. Currently, the site's grassland is dominated by exotic grass species and the shrubland is dominated by bracken fern and *Pittosporum tenuifolium*.

Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.

Threatened Species	Threat Status
<i>None observed.</i>	

Provide onsite description of vegetation:

Vegetation type: Shrubland dominated by bracken fern and *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, but also including tutu, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Griselinia littoralis*, manuka, *Hebe salicifolia*, matagouri, mistletoe sp., *Carmichaelia* sp., and *Cordyline australis*. There are also areas of grassland, dominated by exotic grass species.

Degree of Modification: Given the predominance of bracken fern, previous disturbances (e.g. fire) most likely occurred. There are also off-road vehicle tracks throughout the site.

Overall Health: The shrubland is largely intact, supporting a range of native plant species, which should survive so long as there is no future disturbance. We expect the vegetation to continue to develop with seed sources of later successional species such as beech forest in close proximity to the site.

<p>Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: The onsite fauna will includes passerine bird species (exotic and native) and invertebrates.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Threats include weeds such as briar, exotic grasses and wilding pines (which are present on site), and disturbance from off-road tracks and their associated activities.</p>
<p>Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the N4.1d environment to have 18.6% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 2.3% protected. The threatened environment classification identifies the N5.1c environment to have 2.7% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 0.8% protected.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining): Without further disturbance, the shrubland will sustain itself, and promote the regeneration of many native plant species, although with time there is the risk of wilding pines dominating.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): There are a range of native shrubland plant species present on site.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): The site is distinctive in that the bracken is providing a nursery for the regeneration of multiple native plant species on site.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): To the north is a housing development with native plantings and to the south is grassland which is dominated by exotic grass species, although along Wye Creek there are individual beech trees and some southern rata. To the west is Lake Wakatipu and to the east Wye Creek, which supports an area of beech forest and more shrubland.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): The site is sustainable without future disturbance, with a range of native plant species regenerating through the bracken fern. There is a risk of wilding pines dominating the site given time.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline): Given the site contains representative vegetation of a threatened environment and is self-sustaining, as well as providing excellent habitat for a range of bird 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 – Wye Creek SNA A – C24A

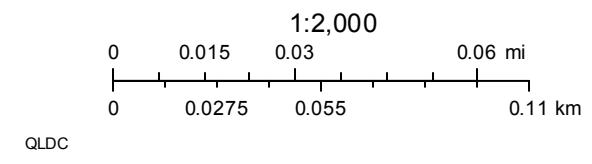


July 2, 2015

Proposed_Significant_Natural_Areas - Proposed SNA

Proposed SNA

Parcels



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



Figure 2: Photograph showing the dominant bracken fern and *Pittosporum tenuifolium*.