

CENTRAL OTAGO OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY

2012 - 2022



February 2012

This is a community owned strategy developed by the Outdoor Recreation Working Party in consultation with the Central Otago Community

**Central Otago Outdoor Recreation Strategy
2012 - 2022**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central Otago is a beautiful, premier New Zealand outdoor wonderland and we are both fortunate and privileged to live, work and play here. From walking, cycling, mountain biking and swimming to boating, fishing, ice skating and skiing, we have it all. It's the best, and we want to keep it that way.

This is Central Otago's first Outdoor Recreation Strategy (COORS). From the community outcomes process, the community indicated that it wanted the development of an outdoor recreation strategy to help identify future recreation opportunities for Central Otago as part of building a safe and healthy community. The strategy has been facilitated by the Central Otago District Council (CODC). CODC has encouraged discussion and coordination between relevant parties to achieve actions for improvements. This document has been reviewed by agencies like the Department of Conservation (DOC), and many of the individual sections have been reviewed by interested clubs and organisations.

COORS is not 'owned' by any one organisation or business. It is a community document in line with the Destination Management approach already active in Central Otago. This approach is all about managing the recreational experience from design to marketing, for community members and visitors – the emphasis is on communities determining their own futures, sustainably and with cross-agency co-operation. It is envisioned that parts of the strategy will be picked up by the interested organisations and parties to be driven forward.

The purpose of COORS is two-fold:

1. to review outdoor recreation – identifying existing resources and experiences
2. to provide guidance for the future – with the aims of minimising potential conflict and identifying opportunities to maximise the region's social and economic well-being, as well as its national and international standing.

Central Otago (often referred to in this strategy as 'Central') is the geographic area administered by the CODC. The district comprises the dry, mountainous and stunningly scenic interior of Otago. It does NOT include Wanaka or the Queenstown Lakes District further to the west.

It is now judged essential for Central Otago to develop a responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation strategy. Significant factors contributing to this decision are:

- Greater recognition of Central as an exceptional outdoor 'playground' resulting in rising visitor numbers
- A growing population keen to enjoy and engage in the outdoors; and protective of local lifestyle values (as outlined in community plans, e.g. tranquillity)
- Intensification of land use (subdivisions, lifestyle blocks, horticulture etc), which is reducing undeveloped outdoor space and curtailing or eliminating public access to some areas
- The widening variety of outdoor pursuits now available is putting pressure on natural locations, leading to competition for the same spaces (e.g. between different users, between users and landowners, and between different providers), and the need to manage incompatible pursuits for reasons of public safety, e.g. swimming and jet-skiing
- Recreational fragmentation – more people doing more activities independently (rather than through clubs), requiring better public access to information and direction about activities to supplement the traditional role of clubs
- Increased regulatory requirements and responsibilities, restrictions and changing perceptions of risk. These have led to changes in access patterns and a trend towards more formalised access arrangements over private land.

Any planning and management of recreation needs to take into account the complex nature of recreation in Central Otago, which is due to the range of parties involved (private companies, local and central government agencies, communities, and individuals both recreationalists and landowners), and the key characteristics of Central (e.g. both our ageing population and growing youth sector in some areas). Therefore, managing recreation may require a combination of approaches in future. These could include:

- Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) – focusing on what users want, what an area can provide and how interactions between user and that area can be managed
- Benefits Based Management – taking ROS a step further to include the effects on the community (positive and negative)
- Destination Management – focusing on communities determining their own futures with cross agency co-operation to ensure a quality experience for both resident and visitor – marketing, enjoying and safeguarding places and spaces.



There is a wide range of outdoor activities undertaken in Central Otago and each one is addressed specifically in this strategy. However, there are certain overarching issues that present across a range of activities and/or for service providers.

1. Human Waste Disposal

Inappropriate disposal of human waste is often attributed to campers, but outdoor users such as cyclists, walkers, fishermen, picnickers and travellers contribute to the problem more widely.

Potential solutions include education through the promotion of the environmental code, site-specific information and targeted campaigns, including the provision of suitably located and well publicised toilet facilities.

2. Rubbish

Disposal of rubbish is a big issue, to which all recreational users contribute. The most consistently high volumes of rubbish are left at popular picnic/swimming spots near adjoining towns.

Potential solutions include education similar to that mentioned above, a refund/recycle glass system, additional rubbish collections at heavily used sites, entry point signage, and national and targeted campaigns promoting the 'pack it in, pack it out' ethic.

3. Dogs

Dogs are often an issue in relation to walking tracks and with adjoining landowners. Concerns relate to unleashed dogs frightening people, wildlife and stock, and their potential to spread disease to stock.

Existing regulations require dogs to be under control by their owners at all times. The proposed approach is for greater education, publicity and enforcement action where necessary.

4. Signs, Route Guides and Waymarking (Geographic Information)

Poor waymarking of recreational routes and access corridors, poor signage and a lack of route markings from main highways to and from entry/exit points is problematic, particularly for visitors. It is compounded by limited supporting material such as guidebooks, brochures, web-based information and mapping.

Consequences include inappropriate use of facilities, people getting lost, inadvertent trespassing and a poor user experience. Nowadays with word of mouth experiences appearing on internet and social media postings, bad publicity can quickly result and accumulate. If the situation is not improved we risk damaging Central's reputation, leading to a relative decline in visitor numbers.

5. Access

Reduced access to recreational areas is a growing problem with changing and more intense land use due to subdivision. There is often a public expectation that with these changes new formal access will be created, even if previous access was informal.

Access can also be hampered by poor or misleading signage as well as complications from the varying types of land tenure (e.g. paper road, crown pastoral lease and freehold) and users' lack of knowledge of their corresponding responsibilities and privileges.

There is a range of concerns for landowners who have access ways across their land and/or adjoining properties. These include dogs and people straying off-route; stock disturbance; people engaging in prohibited activities such as carrying firearms or lighting fires; people or vehicles damaging fences, other property or the landscape; and littering.

In order to attain or maintain access to favourite recreational areas locals have, at times, negotiated informal privileged arrangements with landowners. These 'gentlemen's agreements' apply to 10 to 15 percent of Central's recreational areas. They have no legal status and are not identified in this report. But they do present issues, such as inhibiting the development of enduring public access, constraining domestic and international marketing and so denying others' access to regionally and nationally recognised assets.

Informal arrangements are at most risk of closure. Securing enduring legal access would require planning and negotiation.

6. Research

Current information about actual participation rates and/or issues relating to outdoor activities tends to be based on anecdotal evidence. Before action is proposed relevant research should be undertaken to define the scope and impact of any issue.

7. Landowners

Many private landowners have gone to considerable expense and effort to ensure there is access to outdoor recreation activities across or on their properties. However, the use of private land for access or recreational purposes is subject to the owners' consent, which means that should tenure of the property change activities may be put at risk. The concerns of landowners themselves are discussed above under Access.

8. Competing Use and Displacement

The potential for competing use by different activities in the same spaces is very real given Central's growing popularity as a visitor destination, its huge range of outdoor recreation opportunities and people's interest in them.

Concerns:

- Displacement – from incompatible use (e.g. trail biking and walking) or overuse degrading a resource (e.g. noise, dust and ongoing environmental damage reducing amenity quality) and both/either leading to users going elsewhere.
- Safety concerns – real or perceived, due to increasing volumes of outdoor recreation users, e.g. cyclists v walkers, swimmers v jet boaters, snowmobilers v cross country skiers, four wheel drivers v walkers.
- Land consumption by development – inadequate planning can reduce the provision of outdoor recreation in appropriate spaces and lead to displacement to undesired locations (e.g. trail bikes using inappropriate land near urban areas).

To manage displacement, quality of experience and amenity, safety, and land consumption concerns, appropriate monitoring and projection is required of activities, the demand within locations, and the quality of user experience. User education may be helpful.

9. Communication

Maximising the benefits of outdoor recreation to Central Otago and visitors, while minimising negative effects, presents a big information management challenge.

Examples of requirements:

- Information available through web based systems
- Market activities through national and international magazines, websites, social networking websites (e.g. Facebook), national agency publications and websites (e.g. DOC), locally – i-sites, local radio and press
- Public and planning information via a GIS about recreational areas, routes, tracks and trails, car parking, facilities, and permitted and prohibited activities
- Signs, route markings, and track waymarks
- Interpretative information
- Information on the challenge involved and the equipment required to undertake various grades of activity so users can wisely assess their competence, fitness, gear, vehicles, time available, and the weather
- Educational information for users and providers about conduct, rights and responsibilities, e.g. DOC's 'NZ Environmental Care Code'; The Walking Access Commission's 'Outdoor Access Code'.

COORS addresses each outdoor recreation activity, individually, discussing issues specific to that activity, and providing recommended actions for improvements. Each activity has a positioning statement reflecting what matters to, or the motivations of, the people involved.

The activities are: air activities, mountain biking, road cycling, climbing, four wheel driving, gold panning, hunting – small game and big game, ice sports, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, observational recreation, trail bikes and motorbikes, walking/tramping/running, water related activities, swimming/picnicking, fishing, boating, jet skiing, water skiing/wakeboarding, wind surfing/kite surfing, yachting, canoeing/kayaking, rowing, and diving. Camping is not discussed in this document. A separate Camping Strategy has been developed and is available from Central Otago District Council.

Overall, Central Otago has the potential to be a major outdoor recreation area in New Zealand. We are uniquely positioned in a few activities and well equipped to host many others – and all within unparalleled landscapes. The extent of the effects of these activities on one-another, our environment and communities will depend on how we

choose to manage the complexity of outdoor recreation. A responsible and sustainable plan is our best protection for maintaining resources and enhancing the truly awesome outdoor experience that is distinctive to Central Otago.

COORS is now out for public comment until 11 November 2011. Individual sections of the document as well as a full copy are available online at www.centralotagonz.com or from the Central Otago District Council offices, libraries or visitor centres. Submissions will be heard in late November 2011 by a working group.

IMPLEMENTATION

There are a range of activities identified in this document. This is a summary of the actions identified along with who might undertake such actions and a priority for when it is to be done.

The working group are interested in who you think should carry out this work and the priority each action should be given based off the following:

- U Urgent – needs to be addressed within six months
- H High – needs to be addressed within one-two year
- M Medium – needs to be addressed within two to five years
- L Low – needs to be addressed in after five years

Overarching Issues

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
A guide for consistent signage, printed material and web content that can be used for all outdoor recreation promotion and information provision .	DOC, CODC, NZ Walking Access Commission, Clubs, CORUF, LINZ	29
Well planned development and subdivision that protects associated amenity values and formalises or provides improved access to recreation areas.	CODC	29
A consistent and appropriately graded approach to the disposal of toilet waste and rubbish across all activities and all areas whether suburban, rural or remote.	DOC, CODC	29
Education on conduct, rights and responsibilities – for example informing dog owners about where dogs are allowed, and on the requirements of the Dog Control Bylaw.	DOC, CODC, CORUF, Community Organisations, Walking Access Commission	29
Develop an approach to address competing use where necessary.	CORUF, LINZ	29

Air Activities

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Assess the opportunity to work with Wanaka and Omarama with flying events.	Air Field users/ Flying & Glider Clubs, Commercial Owners	33
Incorporate gliding, flying opportunities and facilities into visitor information and web sites.	Clubs, Visitor Centres, Tourism Central Otago	33
Consider means to manage noise from aircraft operations and the impact of further subdivisions around the perimeters of airports.	CODC	33

Mountain Biking

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Identify and promote (map, documents, signs, web) cycling opportunities around the district.	Cycle Businesses, Community Plan Groups, Clutha Gold, Roxburgh Gorge Trails, Clutha Management, Matau River Parkways, CORUF, CODC, DOC, Cycle Clubs, NZ Walking Access Commission, Otago Central Rail Trail Trust, Landowners	44
Education on shared use facilities.	CORUF, Cycle Clubs, Landowners	44
Encourage adoption of the standards outlined in the classification of trails in this document.	CORUF, Cycle Clubs	44
Develop standardised signage and marking of trails and how to get to trails.	CORUF, Cycle Clubs, DOC	44
Develop more trails of all grade's including the consideration of loop circuits.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners	44
Secure access to advanced and severe trails.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners	44
Secure access for pedestrian and cycle access past/through the early section of Graveyard Gully through/around Sewage treatment plant with the view to legalising access up the gully connecting with Knobbies access route and Little Valley Road.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners	44
Explore options for some form of over all coordination with existing trail providers for current trail asset management.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners	44
Undertake, informed by good research and planning, integrated implementation of new trails to match identified gaps and growing demands.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners, community groups	44
Assess community interest and commitment to develop an integrated trail systems approach.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners, community groups	44
Assess the bike friendliness of our towns and businesses in Central Otago.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners, community groups	44
Plan and implement commuter cycle and walking trails between population centres e.g. Ripponvale – Bannockburn – Cromwell – Lowburn – Pisa Moorings via Lake Dunstan.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners, community groups	44
Assess use of the Alexandra to Clyde trail and means of educating on shared use.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners, community groups	44
Develop further trails such as Alexandra to Roxburgh and Clyde to Wanaka.	Cycle clubs, CORUF, DOC, Landowners, community groups	44

Road Cycling

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Identify and promote (map, signs, web) road cycling	Wakatipu Cycle Club,	47

circuits over the district.	CODC, Cycle Businesses	
Identify, prioritise and improve road shoulders and road widths around bends and blind areas.	Transit, CODC	47
Assess the bike friendliness of our towns.	Cycle Clubs, CODC, Transit	47
Continue to work with road safety team on education, promotion of increased visibility, safe confident cycle use and share the road campaigns.	CODC, Cycle Clubs, Transit	47

Climbing

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Parties interested in climbing liaise on safety, liability and access to climbing areas.	Climbing Clubs/Schools, CODC	50
Council assess its land management responsibilities with regards to climbing facilities located along the true left bank of the Manuherikia River adjoining the Lookout Estate Alexandra.	CODC	50
Develop rock climbing information to identify Central Otago schist rock climbs.	Climbing Clubs/Schools,	50
Assess the need for a rock climbing wall.	Climbing Clubs/Schools,	50

Four Wheel Driving

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
That easy to moderate tracks are well signed, well maintained and have good information	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
A collaborative approach to selection of appropriate sites	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Integration and cooperation over policy, management, maintenance, designation, signage, trail marking, publications and education	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Actively liaise with CORUF	CODC, CORUF	56
Adopt a track rating system	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Develop a track map system of all tracks to allow informed strategic planning and management decisions	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Carry out research to ensure good decision making	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Develop, adopt and promote four wheel drive code of conduct	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Carry out an education awareness campaign to raise understanding of inappropriate four wheel drive use	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Investigate enforcement and management options for the district.	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56
Investigate further seasonal road closure options	DOC, CORUF, Landowners, CODC, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	56

Gold Panning

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Secure legal sites for recreational gold panning.	New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, Otago Regional Council	58

Publicise and promote these various sites once established with visitor maps and brochures.	New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, Otago Regional Council	58
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Hunting - Small and Big Game

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Develop publicly available information for areas not covered by DOC that define the types of hunting (what), locations (where), timing (when), type of access (how) and conditions of use.	Landowners, NZDA, Hunting Clubs, NZ Walking Access Commission	
Have all information available through Visitor Information Centres and DOC.	DOC/ Visitor Centres, Hunting and Fishing	

Ice Sports

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Encourage opportunities for public participation in curling.	Luge, Ice in Line, Community Organisations	65
Promote the lugging experience in Central Otago.	Luge	65
Develop a package of winter sports activities provided in Central.	TCO, Visitor Centres, Stakeholders	65

Cross Country Skiing

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Manage conflicting use between passive and motorised forms of recreational transport.	DOC, CORUF, Back Country Ski Alliance, NZ Walking Access Commission,	68
Provide visitor information on the range of cross country skiing opportunities.	NZ Walking Access Commission, DOC, Back Country Skiers Alliance	68
The ski industry promote access to equipment, training and competency development in cross country skiing.	Back Country Skiers Alliance	68
Investigate winter hardening of key access roads and associated parking e.g. Symes Rd and Duffers Saddle.	CODC	68

Snowmobiling

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Manage conflicting use between passive and motorised snow sports.	CORUF, DOC, Clubs	69
Winter hardening of access roads for defined areas suitable for snowmobiling with appropriate parking and turning areas.	CODC, CORUF, DOC	69
Have a register of snowmobile owners for Search and Rescue use.	Central Otago Search & Rescue, CODC, Police, ME	69

Observational Recreation

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Continue to promote Central Otago as a photography,	Tourism Promotion,	73

heritage viewing, painting, bird watching, geocaching and botanising destination.	Promotion Groups, TCO	
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Trail Bikes and Motorbikes

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
All agencies collaborate over trail bike policies, management, maintenance, designation, signage, trail marking, publications and education.	CO Motorcycle Club, BRONZ, Commercial Operators	78
Undertake research to assist with good decision making and to build understanding of trail bike use.	Motorcycle Clubs	78
Carry out an education campaign to raise awareness of appropriate trail bike use.	Motorcycle Clubs	78
Adopt and promote a trail bike code of conduct.	Motorcycle Clubs	78
Identify appropriate locations close to urban areas which have good access for the range of trail biker users.	Motorcycle Clubs	78
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate enforcement and management options for the district. 	Motorcycle clubs, CODC	78
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate further seasonal road closure options. 	Motorcycle clubs, CODC	78

Walking / Tramping / Running

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Collaboration between agencies to standardise signage and public information to provide a quality walking experience.	DOC, CODC, Local Trusts, Tramping Walking, Clubs	88
Encourage appropriate standards for all tracks to meet user demands.	DOC/CODC	88
Identify and provide information on key access points.	DOC/CODC	88
Develop a code of conduct for shared use facilities for example walking, cycling, horses and dogs.	Walking Access NZ, Teviot Valleys Walkways Committee Track Trusts, Tramping Clubs, Walking Groups	88
Provide information on requirements for walking or tramping in the high country.	DOC, CODC, Tramping Clubs, NZ Walking Access Commission	88
Continue to work with community volunteer groups on track development and maintenance.	Local Trusts, DOC, CODC	88

Water Related Activities

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Through district planning measures protect landscape corridors adjoining community water resources.	CODC, ORC	90
Further education on water safety.	Water Safety NZ, CODC	90
Control of weeds in Central Otago waterways including lagorosiphon and didymo.	LINZ	90
Actively manage private occupation of public access corridors associated with water ways.	LINZ, DOC, CODC	90
Monitor recreational water quality and communicate to visitor information network.	ORC, Visitor Centres	90
Investigate what assistance can be made in reducing	ORC	90

breaches of recreational water quality on Taieri and Manuherikia.		
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Swimming/Picnicking

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Improved separation on lakes of motorised craft and swimmers.	CODC	93
Investigate installing and maintaining swimming pontoons at key sites around Central Otago e.g. Pinders Pond, Blue Lake and Lake Dunstan.	CODC, ORC	93
Maintain minimum flows at key swimming sites to retain swimming opportunities.	ORC	93
Prepare information on all outdoor recreational water activities and associated water safety practices.	ORC, CODC, Water Safety NZ	93
Improve paths/networks to provide access to safe and appropriate swimming locations.	DOC, CODC	93

Fishing

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Ensure public information on recreational fishing is available through information centres, on the web and local sports shops.	Fish & Game, Clutha Fisheries Trust, Angling Clubs	97

Boating

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Information on boating be included in complementary publications.	CODC	99
Investigate boat launching facilities below Clyde Dam.	CODC, ORC	99
Improve boat trailer parking capacity at Roxburgh Dam.	CODC, ORC	99
Develop mooring facilities on the Clutha River at Doctors Point, Butchers Point and below the Clyde Dam.	CODC, ORC, Boating Club	99

Jet Skiing

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Have clearly defined areas for jet skiing.	CODC, ORC	101
Incorporate information on jet skiing into complementary publications.	CODC, ORC, Boating Clubs	101

Water Skiing

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Continued education on safe water skiing practices.	CODC	103
Have designated ski lanes or ski access areas for Lake Roxburgh and Falls Dam.	Boating Clubs	103

Wind Surfing / Kite Surfing

No actions identified.

Yachting

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Develop information on yachting opportunities in Central Otago.	Yacht Clubs, Cromwell High School, Aquatic Centre	106

Canoeing / Kayaking

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Increase the profile and information on leisure canoeing for Central Otago.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110
Develop a skills programme to improve river safety and interest in this sport.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110
Provide information on the Roaring Meg as a nationally recognised white water experience.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110
Support Central Otago Whitewater's instructional programmes for slalom and whitewater kayaking.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110
Create the slalom training area on the Clutha River at Earnsclough as a recreational reserve.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110
Provide information on the kayaking resources of Central Otago.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110
Promote the winter kayak polo programme at Alexandra as a healthy youth, family and community activity.	CO Whitewater Club, Schools	110

Rowing

Action	Who could be involved?	Page Number
Increase the profile, education and information on rowing opportunities for Central Otago as a form of recreational activity and sport for the more competitive via schools and the community.	Dunstan Arm Rowing Club	112
Improve skiff or boat launching facilities at the Dunstan Arm Rowing Club.	Dunstan Arm Rowing Club	112

Diving

No actions identified.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to review outdoor recreation in Central and provide guidance on its future development. It examines existing resources and experiences, and identifies opportunities for improvement for both residents and visitors which will sustainably maximise the contribution of this sector to the district's economic and social wellbeing.

Goals

As a community provide high quality outdoor recreation to cater for as wide a range of local residents and visitors as practicable and so enhance the region's economy, social development and cohesion, and national and international standing.

- Establish and maintain a network of accessible outdoor recreation areas that enables as many outdoor pursuits as possible and meets the needs of all ages and abilities.
- Manage outdoor recreation so that while recreational needs are met, Central's ecological, scenic and cultural values are protected and maintained.
- Incorporate outdoor recreation considerations in the planning and management of land and natural resource use.
- Coordinate the planning and delivery of outdoor recreation information, infrastructure and services through inter-agency cooperation, the adoption of standards, the avoidance of duplication and the identification and exploitation of synergies.
- Identify and develop unique positionings which are in line with the regional identity (A World of Difference) stories and principles.

Why have an Outdoor Recreation Strategy?

Central has long been recognised by those living in the surrounding areas as a traditional outdoor recreational playground. For such visitors, summer holidays in Central were indelibly connected with endless, long, hot summer days. And the contrast with traditional winter ice-skating forays gave a foretaste of the many and varied recreational activities nowadays available during Central's changing seasons. We have seen, for example, the rise of mountain and trail biking, gliding, four wheel drive exploring and investigating the region's rich heritage and awe-inspiring landscape.

However, this rediscovery and recognition of Central as a great place to live, work and play has resulted in significant changes in our communities. Many of the people who had previous great childhood experiences or holidays here are returning to live in later life, and they are being joined by a younger generation too that has discovered the region's many advantages.

Much of the valley land released from pastoral lease has been freeholded and developed into orcharding, viticulture, and lifestyle blocks. The valley development with its more intensive land use has created pressure points with increased appreciation by users for access to recreational assets such as rivers, lakes and other public conservation areas. This coincides with appreciation of the region as a recreational mecca. There has been recognition of opportunities for tourism and commercial ventures.

Combined with ongoing land tenure changes and intensified use, a growing public conservation estate, an increasing local population and visitor demands requires a managed approach.

Local and national recognition of the unique values of Central, that are so poignantly captured under the 'A World of Difference' brand, means that the retention of Central's outdoor recreation values and opportunities can no longer be taken for granted. A strategic and managed approach is essential.

Central Otago has never had an outdoor recreation strategy. The significant growth occurring in Central combined with recognition and growth as a domestic and international tourism destination have increased pressures to consider outdoor recreation activities in the district. Having a long term approach for the development of activities will aim to avoid potential conflicts between recreation activities.

What Comprises Recreation?

Recreation activities are those that:

- People undertake for enjoyment of their own free will;
- People undertake by voluntarily allocating resources (time, money, equipment);
- May be an expression of an individual's self-identity;
- May be essential to a positive quality of life for many people.

People undertake outdoor recreation because it gives them a good experience which leaves them feeling better about life, physically and mentally.

What Makes a Good Experience?

For outdoor recreation a quality experience is one that enables the user to feel comfortable participating in or undertaking the activity. Having facilities fit for use that meets the needs or expectations of users is important. This may also include welcoming responses and positive interactions with the local communities.

Purpose

What do users or participants in recreation expect?

"To have experiences that meet their expectations in locations which are fit for use in a welcoming community".

Management Approaches

There is a range of approaches to managing recreation. These include:

- Recreational Opportunity Spectrum
- Benefits Based Management
- Destination Management

A Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) – see Appendix 4

This approach seeks to identify the types of recreation for which an area or region is suitable and capable of sustaining in future, the current and future demands for each type, the types of user for which the area can cater, and so the range of facilities required and their integration and long term management. ROS is focused on what users want, what the area can provide, and how the interactions between user and area can be managed. This methodology is used by DOC on public conservation land throughout Central Otago.

Benefits Based Management (BBM) – see Appendix 3

This approach takes things a step further than the previous approach by including the effects on the community, both positive and negative.

Destination Management

Destination Management is about communities determining their own futures and cross agency co-operation in areas of planning and environmental management, provision of visitor information centres, management of infrastructure, marketing and site management. Because recreation is complex, involving a mixture of private companies, local and central government agencies and communities, there is a need to build and maintain effective working partnerships between these players if a sustainable future is to be achieved. Destination management is all about a quality experience – whether you are a resident or a visitor we want to enjoy our place and space. It is about obtaining and maintaining a balance of economic, social, cultural and environment well being. It is about

conversation not consultation with local communities. In summary a combination of these approaches may be used in Central in managing future recreational needs.

Planning

Once activities and areas are identified planning is required to determine what infrastructure is appropriate and who is best to provide it e.g. track formation-culverts, water tables, roading, car parking, toilets, signage, fencing, landscaping, access to water, wastewater disposal and rubbish collection. These will vary depending on the type of activity, the location, and whether there are peak usage times or seasonal constraints.

Regular evaluation and monitoring of facilities or activities will ensure they remain safe to use and meet user requirements.

Importance of Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation has been growing greatly in popularity for decades, whether viewed regionally, nationally or internationally. Outdoor recreation is now seen as an excellent way to keep fit, improving mental and physical wellbeing. More and more outdoor recreation activities are being developed and there are rising expectations from users of quality, standard of activity, and accessibility.

There has been a rise in competition too. Countries, regions and activities compete for users' interest and spending. Activities may also compete for rights to exploit an area's recreational resources, whether by occupying the landscape temporarily to the exclusion or diminution of other users' enjoyment, or by more permanent occupation – for example the construction of ski-fields, exclusive mountain bike routes and the like.



Central has an opportunity to position itself as a leader in the provision of outdoor recreation. In the light of rising demand, competition for visitors, and the need to manage our resources sustainably, Central must identify which quality recreational activities to develop or promote so that our offerings meet demand and fit with the values of the local community, while being manageable given our local resources.

The importance of outdoor recreation to the local community has also been identified through various studies which have recently been carried out such as Community Outcomes (Appendix 6) and Community Plans (Appendix 6)

Central Otago – Geographically Defined

Central Otago (often referred to in this strategy as 'Central') is the geographic area administered by the Central Otago District Council. It is defined as the dry, mountainous and highly scenic interior of Otago – from Beaumont, through Millers Flat in the south; to as far west as the Nevis Valley, Cromwell and the Pisa Range; north up through the Lindis Valley; and as far east as Danseys Pass and just beyond Kyeburn.

The Central Otago district is distinct from, and does NOT include, Wanaka and the Queenstown Lakes District further to the west



Barriers to Participation in Outdoor Recreation

Barriers to participation in outdoor recreation activities can vary and generally require a co-ordinated approach to overcome. Such barriers may be perceived or real and may include:

- Age
- Level of fitness
- Ability or disability
- Climate
- Design of facility – e.g. walkway, track or trail – not all activities or fitness levels are catered for
- Quality of facility or experience – inconsistent, varied, capacity limitations
- Conflicts – multiple users; overcrowding, incompatible users
- Risk aversion – for users over protective sanitised society; for providers the transfer of responsibility to their shoulders and the increased threat of blame/litigation
- Limited experience/skill – fear of the unknown and risk aversion undermines users' development of skills and experience so as to assess and manage risk themselves
- Safety – fear of getting lost, ability to cope with the outdoors, health and safety requirements
- Apathy among some demographic groups
- Poor signage and directions – difficulty in finding start points or following recreational routes

- Poor information leading to low awareness of recreation activities
- Cost of undertaking activities – in terms of gear/equipment/compliance
- Traffic – with increasing amounts of vehicular traffic people don't feel safe using roads for recreation
- Poor access – limitations of access at landowner's pleasure, seasonal road conditions and restrictions, restrictions during lambing
- Time required to undertake activities not being available in busy lives
- 'Patch' protection by locals leading to *de facto* access limitations or lack of public access

Changing Perceptions of Outdoor Recreation

People perceive a lack of time in their lives as typified by the statement "I never seem to have enough time to get things done". So they search for convenience, saying "I am willing to spend money to save time". There is a huge market for activities and gadgets which seem to use their time well like gym attendance, treadmills or exercycles, which may be to the detriment of the outdoors market. In the same vein is the growing popularity of simulated outdoor activities in purpose built indoor facilities in an urban setting – real indoor snow in Dubai is a much touted example.

Though people today do want convenience, real outdoor recreation such as walking and cycling remain in consistently high demand. This is shown by actual growth in the sector and confirmed in Central by local studies. (As shown by community activity surveys carried out in 2005/06 and summarised in the Physical Activity Strategy.) There remains a public view that the outdoor experience is important and its benefits cannot fully be replicated in a simulated setting or when undertaking physical activity in a gym or at home.

Fragmentation of Leisure Time

If the last 50 years or so encompass the world-wide explosion in the popularity of outdoor recreation, the last couple of decades have seen parallel changes in lifestyle driven by technology and information. The increased variety of activities available to people, with information about them only a click or swipe away, has led recreationally to a fragmented society. People spread their involvement across a wider range of main stream and niche activities.

This increased range of activities is leading to reduced commitment at the organised level, so there are more participants but declining club memberships. An example of this locally is the large active mountain bike fraternity who have no local mountain bike club or representation, because they are self-directed. The growth of multi-sport participation is another example where individuals previously committed to running clubs (e.g. harriers) now operate over three or four disciplines with little or no club affiliation.

Conflict of Use

Outdoors, this increased range of activities and users' multi activity participation can lead to problems where activities need to share a resource, particularly where the requirements of the user groups differ. Examples are walkers and cyclists using the same tracks; power boats, jet-skis, water skiers, wake boards, knee boards and ski biscuits plus swimmers and fisherman all using the same stretch of water; and cross-country skiers and snowmobiles sharing the same area of upland plateau.

Changing Perceptions of Risk

Significant events such as the 1995 Cave Creek tragedy have resulted in greater regulation of a wide range of recreational activities. Health and safety requirements have filtered right through our communities. As each individual tragedy since has been investigated and reported the pressure to regulate outdoor recreation activities has continued.

Outdoor recreation has traditionally been perceived as presenting a variety of risks to participants, and an important element of the challenge for many is learning to assess and manage this aspect. Increased regulation, compliance costs, higher perceptions of risk and increased concern about liability have resulted in many areas previously open for public recreational access closing or having their use subject to severe limitations.

Developing Outdoor Skills

Heightened public and institutional sensitivity to risk needs to be answered with an investment in outdoor skills development. This would equip new outdoor recreationalists with the necessary competence to assess and manage their own risk, and better cope with untoward incidents if and when they arise. A programme incorporating outdoors education in the formal school curriculum, and in subsidised adult education, would reduce both actual and perceived risk.

Outdoor Recreation, Individuals and Communities

Outdoor recreation contributes to individual and community wellbeing. There is much discussion nowadays about general health, both mental and physical, and exercise is seen as a big antidote to the drawbacks of our sedentary society. There is also an increasing yearning from individuals to have a contrasting break from their busy daily lives and outdoor recreation can provide this. The countryside offers a different space, time to think, and the physical benefits of exercise all in one package.

Outdoor recreation can have both positive and negative effects on individuals and communities.

The individual

Positive effects can include:

- Health benefits, both physical and mental
- Sense of successfully managing risk
- Increased sense of personal wellbeing and self esteem
- Inspiration – athletic, artistic and poetic
- Physical exercise
- Experiencing unique landscapes
- Sense of achievement
- Better knowledge of local history and ecology
- Weight control
- Learning about the outdoors.

Negative effects can include:

- Actual harm or injury, physical or mental, if the outdoor experience proves too demanding – “Overdoing it”
- Financial impacts – Overspending on gear, tuition, or travel; loss of income due to time devoted to recreation
- Damage to personal relationships – a recreational pursuit becomes an obsession.

The community

Positive effects can include:

- Social/cultural benefits
- Enhanced community pride
- Cultural/historical awareness and appreciation
- Community and social integration
- Greater understanding and tolerance of others
- Economic benefits – reduced health costs, greater employment through tourism and visitors to the area, and diversification of the local economy
- Environmental benefits – such as protection of natural heritage areas and sites, and an enhanced public environmental ethic

Negative effects can include:

- Displacement (or people move away) if there are too many activities or visitors

- Environmental damage
- Loss of community authenticity if too many users
- Loss of peace, quiet and the opportunity for solitude
- Increasing numbers of trespassers on private land
- Community resistance to visitors

As Bev Driver of the Academy of Leisure Sciences states in her essay The Benefits of Leisure, "*The benefits of leisure - physical and mental health, economic development, family bonding, environmental awareness, ...are now well-documented scientifically.*"

Unfortunately, we often fail to realise that we gain more from leisure activities like playing sports, reading a book, or just sitting in a hammock than simply having a good time. Leisure provides physical, psychological, economic, and spiritual benefits that play a major role in the overall welfare of society in general (Appendix 1 – Benefits of Leisure).

Environmental Considerations

Without a managed approach to outdoor recreation there will be environmental impacts both positive and negative. Looking at the opportunities and determining, as a community, where we want development to occur is important otherwise some areas may be lost for recreation or areas may be developed that are not suitable. Once areas are identified for development or protection then education can occur on these opportunities. Through management, recreation opportunities that are in keeping with the environment and are of an appropriate standard will be developed, e.g. tracks.

Economic Considerations

As mentioned previously there will be economic positives and negatives associated with outdoor recreation. If we have good activities and experience and market them, then people will continue to come to Central Otago.

Having good activities and experiences will be important from a sustainable mindset with many people doing activities closer to home due to the increasing costs of travel and concerns over carbon footprint.

Key Characteristics of Central Otago

It is important when planning and managing a recreation resource that consideration be given to Central Otago's key characteristics such as our ageing population, significant residential growth and land use. (Ref Background – Key Characteristics of Central Otago – Appendix 5)

Other Strategies

There are a range of other strategies that consider outdoor recreation, including:

- Community Outcomes
- Community Plans
- Physical Activity Strategy
- Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Tourism Strategy
- District Plan

These are identified in Appendix 6

Regional Identity (A World of Difference)

The regional identity for Central Otago is defined by a set of principles. These are attached in Appendix 7.

Other Agencies and Groups Involved

There are a range of agencies and groups involved in outdoor recreation. These include:

- Sport Central and Sport Otago
- Central Otago Recreation Users Forum (CORUF)
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Central Otago District Council (CODC)
- Clutha Fisheries Trust
- Otago Fish and Game Council
- Otago Regional Council
- LINZ
- Landowners
- New Zealand Walking Access Commission (NZWAC)

A co-ordinated approach by these organisations will assist in delivering a good outcome for Outdoor Recreation in Central Otago. Ref Appendix 8 for organisations' roles.

Assumptions and Uncertainties

There are several assumption and uncertainties involved in this document.

These include –

- Limited data on the use of facilities and participation in many activities. Observed use is often unquantified. Available data are often nationwide aggregates from SPARC, the Domestic Travel Survey or the International Travel Survey.
- Identified recreational demand trends will not be subject to sudden discontinuous changes caused by unforeseen events or revised government policy.
- Central will remain a popular domestic and a growing international holiday destination.
- Government agencies will continue to allow and encourage recreation on property they administer.
- What matters for many of the users of each activity is culturally, economically, environmentally and legally appropriate.
- The positioning for Central as a whole proposed for each activity is likewise appropriate.

OVERARCHING ISSUES

There is a wide range of activities that can be undertaken in Central Otago. However across the various activities that can be undertaken there are issues that are consistent across many of the activities. This section of overarching issues tries to pick up key concerns that may be present across a range of activities or for service providers.

Human Waste Disposal

How best to manage human toilet waste disposal is a big concern for many involved with outdoor recreation. Environmental quality is a sensitive issue affecting residents, other users and landowners, with campers often blamed for poor toileting and inappropriate human waste disposal because of the very visible results of extended stays in popular spots. However the problem is general in nature, as cyclists, walkers, fishermen, picnickers, and en route travellers all contribute though their combined effect is less obvious because it is more widely distributed and less location-specific.

Proposed management approaches are:

- Education, through promotion of the environmental care code via general communication, site-specific communication, and targeted programmes channelled through motorhome, camper rental and caravanning providers/organisations.
- The provision of improved public toilet facilities. This involves establishing a demand and preferred location matrix, making provision in accordance with established standards which match the scale and type of each facility to the demand, and which meet Building Code and Regional Water Plan requirements, and informing the public of toilet whereabouts. Note that under the *Building Act* long drop toilets are still allowed however, they need to meet the Otago Regional Council (ORC) requirements of being away from other water sources and bores and be sealed from rain water entering the toilet. (Regional Plan: Water for Otago Section 12.6 ORC)

Rubbish

How best to manage rubbish disposal is a similar concern to that above, and all classes of recreational user contribute to the scale of the problem. The most consistently high volumes of rubbish are left at popular swimming/picnic spots relatively near adjoining towns.

Possible management approaches are:

- Education, through promotion of the environmental care code via general communication, site-specific communication, and targeted programmes channelled through local press and radio to reach residents, and via i-sites, motorhome, camper rental and caravanning providers/organisations to reach visitors.
- For glass control, a refund system for returned/recycled glass containers.
- Rubbish collection at heavily used sites nearer urban centres.
- National campaigns through tramping journals and the like emphasising the 'pack it in, pack it out' ethic for remote areas, and targeted campaigns and signage at popular back country entry points.

Dogs

Recreational users, particularly of walking tracks, and owners of land adjoining such tracks are often concerned about encountering dogs, especially where the dogs are not on leads or do not appear to be under the control of their owners. Section 3.1 a) (1) of the CODC Dog Control Bylaw 2006 states –

"The owner and any person for the time being having charge of any dog shall ensure that the dog does not enter or remain in any public place unless the dog is under continuous control. Any person taking a dog out in a public place must ensure that a leash is used or carried at all times."

The draft New Zealand Outdoor Access Code, prepared by the Walking Access Commission and which went out for public consultation in 2009, states under 'Dogs' –

"Landholders are concerned about dogs spreading diseases such as sheep measles, and that dogs will worry stock. If dogs are not under proper control they may frighten other people or disturb wildlife, such as nesting birds. Appropriate standards of behaviour for taking dogs into the outdoors require that they are kept under proper control. They should not be allowed to frighten other people, worry livestock or disturb wildlife and should be kept on a short lead or under close control when in a field with other animals. Dog faeces must be picked up and removed."

The proposed management approach is to continue with current education initiatives, such as promulgation of national material like the Outdoor Access Code, local signage and publicity material, and to take enforcement action where needed.

In some instances taking dogs walking is the primary reason for the person "recreationing".

Signs, Route Guides and Waymarking (Geographic Information)

While many residents and some regular visitors are well acquainted with the local geography relevant to their chosen pursuits, newcomers and most visitors are not. It can be difficult to locate many of our outdoor activities because of poor signage, a lack of route markings which guide visitors from the main highways to carparks and recreational-area entry/exit points, and poor waymarking of recreational routes and access corridors. Poor brochures, lack of guidebooks, limited web based information and poor mapping compound these problems. Produced well, these can deal with directions to the start of tracks, access issues, times, distances, ability required, code of conduct and directional maps. Supplementary information could include botanical and geology points of interest. The need for information panels must be tempered with the realisation that this infrastructure has significant cost to maintain.

The consequences of not providing this information can be inappropriate use of facilities, users unable to find the recreational areas they seek, or getting lost on tracks once they do find them, and inadvertent trespassing. Poor visitor experiences do not encourage people to return to Central, and damage our reputation.

Failure to deliver adequate route directions to and along trails, with accompanying maps and interpretation, will limit the marketability of the area. This threat particularly affects the visitor and first time visitors most acutely. The results can be cumulatively negative, with word of mouth and nowadays, internet postings, of bad publicity about the recreational experience in the area. Doing nothing to improve this aspect does not represent 'the status quo'. It risks relative decline.

Access

An issue identified in other local strategic research has been the reduction in access to recreation opportunities due to changing land use and to subdivision. In some cases this has resulted in a perceived loss of access to natural amenity values such as river corridors, lakesides and high country. Where access was informal and subdivision occurs, there is often an expectation that new or confirmed formal access will be created through the subdivision process.

Other access issues encountered by users include misleading signs which inhibit the use of easements and rights of way such as legal roads, and impediments like locked gates.

Landowners experience problems such as stock disturbance where users stray from formal recreational routes, gate management, users with powered vehicles on routes intended for foot and pedal cycle traffic, users exceeding their access privileges, for example by taking dogs where they are prohibited or similarly carrying guns, and through the lighting of fires where they are prohibited.

Insecure public access to areas can inhibit the promotion of mountain biking, walking, four wheel driving. Many of these areas use a mix of farm track and 'off-piste' single track over land under different types of tenure (paper road, crown pastoral lease and freehold). In order to retain access to many areas locals have developed gentlemen's agreements for permission which would be compromised if they were to be publicly promoted. As current use may be a privileged arrangement between landowner and a local (or possibly informal groups), this can limit use. There are risks with this approach:

- Informal arrangements have no legal status and so may only be temporary.
- Locals are not prepared to lobby for secure legal areas for fear of losing their current privileged access to informal areas.
- Informal agreements may satisfy current users and landowners but constrain development of secure track/s tenure. This in turn constrains promotion and marketing to both national domestic and international visitors of a regionally and nationally recognised asset.

For example, about 10-15% of the areas are not documented in this report because they are informal, use private land, and often publicity or promotion is expressly prohibited by the landowner. Many land owners are continuously disappointed by the behaviour of users:

- Cars parked inconsiderately
- Dogs allowed to chase sheep
- Gates left open
- Areas used without consent
- Areas modified
- Single tracks and bike jumps built without consultation
- Damage to tracks, fences and the landscape
- Littering
- Little respect for the rights and privacy of the landowner

Areas used 'at the pleasure of the land owner' are most at risk of closure through poor user behaviour.

Securing permanent and legal access would require time, resource and willing parties. Ideally, 'at the pleasure of the landowner' tracks would be secured with legal easements and associated management obligations for the groups, communities or other entities which took formal responsibility for their upkeep and promotion.

To achieve access to areas for conflicting activities may require some long term planning.

Research

Little is known about actual participation rates or issues of concern applicable to some activities. Opinion is often based on anecdotal evidence. Examples range from the amount of use of high country areas or walkways to the degree of conflicting use on certain tracks. Before investing heavily to resolve a perceived problem research should be undertaken to define the issue/concern and its frequency rate.

Landowners

Landowners have an important role to play in the future of outdoor recreation in the district. As mentioned elsewhere in the document many of the tracks and trails used for various activities are on private property or access may be gained over private property. This use of the land at the owner's consent means that should tenure of the property change then partaking in the activities may be put at risk. Many private landowners have gone to considerable expense and effort to ensure there is access to outdoor recreation activities over their properties. A further factor is if properties are entering into tenure review which may alter land tenure in the future. This may both provide and remove opportunities for recreation. In terms of concerns for landowners this covers a range of issues such as disposal of human waste, rubbish disposal, liability for accidents, dogs on properties (and associated risk of sheep worrying or sheep measles), gates not being closed or being vandalised, rescuing of stranded or lost people, wear and tear or malicious damage of tracks, damage to signage provided for safety/information purposes and fire.

Competing Use

Central Otago lends itself to outdoor recreation of all types. Central Otago is increasing in popularity, as are outdoor pursuits. There is increased demand for use of certain areas and with this comes the potential of competing use from different activities using the same space.

With competing use the following concerns arise:

- Displacement
- Quality of experience and amenity
- Safety
- Land consumption by development

Threats include the communities' inability to accommodate the invasive nature of activities associated with noise, dust and the growing level of environmental damage. Where activities are not compatible this may result in displacement. For example trail bikers and walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers trying to use the same space may not be compatible.

A growing concern is safety due to increasing volumes of outdoor recreation users. Concern for safety is often perceived or real. An example is the Alexandra to Clyde River Track where the main types of safety concerns include:

- Cyclists riding too fast for the conditions
- Cyclists not slowing down
- Cyclists not prepared to stop when approaching blind corners
- Cyclists surprising walkers
- Walkers thinking they have the "right of way"

Other recreational pursuits where safety concerns appear include: swimming vs jet boating, picnicking vs jet skiing, snowmobiling vs cross country skiing, four wheel driving vs walking, trail biking vs walking, to name a few.

- Quality of experience and amenity (anything that adds comfort, ease or pleasure to the experience)

How much people enjoy recreational activities is based on the quality of the amenity and the experience they have. Experience differs depending on the activity and expectations of the individual person. Where expectation is not met, this may lead to conflict between users or displacement.

- Land consumption by development

There is a need to provide future planning before development occurs to enable provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in appropriate spaces. Growing demand left unaddressed leads to more displacement occurring in undesired locations. E.g. Trail bikes near urban areas.

To manage the displacement, quality of experience and amenity, safety and land consumption concerns, appropriate monitoring is required of the activities, demand within locations, as well as the quality of the user experience. In some instance education of users may be an appropriate approach for dealing with these concerns.

Communication

To maximise the benefits that outdoor recreation provides to the Central economy and community, and to visitors from elsewhere near and far, while minimising its negative effects, presents a big information management challenge. Examples of information needs are to:

- Ensure that outdoor recreational information is delivered through web based systems.
- Market Central's outdoor recreational activities through national and international magazines, websites, social networking websites (e.g. Facebook), national agency publications and websites (e.g. DOC's), and locally through dedicated material suitable for use by i-sites, local radio and press.
- Provide public and planning information via Geographic Information Mapping System (GIS) on recreational areas, routes, tracks and trails, car parking, facilities, and permitted and prohibited activities. Information should be downloadable by PC/GPS/GPS Phone Apps.
- Provide signs, route markings, and track waymarks on the ground to facilitate navigation.
- Provide interpretative information about natural features, flora, fauna and heritage at appropriate sites.
- Provide information on the challenge involved and the equipment required to undertake various grades of activity so that users can assess their competence, fitness, gear, vehicles, time available and weather considerations with a view to making wise decisions about participation – for example four wheel drive track grades; tramping track grades .
- Provide information to educate users and providers about conduct, rights and responsibilities. Examples include DOC's published 'NZ Environmental Care Code', 'NZ Water Care Code', and their advisory 'Planning a Trip in the Backcountry?'

Recommended Actions

Overarching issues can be answered with some common actions which, if implemented, will contribute positively to the future of outdoor recreation in Central, including:

- **A guide for consistent signage, printed material and web content that can be used for all outdoor recreation promotion and information provision**
- **Well planned development and subdivision that protects associated amenity values and formalises or provides improved access to recreation areas.**
- **A consistent and appropriately graded approach to the disposal of toilet waste and rubbish across all activities and all areas whether suburban, rural or remote.**
- **Education on conduct, rights and responsibilities – for example informing dog owners about where dogs are allowed, and on the requirements of the Dog Control Bylaw.**
- **Develop an approach to address competing use where necessary.**

SPECIFIC RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Notes on Tracks, Trails and Recreational Areas

Many of the tracks, trails and areas for recreational activity mentioned in the following sections may not necessarily be identified for such purposes in the policies and publications of DOC or other administering agencies. The lists included are an attempt to document all opportunities available or potentially available in the district.

Some trails on private properties are not included in the list because access is not available to the general public or is restricted, by agreement, to club members or particular individuals.

Some proposed recreational areas may not prove suitable for further development.

The suggested improvements and ideas may not eventually be provided.

Whether the suggested actions and improvements proposed in this Strategy eventuate will depend on the outcome of such factors and processes as the identification of sponsors prepared to promote, develop and implement them, market and community focused cost-benefit analysis, overarching regional financial constraints and priorities, and resource consent considerations.

Air Activities

Positioning

Central is a great place for all forms of recreational air activity.

What Matters for These Users?

- Have appropriate air/wind for the activity
- Solitude
- Somewhere to land and take off
- Good visibility – no smoke
- Good scenery

Central Otago is lucky to have a settled climate with good weather which encourages flying.

Hot days and mountainous areas provide natural uplift for activities such as gliding and paragliding. Neighbouring Omarama has been a focus for gliding activities and has hosted the national gliding championships.

There are several airfields and grass strips in the area, and Wanaka hosted the World Air Games in 2007.

Current Situation

Flying

Central Otago has a flying club based at Alexandra Aerodrome with a core group of members who undertake flying activities in the area. The main demand is from locals with use by other domestic New Zealand users on a limited basis.

Aerodromes are based at Alexandra, Cromwell and Roxburgh and these are used by people with light aircraft who fly into the area.

Alexandra airfield has a sealed runway and has agricultural use in addition to the club flying. Roxburgh and Cromwell with grass runways, have mainly agricultural use with a commercial aerial top dressing operation based out of each air field.

There is a small amount of recreational helicopter use – often of privately owned machines used for hunting and sightseeing.

Gliding

Gliding in Central Otago is primarily focused on the Alexandra Aerodrome which has an active gliding club.

The Central area is along the flight path of gliding competitions held at Omarama because of the thermal uplift created by the interaction of our hot weather with the local hills. The 'continental' inland climate and mountain ranges stretching from Omarama south to Alexandra provide good gliding conditions.

Locals are the main gliding club participants. Central has no commercial gliding operation.

Both the flying and gliding clubs are long established and consistent users of Alexandra Aerodrome. Use is steady, mainly at weekends with occasional mid-week flying by those with job flexibility.

Paragliding

Although a national paragliding event has been held in Central, paragliding is currently occasional, with individual enthusiasts using a variety of suitable locations in the district.

Microlight

Microlights tend to be individually owned. The activity has a small following in Central which is growing steadily and it is likely that a microlight club could form in Central Otago in the future.

Opportunities

The absence in Central of major commercial aviation operations means the area has much uncontrolled airspace suitable for recreational fixed wing and gliding activities and with good potential for flight training operations.

There could be an opportunity for Central/Alexandra to partner with Omarama and Wanaka for future recreational aviation events.

Alexandra Airfield remains relatively undeveloped. This is a great opportunity to encourage suitable aviation activities to Alexandra including flight training, maintenance, Ag or sight seeing businesses, hangarage and aircraft parking/storage facilities and further clubs.

Threats/Risks

Expansion of commercial air operations could lead to disadvantageous air space classification changes and reduce runway access for recreational learning and flying.

Increased lifestyle and residential development around airports/fields could increase 'reverse sensitivity' to noise which could in turn hamper normal airfield operations.

Ongoing maintenance of the runway becomes less affordable.

Possible Actions

- **Assess the opportunity to work with Wanaka and Omarama with flying events.**
- **Incorporate gliding, flying opportunities and facilities into visitor information and web sites.**
- **Consider means to manage noise from aircraft operations and the impact of further subdivisions around the perimeters of airports.**

Mountain Biking

Positioning

Central Otago is a key mountain biking destination in New Zealand, which meets a range of skills and abilities.

What Matters for These Users?

- The track standard is appropriate for its users
- Not getting lost
- Have access to areas
- Isolation and solitude or companionship with friends and family
- Access to water
- Be safe
- Not have rubbish
- For advanced riders it needs to be fast and rough terrain and have some risk
- Fitness – personal and feeling of health and wellbeing

There are four types of mountain biking these are easy, intermediate, advanced and severe. See Appendix 8 for the full mountain bike trail specifications.

Easy Trails

Are most suitable for children, families, the elderly or disabled, novices, social groups and others seeking a relatively short distance trail requiring a basic level of skill and fitness. The trails are most likely to be lowland 4WD tracks, riverside or lakeside routes and with a gentle grade (not exceeding 10%) and a relatively obstacle free, hardened surface. They are most likely to be multi-use and frequent encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders can be expected. A basic level of skill and fitness is required. Previous trail riding experience is not essential.

Intermediate Trails

Are most suitable for individuals and social groups seeking a short to medium distance trail requiring a moderate level of skill and fitness. The trails are most likely to be a combination single trail and 4WD tracks with obstacles, variable surfaces, and a moderate slope. Trails are likely to be multi-use so encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders should be expected. A moderate level of fitness is required. Some trail riding experience is recommended.

Advanced Trails

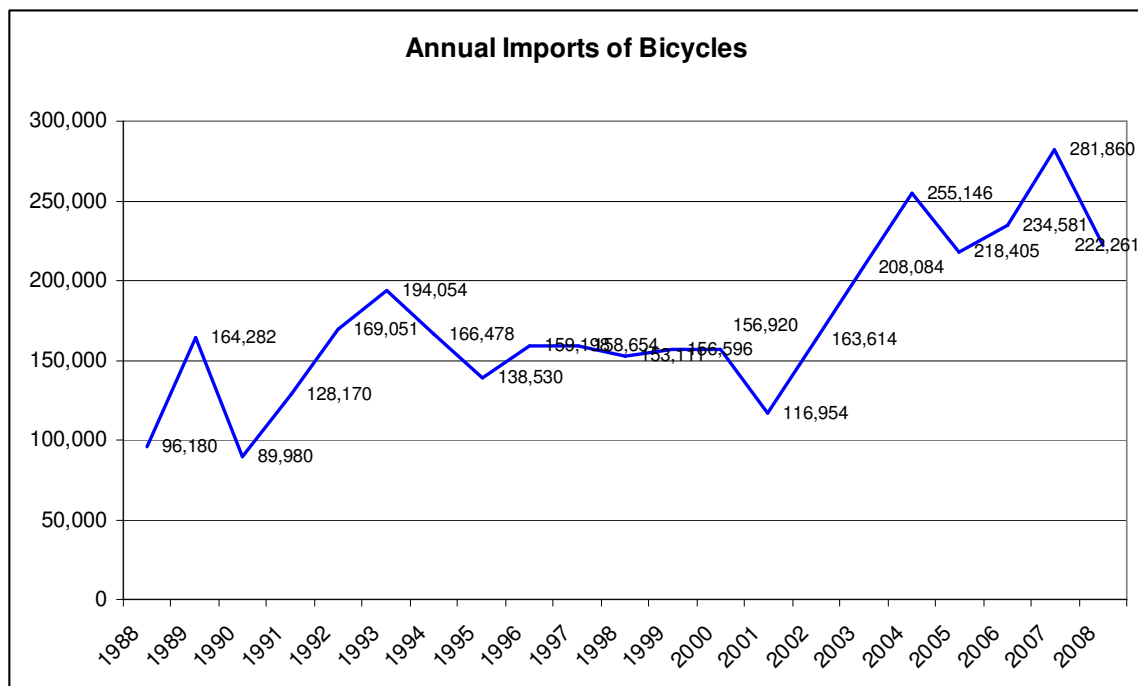
Are suitable for individuals and social groups seeking a very challenging trail requiring a high level of skill, fitness and possibly endurance. Advanced trails are most likely to consist of challenging single trails with many obstacles, variable surfaces, and steep sections. They may possibly be multi-use so encounters with other users possibly including cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders should be expected. A high level of skill and fitness is required. Previous trail riding experience and map reading skills are essential. Generally facilities are not provided except in relation to specific safety or environmental considerations.

Severe Trails

Are suitable for downhill riders with dual suspension bikes who want an extreme experience. Severe trails are built for riders specifically with race events in mind, but the trails will also be used by some members of the public outside of such events. Trails will be unidirectional for the one specific purpose with warnings to deter walkers and other users from following them. Trails can be designed so that their environmental impacts are greatly reduced, though they may require additional labour to build and extensive regular maintenance due to intensive use and steep gradients. Maintenance can be minimised by trail armouring and control measures. A very high level of skill and strength is required. Previous trail riding experience is essential.

Current Situation

The popularity of cycling and mountain biking has been growing over the last few years as evidenced by the growth in cycle imports. The 20-year New Zealand bicycle import trend is set out in the table below.



SPARC found that national participation in recreational cycling had increased from 15.5% in 2001 to 19.6% in 2007/08 (Outdoor Recreation Participation and Incidence in New Zealand – November 2009). Approximately 4-5% of domestic visitors to Central participate in cycle sports and 3% of international visitors to the area participate in other cycling activities (Domestic Travel Survey – December 2008). In addition there are many local cyclists regularly out and about on the area's roads and trails.

Among factors of significance in the growth of cycling are:

- Mountain bikes are more comfortable to ride, offering both front and rear suspension, wider tyres, and better gear and braking systems.
- Road cycles are lighter, better engineered, and likewise benefit from a wide range of improved fittings such as gear and braking systems.
- Mountain bikes are better designed to perform in rougher terrain and are more durable.
- There is a vast range of road cycle and mountain bike models/types to choose from suiting all ages and abilities of riders. There are models designed for extreme mountain-biking, for hybrid/crossover activities like the Otago Central Rail Trail, for high end competition road cycling, and for everything in between.
- There is a wide selection of bicycle carrying systems for ease of load transport when touring.
- Specialised accessory lighting allows safer night and early morning riding.
- There is a steadily growing range of new cycling tracks and trails.

Cycling activities vary depending on the market and the type of activity undertaken. For example, those that travel the Otago Central Rail Trail expect a relatively flat trail with a good surface, clear signage and interpretation, good accommodation and the benefit of other attractions along the way.

There are various types of mountain biker and much of the difference between the types of area each uses and the level of activity enjoyed is driven by the experience they wish to have. New entrants largely seek flat to undulating compact gravel trails with low technical challenge. To advance their skills they may ride out with more experienced companions on longer and more challenging routes. And some may go on to develop the skills and confidence for more demanding single track, steep, downhill riding.

Through additions to the public conservation land and linkages to the legal road network Central has developed a good range of 'enthusiast' mountain biking trails, but they often lack sufficient trail directional signage and on-trail marking – especially from the viewpoint of visitors without the advantage of local knowledge. Rides tend to be out and back with few circuit routes. The circuits that do exist tend to cover large distances.

Central currently has 89 enthusiast mountain biking trails and 32 trails suitable for family and beginner riding. These are all trails shared with walkers and/or vehicles.



Favourable climate, amazing terrain and landscape, the general ease of trail establishment, and low track maintenance due to generally dry weather all support Central's reputation as a mountain biking Mecca. Selections from Central's rides feature in several mountain biking guide books such as the Kennett Brothers' *Classic New Zealand Mountain Bike Rides*.

Central's profile as a mountain biking destination has also been raised through word of mouth, and numerous events including annual hosting of the South Island Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Championships. Events

such as the Bannockburn Gutbuster, Bannockburn Mountain Bike Classic, Lake Dunstan Triathlon, Lake Dunstan Cycle Classic, the Carricktown Crusher, RandR Sport 12 hour Naseby Challenge, Otago Central Rail Trail Duathlon, Gold Rush, and the Roxburgh Triathlon are cycling events or events with cycling components that foster local cycling strength and bring national and international cyclists into the district.

General cycling growth is characterised by the increasing popularity of the Otago Central Rail Trail, Naseby Forest and other good quality tracks such as the Clyde the Alexandra River Trail and the Cromwell to Bannockburn Track.

As a result of this strong association with all forms of cycling the region has been represented well at national and international levels in road cycling, mountain biking and multi-sport fields.

Opportunities

Management

Management involves physical road/track maintenance such as grading, surfacing, drainage, culvert provision, and trackside armouring and stabilisation works, and the provision and upkeep of physical information displays describing the actual road/track type, its user requirements/skills, suitable vehicle/bike types, prohibited and permitted uses, and waymarking for the route line to be followed where this is included in the trail design.

Current trail provision and management responsibilities fall on a range of stakeholders including DOC, CODC, various community groups, private landowners and participants in specific volunteer initiatives. Opportunities exist for cooperation between stakeholders in standardisation of approach from design to trail construction, and in strategic planning which aims to integrate existing trails with future provision so as to build a coherent widescale interlinked network. Queenstown Lakes has a successful model in the form of a Tracks and Trails Trust.

Trail Network and Linkages

As more land enters the public conservation land, through tenure review and becomes accessible to the public there are corresponding opportunities for the growth of high country recreation. Not only can new formal recreational tracks and trails be developed on the growing body of public conservation land, but there is also the continuing opportunity to develop trails on private land with the agreement and support of landowners. Some of these privately sponsored trails could form strategic links between those on public land, providing together a network of routes which would be among the most spectacular in the country.

The development of new high country trails, mainly on public land, brings with it the need for links with lowland trails, access from lowland trails between more intensively managed rural lowland blocks to the formed roading and cycleway/walkway network, and links via the roading and cycleway/walkway network to urban centres.

As the success of cycling the lowland Rail Trail has shown, Central is a great area in which to build and extend a cycling and walking network. An example of the need for better signage is the Clyde to Alexandra riverside trail and Rail Trail linking. Locals may understand the linkages between the Clyde to Alexandra riverside trail and the Rail Trail but these links are not obvious, nor particularly safe or easy to find for non-locals at the Clyde end. Similar issues exist with Cromwell to Bannockburn linkages and the Cromwell to Lowburn track.

There are considerable longer term opportunities for access, links and trail development afforded by the region's network of unformed legal roads, sometimes known as 'paper roads'. Unformed legal roads are as good as any other road in law, are public land, and have a common law right of passage on foot, cycle, horseback, or in a vehicle. The New Zealand Walking Access Commission (a Crown Entity established under the Walking Access Act 2008 which is responsible for walking and associated forms of access) suggests that territorial authorities (Councils) generally be required to retain unformed legal roads which have potential for future use by the public. Among the Commission's priorities is the publication of a database freely accessible to the public via the internet which will set out the locations of unformed legal roads, other forms of access, and private and public property boundaries, all on topographical mapping. This new information, coupled with more affordable and easier to use GPS units and GPS enabled mobile phones will have a profound effect on the evolution of outdoor recreational pursuits countrywide.

In conclusion, there will be increasing pressure for the needs of non-motorised modes of commuting and recreation to be incorporated into our road, track and trail network. Cycling assets need to be inventoried, integrated with the road network and enhanced via future road design, better surfaces and directional signage for cycling and walking through, out of and between population centres. This may need to be collectively addressed by local communities, CODC and the New Zealand Transport Agency. Cost constraints will mean the establishment of priorities, but obvious linkages needing early consideration are the Roxburgh – Alexandra and Cromwell – Clyde connections.

Information and Facilities

Essential to a good outdoor experience are good access and route maps that show the locations of trail entry points and the links between them and the main public highways, vehicle parking, access lanes past habitation or through cultivated land, the routes themselves, and any restrictions on their use. This information needs to be easily accessible through publications like guidebooks and recreational magazines, brochures available through outlets such as DOC offices and i-sites and via the internet.

Daily updates, for example a track warning system providing current track conditions and weather information can also be provided via the internet, DOC offices and i-sites. On heavily used trails status information can be supported by ongoing visitor monitoring surveys and track counter data, which can also provide valuable input to the development of trail maintenance standards and programmes.

This information should be supported with good road signs to trail entry, onsite displays showing difficulty ratings and required skill and experience so visitors know what type of track they are embarking on, and onsite directional signs and route marking. The level of onsite detail should be matched to the type of trail and expected user profile. For example, on some advanced and severe routes users will expect minimal onsite support services.

Central already has infrastructure and services that supports biking associated with the Otago Central Rail Trail. These facilities can also support biking activities in other sites and areas of the district. As noted in the Central Walking and Cycling Strategy, urban centres need to review the cycle friendliness of town facilities like bike leaning stands outside public amenities, community facilities and businesses cyclists visit. Further public bike lock-ups and storage facilities may also be required.

Integrated Trails

There is an opportunity to develop an integrated trails concept. This concept is not new or unique. For example, the city of Boise in Idaho USA has developed the **Ridge to Rivers** trail system. Set out below is an extract from their website:

<http://www.cityofboise.org/parks/r2r/index.html>

The Boise Foothills rise above Idaho's Capitol and largest city, providing a postcard backdrop that inspires and soothes the soul. An interconnected network of roads and trails courses through these hills, linking not only neighbourhoods with public lands but also connecting people with the natural environment. With over 200 kilometres of trail, there is something for everyone. Here we provide ideas and tips about where to go, how to enjoy the Foothills without hurting them, and information about the area you may find interesting. As you explore, notice the diversity in the land, the plants and the animals, then imagine our community without this unique treasure. You can help protect and care for this special place by learning more about the land and its needs.

The Ridge to Rivers partnership is a collaborative effort between various agencies in the community. The vision was to preserve the Foothills and trail system which dates back to the 1940's when community leaders were discussing the future of the area that had been part of the Boise Army Barracks military training area. A number of committees over the years echoed this desire and in 1992 a variety of local, state and federal agencies combined their efforts to turn this dream into reality. The success of the Ridge to Rivers partnership is based on the concept of sharing funding and expertise. By pooling limited funds and specialized knowledge, this partnership effort can accomplish community goals while using tax dollars efficiently.

Many landowners and citizens have given time and energy to achieve the goal of an interconnected system of trails and open space. With so many of the existing trails crossing private lands, the landowners have been an important partner in creating what has become a critical element of this valley's quality of life. Our hats are off to those landowners who have shown vision and cooperation to help make our community unique. Volunteers are also an important part of the maintenance of the trails. Nearly 2,000 volunteer hours are applied each year in caring for the Foothills. A sure sign that this area is important to folks.

An integrated trails concept involves much more than just trail recreation. It includes community track building and maintenance across the range of trail user types, watershed restoration to minimise erosion, education on local surroundings, conservation of flora and fauna and joint ventures with landowners. The benefits of this community wide approach over and above the original outdoor recreation reasons have widened to include understanding the costs of sustaining a recreational component within a multi functioning land resource, alternative forms of recreation like track building, weed and pest control, watershed management, biodiversity enhancement via restorative planting for erosion management, and habitat management for particular species.

Opportunities exist for similar integrated trail systems to be developed in our own hills. For example, on the front faces of the Dunstan Ranges east of Cromwell or on the Quartzville – Carricktown ridge system should the local communities, in partnership with land managers/owners, show the will and sustained enthusiasm to realise the potential that exists.

Summary

Several of the community plans propose the development of cycling and mountain biking opportunities. Maniototo, Alexandra, Naseby, Clyde, Patearoa, Roxburgh and the Teviot Valley all identified the possibility of cycleways associated with heritage, pastoral landscape, goldfields or ecological aspects of the area.

The opportunity for Central is to determine the demand for new purpose built trails or extensions/ linkages to existing trails both for beginner (shorter trails and multi-day) and experienced riders (public single tracks). This reinforces the need for research to quantify market demand for the various potential offerings so that investment can be strategically channelled to deliver the best outcome.

Threats/Risks

Route marking/Signage

Tracks that lack appropriate route markers and or directional signage is a significant issue for a good visitor experience. (Ref Signage/route guide page 24)

Access

A clear tension exists over promoting mountain biking. Many of these tracks use a mix of farm track and 'off-piste' single track over varied land tenures (paper road, crown pastoral lease and freehold). (Ref Access page24)

Competing Use

Mountain bikers, like any other recreation user, need a variety of opportunities.

Technological developments in bikes and bike accessories seem to have changed riding behaviour in recent times. For example, the advent of full suspension bikes which can withstand steps and other obstacles is influencing behaviour on tracks. The development of bright lights, compact batteries and halogen bulbs, has extended the daily hours of track use and meant they have become even more exciting at night. Currently there are no exclusions for mountain biking on Central's trails with most being either explicitly shared use or having no guidance as to permitted use. So there are no tracks for walking only or cycle only. Conflict on certain tracks and in certain areas is inevitable because of the nature of the activities.

The conflict between walkers and bikers will not go away without better management. Simply banning bikes or walkers would not be practicable.

Another source of conflict arises because the majority of the region's mountain trails use four wheel drive tracks. So, unless they are excluded by easement conditions, vehicles and trail bikers share the common sections of trail with mountain bikers and walkers.

Safety is another concern on shared tracks. Management and education will improve perceptions with regard to safety. Inexperienced users may be sent on tracks they are not capable of doing.

Taken together all these actual, potential and perceived conflicts will require monitoring, education and management to minimise actual conflict, user displacement, and misguided perceptions, and maximise safety. (Ref Competing Use Page26)

Damage to Tracks

Much concern is expressed about the physical damage bikes do to tracks. The physical impacts of mountain biking are sometimes perceived to be much greater than those of walking. But research to date provides no clear evidence that the track damage from mountain bikes is any 'worse' than that from walking (G R Cessford, 1995, 2002). Physical impact problems that do arise are more likely caused by increased traffic, rather than being specific to the activity itself (R L Moore, 1994). Increased traffic of whatever type may require greater maintenance of a track and so higher cost.

Make Up of Trails

Because investment needs to be made in more and better mountain bike trails, especially closer to urban areas in easy to moderate trails suitable for both family and developing riders there is a risk that cost constraints will limit realisation of the region's potential.

Toileting and Dogs

These issues have been discussed in the overview section at the front of this document.

Possible Actions

- Identify and promote (map, documents, signs, web) cycling opportunities around the district.
- Education on shared use facilities.
- Encourage adoption of the standards outlined in the classification of trails in this document.
- Develop standardised signage and marking of trails and how to get to trails.
- Develop more trails of all grade's including the consideration of loop circuits.
- Secure access to advanced and severe trails.
- Secure access for pedestrian and cycle access past/through the early section of Graveyard Gully through/around Sewage treatment plant with the view to legalising access up the gully connecting with Knobbies access route and Little Valley Road.
- Explore options for some form of over all coordination with existing trail providers for current trail asset management.
- Undertake, informed by good research and planning, integrated implementation of new trails to match identified gaps and growing demands.
- Assess community interest and commitment to develop an integrated trail systems approach.
- Assess the bike friendliness of our towns and businesses in Central Otago.
- Plan and implement commuter cycle and walking trails between population centres e.g. Ripponvale – Bannockburn – Cromwell – Lowburn – Pisa Moorings via Lake Dunstan.
- Assess use of the Alexandra to Clyde trail and means of educating on shared use.
- Develop further trails such as Alexandra to Roxburgh and Clyde to Wanaka.



Road Cycling

Positioning

Central Otago encourages road cycling as a recreation and commuter activity.

What Matters for These Users?

- Good visibility
- Safety
- Being able to travel at a pace suitable to the user

Road cycling is the most widespread form of cycling. It takes place primarily on sealed surfaces. It includes recreational, racing, and utility cycling. Experienced road cyclists generally obey the same rules and laws as other vehicle drivers. Road cycling covers three main demands.

Road Bicycle Racing

This is a popular bicycle racing sport held on roads using racing bicycles. The term 'road racing' is usually applied to events where competing riders start simultaneously (unless riding a handicap event) with the winner being the first at the end of the course (individual and team time trials are another form of cycle racing on roads). Multi-sport events often feature a section of road cycling in events.

Recreational Road Touring

This is a leisure travel activity which involves exploring or sightseeing. Bicycle tourism can be likened to backpacking on a bicycle. Distances vary considerably. Depending on fitness, speed and the number of stops, the rider usually covers between 50–150 kilometres per day. A short tour over a few days may cover as little as 200 kilometres and a long tour may go right across the country.

Commuter Cycling

This is an alternative form of transport to the car or walking. Increasing fuel costs and desire to reduce carbon footprint is seeing resurgence to this mode of transport recognised as the most efficient means of transportation.

Current Situation

For those that may be travelling through the area by road cycling, support infrastructure is minimal. Few roads have cycle lanes or infrastructure to support safe cycling. In the main towns there are minimal facilities for cyclists in terms of areas to safely park or store bikes while people shop or explore.

Our roading network aligned with our favourable riding terrain and conditions is recognised both locally and nationally for road cycling. Circuits such as around Lake Dunstan and the Ida and Manuherikia Valleys circuit are popular along with numerous out and back options. These routes are not structured or promoted in any active fashion.

Roading authorities clearly recognise the place and role of cycling. This is recognised in the Walking and Cycling Strategy (CODC). With this growth come issues around capacity and safety.

These include:

- Road shoulder width and condition
- Dedicated cycle lanes
- Share footpath cycleways
- Share the road campaigns.

Solutions include:

- Education and training
- Proficient biking skills and cycle maintenance.

Opportunities

Information and signed road cycling circuits around the district.

Improvements to cyclist visibility, education campaigns for both cyclists and other road users, responsibilities and sharing the same resource through programmes.

Identify and prioritise improvements in road shoulders and road widths around bends and blind areas.

Improve cycle friendliness by way of more cycle facilities e.g. bike racks within communities.

Threats/Risks

Lack of awareness of cyclists by vehicle users in built up areas and around hilly, winding sections of open road. The element of sudden surprise due to differing speed of travel is a key cause of concern for drivers.

Inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists, especially with bunch riding and breaking of road rules incurs disrespect from other road users.

The lack of appropriate planning to address the future demand of cycling.

Poor road maintenance with rocks and stones on road verges.

Possible Actions

- **Identify and promote (map, signs, web) road cycling circuits over the district.**
- **Identify, prioritise and improve road shoulders and road widths around bends and blind areas.**
- **Assess the bike friendliness of our towns.**
- **Continue to work with road safety team on education, promotion of increased visibility, safe confident cycle use and share the road campaigns.**

Climbing

Positioning

The variety and range of rock and crags provides opportunity for this sport.

What Matters for Climbers?

- Safety
- Access to areas for climbing
- Information available on areas available for climbing
- Quality of rock and varying grades of climbs

Rock Climbing

There are school groups, small groups and individuals that partake in rock climbing. Most routes have top rope anchors with a smaller number of bolted routes. Numbers in this sport have fluctuated. In recent times more new routes have been developed. Significant opportunity exists for new routes.

Outdoor recreation classes from Dunstan High School and Cromwell College use local rock crags for developing new skills and challenges for pupils.

Locals are the main users who seek local crags, avoiding the travel to the Matukituki and around Queenstown. Climbing and bouldering is a strong sport in the Wanaka and Queenstown area and there is an opportunity to utilise its strong presence in our neighbouring region.

The quality, range of climbs and national recognition of Wanaka and Queenstown rock has traditionally seen Central Otago rock by-passed by national domestic climbers.

While Central Otago rock maybe schist based and largely limited to single pitch (one length of rope) it provides ample challenge and reward for a small but enthusiastic group of climbers of mixed age and gender.

Bouldering

Is a form of rock climbing on boulders and rock faces anywhere between 1 and 5 metres high. Bouldering routes are called problems and climbers tackle these without the use ropes or climbing hardware. The only equipment used are rock shoes and a chalk bag.

Bouldering is present but is dominated by top roping at present.

Rock climbing and bouldering are seasonal, being warm weather activities.

Footnote:

Top roping is climbing via harness and rope through a permanent anchor point with a belay person below.

Bolted routes are climbs with climbers clipping in protection as they ascend the climb through clipped in carabineers into anchor bolts via a belay person below.

Natural Protection use of a rack of devices (cams, nuts, wedges etc) that are placed by the lead climber into natural rock to provide anchor points to which they clip into for protection.

Problem Used in bouldering, the path that a climber takes in order to complete the climb. Same as route in roped climbing.

Pitch In the strictest climbing definition, a pitch is considered one rope length (50-60 metres). However, in guide books and route descriptions, a pitch is the portion of a climb between two belay points.

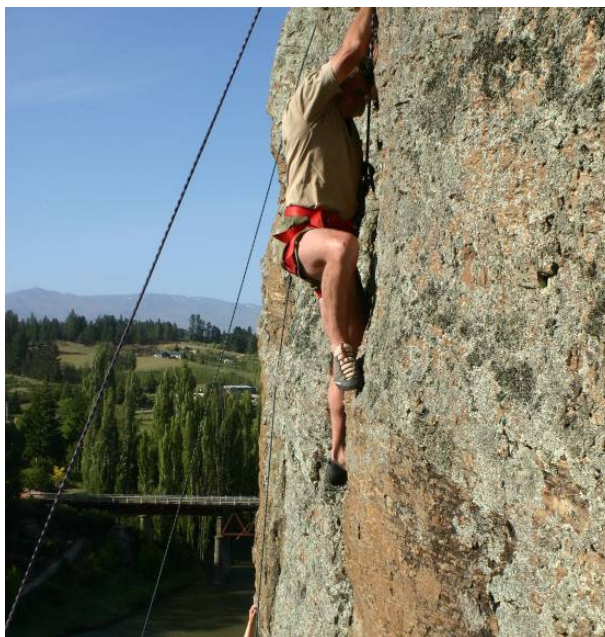
Current Situation

Currently there is a regular informal group meeting weekly for climbs and reconnaissance of new crags. This group ranges in age from adolescents through to 50-plus of mixed gender.

Both Dunstan High and Cromwell College have student groups using local crags with them being instrumental in establishing the majority of rock and bouldering routes.

On a smaller scale the area has some climbing tutors who take individuals and groups on climbing skill development courses.

Popular areas for climbing include the Lower Manuherikia river gorge between the old road rail bridge and the Shaky Bridge (the true left bank of the Manuherikia River adjoining the Lookout Estate, which has become Council reserve - climbing anchors in place), and at Clyde just below the Dam. Crags exist just below the Bannockburn Bridge on the true left bank, and near the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve. These sites include bolts for anchors for top roping and bolted climbs.



An existing weakness is the seasonality of climbing with it limited to the late spring, summer and early autumn (daylight saving hours) period.

Opportunities

There is a wide range of landscape areas that this sport could explore and expand into.

Development of an indoor climbing wall for use over the winter months would allow rock climbing fitness to be sustained and give access to year-round climbing. There is an opportunity to place a climbing wall in the Molyneux Park area as part of this sporting complex.

Partnership between Council, Schools and climbers may provide security and maintenance of climbing opportunities.

Threats/Risks

Land management liability issues are a significant impediment to expansion.

Most users are recreational with little or no affiliation to a formal club or organisation. As a result, land managers have no organisation or formal body to enter into formal arrangements with to manage risk associated with installation and operation of rock anchors and bolted routes.

The two concerns above limit publication and promotion of existing sites and particularly, any further development. This then stifles promotion and publicity, hence constraining any recognition of Central Otago's rock climbing potential.

The lack of management responsibility for inspection and maintenance of bolted anchor and routes and new development is a concern. If there was an agency or entity that would undertake this it would enhance the sport. Continuation of this situation means Central's potential for rock climbing and bouldering will remain limited.

Possible Actions

- Parties interested in climbing liaise on safety, liability and access to climbing areas.
- Council assess its land management responsibilities with regards to climbing facilities located along the true left bank of the Manuherikia River adjoining the Lookout Estate Alexandra.
- Develop rock climbing information to identify Central Otago schist rock climbs.
- Assess the need for a rock climbing wall.

Four Wheel Driving

Positioning

Central Otago provides an exceptional, easy to moderate, four wheel drive experience that is well managed through appropriate site selection, signage, maintenance and information.

What Matters for These Users?

For the enthusiasts – knowledge on places and route conditions

- Access to high country areas
- Knowing how long it will take to travel a route

For the easy to moderate users

- Safety
- Not getting lost
- Knowing how long it will take
- Having knowledge on places and route conditions
- Access to high country areas.

Demand for four wheel drive areas range from those who would like to have well formed tracks from which they can view the landscape to those that want to get completely off road. It is this diverse range that makes meeting demand for four wheel driving a difficult undertaking.

This can be broken down into two key user groups:

Enthusiasts

This group prefer areas with challenges, which provide an experience that is enjoyable and rejuvenating. While modified vehicles can be involved such as snorkels, raised suspension these are not required in the use of public roads and tracked public land. These users are primarily local and domestic, small groups, inter active 45+, well educated, self-directed, into self-discovery; self-reliant, may overnight and want to know the stories associated with the area.

They cover a wide range of four wheel drive challenges from easy to moderate gravel roads through to mud bogging and winching. Generally navigate with another vehicle traversing block mountain ranges in Central Otago. These routes may involve tight steep climbs and descents sometimes including exposed natural terrain with rutted, eroded washed out sections. Areas can be subject to extreme weather.

Popular examples include: South Rough Ridge to Serpentine Church and Quartzville to Young Australian Water Wheel, Nevis Valley Bannockburn to Garston, Kopuwai, Upper Manorburn and Serpentine.

Easy to Moderate

This group of users are often family-focused using easy and moderate tracks and are both local and national users. These users sometimes attend organised events. They are inter active 45+, well-educated are unlikely to overnight but want to know stories behind the area. The main defining emphasis is on enjoying the countryside, and accessing areas that may be seldom traveled by motor vehicles, rather than exploring the performance envelope of their vehicle. It is generally suitable for any four wheel drive vehicle, even with factory tires and equipment. Routes are predominantly along unpaved tracks, access tracks, or backcountry roadways with minimal or absent servicing. Easy to moderate groups tend to restrict themselves to formed roads and dry weather conditions with challenges being traverses over saddles and the occasional stream ford.

Popular examples include: Nevis via Duffers Saddle, Moa Creek to Poolburn Dam, Thomsons Gorge, Danseys Pass, Duffers Saddle, Lake Onslow, Mc Phees Rock, Falls Dam and Old Dunstan Trail.

Current Situation

With its wide open areas, numerous heritage sites and conservation areas Central Otago is a popular destination for four wheel driving.

Actual numbers undertaking four wheel driving in Central Otago are unknown.

There are recognised four wheel driving tracks in Central Otago. Ten of these are recognised as suitable for easy to moderate trips.

There are differing types of four wheel drive experiences from guided tours or private groups. Four wheel drive clubs are active in Central Otago coming from all over the South Island. Clubs, (often with a service club) organise fund raising four wheel drive trips to areas not usually frequented by the general community.

There are, however, other areas used for four wheel driving where there are no formed tracks. These are usually on private landholders land.

Currently many of the tracks are not well marked and way finding is by following the track itself. Without local knowledge this can be difficult due to the many track junctions. Access is further complicated with varied land tenures with limited understanding of these. The level of personal skill and experience required to satisfactorily navigate a given track needs to be incorporated into track/road signage and related route material.

Currently road/track formations and maintenance levels exist over the district where managed and maintained by Central Otago District Council. (See Appendix 13)

There are a variety of users and differing purposes for using roads and tracks:

- Farmers – stock access; fire breaks; fencing; recreation consents
- Local visitors – hunting; fishing; four wheel drive; mountain biking; walking/harriers; tramping; trail biking; quad biking; photography; heritage appreciation; horse riding; hang gliding
- Domestic visitor - hunting; four wheel drive; mountain biking; walking/harriers; tramping; trail biking; quad biking; heritage appreciation; horse riding; hang gliding
- Commercial filming
- Commercial visitor operator – four wheel drive, trail bike, quad, mountain biking, botanical, skidoo, horse riding
- Power/communication utility maintenance/development
- Surveys – surveyor, various
- Research – botanical, geological, heritage, climate – wind

CORUF hosted a spring forum in 2007 following on from the Otago Conservation Board's winter workshop with four wheel drive users. A series of questions were asked including preferred locations for vehicles wanting access through and preferred routes as well as non-motorised recreation wanting vehicular access to areas. This information can be found in Appendix 14. Preferred areas included Nevis Valley, Old Man Range, Hawkdun Range and Pisa Range.

Opportunities

DOC and the Council recognise the need to identify roading needs for four wheel drive experiences.. This needs to be matched to the existing and proposed four wheel drive track opportunities. Once this information is plotted and collated there will be a need to rationalise linkages and identify priorities for legalisation, realignment and joint venture maintenance.

There are a significant number of distinct landscape and heritage areas that can be unique destinations. Opportunities to access these areas need to be assessed and prioritised.



There is a need to determine which tracks are commonly used and ensuring maintenance of tracks is focussed on those that receive the most use and are feasible to maintain.

There is a need to adopt a trail rating system based on the various types of tracks. This could be the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive track rating system. Clear directional signage, route guides and marketing are also required.

CODC, DOC and other landholders need to collaborate to identify which areas are not appropriate to have four wheel drives and subsequently these areas would not be promoted. These agencies would also identify favourable locations for the activity.

CODC should consider representation on CORUF to provide two-way communication and consultation between CODC and recreational users.

Consideration should be given to adopting a code of conduct for four wheel driving to improve education.

Consider enforcement options for the district.

Threats/Risks

Tracks and trails should be maintained to an appropriate standard or it may result in travellers not keeping to tracks and creating new desire lines (where tracks are developed by people skirting impassable sections of trail). This can destroy associated flora and fauna, tracks can be severely damaged which limits use and frustrates the landowner or farming activity. Tracking through tussock grasslands and cushion fields while gaining access can do considerable environmental and visual damage to the landscapes.

Due to altitude and remoteness of the majority of roads and tracks means most four wheel drive experiences will be seasonal in nature. The winter snow cover and the associated spring thaw exposes the roads and tracks to damage, which is managed by public notices and locked gates from Queens Birthday in June until opening prior to Labour Weekend.

Improving visitor information and a coordinated road warning system providing current track/road condition status could assist.

Monitoring visitor expectations will assist in understanding visitor needs and this will assist with better decision making.

Warnings should also be provided to four wheel drive users over the possible spread of Didymo through use of fords and the like.

As outlined in earlier sections like mountain biking, most four wheel drive tracks are shared use, both by other four wheel drive users but also by different modes of transport including trail bikes and mountain bikes and walkers. (Ref Competing Use Page 26)

Poor signage detracts from the experience of four wheel driving. (Ref Signage/Route Guide Page 24)

Insecure public access to areas can inhibit the promotion of four wheel driving. Many land owners are disappointed by the behaviour of track users. (Ref Access page24)

Possible Actions

- That easy to moderate tracks are well signed, well maintained and have good information
- A collaborative approach to selection of appropriate sites
- Integration and cooperation over policy, management, maintenance, designation, signage, trail marking, publications and education
- Actively liaise with CORUF
- Adopt a track rating system
- Develop a track map system of all tracks to allow informed strategic planning and management decisions
- Carry out research to ensure good decision making
- Develop, adopt and promote four wheel drive code of conduct
- Carry out an education awareness campaign to raise understanding of inappropriate four wheel drive use
- Investigate enforcement and management options for the district.
- Investigate further seasonal road closure options.



Gold Panning

Positioning

Provide the opportunity for people to participate in Gold Panning in an appropriate manner that complements our rich heritage.

What Matters for Gold Panners?

- Having legal access
- Clean water
- Peaceful environment
- Finding some gold



Current Situation

Central's heritage is linked to gold mining in its various shapes and forms. Many descendants of early gold miners can trace their family roots to Central. Descendants often visit to recount stories and uncover pieces of their forebear's accomplishments.

Central hosts the New Zealand Gold Panning Championships at Cromwell. This event is organised by the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust with Old Cromwell Town Inc hosting the event at Labour Weekend.

Many of the streams and rivers have had mining activities on them in the past. Gold panning is carried out for recreational purposes along rivers and streams in Central. There are no designated sites within Central for recreational gold panning therefore this activity is not compliant with the Crown Minerals Act.

Gold panning is able to be carried out in neighbouring regions such as over at Arrowtown. River areas are supposed to be designated for panning (under Crown Minerals Act 1991) and no areas are currently provided for in Central Otago with the Arrow River, Lower Shotover and 12 Mile Delta sites in Queenstown Lakes being the closest.

Before people go gold mining or panning on non designated sites, they usually need a mining permit from Crown Minerals, Ministry of Economic Development.

However, to make gold panning a more accessible experience, sixteen areas have been set aside in the South Island (Gabriels Gully, Nelson-Marlborough, West Coast, Queenstown Lakes) where anyone can freely enjoy recreational gold mining without the need for a mining permit. These areas are called gold fossicking areas and have been designated under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. All the areas are suitable for gold panning and sluice boxing, and mining is restricted to hand-held non-motorised methods only.

Demand for gold panning comes from locals, and domestic and international visitors to the district. The international demand is catered for at the Goldfields Mining Centre in Cromwell. Information centres and DOC receive regular enquiries about where this activity can occur.

Opportunities

There is a need to formalise gold panning locations. If this was to occur then promoting gold panning could occur.

Threats/Risks

The main threat is that there are no legal areas available for gold panning. People want to have this experience but legally are not able to. Panning may be occurring over areas where there are legal mining rights held by other individuals or groups.

Possible Actions

- **Secure legal sites for recreational gold panning.**
- **Publicise and promote these various sites once established with visitor maps and brochures.**

Hunting – Small Game and Big Game

Hunting covers two main demands - small game includes rabbits and game birds; and big game includes deer, pigs and goats.

Positioning

Hunting continues to be available through public conservation estate combined with local agreements with private landholders and commercial safari parks.

The Easter Bunny Shoot remains the signature hunting event for Central Otago.

What Matters to Hunters?

- Having something to shoot
- Having access to areas
- Safety
- Knowing and respect for conditions of use
- Information on areas to go hunting

Current Situation

Central Otago has many areas available for hunting. There are over 16 conservation areas of varying size which are frequently used for hunting with a permit from DOC. These range from the Kopuwai Conservation Area (CA), the Old Woman CA, Serpentine Scenic Reserve to the Oteake CP Remarkable CA. Areas such as the Bendigo Scenic Reserve are frequently used for small game hunting.

Approximately 1.5% of domestic visitors to Central Otago participate in hunting or shooting activities while only 0.2% of international visitors participate in these activities (Domestic Travel Survey Dec 08 and International Visitor Survey 2008). Hunting has keen local support across the full spectrum of hunting game.

Commercial businesses cater for visitor demand by way of high end trophy hunting experiences. Some commercial small game ventures are operating with pheasant and the like.

There is widespread hunting, carried out on private properties by hunters who have made agreements with landowners. Much of the hunting is carried out by individuals or small groups.

For hunting on private land or access across private land with guns, vehicles and dogs, it is essential that landowner permission is sought and provided prior to any such access. Access agreements need to specify what exactly is permitted.

Central has a signature event associated with hunting. The Great Alexandra Easter Bunny Hunt attracts hunters from around New Zealand. This event focuses on hunting rabbits on allocated blocks throughout Central.

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) and Fish and Game represent the interests of hunters along with their respective association with CORUF. Other representative groups include the Southern Branch of NZDA, Cromwell Rod and Gun Club and the Central Otago Deerstalkers.

DOC has maps for hunting areas available on public conservation land with maps, access descriptions and any restrictions. However for other hunting areas a common issue is lack of good maps with areas clearly outlined, access route/s and their particular requirements or restrictions to access easements along with the necessary landowner contact details. Often conditions of passing over private property vary as to use of vehicles, carrying guns, using dogs and contact details of landholders.

Opportunities

Central Otago has many opportunities for hunting. While it has limited areas of forestry or natural bush there are significant areas of open high country areas that are easy to traverse and gain access to. This provides a distinctive savannah-like hunting experience in the rolling, open, tussock grasslands.

Commodity prices for farm raised deer influence feral game numbers as the level and intensity of live deer recovery is linked to farm deer gate prices. Commercial deer recovery activities have been low for a number of years now resulting in rewarding hunting experiences to those prepared to traverse into the hinterlands.



There is a possibility of developing further game areas such as has been done at Bendigo where organised hunting tours can be hosted.

Some form of list is required with hard copy printouts clearly describing private landowner areas and conditions of use.

Threats/Risks

Landowners start to prohibit hunting on their private properties. Introduction of new biological pest control measures for rabbits and or possums. Some landowners do not want casual hunters as it conflicts with pest control hunting occurring.

Live deer recovery becomes more commercially attractive.

Poor information on public and private areas, undefined access restrictions and conditions results in inappropriate use. Apart from visiting the DOC office little public material exists on what, how, where and when.

DOC website now holds DOC hunting info including permits for "open" areas.

Increasing alternative recreational use may lead to more conflict between hunters and non hunters.

Infrastructure to access areas for example road access is not maintained making this activity difficult to undertake.

Safety concern is to ground hunters from those hunting in the air e.g. helicopter.

Casual hunters that do not book blocks put other hunters at risk.

Possible Actions

- **Develop publicly available information for areas not covered by DOC that define the types of hunting (what), locations (where), timing (when), type of access (how) and conditions of use.**
- **Have all information available through Visitor Information Centres and DOC.**

Ice Sports

This section covers Ice skating and curling. Central Otago is gaining both an international and national reputation for its curling.

There are skating and luge opportunities primarily associated with the winter months. Skating can occur both on rinks and natural ice.

Positioning

Central Otago is the curling capital of New Zealand.

Naseby is the ice luge capital of New Zealand.

What Matters for These Users?

- Ice to play on
- Facilities, for example toilets
- Good access – for natural ice events

Current Situation

Curling

Predominantly there is local, national domestic and international demand for curling in the area. Central Otago is one of the strongholds of curling in New Zealand with a high international profile due to the Maniototo International Curling Rink at Naseby.

Curling occurs indoors at the Maniototo Curling International Rink on a year-round basis and outdoors on the Alexandra Ice Rink and Naseby Outdoor Rink during the winter. Curling is also possible outdoors on natural ice depending on the winter and how well the natural ice forms. At this time a bonspiel may be called with curlers coming from throughout the country for this unique event.

Central Otago can position itself as the curling capital of New Zealand. This is very close to the case with the current International Ice Rink providing a year round facility of international class. The focus of this facility on only, curling, sets it apart from other facilities throughout New Zealand. In terms of outdoor curling Central Otago is one of the few areas in New Zealand where a bonspiel can be held and this gives us a pre-eminent position.

The Winter Games held in 2009 has provided further opportunity for curling to gain a higher international profile.



Bonspiel on the Idaburn Dam

Ice Skating

Ice skating is primarily undertaken by locals or visitors from the surrounding provinces due to the seasonal nature of the activity. Ice skating on natural ice is primarily limited to local users due to accessibility – they need to live close and skate when the ice is right with this reliant on favourable weather conditions. Night skating also occurs on an occasional basis subject to favourable conditions e.g. Lower Manorburn dam.

Ice skating occurs at the outdoor ice rinks in both Naseby and Alexandra over the winter months and this can occur both during the day and at night.

There are also covered ice skating facilities at Queenstown, Gore and Dunedin that are in direct competition with these facilities and have longer seasons due to them being covered.

Ice Hockey

Primarily carried out on the outdoor rinks at Naseby and Alexandra, this sport is limited in duration to the winter months. However with an increasing number of all year round indoor facilities in neighbouring districts e.g. Queenstown, Dunedin and Gore the ice hockey season is gradually being extended. Ice hockey participants are primarily locals with travelling teams from surrounding districts.

On natural ice, social ice hockey is played on an occasional basis e.g. Lower Manorburn dam.

Luge

In 2008 the only snow or ice luge track opened in the Southern Hemisphere, at Naseby in Central Otago. The track, a natural track, is a variation of the more commonly known Olympic luge which takes place on the same expensive artificially refrigerated tracks used by bobsleds.

Natural track luge takes place on an unbanked track with a base of hard packed snow covered with a layer of ice, generally enclosed within low wooden walls. Unlike the natural tracks in Europe and North America, in a world first, the Naseby Luge track utilises refrigeration from the adjacent skating and curling rinks to ensure that a perfect surface is available for the whole of its season.



Contrasting luge to car racing, Olympic luge is like Formula One while Natural track luge is more like a rally car.

As well as being an excellent introduction to luge, and the basis for developing Olympic luge athletes, a Natural luge track can be used for a wide range of recreational rides. While the 360-metre, ten-curve Naseby Luge track will see racing luge sleds reach around 70 kph, the range of rides available gives everyone the opportunity to experience the thrill of the ice at their own pace and level of comfort.

Visitors to the track can hire sleds and helmets and receive basic instruction before undertaking a supervised sliding experience.

The Naseby Luge operates over winter only, from June through August, and has a limited season affected by the weather.

Opportunities

Climate change may make the winters harder and allow for an expanded season for ice sports.

An improvement by covering one of the skating rinks at Alexandra or Naseby would allow ice skating and hockey a much longer season.

Develop a winter sports package for the area.

Threats/Risks

Should Central Otago become warmer over the winter months then this may limit the opportunities for ice sports.

A threat or risk for indoor curling, rink ice skating and ice hockey is increasing costs such as power which may limit the length of the season.

Possible Actions

- **Encourage opportunities for public participation in curling.**
- **Promote the lugging experience in Central Otago.**
- **Develop a package of winter sports activities provided in Central.**

Cross Country Skiing

Positioning

Cross country skiing is a self directed, semi remote outdoor experience.

What Matters for These Users?

- Peaceful Environment
- Having access
- Not getting lost
- Snow

Current Situation

The terms 'backcountry skiing', 'ski touring' and 'cross country skiing' are often used interchangeably. They require cardiovascular fitness, mental toughness, and a firm understanding of mountain craft. They involve navigating and route finding and require familiarity with weather along with skiing skills. For people who possess the skills to safely enter the backcountry in the winter, the rewards of touring can be exceptional. Skiers can access mountain ranges and experience solitude, even in areas that would typically be quite crowded in the summer. The skier can cover huge distances.

Currently those undertaking cross country skiing is small and does not register on the Domestic Travel Survey which monitors outdoor activities.

Cross country skiers are primarily skiers who appreciate the Central Otago backcountry environment. Skiing is in sparsely inhabited rural areas over ungroomed and unmarked slopes or pistes. The land and the snow pack are not monitored, patrolled, or maintained.

This activity occurs mainly on the rolling topped block mountains such as the Old Man, Old Woman, Pisa and Rock and Pillar ranges with excursions into the Garvies, Hectors, Dunstan, St Bathans and Hawkdun ranges. Central Otago has relatively easy access to areas. Few areas in New Zealand have this opportunity for this activity.

Not all are 'hardcore' skiers, as backcountry skiing is a sport that is a back-to-basics reaction to the high-tech equipment developments of downhill skiing. It is accessible to those of all ages, incomes, and abilities. Many of our earlier skiers are now introducing their own children to skiing in the wilds.

The ranges of Otago have a skiing history stretching back to at least the early 1930s. Indeed several of today's well-known ski clubs were born on these ranges. Club members were a hardy lot, willing to put up with much physical work and few facilities, all for the promise of skiing. Initially there was no accommodation or ski-tow. In many ways these early pioneers were similar to the backcountry skier of today. Central Otago's own Vincent Ski Club came into being in 1953. Club members repaired an old miner's stone dwelling high up on the Old Man Range and had a small rope tow in a gully further up. For longer runs the keener members carried their wooden skis to the crest of the Range. Four runs in a day was considered a good effort. In the late 1950s however, the club shifted to Coronet Peak having purchased the original Wakatipu ski hut on the mountain.

Swiss and Austrian workers at the Roxburgh Dam had brought to New Zealand their Nordic-style skis. They ski-toured the Old Man Range at Fruitlands.

During the 1960s and 70s the Otago ranges saw a variety of winter visitors. Tramping clubs were using the Old Man and Old Woman ranges as alpine training grounds. The ranges provided snow closer than the Alps with access roads to near snow-line. Snowcraft courses were held to practice igloo and snow-cave construction as well as general snow travel skills. Club members would also bring along their skis for a tour of the range.

By 1980 suitable ski equipment was readily available in New Zealand and backcountry ski-touring begun to increase in popularity. Tramping clubs held several organised backcountry ski trips per year. Skiers regularly skied deep into the Garvies in search of wilderness skiing.

The Waiorau Snow farm on the Pisa Range is the only nearby commercial cross country skiing area which is accessed from the Cardona Valley. This provides a managed experience for cross country skiers.

A Nordic track type ski operation opened on the Pisa Range in 1987 along with an associated car-tire testing track and snowmobile venture. The development of these facilities tended to make the Pisa less attractive to the backcountry skier, but had a positive spin-off in introducing Nordic skiing to New Zealand.

The most popular areas remain those with good road access such as the Old Man (via Symes Rd and Waikaia Bush Rd) and Old Woman (via Duffer's Saddle) ranges. On a good day several vehicles will be found at snowline, and up to a dozen skiers might be enjoying the range. To further develop these areas these roads need to be suitable for winter use and provide parking areas.

Opportunities

An opportunity exists to host training weekends or courses to build confidence and competency in cross country skiing.

Provide visitor information on cross country skiing and a range of skiing locations available.

Investigate the viability of a rental retail facility for cross country skiing equipment.

Improve winter access through better roads and carpark areas to encourage access to skiing areas.

Encourage multiday ski touring opportunities, staying overnight in huts on the Hawkdun Range.

A potential tool for managing conflict in using recreational areas is the use of recreational opportunity spectrum planning (ROS) tools. See Appendix 4 for a further explanation of this.

Threats/Risks

Expansion and increase in motorised vehicles that travel over snow may displace quieter solitary activities such as cross country skiing.

This issue has been considered by CORUF and has seen the establishment of a small kiosk and intentions book administered by CORUF off Symes Road at Fruitlands. The aim is for cross country skiers to log their intentions and any private skidoo operators will note their intentions and will plan their route to avoid the cross country skiers.

The aim is to retain the remoteness experience. Tension relates to issues over noise, smell and desire for the sense of remoteness. Snow vehicles tend to seek out and share their snow experience with others, often oblivious to the needs and desires of cross country skiers. Managing these conflicts is challenging. One motorised vehicle can affect the remoteness values both by its presence and its ability to cover large distances. Access to areas for these activities will require long term planning.

Changes in winter snow conditions with shorter seasons or poor snow could reduce the interest in this activity.

Possible Actions

- **Manage conflicting use between passive and motorised forms of recreational transport.**
- **Provide visitor information on the range of cross country skiing opportunities.**
- **The ski industry promote access to equipment, training and competency development in cross country skiing.**
- **Investigate winter hardening of key access roads and associated parking e.g. Symes Rd and Duffers Saddle.**

Snowmobiling

A snowmobile is a land vehicle commonly propelled by tracks at the rear and skis up front for steering.

Positioning

Snowmobiling is a self-directed, semi remote outdoor experience.

What Matters for These Users?

- Having access
- Not getting lost
- Speed
- Being sociable

Current Situation

Early snowmobiles used rubber tracks; however a modern snowmobile will have a track made of a kevlar composite. Most snowmobiles are typically powered by two-stroke, gasoline/petrol, internal combustion engines. Four-stroke engines are becoming more and more popular in snowmobiles. The three main types of riding are snow cross country riding, trail riding and mountain climbing. Snow cross country riding is the main form undertaken in Central Otago.

Currently numbers participating in snowmobiling are small and do not register on any of the surveys that monitor activities and attractions. Snowmobiling is available via a commercial operations on the Waiorau Snow Farm. and

While a significant proportion of areas used are conservation estate some remain pastoral lease and legal road. Snowmobiles are permitted under the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) providing no physical disturbance to the flora and fauna. Adequate snow cover allows this activity to occur with minimal impact on flora and fauna risk. If regular commercial use is proposed by any operator on conservation land a legal concession licence will be required.

Some commercial operations exist for the hire of snowmobiles and tracked snow cats. A local company operates part time, filming features and advertisements. Snow mobiles are used for transport and supply film sets in various winter snow locations.

A growing number of private individuals have purchased snowmobiles for individual recreational use. The favoured sites are based primarily over the Old Man and Old Woman ranges.

Due to the low user numbers, snowmobiles remain infrequent users, but with plenty of capacity to grow.

Opportunities

There is the opportunity for further promotion of snowmobiling in appropriate areas.

Snowmobiles have search and rescue capability with their ability to cover large distances efficiently. Being aware that owners can provide this capability at short notice.

There is an opportunity to define designated spaces for snowmobiling and then provide good information accordingly.

A full review of all areas available to snowmobilers on public conservation land will occur as part of DOC's review of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).

Threats/Risks

Snowmobiling may not be compatible with quieter solitary activities.

When considering areas for snowmobilers thought will need to go into infrastructure requirements such as roading. Towing snowmobiles places demands on winter road surfaces, especially in spring thaw conditions.

Changes in winter snow conditions with shorter seasons or poor snow could reduce interest in these forms of winter recreation.

Possible Actions

- **Manage conflicting use between passive and motorised snow sports.**
- **Winter hardening of access roads for defined areas suitable for snowmobiling with appropriate parking and turning areas.**
- **Have a register of snowmobile owners for search and rescue use.**

Observational Recreation

Positioning

Central Otago is recognised as a great place to participate in photography, heritage viewing, painting, bird watching and botanising.

What Matters for These Users?

- A great landscape
- Clear air/skies
- Good visual aspect
- Access
- Peacefulness

This section covers a group of recreational activities that have a core aspect of being observational and recording or observing the surrounding environment. Components of this are:

- Photography
- Heritage
- Painting
- Bird Watching
- Botanising
- Geocaching

Central Otago represents an excellent environment to undertake these recreational activities in all seasons.

Current Situation

Photography

Photography is defined in Wikipedia as the “process, activity and art of creating still pictures by recording radiation on a radiation-sensitive medium, such as a photographic film, or electronic image sensors”.

Photography as an activity is able to be undertaken throughout the district. This activity is associated with the rise of the digital camera, which means that a large number of people have immediate access to photography. These range from high end / professional SLR cameras to point-and-shoot, digital cameras to cell phones and the like; all of which have the ability to capture images.

Therefore, there are probably two classes of photographers to consider. First are those for whom photography is the first and main motivation for visiting a location. The remainder (and the vast majority) are those people who conduct their normal range of activities and often use image recording devices in an ad hoc manner to ‘capture memories’.

Central Otago is the location of a large number of iconic scenes and sceneries that all act as an attractor to visitors. It has the opportunity to promote itself to the serious photographer as a destination for that reason. Due to the valley and rounded hill nature of much of the district there is an endless variety of landscapes. Closer focus on heritage buildings, fresh produce and fruit, as well as Central Otago’s native and endemic shrubs also offer opportunities.

Heritage

There is an incredible amount of heritage material, buildings and mining remnants, to be found in Central Otago. There are a number of reasons for this including that after the initial gold rush, many settlements were abandoned as people moved on, and also, the benign Central Otago climate which has ensured that the evidence of our forebear’s efforts has been maintained in remarkable condition.

While many of the heritage sites are in more remote inaccessible locations of Central Otago, there are many that are very accessible or even within the communities of the district. Examples include Hayes Engineering at Oturehua, St Bathans and Naseby townships, the Clyde Historic precinct, Conroy's Gully, the Bannockburn tailings etc...

More remote locations include historic mining sites on most of the mountain ranges in Central Otago and places such as Doctor's Point in the Roxburgh Gorge.

These heritage sites are an attraction for people to come to Central Otago and to visit a number of locations around the district.

There is an opportunity to enhance the recreational opportunities by better linking heritage sites through touring or visitor routes as well as by raising awareness of some of the accessible, but not so obvious, sites.

Painting

Central Otago's iconic landscape has been a magnet for artists for generations. The works, especially, of Grahame Sydney have captured the evocative sense of space and isolation to be found in many places within the district.

While there are a number of professional artists resident in Central Otago, the district is also a destination for both local and visiting amateurs. The observable seasonality ensures, just as for photography, that painting is a four-season opportunity.

Bird Watching

Central Otago is not a bird watching destination to rival the bird sanctuaries dotted around New Zealand. Also, due to the lack of forest cover there tends to be a lack of variety for native birds.

However, areas of the district offer some of the best opportunities to observe the native falcon, the karearea.

Other species of interest include rock wrens, the crested grebe and the banded dotterel.

Forest & Bird organise and run occasional bird watching trips, however, Central Otago tends to be circled by international bird-watchers, as they make their way from the Otago Peninsula to Rakiura and then to the West Coast.

Botanising

Central Otago has a unique 'knee high' ecosystem. Healthy dryland short tussock communities contain as many and more different life-forms as a normal forest, but on a much smaller scale. For example, in the Flat Top Hill Conservation Area near Alexandra, scientists have recorded over 180 native species¹. There are also some very specialised and unique species that exist only on areas of salt pan, or flourish best in grazed areas. *Lepidium* is an example of this.

Central Otago has a disproportionately high number of endemic plants. These are unique to Central Otago and not found elsewhere. The corollary is that there tend to be a large number of threatened plants and habitats.

There is a specialised demand for botanical tourism and a number of professional services provide for this. However, this is a recreational pastime that can be undertaken by anyone with an interest.

Geocaching

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden in that location. Participants visit historic places, places of geological interest and great scenic beauty. Cromwell has hosted several event caches attracting cachers from all over the South Island. Geocaching is a growth industry in Central Otago as well as the world.

Other Opportunities

This set of recreational activities has been coined 'observational'. This means that people are motivated to gain a view or visit a location with a specific recreational intention in mind.

¹ Department of Conservation: Central Otago's unique plants and animals.

They tend to be highly specialised undertakings with a small number of highly dedicated proponents. There may be an opportunity to promote these activities collectively, especially with the growing number of people moving towards the third age. Central Otago has the opportunity to promote itself as a destination for these types of activities. These activities tend to fit within the destination management ethos of respecting and celebrating the landscape and environment.

Threats/Risks

These types of activities are reliant on the existing landscape and environment of Central Otago being preserved and not degraded. Loss of habitat, changes to climate, introduction or aggressive colonisation by introduced species (plant or animal) could affect these activities. Similarly, the visible impact of humankind and destruction of heritage sites would be detrimental.

Possible Actions

- **Continue to promote Central Otago as a photography, heritage viewing, painting, bird watching, geocaching and botanising destination.**

Trail Bikes and Motorbikes

Positioning

Central Otago welcomes trail biking in appropriate areas.

What Matters for These Users?

Trail biking

- Safety
- Not getting lost
- Knowing how long it will take
- Having knowledge on places and route conditions
- Access to high country areas

Minikhanas, motocross, observed trials, dirt track

- Be organised
- Access to area to have event
- Competition
- Facilities, including toilets
- Speed for motocross and dirt track

The following table provides information regarding a range of trail bike disciplines:

Discipline	Activity Type	Definition	Land Required
Motocross	Competitive/recreational	Racing on formed, purpose-built tracks shaped from natural terrain or using imported fill. Tracks are usually between 1400m and 2500m in length. Specialised motocross bikes are required. This tends to be held on private farm land away from urban areas. Hosted are local and regional events. The two club fields in Alexandra and Cromwell tend to be used for development and training.	Small to medium land area with flat to moderately sloping terrain.
Dirt Track	Recreational	Track racing and participation is conducted on closed, flat tracks of various shapes with left and right hand turns, of approximately 1800m in length.	The track surface can be graded dirt or grass. Small to medium, flat land area.
Enduro Riding	Racing	Longer-distance, cross-country racing on trails incorporating fast open sections and tight bush sections. Usually requires road-registered motorcycles.	Large land area with varying topography including flat and sloping sections.
Observed Trials	Competitive	In observed trials, speed is not an important factor. Rather, competitions demonstrate riders' skill in conquering various types of difficult obstacles, including steep hills and boulders, without stopping or allowing their feet to touch the ground. Typical observed trials' machines are light and nimble, usually without seats. National and regional events have been successfully held here in the unique schist landscape. Little public land is available for this form of trail bike riding. Outside of events, practice of this form of trail biking appears infrequent.	Small land area with undulating topography and various trail surfaces (rock, dirt, water).

Trail biking	Informal/Recreational	Long-distance off-road riding, with a focus on exploration and enjoying the natural landscape on a road-registered motorcycle. This discipline often includes accessing roads (both sealed and unsealed/unformed) as well as natural land areas, bush and forests.	Large land area with varying topography. Long, linear trails.
Minikhana	Educational/Recreational	Organised competition on uncomplicated trails of varying length and course type for juniors. Utilises small, lower powered motorcycles for younger riders.	Small, flat land area.

Current Situation

Trail biking occurs in a significant number of areas within Central Otago. Popular areas include the Dunstan Trail, Waikaia Bush Road, Nevis Road, Thomsons Track, Naseby Forest, Mt Buster Road and Lake Onslow. While roads are commonly used for riding and as a means of access to areas, riders often go off these roads.

Demand for trail biking is predominantly from locals and visitors from Otago and Southland. In recent times organised commercial guided tours have been developed and promoted with steady use of public conservation land, pastoral lease, freehold farm land and public roads. Some local businesses, groups and outside ventures have been running tours successfully over a number of years. Some trail bike tours are combined with guided four wheel drive tours. Trail bikes need to be registered to use public roads.

Some tours have been run by local community groups as fund raisers. On the commercial tourism front over the last five years there has been growth in organised high-country trail rides. The region is well suited to Bike Touring (i.e. BMW/Harley) due to its wide open spaces and good roading network. This is carried out by New Zealanders as a freedom ride or is available as a tourism experience.

The use of off-road vehicles, in particular trail bikes, as a recreation activity seldom goes unnoticed. Trail bike activities have traditionally drawn considerable criticism from communities in close proximity to areas where these activities occur. Council and the police are receiving complaints triggered by the noise, dust and amenity issues generated by the use of trail bikes. Trail bike riding occurs both competitively and for recreation purposes.

Recreational trail biking generally requires large parcels of land with varying terrain, topography, soil types and areas of scenic amenity. Trail bike use has been established as a legitimate outdoor recreation activity.

Trials, enduro, motocross events and minikhanas tend to be organised events on private property.

Opportunities

Sustainable trail bike experiences are going to be dependent on managing the social, environmental and physical effects. Contributing to mitigation of these effects includes the developing, adoption and commitment to a code of care. For an example of care code view Appendix15.

Active management of trail biking opportunities needs to occur to avoid displacement.

Threats/Risks

Trail bike activities require large amounts of open space, both for the activities themselves and to provide sufficient noise and dust buffering from surrounding land uses. As the number of riders continue to increase, the available appropriate land for the activity decreases.

There is a need to provide opportunities for safe, managed and legal trail bike use. The problems associated with illegal use of trail bikes can be expected to increase if no appropriate locations are provided. In particular, there are few places which accommodate recreational (non-competitive) riding and which cater for young or inexperienced riders. Currently Council has agreements allowing land adjoining Alexandra Airport and the Cromwell Pine reserve land for trail biking, however continued development will put pressure on the retention of these sites. Although the existing sites are complemented by a number of private landowner event sites which are used on an occasional basis.

Some of the most popular riding areas are located some distance from the main urban centres or if close, are at the pleasure of the landowner and therefore, insecure.

Growing demand left unaddressed leads to more displacement. (Ref Competing Use Page26)

The fact that there is a steady number of riders who are under age significantly contributes to illegal behaviour. Unlicensed riders on unregistered trail bikes cannot currently access trails in conservation areas legally, as riders have to be licensed on registered vehicles. The issue is exacerbated by the fact that some types of trail bikes cannot be registered as they do not comply with roadworthiness regulations. These vehicles can therefore only be used legally on racetracks.

Urban encroachment is reducing the land available for the establishment of formal trail bike facilities and increasing the need for policing to control illegal and inappropriate trail bike use.

Education is needed to manage the effects on the environment.

As with four wheel driving, there are areas where there are no formed tracks which are usually on private landholders land. Enforcement and management options need to be investigated

As significant amount of trail biking occurs in the high country areas. Users need to be aware of the changeable weather patterns and individual responsibilities including having appropriate equipment and gear.

Possible Actions

- **All agencies collaborate over trail bike policies, management, maintenance, designation, signage, trail marking, publications and education.**
- **Undertake research to assist with good decision making and to build understanding of trail bike use.**
- **Carry out an education campaign to raise awareness of appropriate trail bike use.**
- **Adopt and promote a trail bike code of conduct.**
- **Identify appropriate locations close to urban and other suitable areas which have good access for the range of trail biker users.**
- **Investigate enforcement and management options for the district.**
- **Investigate further seasonal road closure options.**

Walking / Tramping / Running

Positioning

Central Otago provides good quality walking, tramping and running experiences that cater for all levels of ability.

What Matters for These Users?

- Being safe and not getting run over
- Peacefulness
- Have toilets – depending on the length of the trail
- Not getting lost
- Track standards that are appropriate to the surrounds
- Clean environment with no rubbish

There is a range of users wanting quite differing experiences for walking, tramping and running.

Urban Resident

Seeking path standard access via greenway corridors from town centre to outdoor recreation features such as adjacent water resources. Existing examples are the Clyde walkway utilising a section of the old railway line through Clyde, and the greenway corridors within Cromwell.

Short Stop Traveller

With limited time seeking short quality walk (10 – 20mins) supported with point of difference story or feature. Examples being Flat Top Hill interpreted loop and Commissioner's Track.

Day Visitor – Half to Full Day Visitor

Seeking engaging, authentic walking/tramping/running experience in natural setting; for health and wellbeing and maybe the opportunity to engage with cultural heritage (human interest and/or physical) of the region.

Backcountry Comfort Seekers (BCC)

Single to multi day visitor seeking engaging, authentic walking/tramping/running experience in a rural/natural backcountry/remote setting. Moderate to hard track route and the opportunity for independence.

Backcountry Adventures (BCA)

Multi day visitor seeking engaging, authentic walking/tramping/running experience in a rural/natural backcountry/remote setting with a hard track route and the opportunity for independence.

Remoteness Seekers (RS)

Multi day visitor seeking an engaging, isolated tramping experience in a natural backcountry/remote setting and the opportunity for independence.

Track classification systems are used to communicate information about the tracks and are critical in forming an effective track network providing a range of experiences across a spectrum of needs.

Current Situation

Demand for short walks and tramping has been growing over the last few years. Approximately 15% of international visitors to Central Otago partake in some type of walking or trekking. Nearly 5% of all domestic visitors to Central Otago do some type of walking or trekking. (Source: Domestic Travel Survey Dec 2008, International Visitor Survey 2008). In the 2007/08 Sport and Recreation Commission Participation survey (on a national basis) walking was the highest ranking sport and recreation activity with 64% participation rate, with jogging/running at 17.6% and tramping at 9.4%.

While the Otago Central Rail Trail is a dominant visitor attraction, it is predominately used by cyclists completing the whole trail, with shorter sections being popular for walkers. The common walking use is by way of breaking it up into smaller achievable sections. There are a determined few that do walk the entire trail. Currently it is estimated

that approximately 12,000 people travel the whole Rail Trail predominately by a mix of cycle and walking and unknown numbers do parts of the trail.

Walking activity in Central Otago tends to be focused on shorter walks. This is a reflection of the current track mix, users' perceptions, time allocation, abilities, district promotion, information and a lack of amenities and water for longer walks.

Many of these shorter walks are associated with sites linked to the region's rich goldfields heritage, such as the Bannockburn Sluicings, Bendigo loop tracks on Bendigo Historic Reserve, Come in Time battery track off the Thomsons Gorge Road or the Ladysmith walk at Roxburgh.

Health and Wellbeing

The walking market tends to be 45+ with a focus on physical and mental wellbeing. This type of recreation will continue to dominate community needs with the growth and understanding of physical wellbeing increasing demand for new and improved walking amenities.

It is imperative for current and future community wellbeing and people's sense of place that passive access to and along these water ways and valleys are preserved, and over time, developed.

There is national data supporting reduced engagement by children and youth in outdoor recreation due to time spent utilising computers.

What is Required for a Good Experience?

The demands for type of track vary depending on the target user, experience desired and setting sought. For those in the domestic market or international market, their track needs are of a high standard requiring an even firm, flat surface with minimal gradients, good width and clear visibility, and clearly defined or signed at regular intervals. Higher standards are required to avoid visitors losing direction due to a lack of local track knowledge. Visitors need to be well informed as to appropriate footwear and clothing requirements.

Ideally tracks should be supported with good interpretation and water courses should be bridged and fitted with hand railings. The extra investment is economically recompensed by the flow on effects of retaining visitors for longer and the increased range of users that can be accommodated by higher standard tracks.

More tracks are being developed countrywide that meet the needs of disability users such as those in wheel chairs and that are appropriate for younger families. This may create demand in Central Otago for tracks to meet this standard and therefore be more inclusive.

While locals can often manage with lower standards, growing demands from visitors are increasing wear and tear on existing tracks, shortening maintenance periods and reducing the user experience as a result of increasing use. These increasing pressures demand a managed approach to retain quality, quantity and safety.



Running as a specialist form of recreation has been reduced with many now involved in multisport. The traditional running harrier club has diversified with the inclusion of walking into their ranks with the majority of participants more often being walkers. Walkers and runners seeking more remote experiences utilise both public tracks and cooperative access arrangements with landowners.

Local use patterns tend to result in activity adjacent to urban centres often associated with water ways during the week and out to more remote locations in weekends.

Assessment of the District's Tracks

As a visitor destination Central is not known for its multi day tramps when compared to the likes of the Great walks such as the Milford and Routeburn.

Keen experienced trampers do undertake multi day tramps and range traverses like the Old Man Range, which are rewarding for those with the fitness and navigation skills. These experiences generally involve a component of route way finding and self reliance due to elementary routes, very limited signage and sparse distribution of basic, standard huts.

While Central Otago's spacious open landscape, offering great views, is highly regarded, it can be off-putting for walkers due to its vastness and the lack of shelter.

The recent Twin Burn purchase (through tenure review) and the forming of the Oteake Conservation Park will see opportunities for multi day walking and biking experiences with huts available through the upper valleys of the west and east branches of the Manuherikia via the Omarama saddle.

Local demand for walking has grown due to its acceptance as a form of physical exercise and its ease of participation right across the community. This is expressed both in numbers using walking tracks, but also in community support for new walking track developments occurring district wide.

When looking at tracks in the district:

- There are more out and back tracks and a lack of circuit or loop tracks, which are users' preferred option if given a choice.
- Experiences offered in Central Otago in terms of user ability, range from *Accessible, Easy, Moderate, Hard or Route*, with the majority of tracks falling in the *Moderate, Hard or Route* categories.
- They vary in terms of time investment, from short stop to multi day activities with the majority being half day to full day.
- Settings range, from urban through to remote with most set in the rural to backcountry zones.
- In terms of proximity to centres of population the majority of tracks require travel to reach their start.
- Of note is that the region has only one path/walk to wheel chair standard. One other walk has a section suitable for wheel chair access.

There is strong community interest in walking and also in the value of tracks to the community as shown by Teviot Valley Walkways, Naseby – Naseby Forest trails, Patearoa – Sowburn Walk, and Cromwell Promotions - Lake Dunstan Shore line walks.

DOC through the Central Otago Area office provides a significant network of walks and tracks outside of the valley floors. These range from interpreted high quality paths to natural surface, marked four wheel drive tracks and routes. DOC is a key track provider for the region.

It needs to be noted that changes in land tenure from pastoral leases to freehold and the resulting land use changes, have reduced past, informal access. There is a need to secure access arrangements to meet increasing community demand for walking opportunities.

Our climate is favourable with extremes in winter and summer. These extremes can be mitigated by walkers taking appropriate clothing or carrying appropriate provisions, e.g. water. The lack of shade is also important to consider when undertaking these activities.

One of the key nature features for the region is the Clutha River and the associated gorges.

There are 63 tracks in Central Otago covering approximately 324km and they range from community managed tracks to DOC managed tracks. They include: 2 short walk paths, 38 walking tracks and over 23 tramping tracks ranging from several hours duration to multi day walks. Forty five (45) are provided and managed by DOC (71% of total tracks) and 18 (29%) are provided and managed by community groups and Council. Apart from some DOC tracks which have track counters, it is unknown who and what use most tracks have over the course of a year.

Walking track design for those adjoining urban areas needs to consider Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), which is a safe design principle. The absence of CPTED principles may lead to people not using tracks due to concerns about personal safety.

Opportunities

Community plans identify walking and tramping opportunities. Several community plans, have identified walking opportunities. These are:

- Naseby – seeking security, codes of conduct and quality trail brochure for Naseby Forest
- St Bathans – a walkway from the domain to the village
- Clyde – Miners Lane to camp walking track
- Alexandra – Roxburgh Gorge and other opportunities
- Roxburgh – Roxburgh Gorge and Clutha Gold Trail
- Maniototo – developing a heritage trail – local cycle and walkways
- Tarras – developing a heritage trail and backcountry access
- Waipiata – Village and heritage trail
- Cromwell – Walkway and cycle way around top of Lake Dunstan – whole circumnavigation. Investigate linkage of Cromwell to Clyde via an extension of the Rail Trail
- Pisa – developing trails within the village and a trail back down to Cromwell

The Upper Clutha Trails Trust has investigated the possibility of a trail from Wanaka to Clyde.

There is a need to make sure that tracks are classified in a way that is easy to understand, match with user expectations and abilities and attract people to the area.

It has been identified that there is a need for a further multi day trails with good supporting infrastructure to meet the needs of walkers.

We have a very good arterial facility in the Otago Central Rail Trail along with some other key arterial opportunities under investigation, e.g. the Clutha Gold Trail. With the potential development of the Clutha Gold Trail and Roxburgh Gorge and Upper Clutha Track Trust Trails there is a need to look long-term at the management, securing access to land, and marketing of this network.

Opportunities exist for better adoption by the community of the associated natural and heritage values contained in and adjoining the various track corridors. More information and education is required.

Threats/Risks

Voluntary groups to their credit have risen to meet the current challenge for more walking/biking facilities. However well intentioned these groups and individuals are there has been a lack of consistency and quality of tracks.

Signage and Interpretation

Issues relate to poor signage and marking. (Ref Signage/Route Guide Page24)

Track Surface Standards

Poor track surface standards (soft, steep, narrow, poor visibility especially with shared use) do not encourage people to walk or trek in the district. Track surface standards and grades that do not meet the needs of older age groups or young families restrict their use and have a poor return on investment. A decision needs to be made on which tracks will meet the majority of user requirements and be upgraded to meet these standards.

Safe Structures

Poor physical structures, such as bridges, that are not safe or up to walking track standards not only detract from visitor experience but provide liability issues to land managers.

Access

There is a range of informal agreement with regard to access. (Ref Access section page24)

Climate

The climate makes walking and tramping quite a challenge during summer time due to hot temperatures, exposure to sun and dry conditions. Shaded walks are limited but the recent addition of the Commissioners Track and the Bendigo Kanuka walk have complemented the only other shaded walk, between Alexandra and Clyde along the banks of the Clutha.

User Conflict

A potential tension exists between walkers and other users over current shared tracks. A growing concern is safety with increasing volumes of users. (Refer Competing Use Page 28)

Financial

There is minimal funding for investment in infrastructure and the marketing of walking tracks.



Possible Actions

- **Collaboration between agencies to standardise signage and public information to ensure a quality walking experience.**
- **Encourage appropriate standards for all tracks to meet user demands.**
- **Identify and provide information on key access points.**
- **Develop a code of conduct for shared use facilities for example walking, cycling, horses and dogs.**
- **Provide information on requirements for walking or tramping in the high country.**
- **Continue to work with community volunteer groups on track development and maintenance.**

Water Related Activities

This section covers swimming/picnicking, fishing, boating, water skiing, windsurfing, jet skiing, canoeing, yachting, rowing and diving.

Positioning

Water based activities that are safe and work for the user.

What Matters for These Users?

Areas that:

- Are safe
- Are clean
- Have good access

Demand for these activities vary depending on the activity and location. Approximately 11% of all domestic visitors to Central Otago partake in water related activities with fishing, swimming and boating the most popular. For international visitors there is minimal participation in water related activities with fishing being the most popular (Domestic Travel Survey Dec 2008 and International Travel Survey 2008).

Central Otago has great positioning due to good access and easy availability of water resources including a number of lakes, rivers dams and streams with good quality (colour and clarity) of water, which coincides with Central's traditional long, hot, sunny summers. This makes the area conducive for water related activities.

Current Situation

There are many locations for water based activities. The following sections are broken into possible activities and locations. Currently the district is still relatively undiscovered with waterways experiencing good water quality with few people using them.

Water based activities include swimming/picnicking, fishing, boating, jet skiing water skiing, windsurfing, yachting, canoeing, rowing and diving.



Opportunities

Due to the hot summers, water related activities feature highly in people's 'things to do'.

Increased use of Lake Roxburgh (the hidden lake) and better access to this lake.

Threats/Risks

Poor amenities in recreation areas such as toilets in the area between Old Cromwell and Lowburn and in the Old Cromwell town area.

Private occupation of public areas is resulting in public access restrictions and constant ongoing intervention to remove these private occupations, e.g. along public waterway corridors. With the significant rate of development in the Clutha and upper Clutha basins there is considerable threat to traditional access routes. Many of these may be

informal access ways over private land at the goodwill of the landowner and as tenure changes, these privileges may be lost or challenged.

A further issue is management of amenity facilities around water locations. These are developed with good intentions but our harsh environment and people pressure has resulted in a rather tired and shabby appearance for most sites. Enhancement opportunities abound. Minimal management and maintenance has resulted in a declining standard of the beaches and amenities associated with Lake Dunstan. Continued involvement is important for the future enhancement of this recreational asset.

It has also been noted that fly tipping of garden waste and rubbish around river and lake margins reduces the positive experience people can have when participating in water based activities.

Deterioration of recreational water quality is a further concern. The Taieri and Manuherikia Rivers have been both been noticeably affected. The Otago Regional Council is actively monitoring local river conditions.

Effects of didymo and lagarosiphon. The spread of these infestations may severely impact on the quality of water related activities especially the swimming and fishing experience in Central Otago.

Over allocation of water resulting in complete water abstraction of key rivers and streams.

Possible Actions

- **Through district planning measures protect landscape corridors adjoining community water resources.**
- **Further education on water safety.**
- **Control of weeds in Central Otago waterways including lagarosiphon and didymo.**
- **Actively manage private occupation of public access corridors associated with water ways.**
- **Monitor recreational water quality and communicate to visitor information network.**
- **Investigate what assistance can be made in reducing breaches of recreational water quality on Taieri and Manuherikia.**

Swimming / Picnicking

Positioning

Safe locations that are well managed and maintained for swimming and picnicking.

What Matters for These Users?

That areas:

- Are safe
- Are peaceful
- Are clean
- Have a toilet in close proximity
- Have a nice beach
- Have some shade
- Have clean water

This is a popular summer activity around the lakes and rivers in Central Otago. While there are many dams throughout the district there is less demand for swimming in these areas due to their higher elevation and therefore cooler temperatures. A large holiday population from Otago and Southland combined with locals makes up those who regularly partake in water activities over the summer.

Current Situation

A popular summer activity associated with picnics and camping adjoining our numerous water resources. The main threat to a quality experience and access to swimming is water quality. This tends to be focused on rivers and streams. An example of this is the Taieri River which has recorded several breaches of the required action 'red' level of e coli/100ml counts at Waipaita ORC monitoring site. Levels have been high on the Manuherikia but no breaches have occurred requiring action.



Opportunities

Maintain and enhance the amenity quality of identified key swimming spots on Lake Dunstan through good separation from boating.

Consider the introduction of swimming pontoons at sites like Pinders Pond, Blue Lake and Lake Dunstan (various sites such as Dairy Creek, Lowburn Inlet, Pisa Moorings). Currently there are pontoons on Lake Dunstan at Alpha Street in Cromwell, McNulty Inlet, Wetherall Creek and Bannockburn Inlet.

Increase awareness of recreational water quality via ORC sending monitoring information to visitor centres. There is an opportunity to advocate for improved recreational water quality.

Through the District Plan, encourage subdivision to make provisions for development of swimming amenities adjoining lakes, dams and rivers, where appropriate.

Opportunities exist for greater integration of our water resource assets into local amenity design, walking cycling corridors/network and water recreation. An example is the Alexandra to Clyde walkway, which has heightened the community's appreciation of the river asset and swimming opportunities.

Encourage use of irrigation dams as appropriate places for swimming to occur rather than large rivers.

Threats/Risks

A deterioration of recreational water quality for safe swimming.

Care is required to manage the quality of the swimming experience on the lakes especially with the growth in popularity of jet skis and motor boats. This is due to the invasive nature both by noise and numbers of these highly mobile machines. To a lesser degree boating has an impact on the quality of the passive water and ambiance experience. Good separation of activities should manage these effects.

The risk (real or perceived) of swimming in the Clutha River. This is a large river that should not be attempted by many swimmers due to its swift nature.

Possible Actions

- **Improved separation on lakes of motorised craft and swimmers.**
- **Investigate installing and maintaining swimming pontoons at key sites around Central Otago, e.g. Pinders Pond, Blue Lake and Lake Dunstan.**
- **Maintain minimum flows at key swimming sites to retain swimming opportunities.**
- **Prepare information on all outdoor recreational water activities and associated water safety practices.**
- **Improve paths/networks to provide access to safe and appropriate swimming locations.**

Fishing

Positioning

A well resourced and managed range of fresh water fishing experiences.

What Matters for These Users?

That there:

- Are fish to catch
- Is isolation
- Is silence
- Is solitude
- Is good access
- Is clean water

Larger electricity and irrigation reservoirs in Central Otago provide an abundance of still water fishing. Lake Onslow, Poolburn Reservoir, Fraser Dam, Falls Dam and Loganburn Reservoir all hold good stocks of brown trout. Upper Manorburn is a rainbow fishery. Medium sized rivers such as the Taieri, Manuherikia, Pomahaka and their tributaries all support brown trout. In the Maniototo, in addition to the main Taieri River, there are some excellent still water irrigation dams. These smaller reservoirs are put-and-take fisheries and Fish and Game regularly stocks them with trout. They provide reliable angling opportunities relatively close to Dunedin. Coalpit and Hoffman's Dams, close to Naseby, are on private property and are operated as part of the forestry in this area. These waters can produce some amazing trophy fish and are very similar in character to English reservoir fishing.

Further inland, Lake Dunstan provides a very accessible lake fishery for brown and rainbow trout. Lake Dunstan on the Clutha offers good results from trolling, spinning, harling and fly-fishing. It is popular with boaties and all angling methods can be used making it very good for family angling.

Salmon run into the Clutha and Taieri Rivers from January to April. The most popular spot for salmon fishing on the Clutha is downstream from Roxburgh Dam to Millers Flat.

At the top of the Clutha River catchment Otago's three large glacial lakes – Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea – all support excellent mixed fisheries.

Fly fishing occurs in many areas in the district. Guided fly-fishing into unlimited remote high country fishing waters is available from Queenstown via several guiding companies and via companies also present in Glenorchy, Wanaka, Alexandra, Cromwell and Ranfurly.

The market for fishing is varied from locals to people from throughout New Zealand to international visitors for some fishing areas or types of fishing. Central Otago is part of the internationally renowned high country fishing network with locations such as Lake Onslow regularly used.

Current Situation

A very popular pastime across the community from the young to mature people and many families participate in this activity. Time for fishing varies across the district with certain rivers and water course opening at differing times of the year and sections of the Clutha River and Lakes Dunstan and Roxburgh open all year round (see www.fishandgame.org.nz for the fishing seasons associated with various lakes and rivers). This activity covers the full spectrum of types of fishing apart from sea fishing. Fishing clubs are strong and internationally we gain our share of visitors.

Fish stocks are provided for by both Fish and Game and the Clutha Fisheries Trust. They manage the fishing stock, acting as guardian and spokesperson for fish and habitat quality; the fishing catch and access to fishing sites.

Opportunities

Through the District Plan encourage subdivisions to make provisions for access for fishing to adjoining lakes, dams and rivers where appropriate.

Local fishing guides and licences can be obtained through the visitor information centres, from the web and some local sports shops.

There is an opportunity for Central Otago to promote opportunities in conjunction with neighbouring areas. Experiencing the Poolburn or Upper Manorburn is a distinctive experience that can be promoted.

Threats/Risks

While lagorosiphon and didymo has been identified as detrimental to the family fishing experience it should be noted that some fishing markets (e.g. fly fishing), like the additional opportunities created by this weed.

There is limited capacity in some smaller rivers and streams for fishing.

Some people who participate in fishing have differing expectations, e.g. some people participate for the experience of getting outdoors while others are after trophy fish.

'Patch' protection occurs with locals protecting their favourite areas.

Land based weeds such as gorse and broom along waterways can inhibit access or the ability to fish and result in a declining fishing experience.

While not threatening river fishing, public monitoring will be required over residual flows to retain current river fishing resources outside the Clutha River.

Commercial fishing of ponds and lakes may ruin the asset for other users.

Possible Actions

- **Ensure public information on recreational fishing is available through information centres, on the web and local sports shops.**

Boating

Positioning

Central Otago welcomes boating that operates in areas that do not conflict with other users and that is supported by well maintained facilities.

What Matters for These Users?

- Having a safe area
- Having access to information on rules
- Having clean water
- Water with no weed
- Having toilets in close proximity
- Being allowed to travel at speed

This is a very popular water based activity mainly around the two main lakes, Dunstan and Roxburgh. The Clutha Management Committee administers Lake Dunstan and manages boating related issues on the lake and on the Clutha River. New bylaws administered by the Otago Regional Council allow for management of waterways within the region. Boating is allowed on the Clutha River, lakes Dunstan and Roxburgh, Falls Dam and Blue Lake (the Blue Lake has restrictions). Boats capable of greater than 5 knots are prohibited on all other rivers, lakes and dams. Boating does occur on the Taieri River, which is in breach of the Regional Council bylaws.

Current Situation

While it is unknown how many users undertake boating activities on the various lakes and watercourses in the district this is a very popular activity especially over the summer break. A variety of places for boating are outlined in the following table.

Opportunities

Improve boat trailer parking at Roxburgh Dam to reduce congestion. This would require upgrading the track, increased trailer parking and better signage.

Review boat launching facilities below the Clyde Dam.

Improved weed control on Lake Dunstan will encourage further use of lake areas.

Improve amenity planting for shade and shelter around Lake Dunstan.

Develop mooring points on the Clutha River at Doctors Point, Butchers Point and Clyde.



Information on boating should be included in other complementary publications, e.g. promotional brochures.

Threats/Risks

Failure or not continuing to manage weed control in Lake Dunstan would negatively impact on the recreational boating experience.

Continued siltation of Kawarau Arm and Bannockburn Inlet further reduces recreational opportunities in this area.

If there was a decline in maintenance of boat ramps and other infrastructure around the Lakes such as toilets and picnic areas this would have a detrimental effect. Having a maintenance or development programme to minimise this risk is suggested.

Increasing costs of travel, e.g. petrol, dissuades visitors from bringing boats from the coast to use on Central Otago lakes during holidays.

Possible Actions

- **Information on boating be included in complementary publications.**
- **Investigate boat launching facilities below Clyde Dam.**
- **Improve boat trailer parking capacity at Roxburgh Dam.**
- **Develop mooring facilities on the Clutha River at Doctors Point, Butchers Point and below the Clyde Dam.**

Jet Skiing

Positioning

Central Otago welcomes jet skis which operate in areas that do not conflict with other users.

What Matters for These Users?

- ✦ Having a safe area
- ✦ Having access to information on rules
- ✦ Having clean water
- ✦ Water with no weed
- ✦ Having toilets in close proximity
- ✦ Being allowed to travel at speed

This is a growing form of activity largely sharing the same water resources as boating. While limited in people carrying capacity they are powerful enough to tow ski biscuits and skiers. Due to the increased manoeuvrability, speed and noise they have developed some less than desirable traits for other water users.

Current Situation

While it is unknown how many undertake jet skiing activities on the various lakes and watercourses in the district, from observed use, this is a popular activity especially over the summer break. A variety of places for jet skiing are outlined in the following table.

Opportunities

The opportunities are similar as for boating in previous section.

There are means of managing jet skis. Below is an synopsis of how to manage this from Queensland in Australia.

The Queensland Government has consulted over a *Jet Ski Management Plan*. The aim of the jet ski review and release of the associated discussion paper was to present a possible framework and options for the most appropriate way to regulate the use of jet skis, taking into account the issues and interests of waterways and land users, environmental impacts, safety, general amenity, as well as the enforceability of regulations.



The Queensland Government has identified a number of policy decisions that are designed to improve safety for jet ski users and also improve amenity for residents of waterside communities. In brief, these initiatives are:

- Introduction of a new class of licence for jet ski operators
- Providing capacity for the creation of excluded or restricted use zones for jet skis
- Expanding jet ski education and enforcement activities

Threats/Risks

Increased use of jet skis and crowding may result in a loss of a good experience or displacement at recreation areas. With increasing numbers of people fishing or swimming there is the possibility of conflict between users. Some form of zoning with water resources may be required to maintain amenity values of differing user groups.

Possible Actions

- **Have clearly defined areas for jet skiing.**
- **Incorporate information on jet skiing into complementary publications.**

Water Skiing / Wakeboarding

Positioning

Central Otago welcomes water skiers who operate in areas that do not conflict with other users.

What Matters for These Users?

- Having a safe area
- Having access to information on rules
- Having clean water
- Water with no weed
- Having toilets in close proximity
- Having ski lanes

Water skiing and wakeboarding is a sport where an individual (or more than one individual) is pulled behind a motor boat on a body of water wearing one or more skis. The surface area of the ski (or skis or boards) keeps the person skimming on the surface of the water allowing the skier to stand upright while holding the tow rope.

The types of water skiing have evolved with biscuits, wake boards, knee boards and traditional skiing forms. The craft towing skiers has also changed with jet skis now capable of towing a water skier.

Current Situation

Ski lanes and access areas are established at Lake Dunstan (see the Lake Dunstan Boating Guide for full details on water skiing areas) and skiing is allowed on Lake Roxburgh, St Bathans Blue Lake and Falls Dam. It is unknown exactly how many go water skiing or utilise facilities such as the ski lanes.

The St Bathans Blue Lake has allowed boats and skiing but this is being reviewed by the Otago Regional Council.

One slalom course exists on Lake Dunstan near Senora Creek.

Currently there is one commercial water skiing company which operates at Island Block, Roxburgh and provides training and education for skiers.

A wakeboard event was held on Lake Dunstan at Cromwell during the past two summers. This is hosted by the Southern Lakes Board Riders Club. If this event continues to be successful then the club may look at hosting a national event in two or three years' time.

Capacity for water skiing currently appears adequate.

Opportunities

The opportunities are similar as for boating.

Threats/Risks

Increased numbers of water skiing-related activities leading to water congestion. Boat speed breaches near shore and other stationary craft resulting from combined water resource pressure.



Possible Actions

- Continued education on safe water skiing practices.
- Have designated ski lanes or ski access areas for Lake Roxburgh and Falls Dam.

Wind Surfing / Kite Surfing

Positioning

Central Otago will not position itself as a windsurfing destination.

What Matters for These Users?

- The area is safe
- Have access to information
- The area is quiet
- There is no weed
- There is wind

Wind surfers use the same resource as boaties, however while the wind is a requirement of wind surfers it is a disincentive for boating due to the chop it creates. Other activities such as kite boards exist but few are seen in Central Otago. There are probably ample resources available for both activities.

Current Situation

Currently small numbers of windsurfers take part in this activity when compared to the 1980s and 1990s, with observed numbers static. This activity tends to be located on Lake Dunstan. Cromwell College runs an outdoor pursuits programme using the lake. The Cromwell Aquatics centre runs outdoor programmes on the lake.

Opportunities

Wind may be good over the October/November months for this activity.

Threats/Risks

Wind conditions tend to be inconsistent.

Yachting

Positioning

Yachting is encouraged on Lake Dunstan.

What Matters for These Users?

- The area is safe
- Having access to information
- Areas are quiet
- There is no weed
- There is wind

Current Situation

This section covers trailer sailors and dinghies. Lake Dunstan is the prime resource for yachting especially above Cromwell which is used both formally for regattas and leisure for sailing. Lake Roxburgh is used less due to access issues. Only occasionally would sailing dinghies go on smaller dams over the summer months. A strong trailer sailor and dingy club and recreational sailing are based out of the Cromwell College Aquatic Centre and the Lake Dunstan Boat Club. The Boat Club host several club events each year. Events tend to be focused on the Cromwell basin part of the lake.

Opportunities

There is potential for more yachting and associated infrastructure, which may see some bigger craft being located in the area.

Threats/Risks

As a shared multi use facility Lake Dunstan has a finite capacity especially with larger craft.

Wind quality is not consistent and affects the desirability of the lakes for this activity.

Possible Actions

- **Develop information on yachting opportunities in Central Otago.**

Canoeing / Kayaking

Positioning

Central Otago has many rivers and lakes within its unique landscape ideally suited for a wide range of kayaking activities.

The Clutha River is recognised as a national experience for grade two multisport kayaking. The Nevis and Kawarau rivers are recognised nationally for their important and unique whitewater and the Ophir Gorge in the Manuherikia is recognised regionally as an important white water river.

What Matters for These Users?

Canoeists like to have:

- A peaceful setting
- clean water
- a safe area
- good access
- uncluttered water areas

Kayakers like to have:

- white water
- clean water
- safe
- good access
- wilderness landscapes
- no powered craft

Flat water canoeing is popular primarily with multi sporters, with a small but growing leisure group using Lake Dunstan and other dams. There is significant potential for more visitor experiences.

White water and slalom activities are currently strong with an active following. Local dams and a section of Clutha between Fraser River and Dry Gully are used for slalom. There is a 25 year tradition of whitewater kayakers meeting every Tuesday evening during the summer months to kayak together on the Roaring Meg section of the Kawarau river.

Current Situation

The region is recognised by the multi sport fraternity as a great training and event ground. Both lakes (flat water) and the region's rivers (white water) are recognised and valued. Capacity is currently underutilised. The area is nationally and internationally recognised with the previous hosting of national white water events by the Roaring Meg on the Kawarau River. The Kawarau is used regularly for white water extreme racing and slalom and is used daily for commercial river surfers by Tourist operators based in Queenstown. Multisport Kayaking organise both series and river races on the Clutha River. Visitors from Otago and Southland regularly travel to Central Otago for whitewater kayaking and it has been a kayaking destination for more than 30 years. During the summer holiday visitors from other parts of New Zealand and overseas travel to Central Otago for kayaking.

There are a significant number of Central Otago residents for whom recreational whitewater kayaking is an important part of their lifestyle.

This activity is supported by high schools in both white water and multi sport. Central Otago White Water Club (COW) has a long established record in river runs, white water and slalom, kayaking education and river protection. As a result of this strong level of involvement, this region is well represented at national and international level in kayak slalom.

The area is recognised by the community and visitors alike by the number and longevity of multi sport events that have been held over the years which confirms the quality and value of multi sport in Central Otago.

Canoe polo competitions help to improve skills' development and promote canoeing to a wider community.

Opportunities

Extensive capacity exists for both flat and white water sports both for club, competition and leisure recreation - individual, group and family based

There are opportunities for further expanding the leisure market with utilisation of the Bendigo wildlife reserve and Taieri River.

With a proposed international play waves course for the Hawea River, being close to Central Otago, it will likely increase the skill of local kayakers and the profile of Central Otago kayaking.

Further skills development through programmes such as canoe polo.

Threats/Risks

Hydro development has, in the past, removed previous internationally recognised rapids and white water runs and continues to be a threat

Motorised vessels speed and wakes, especially if these forms of recreation expand, could see one form of recreation displacing another.

Trees, especially willows, lining the river banks.

May be conflict between powered boats and kayakers and canoeists.



Possible Actions

- **Increase the profile and information on leisure canoeing for Central Otago.**
- **Develop a skills programme to improve river safety and interest in this sport.**
- **Support Central Otago Whitewater's instructional programmes for slalom and whitewater kayaking.**
- **Create the slalom training area on the Clutha River at Earnsclough as a recreational reserve.**
- **Provide information on the kayaking resources of Central Otago.**
- **Promote the winter kayak polo programme at Alexandra as a healthy youth, family and community activity.**

Rowing

Positioning

Central Otago is a regional destination for rowing training and competitions.

What Matters to Rowers?

- Good access
- Clean environment
- Quiet ambiance
- Safety on the water

The sport is both recreational and competitive.

While rowing, the athlete sits in the boat facing backwards (towards the stern), and uses the oars which are held in place by the oarlocks to propel the boat forward (towards the bow). There are two forms of rowing:

- Sweep or sweep-oar rowing – each rower has one oar, held in both hands. This is done in pairs, fours and eights.
- Sculling - each rower has two oars (or sculls), one in each hand. Sculling is usually done without a coxswain, in quads, doubles or singles. The oar in the sculler's right hand extends to port (stroke side), and the oar in the left hand extends to starboard (bow side).

Current Situation

There are small numbers participating in rowing, which is typified by having a committed group of enthusiasts. A quality venue and facilities are provided at the Dunstan Rowing Club at Clyde. Locals that travel regularly excel in national events and competitions. The club is recognised with regional regatta attendances and used for training camps. The club hosts a successful long eights competition. There is potential for further use of the Dunstan arm section of Lake Dunstan.

The aquatic centre based at Weatherall Creek on Dunstan Arm hosts both the Dunstan Arm Rowing Club and Dunstan High.

The club and school are well resourced with modern skiffs and coaching boats.

The water resource is very well regarded. The course is set in an amazing gorge and landscape with very good spectator viewing.

Opportunities

Corporate rowing challenges held over the last few years allow complete novices to train for a prescribed period of time and row in a challenge for the winning corporate team. There remains interest from the community for further events.

Masters rowing has a steady following with room for growth.

School rowing is sound and often leads into club rowing which is very well set up with excellent club, boats and associated coaching.

The landscape and experience of rowing in the Cromwell Gorge, especially in calm or slight conditions, is rewarding. Opportunity exists for some form of stable skiff for recreational rowing in the gorge.

If Central Otago is to position itself as a destination for rowing events then it must target markets for training and competition opportunities. This will always be difficult with nationally recognised facilities further north and consequent travel demands. Lower south, support and utilisation are growing.

There is an opportunity to improve boat launching facilities at the Dunstan Arm Rowing Club.

Threats/Risks

Adequate separation from other users to protect quality training and racing.

High capital investment in boats limits how easily people can participate.

Increased event competition from other national venues to host regional events.

Possible Actions

- **Increase the profile, education and information on rowing opportunities for Central Otago as a form of recreational activity and sport for the more competitive via schools and the community.**
- **Improve skiff or boat launching facilities at the Dunstan Arm Rowing Club.**

Diving

Positioning

Central Otago will not actively promote diving.

What Matters to Divers?

Good access to water that is safe and clean.

Current Situation

This section covers drift diving, snorkelling and scuba diving. Demand is low and attractions, while available, are not significant enough to see any great changes in current use. Clarity of water is a strong determinant hence the popularity of drift diving the upper sections of the Clutha River.

This is a niche market with rather small potential. Many of the dams have submerged buildings and structures which were inundated on construction of the numerous reservoirs created during the 1930s depression era to provide reliable irrigation water for farming. These provide areas to dive with attractions to look at. The Old Cromwell Bridge was left intact as a diving experience with the filling of Lake Dunstan.

Current use is low and limited to a number of keen individuals who dive inland on an occasional basis. The absence of harvest, e.g. seafood is one of the missing drivers of any growth in this activity.

Threats/Risks

Reduced water quality and clarity.

Siltation over time obscuring submerged heritage especially associated with the Kawarau Arm of Lake Dunstan and the Clutha below Cromwell.

APPENDICES FOR CENTRAL OTAGO OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY

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APPENDIX 1

Benefits of Leisure, Author - Bev Driver
Academy of Leisure Sciences - White Papers
www.academyofleisuresciences.org

Leisure is often viewed as an unproductive time, producing only a simple, quick fix to the daily stresses caused by everyday life. For this reason, a feeling of guilt can sometimes be associated with leisure as the person envisions all the work that he or she could be doing instead of taking a break for something with so many negative connotations. This ideology stems from remnants of the 'Puritan Ethic' that concludes that work and leisure cannot coincide and that leisure has no place in a productive society. This argument provides an excuse for people to work greater amounts of time with no leisure and still feel no shame. However, contrary to this belief, leisure produces many benefits not only for the individual, but also for society as a whole. As Bev Driver of the Academy of Leisure Sciences states in her essay The Benefits of Leisure, "The benefits of leisure -physical and mental health, economic development, family bonding, environmental awareness, and so on--are now well-documented scientifically." In fact, some of our favourite activities like playing sports, reading a book, or just sitting in a hammock are actually leisure activities. Unfortunately, we often fail to realize that we gain more from these activities than simply having a good time. Leisure provides physical, psychological, economic, and spiritual benefits that play a major role in the overall welfare of society in general.

While often overlooked, leisure provides many physical benefits. By using our leisure time for exercise, we are able to strengthen our bodies, making them more resilient to injury. In fact, sports even allow us to learn teamwork and people skills, while being physically active. These skills can help us later in our work as we will be better able to cope with others and their problems. As Thomas L. Goodale from the Department of Health, Sports and Leisure Studies states in his essay *Leisure's Relationship to Health*, "Recreation and leisure activities may be one of our best methods for curbing our rising medical costs... in an era in which medical costs continue to escalate and our ability to provide ability to provide medical care for all segments of the population has lessened, maintaining good health pays dividends." From this statement, we can observe that leisure provides not only physical exercise but also other medical benefits as well.

Besides the physical advantages, leisure grants psychological relaxation of the mind and soul. Driver stated that, "those [leisure] behaviours also promote psychological benefits, including reduced tension and anxiety, mental and physical relaxation, reduction in stress hormones . . . , positive changes in mood, and enhanced outlook on life." As we leisure and relax, our tensions and stress levels decrease as the quality of life increases. Goodale says, "No living organism can exist in a stressed or flexed state indefinitely... periods of relaxation are necessity." By relaxing we break the constant pressure that stress puts on our lives, allowing us to be more productive. These psychological benefits from leisure are important because without the relief that we achieve from relaxation, we would all suffer from stress disorders.

Society also benefits from leisure economically. When people participate in leisure, they often spend their money doing it. This exchange of money in turns boosts the economy, rewarding both parties. Bev Driver states, "The tremendous economic benefits of leisure investment and expenditures have been well documented empirically, both in terms of how much people are willing to pay for leisure services and in terms of economic impacts of actual expenditures." Tourism, a prime example of how leisure benefits society, is becoming a booming industry providing many jobs for many people. One final way in which we gain economically from leisure is that it increases overall productivity. "According to industrial experts and studies done in Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Canada, leisure programs increased productivity by seven percent while decreasing absenteeism by twenty percent (Goodale pg.2)." The economical benefits of leisure are self-evident.

The fact that leisure affects more than individuals alone is often overlooked. When we benefit individually, the benefits that we gain through leisure is passed on to others that we come into contact with. In this manner, leisure benefits society as a whole. Bev Driver states that, ". . . [B]enefits [of leisure] to individuals lead to other benefits that have social or collective merit and also that many of the immediate benefits of leisure are in fact social instead of individual in nature. The 'social good' of leisure is both substantial and widely unappreciated." In this statement is a truth that we must not forget.

The spiritual aspect of leisure also has an impact on our lives. Christian worship, prayer, and meditation should be part of our leisure time as playing sports or reading a book. Because leisure is defined as what we want to do, walking with the Lord should definitely be a part of that. The benefits that we gain as individuals and as a society because self-evident. When we pray and worship God blesses us.

As you can see, leisure benefits not only to the individual, but also society as a whole. These advantages cannot be ignored when talking about leisure because leisure clearly benefits anyone who participates in it. In this light the decreasing amount of time our society is spending in leisure is alarming.

APPENDIX 2

Below is a summary of each activities current and possible future use.

Air Activities - Current and Possible Future Use

	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Gliding							
Alexandra Airport		y	y	y	y	y	Asphalt runway, Fixed wing, rotor, gliding. Aero Club, Commercial, Charter, Topdressing.
Cromwell Airfield							Grass runway, Fixed wing.
Roxburgh Airfield							Grass runway, Fixed wing, Topdressing.
Fixed wing/rotor							
Alexandra Airport		y	y	y	y	y	Asphalt runway, Fixed wing, rotor, gliding. Aero Club, Commercial, Topdressing.
Cromwell Airfield			y	y	y	y	Grass runway, Fixed wing.
Roxburgh Airfield			y	y	y	y	Grass runway, Fixed wing, Topdressing.
Oturehua Airfield					y	y	Commercial Flights.
Paragliding / Microlight					y	y	Can occur anywhere in the district.

Mountain Biking - Current and Possible Future Use

Mountain Biking	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Easy - Wide trail, gentle grade, hardened surface							
Alex - Clyde 150th Anniversary River Track		y	y	y	y	y	As a shared walking and cycling facility it requires improved vegetation clearance, improved sight lines, increased width in tight

							winding sections, surface hardening and distance marking. Shared use code of conduct to manage multiple user conflict. Potential carry capacity issues.
Alex - Clyde loop via River and Rail Trail tracks		y		y	y	y	
Alexandra - Middlemarch – Otago Central Rail Trail.	y	y	y	y	y	y	Improve linkage to Clyde, under pass.
Alexandra Bridges walk		y		y	y	y	Install panel mapping route connection to other trails.
Clyde - (River to Rail Trail) link		y		y	y	y	Clearer signage and improved cycle linkage through town to improve connection between trails.
Naseby Water Race Track		y	y	y	y	y	Requires partnership with Earnslaw One for up graded track marking and directional signage and related route guide.
Potential – Alexandra to Lake Roxburgh Village track via Roxburgh Gorge		y?		y?		y?	Under development
Lake Roxburgh to Beaumont		y		y		y	Under development
Potential – Clyde to Cromwell via Cromwell Gorge		y?		y?		y?	Potential future biking route
Intermediate - individual and social groups. Moderate skill and fitness. Combination wide trail and single track, some obstacles, moderate slopes, variable surface.							
Cromwell - Bannockburn lake side track over tops		y		y	y	y	Requires surface hardening and realignment to reduce grades for family riding and distance marking and directional signage and route guide.
Danseys Pass - Kurow – Naseby Road		y		y	y	y	Route guide and signage required. Shared use signage.
Clyde - Bannockburn via Pylon Road		y		y	y	y	Route guide and directional signage required.
Conroy's Creek and Dam Historic loop track		y		y	y	y	Done – now bridged and signage required from road to track start.
Earnscluegh Tailings loop track		y		y		y	Surface hardening required for loose surface. Interpretation required.
Graveyard Gully to Butchers point		y		y	y	y	Interpretation required along with shared use signage.
Homestead Track		y	y	y	y	y	Old water race.
Horseshoe Bend Bridge track between Highway and Rigney		y		y	y	y	Investigate track improvement to make a loop to Millers Flat.
Ladysmith Tracks		y		y	y	y	Improved track width and surface with directional signage and track marking of core circuit. Develop shared use and single purpose trails appropriately signed.
Little Valley Rd - Old Coach Rd - Tucker Hill circuit		y		y	y	y	Direction signage and track marking required. Route guide required on loop with shared use code.
McPhies Ridge Track - Cluden Stream		y		y	y	y	Needs improved access, directional marking and HW signage to access either end. Route guide.
Moa Ck - Upper Manorburn Dam via Road		y		y	y	y	Route guide required supported by signage, trail marking. Shared use signage.

Mt Ida Irrigation Race Track (DOC and easement)		y	y	y	y	y	. Access via fords an issue for cars.
Naseby Forest Tracks		y	y	y	y	y	Requires partnership with Earnslaw One for up graded track marking and directional signage and related trail guide.
Nevis Valley – Lower and Upper via Road		y		y	y	y	Valley floor suitable for family riding. Needs an integrated route guide with site history. Shared use signage.
Northburn Tailings Quartz Reef track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Short track. Not promoted for mountainbiking.
Omeo Gully to Fraser Dam		y		y	y	y	Needs directional marking and a route guide. Steady climb.
Pateroa - Daisybank via Gorge Road and Hamiltons Diggings Track		y		y	y	y	Needs a route guide. Some climbing. Shared use signage.
Poolburn Dam via Road from Moa Ck		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to guide and web. Possible interpretation panels required. Shared use signage.
Serpentine Church and Battery via Long Gully Ridge Rd from Poolburn Dam		y		y	y	y	Track marking and directional signage required. Onsite interpretation required with route guide. Needs permission of landowner.
St Bathans to Hills Creek via Hawkdnun Runs Road and Home Hills Runs Road		y		y	y	y	Uses existing road network. Directional signage and route guide required. Potential for smaller circuits involving Mt Ida water race or Falls Dam and Fiddlers Flat Road. Two fords. Bridge currently out.
Thomson's Gorge Matakanui - Bendigo		y		y	y	y	Uses existing road network. Major climb. Track marking and directional signage required. Onsite interpretation. Driving brochure available via OGHT.
Advanced - seeking challenging trails, high level of skill and fitness. Challenging single trail or vehicle track, variable surface, obstacles, and steep sections							
Bendigo area							
Bendigo - Aurora Gully - Specimen Gully circuit		y		y	y	y	Shared use, dry conditions, low use.
Devils Creek Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Route guide required. Out and back.
Mt Koinga - Bendigo Kanuka loop link Track		y		y	y	y	Needs track marking and direction signage at junction with Kanuka Track.
Thomson's Saddle via Mt Moka Track to Bendigo CA		y		y	y	y	Access off Dunstans incomplete. Legal to Leaning Rock but not down into Cromwell Gorge.
Kopuwai Conservation area							
Kopuwai Ridge Tk - Sisters Tk via Boundary Hut		y		y	y	y	Directional signage in place with route guide.
Duffers saddle to Old Woman Conservation Area Mt Black		y		y	y	y	Information provided in brochure.
Nicholsons Hut track		y		y	y	y	Brochure available on trail. Out and back.
Obelisk - via Symes Road	y	y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available on trail. Highway signage required.
Obelisk - Hyde Rock via Symes Road	y	y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available on trail with direction

Obelisk Range (Omeo/Prospect Link) Track		y		y	y	y	Brochure available on trail with direction signage .
Omeo Gully Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Link to Prospect Hill via Omeo Basin below Obelisk. Brochure available on trail with direction signage .
Prospect Hill - Obelisk - Omeo Gully Link Track		y		y	y	y	Ascend Prospect and descend Omeo. Track marking and directional signage in place.
Prospect Hill Track	y	y		y	y	y	Currently just access to Conservation Area. Track linkage marking and signage in place with route guide.
Sisters Track off Prospect Hill Track		y		y	y	y	Route guide required and track marking and directional signage in place.
Symes Rd via Hyde Rock via Boundary Hut via Old Woman Hut to Duffers Saddle	y	y	y	y	y	y	Route guide in place. Onsite interpretation required. Low use.
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd to Potters #2	y	y	y	y	y	y	Route guide in place.. Onsite interpretation required.
Oteake Conservation Park							
East Manuherikia Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Under development – new multi day trail with linkages to Manuherikia West branch.
West Manuherikia Track via Omarama Saddle	y	y	y	y	y	y	Under development – new multi day trail with linkages to Manuherikia East branch.
Oteake CA Hawkduns Range traverse track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Summit ridge traverse. Track marking and directional junctions required.
Johnstone Creek Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Marked and signed and in brochure.
Mt Kyeburn Track					y	y	Track access to Mt Kyeburn from Buster Diggings and Danseys Pass Road, signed marked, brochure needs updated.
Mutton Creek Track					y	y	Lower link track for circuit between East and West Branches of Manuherikia.
Saddle Ridge Track					y	y	Link track for circuit between East and West Branches of Manuherikia.
Others							
Alexandra - Roxburgh via Knobbies Range		y		y	y	y	Legal road requiring formalisation with formation in parts, directional signage and marking and route guide.
Chain Hills Dunstan Ck Circuit	y	y	y	y	y	y	Add to Cromwell walk/biking brochure. Improve vehicle access to start of track of Goodger Road. Track marking along Dunstan Creek required.
Coal Ck - Pomahaka Junction Hut and Diggings, Bain CA		y		y	y	y	Legal road requiring formalisation with formation in parts. Requires directional signage and interpretation and route guide.
Coal Creek to Ettrick via Mt Bengier		y		y	y	y	Requires directional signage and interpretation and route guide.
Flat Top Hill Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Percentage of bike carry required. Marked and signed.
Flat Top Hill –Basin Weir		y		y	y	y	Marked and signed.
Lilico Spur - Waikerikeri CA		y		y	y	y	Out and back track.
Lowburn Pack Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Descent from snow farm recommended.

Lusher Road - Access to headwaters of Sowburn and Rock Pillar		y		y	y	y	Needs track marking and direction signage integrated into route guide.
Naseby Forest tracks		y	y	y	y	y	Requires partnership with Earnslaw One for upgraded track marking and directional signage and related track guides. Use at landowner's pleasure.
Bannockburn – Nevis Valley via road	y	y	y	y	y	y	Is a formed road. Shared use signage.
Patearoa - Sowburn walk		y	y	y	y	y	Access for biking, may only be section suitable.
Pisa CA - via Mt Pisa Access track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Descent recommended. Difficult to locate start.
Roxburgh - Styx via Onslow Road		y		y	y	y	Route guide required. Shared use signage.
Shingle Ck - Piano flat via Waikaia Bush Rd		y		y	y	y	Route guide and directional signage required.
Young Australia Water Wheel via Quartzville and Carricktown	y	y	y	y	y	y	Needs track maintenance – cut outs, water tables, track marking and distance. Interpretation at Quartzville and Carricktown required.
Young Australian Water Wheel Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Single track signed and marked.
Severe (Class 4) Extreme, single direction, very high skill.							
Tucker Hill Jump park		y	y	y	y	y	Volunteers. On pastoral lease land, Rail Trail Recreation Reserve and Crown land.
Clyde Pylon Down Hill trails			y	y	y	y	Volunteers. Off Clyde Bannockburn Road – Private land. Competitive events held on site.

Road Cycling - Current and Possible Future Use

Biking – Road Cycling	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lake Dunstan circuit via Luggate, Tarras and Cromwell		y		y	y	y	
Cromwell – Bannockburn – Ripponvale circuit					y	y	
Alexandra – Cromwell via Gorge return					y	y	
Alexandra Springvale Circuit					y	y	
Alexandra Letts Gully circuit					y	y	

Springvale Earnscleugh Circuit				y	y	y	
Alexandra – Omakau return				y	y	y	
Omakau – Oturehua – Becks circuit		y		y	y	y	
Alexandra – Roxburgh return					y	y	
Roxburgh – Lake Roxburgh Village Circuit				y	y	y	
Roxburgh – Millers Flat Circuit				y	y	y	

Rock Climbing - Current and Possible Future Use

Rock climbing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Bannockburn Bridge					y	y	Top rope and bolted.
Bendigo Wildlife Reserve Boat Ramp			y	y	y	y	Top rope and bolted.
Clyde Dam					y	y	Not able to be promoted publicly. This is a private agreement between keen local enthusiasts and Contact Energy.
Graveyard Gully					y	y	Natural, no protection.
Manuherikia - Shaky bridge			y	y	y	y	Top rope, bolted and bouldering.

Four Wheel Driving - Current and Possible Future Use

Four Wheel Driving	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Enthusiast (hard, route)							
Coal Creek to Ettrick via Mt Bengier		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation panels.
Duffers saddle to Old Woman Conservation Area, Mt Black		y		y	y	y	Information on track opportunities and maps has been created.
Dunstan Trail - Galloway - Poolburn - Styx - - Clarkes Junction	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation panels.
Gibbston - Coalpit saddle - Nevis				y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Kyeburn - Buster Diggings		y		y	y	y	Directional signage in place.
Little Valley Rd - Old Coach Rd - Tucker Hill	y	y	y	y	y	y	Paper road.
Lusher Road - Access to headwaters of Sowburn and Rock Pillar		y		y	y	y	Needs track direction signage integrated into route guide/web. Develop onsite interpretation.
East Manuherikia Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage is in place with information panels.
West Manuherikia Track via Omarama Saddle	y	y	y	y	y	y	Information panels in place.
Nevis (Commissioners Creek - Garston) Road	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Obelisk - Hyde Rock via Symes Road		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Omeo Gully to Fraser Dam		y		y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Oteake CA Hawkduns Range Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Johnstones Creek Track 4wd access	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation. Under development.
Potters #2 via Waikaia Bush Rd		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation
Serpentine Church and Battery via Long Gully		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Opportunity for circuit

Ridge Rd from Poolburn Dam							development. Develop onsite interpretation.
Shelter Hut (Waikaia Bush Rd) via Bains CA to Coal Creek Road		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. DOC and CODC develop numbered peg interpretation.
Shingle Ck - Piano flat via Waikaia Bush Rd		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Duffers Saddle to Symes Rd via Old Woman CA, via Alpine stamper, via Hyde Rock (only direction for 4x4). Not a through route. See DOC for further information.		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Sensitive, fragile section requires hardening. Develop numbered peg interpretation
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd to Potters #2. Not a through route. See DOC for further information.	y	y	y	y	y	y	<i>(Harden road, water tables and cut-outs Shelter Hut section)</i> Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd to Shingle Ck. Not a through route. See DOC for further information.		y		y	y	y	<i>(Harden road, water tables and cut-outs Shelter Hut section)</i> Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd. Not a through route. See DOC for further information.	y	y	y	y	y	y	<i>(Harden road, water tables and cut-outs Shelter Hut section)</i> Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Thomson's Saddle via Mt Moka Track to Bendigo CA		y		y	y	y	No through route. Access to DOC conservation area.
Young Australia Water Wheel via Quartzville and Carricktown		y		y	y	y	<i>(Harden and reinstate water table and cut-outs Quartzville to Young Australian section)</i> Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web.
Easy, moderate							
Bannockburn to Lower Nevis (Commissioners Creek)	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. OGHT provide interpretation through the Nevis.
Clyde - Bannockburn via Pylon Road		y		y	y	y	Poor condition, very rough. Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web.
Danseys Pass - Kurow – Ranfurly		y	y	y	y	y	Route guide and web. CODC and WDC. Develop onsite interpretation panels.
Moa Ck - Upper Manorburn Dam		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Obelisk - via Symes Road		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation. Partnership with Ngai Tahu for Kopuwai story. Maintain water tables and cut-outs.
Omeo Gully to Fraser Dam		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.

Pateroa - Daisybank via Gorge Road and Hamiltons Diggings Track		y		y	y	y	Directional signage to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation.
Poolburn Dam via Moa Ck		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation panels. Link to LOTR.
Roxburgh - Styx via Onslow Road		y	y	y	y	y	Route guide and web. Develop numbered pegs.
St Bathans to Hills Creek via Hawkdun Runs Road and Home Hills Runs Road		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop panel interpretation. Integrate with DOC amenities. Bridge across Manuherikia needs repairing.
Thomson's Gorge Matakanui - Bendigo		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop panels for interpretation. OGHT partnership.

Gold Panning - Current and Possible Future Use

Recreational Gold Panning	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Possible future areas suitable for gold panning and sluice boxing and mining is restricted to hand-held non-motorised methods only							
Bannockburn Creek – Bannockburn Inlet		y		Y		y	Crown Land LINZ.
Alexandra – Fraser River between Bridge and confluence with Clutha River		y		Y		y	Crown Land LINZ.
Maniototo – German Creek		y		Y		y	Danseys Pass - Recreation Reserve DOC.
Conroys Creek – Aldingha CA						y	DOC Conservation Area.
Area – Pinders Pond		y		y		y	CODC managed area.

Hunting - Current and Possible Future Use

Hunting - big game - deer pigs goats	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Bendigo CA			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of available use from DOC. No dogs allowed. Deer, goats.
Flat Top Hill CA					n/a	n/a	No hunting permitted.
Kakanui CA			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of available use from DOC. Deer, goats, pigs.
Kopuwai CA			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of available use from DOC. Deer, goats.
Lauder CA					y	y	Maps and limited access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, goats.
Manorburn CA				y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use. Access permission needed. Deer, pigs.
Long Gully Bluffs CA					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Access permission required. Goats.
Mt Bengier Scenic Reserve					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, goats.
North Dunstan CA					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, goats, pigs.
Oteake C CP		y	y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, pigs.
Pisa CA			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	No hunting in this area.
Remarkable CA		y	y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer.
Rock Pillar CA			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, Pigs.
Serpentine Scenic Reserve					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, pigs.
Waikerikeri CA					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Deer, goats. Permission from landowner to carry guns or take dogs, plus access is via private land.

Hunting- small game - rabbits and game birds							
Aldinga CA					n/a	n/a	No hunting currently allowed.
Bannockburn Sluicings					n/a	n/a	No hunting currently allowed.
Bendigo Scenic Reserve			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Rabbits, hares, quail, pheasant.
Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Game fowl.
Canadian Flat Wildlife Management Reserve		y		y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Game fowl.
Clutha MS			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Game fowl, rabbits.
Earnscluegh Tailings					n/a	n/a	No hunting currently allowed.
Flat Top Hill CA					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Only for gamebird.
Long Gully Bluffs CA					y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Rabbits. Access permission required
Manuherikia River MS			y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use. Game fowl
Manuherikia/Manorburn Wetlands - LINZ				y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use. Game fowl
North Dunstan CA				y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Rabbits.
Serpentine Wildlife Mgt Reserve		y	y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use available from DOC. Game fowl.
Taieri River MS		y	y	y	y	y	Maps and access routes designated with conditions of use. Game fowl.

Ice Sports - Current and Possible Future Use

Ice skating/ ice hockey/curling	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Artificial							
Naseby rinks	y		y	y	y	y	
Alexandra rink	y		y	y	y	y	
Natural							

Lower Manorburn Dam					y	y	
Ida Burn Dam					y	y	
Naseby					y	y	

Cross Country Skiing - Current and Possible Future Use

Cross Country skiing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
(Easy, Moderate)							
Old Woman Range		y	y	y	y	y	Duffers Saddle to Old Woman Hut.
Old Man Range			y	y	y	y	Symes Road to Kopuwai/Obelisk. Waikaia Bush Road.
Pisa Range	y	y	y	y	y	y	Waiorau Snow Farm trails.
Rock Pillar Range			y	y	y	y	Summit Rock.
(Moderate, Hard, Routes)							
Old Woman Range		y	y	y	y	y	
Old Man Range			y	y	y	y	
Garvie Range		y		y	y	y	
Pisa Range	y	y	y	y	y	y	
South Dunstan Range					y	y	
North Dunstan Range					y	y	
St Bathans Range					y	y	Possible multiday.
Hawkduns to Marys Range					y	y	Possible multiday.
Rock Pillar Range			y	y	y	y	

Snowmobiling - Current and Possible Future Use

Snowmobiling	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Old Woman Range					y	y	
Old Man Range					y	y	Via Waikaia Bush Rd and Symes Rd.

Observational Recreation - Current and Possible Future Use

	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Photography	y	y	y	y	y	y	This activity can occur anywhere within the Central Otago District
Heritage	y	y	y	y	y	y	This activity can occur anywhere within the Central Otago District
Painting	y	y	y	y	y	y	This activity can occur anywhere within the Central Otago District
Bird watching					y	Y	This activity can occur anywhere within the Central Otago District
Painting			y	y	y	y	This activity can occur anywhere within the Central Otago District
Geocaching	y	y	y	y	y	y	This activity can occur anywhere within the Central Otago District.

Trail Biking - Current and Possible Future Use

Trail Biking	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Coal Creek to Ettrick via Mt Bengier		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation panels.
Danseys Pass - Kurow - Ranfurly		y		y	y	y	Route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation panels.
Duffers saddle to Old Woman Conservation Area Mt Black		y		y	y	y	Information on track opportunities and maps has been created. Installed summer 09.
Dunstan Trail - Galloway - Poolburn - Styx - McPhees Rock - Clarkes Junction	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web.
Gibbston - Coalpit saddle – Nevis				y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Little Valley Rd - Old Coach Rd - Tucker Hill	y	y	y	y	y	y	Paper road.
Lusher Road - Access to headwaters of Sowburn and Rock Pillar Range		y		y	y	y	Needs track direction signage integrated into route guide/web. Develop onsite interpretation.
East Manuherikia Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage in place with information panels
West Manuherikia Track via Omarama Saddle	y	y	y	y	y	y	Information panels in place.
Moa Ck - Upper Manorburn Dam Road	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Nevis (Bannockburn - Garston) Road	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Obelisk (Kopuwaiti) Symes Road		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation. Partnership with Ngai Tahu for Kopuwaiti story.
Obelisk (Kopuwaiti) - Hyde Rock via Symes Road		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Omeo Gully to Fraser Dam		y		y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels.
Johnstones Creek Track 4WD access	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.

Patearoa - Daisybank via Gorge Road and Hamiltons Diggings Track					y	y	Directional signage to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation.
Potters #2 via Waikaia Bush Rd		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web.
Poolburn Dam via Moa Ck		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage linked to route guide and web. Develop onsite interpretation panels. Link to LOTR.
Roxburgh - Styx via Onslow Road		y		y	y	y	Route guide and web. Develop interpretation panels or numbered pegs.
Serpentine Church and Battery via Long Gully Ridge Rd from Poolburn Dam		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Opportunity for circuit development via CODC. Develop onsite interpretation.
Shelter Hut (Waikaia Bush Rd) via Bains CA to Coal Creek Road		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Shingle Ck - Piano flat via Waikaia Bush Rd		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
St Bathans to Hills Creek via Hawkdun Runs Road and Home Hills Runs Road		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Integrate with DOC amenities. Need for Manuherikia road bridge repairs.
Symes Rd via Hyde Rock via Boundary Hut via Old Woman Hut to Duffers Saddle (opposite direction for 4x4 and motor bikes) Not a through route. See DOC for further information.		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Sensitive fragile section requires hardening. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd to Potters #2. Not a through route. See DOC for further information.	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd to Shingle Ck. Not a through route. See DOC for further information.		y		y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Symes Road via Hyde Rock to Waikaia Bush Rd to Waikaia Bush. Not a through route. See DOC for further information.	y	y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop numbered peg interpretation.
Thomson's Gorge Matakanui - Bendigo		y	y	y	y	y	Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop panels for interpretation. OGHT partnership.
Young Australia Water Wheel via Quartzville and Carricktown		y		y	y	y	<i>(Harden and reinstate water table and cut-outs Quartzville to Young Australian section)</i> Directional signage and marking linked to route guide and web. Develop panels for interpretation.

Motocross							
Alexandra Airport Reserve				y	y	y	Signage and code of conduct. Manage access to site.
Cromwell Plantation Reserve				y	y	y	Code of conduct. Manage access to site.

Walking / Tramping / Running - Current and Possible Future Use

	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Walks (Accessible, Easy)							
Users Short stop visitor Day to multi day visitor Health and wellbeing							
Commissioners Walk (Spillway Lookout)	y	y	y	y	y	y	Wheel chair access with assistance to first lookout only.
Flat Top Hill - Butchers Dam	y	y	y	y	y	y	Wheel chair to dam only.
Lonely Graves	y	y	y	y	y	y	Site only.
St Bathans Blue Lake loop walk	y	y	y	y	y	y	Wheel chair access with assistance to lake. Out and back.
Walks (Easy, Moderate)							
Users Short stop visitor Day to multi day visitor Health and wellbeing							
Alex - Clyde 150th Anniversary River walk		y	y	y	y	y	Requires better vegetation clearance, improved sight lines, distance marking, surface hardening and share use code and signage.
Alexandra Bridges walk	y	y	y	y	y	y	Install panel mapping connection to other trails.
Alexandra Clock and Lookout			y	y	y	y	Uneven, rough, steep near Clock and beyond. Upgrade and directional signage required.
Alexandra to Clyde Loop via River and Rail Trail		y	y	y	y	y	As for Alex - Clyde 150th Anniversary River walk. Plus clearer signage and linkage through both towns.
Bannockburn Sluicings walks and Hall Rd and Domain Rd links	y	y	y	y	y	y	New signage recently installed.
Bendigo - Welshtown Matilda No1 loop	y	y	y	y	y	y	.New signage recently installed.

Bendigo - Aurora Gully - Specimen Gully circuit	y	y	y	y	y	y	New signage recently installed.
Chain Hills circuit		y	y	y	y	y	Closed over lambing. Dry weather access 4WD high. Potential upgrade for car use.
Clyde (River and Rail Trail) Link	y	y	y	y	y	y	Clearer signage and linkage through town and with OCRT; highway crossing required.
Clyde Heritage and lookout walk		y	y	y	y	y	Improved directional signage and interpretation.
Come In Time battery track		y	y	y	y	y	
Commissioners Walk Lake View Lookout	y	y	y	y	y	y	Highway signage required.
Conroy's Creek and Dam Historic loop track		y	y	y	y	y	signage required from road to track start.
Cromwell - Bannockburn track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Hardening of surface, reduce grades.
Cromwell Reservoir			y	y	y	y	Steep steps, uneven.
Cromwell Town Walk	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Earnscluegh Tailings lookout walk		y	y	y	y	y	Requires improved signage and interpretation.
Earnscluegh Tailings walk		y	y	y	y	y	Requires improved signage and interpretation with sections of surface hardening.
Flat Top Hill Interpretative loop walk	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Golden Progress Mine walk		y	y	y	y	y	Needs new interpretation.
Graveyard Gully to Butchers point		y	y	y	y	y	Can get over grown. Needs interpretation.
Grovers Hill Walk		y	y	y	y	y	Needs route guide.
Homestead Track		y	y	y	y	y	Old water race.
Horseshoe Bend Bridge track	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Ladysmith tracks		y	y	y	y	y	Needs clear directional signage and marking with shared use code.
Little Valley Rd - Old Coach Rd - Tucker Hill RT		y		y	y	y	Legal road requiring signage and marking and route guide.
Mt Ida Irrigation Race Track			y	y	y	y	
Naseby Water Race Tk		y	y	y	y	y	Improved marking and distances. Shared use signage.
Naseby Forest Tracks					y	y	Improve signage and marking.
Northburn Tailings Quartz Reef track	y	y	y	y	y	y	New interpretation provided.
Otago Central Rail Trail	y	y	y	y	y	y	Improve linkage to Clyde, under pass.
Pateroa - Sowburn walk			y	y	y	y	
Poolburn Gorge tunnellers camp	y	y	y	y	y	y	Accessed from within Poolburn Gorge.
Roxburgh Town walk		y	y	y	y	y	Requires upgrade. Improved directional marking.
St Bathans lookout track	y	y	y	y	y	y	New interpretation provided.
Young Australian Water	y	y	y	y	y	y	New interpretation provided.

Wheel Track							
Young Australian Water Wheel via Quartzville and Carricktown		y		y	y	y	Needs track maintenance – cut outs, water tables, track marking and distance. Interpretation at Quartzville and Carricktown required.

Tramps (moderate, hard, routes)							
Users							
Day to multi day visitor							
Health and wellbeing							
Alexandra - Roxburgh via Knobbs Range		y		y	y	y	Legal road. Formation required on small sections un aligned track. Needs marking and signage.
Bendigo Kanuka Loop Tk	y	y	y	y	y	y	.Information panels recently updated.
Berwin Easement Track		y		y		y	Provides access to western end of Hawkduns.
Bullock Track		y	y	y	y	y	Needs improved track marking.
Butchers Point to Doctors Point		y		y	y	y	Track marking required with interpretation required at Doctors Point.
Cairnmuir Track via RoW	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Chain Hills Tracks		y	y	y	y	y	Vehicle access could be improved. Route guide available.
Coal Ck - Pomahaka Junction Hut - Bains CA		y	y	y	y	y	Directional marking required. Realignment of formation onto legal access required.
Coal Ck to Ettrick via Mt Bengier		y	y	y	y	y	Directional marking required with route guide.
Devils Creek Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Access to Bendigo CA. Out and back.
Duffers Saddle to Old Woman CA		y	y	y	y	y	Access to Old Woman Hut. Brochure available.
Ewe Range Track		y		y	y	y	Access from Omarama Stream on to Ewe Range.
Flat Top Hill - northern headland loop	y	y	y	y	y	y	Tracks under review. Directional signage and interpretation required.
Flat Top Hill - southern Sphinx loop track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Tracks under review. Directional signage and interpretation required.
Gibbston - Coalpit saddle - Nevis		y		y	y	y	Legal Road.
Graveyard Gully to Little Valley		y		y	y	y	Requires easement around sewage treatment plant and track marking. Loop option using Little Valley Road and Old Coach Rd.
Kopuwai Tk - Sisters Tk via Boundary Hut	y	y	y	y	y	y	Back route around Fraser Basin. Brochure completed.
Kyeburn - Mt Buster diggings track		y		y	y	y	Legal Road. Directional marking required.
Lauder Conservation Area via Donald Stuarts Ck							Pending under consultation.
Lilico Spur - Waikerikeri CA	y	y	y	y	y	y	Route guide required.
Lindis Peak - Elliotts Bridge	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Long Gully walkway					y	y	Restrictions on use

Lowburn Pack track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available.
Lower Manorburn Dam tracks		y		y	y	y	Incomplete under development.
Lusher Road - Access to headwaters of Sowburn and Rock Pillar		y		y	y	y	Needs track marking and direction signage integrated into route guide/web.
East Manuherikia Track		y		y	y	y	Signage completed and brochures available.
Manuherikia West Branch to Omarama via Omarama Saddle		y		y	y	y	Signage completed and brochures available.
Manuherkia East to West Branch link track		y		y	y	y	Signage completed and brochures available.
McPhies Ridge Tk - Cluden Stream		y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available. Highway signage required.
Meg Pack Track	y	y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available
Mt Kyeburn Track		y		y	y	y	Track access to Mt Kyeburn from Buster Diggings and Dansey's Pass Road.
Mt Koinga – Bendigo Kanuka Loop Link			y	y	y	y	Alternative access to Bendigo Scenic and Historic Reserves.
Mutton Creek Track		y		y	y	y	Lower link track for circuit between East and West Branches of Manuherikia.
Nicholsons Hut tk and Alpine Battery		y		y	y	y	Brochure available.
Obelisk - Hyde Rock via Symes Road		y		y	y	y	Brochure available
Obelisk - via Symes Road		y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available
Obelisk Range (Omeo/Prospect Link) Tk		y		y	y	y	Brochure available
Omeo Gully to Fraser Dam		y	y	y	y	y	Brochure available.
Omeo Gully Track		y		y	y	y	
Oteake CA - Hawkduns Range Track		y		y	y	y	Information panels available.
Johnstones Creek Track 4wd access		y		y	y	y	Brochure available
Pisa CA - via Mt Pisa Access	y	y	y	y	y	y	Signed.
Pisa CA - via Queensbury access	y	y	y	y	y	y	Signed – small hard to locate.
Prospect Hill Track		y		y	y	y	Signed
Prospect Hill Track via Omeo Basin to Omeo Track loop		y		y	y	y	
Serpentine tramline and Battery		y		y	y	y	Requires interpretation.
Saddle Ridge Track		y		y	y	y	Link track for circuit between east and west Branches of Manuherikia.
Shek Han Historic Reserve track		y		y	y	y	Requires destination signage and interpretation.
Sisters Track off Prospect Hill Tk		y		y	y	y	
Symes Rd via Hyde Rock via Boundary Hut		y		y	y	y	

via Old Woman Hut to Duffers Saddle							
Thomsons Saddle via Mt Moka Tk to Bendigo CA		y		y	y	y	No exit or circuit option. Legal Road to Leaning Rock but no access off.
Potential – Alexandra to Lake Roxburgh Village track via Roxburgh Gorge		y		y		y	Potential future walking route.
Potential – Clyde to Cromwell via Cromwell Gorge		y		y		y	Potential future walking route.

Swimming / Picnicking - Current and Possible Future Use

Swimming / Picnicking	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Blue Lake			y	y	y	y	
Lake Roxburgh					y	y	
Dams							
Butchers Dam			y	y	y	y	
Coal Pit Dam, Naseby			y	y	y	y	
Conroy's Dam			y	y	y	y	
Falls Dam					y	y	
Fraser Dam					y	y	
Great Moss swamp, Loganburn					y	y	
Hamilton's Dam					y	y	
Hoffman's Dam, Naseby							
Horseshoe Bend Dam					y	y	
Lower Manorburn Dam			y	y	y	y	
Onslow					y	y	
Paerau Dam			y	y	y	y	
Pinders Pond	y	y	y	y	y	y	

Poolburn Dam					y	y	
Upper Manorburn Dam					y	y	
West Eweburn Dam					y	y	
Rivers							
Bannockburn Creek					y	y	
Canadian River							
Clutha River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Dunstan Creek					y	y	
Fraser River			y	y	y	y	
Kawarua River							
Kyeburn River					y	y	
Lauder Creek							
Lindis River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Manuherikia River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Minzion River					y	y	
Nevis River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Pomahaka River			y	y	y	y	
Poolburn Creek/ Poolburn Gorge			y	y	y	y	
Taieri River			y	y	y	y	
Tallaburn							
Teviot River					y	y	

Fishing - Current and Possible Future Use

Fishing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
							Now = currently happening Future = see it as a good place to develop that activity
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Blue Lake			y	y	y	y	
Lake Roxburgh		y		y	y	y	
Dams							

Butchers Dam			y	y	y	y	
Coal Pit Dam, Naseby	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Conroy's Dam			y	y	y	y	
Falls Dam		y	y	y	y	y	
Fraser Dam			y	y	y	y	
Great Moss swamp, Loganburn			y		y	y	
Hamilton's Dam			y		y	y	
Hoffman's Dam, Naseby			y	y	y	y	
Horseshoe Bend Dam				y	y	y	
Lower Manorburn Dam			y	y	y	y	
Onslow	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Paerau Dam			y	y	y	y	
Pinders Pond			y	y	y	y	
Poolburn Dam	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Upper Manorburn Dam	y	y	y	y	y	y	
West Eweburn Dam					y	y	
Rivers							
Bannockburn Creek			y	y	y	y	
Canadian River					y	y	
Clutha River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Dunstan Creek			y		y	y	
Fraser River			y	y	y	y	
Kawarau River			y	y	y	y	
Kyeburn River			y		y	y	
Lauder Creek	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Lindis River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Manuherikia River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Minzion River			y	y	y	y	
Nevis River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Pomahaka River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Poolburn Creek			y	y	y	y	
Taieri River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Tallaburn					y	y	
Teviot River	y	y	y	y	y	y	

Boating - Current and Possible Future Use

Boating	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Blue Lake					y	y	See bylaw regarding use of this facility.
Lake Roxburgh	y	y	y	y	y	y	Regarded as a hidden Lake – Improve the Roxburgh Boat Ramp. Commercial operator on Lake Roxburgh.
Dams							
Falls Dam					y	y	
Onslow					y	y	
Poolburn Dam					y	y	under 5 knots
Upper Manorburn Dam					y	y	under 5 knots
Rivers							
Clutha River	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Kawarau River	y	y	y	y	y	y	Commercial jet boat operator taking international and national visitors.
Taieri River					y	y	under 5 knots

Jet Skiing - Current and Possible Future Use

Jet Skiing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							

Lake Dunstan		y	y	y	y	y	
Lake Roxburgh		y		y	y	y	
Rivers							
Clutha River			y	y	y	y	

Water Skiing - Current and Possible Future Use

Water Skiing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan	y	y	y	y	y	y	
Blue Lake					y	y	
Lake Roxburgh			y		y	y	
Dams							
Falls Dam					y	y	
Rivers							
Clutha River					y	y	

Wind Surfing - Current and Possible Future Use

Wind Surfing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan			y	y	y	y	
Blue Lake					y	y	
Lake Roxburgh					y	y	

Yachting - Current and Possible Future Use

Yachting (trailer sailor, dinghy)	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan			y	y	y	y	
Blue Lake					y	y	
Lake Roxburgh					y	y	

Canoeing - Current and Possible Future Use

Canoeing (flat water; slalom; white water)	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan	y	y	y	y	y	y	Flat water, leisure, tourism market, Multi sport. Bendigo wetlands quite an attraction.
Blue Lake			y	y	y	y	
Lake Roxburgh	y	y		y	y	y	Some minor commercial use.
Dams							
Butchers Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Coal Pit Dam Naseby					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Conroy's Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Falls Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.

Fraser Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Horseshoe Bend Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Lower Manorburn Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Onslow					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Paerau Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Pinders Pond					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Poolburn Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Upper Manorburn Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
West Eweburn Dam					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Rivers – These rivers are of various grades and can change							
Bannockburn Creek					y	y	Leisure, flat water.
Clutha River	y	y	y	y	y	y	Multi sport, low grade white water kayaking.
Fraser River					y	y	White water during snow melt and rain run off.
Kawarau River	y	y	y	y	y	y	White water.
Lindis River					y	y	White water, leisure, flat water.
Manuherkia River					y	y	Leisure and white water in Ophir Gorge during snow melt and rain run off.
Nevis River			y	y	y	y	White water during snow melt and rain run off.
Taieri River				y	y	y	Leisure, flat water, wild life, wetlands.
Teviot River					y	y	Leisure, flat water and white water

Rowing - Current and Possible Future Use

Rowing	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan	y	y	y	y	y	y	

Diving - Current and Possible Future Use

Diving (snorkel, tank)	International – anyone from overseas		National Domestic – visitors from rest of NZ		Local Domestic CO and Otago holidaymakers		Wish List
	now	future	now	future	now	future	
Lakes							
Lake Dunstan			y	y	y	y	
Lake Roxburgh			y	y	y	y	
Dams							
Butchers Dam					y	y	
Rivers							
Clutha River					y	y	

APPENDIX 3

The Benefits Equation - benefits based examination of leisure services

Daniel L. Dustin

The Benefits approach to understanding and justifying leisure services has been a positive step for our profession. The benefits of leisure are manifold, and leisure scientists and practitioners are working diligently to document them. But we are concerned that a singular emphasis on Benefits may be blinding us to many of the negative consequences of leisure behavior. This is why, when it comes to understanding the totality of what people do in the name of leisure, Benefits are only part of the equation.

The benefits of leisure have been defined by Dr. Bev Driver and his associates as improved conditions; advantageous changes; or gains to individuals, groups, society, and other living things. In the context of Benefits-Based Management (BBM), this approach attempts to identify the benefits sought by individuals and groups, and then to provide leisure services that lead to those benefits.

The evolution of BBM has occurred over the past 30 years. In the 1950s and '60s, Activity-Based Management (ABM) emphasized numbers and varieties of leisure experiences rather than the content of those experiences. We measured success by counting the people who participated in our programs or the number of times they participated. Eventually, we found ABM insufficient for service delivery because it did not really help us understand why people did or did not participate, and we could not explain the value of their participation to city councils or to local, state, and national legislatures.

In the '70s and '80s, we turned to Experience-Based Management (EBM), exemplified by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, which was developed in part by social scientists in the U.S. Forest Service. EBM focused on the content of the leisure experiences people were seeking and then provided facilities and programs to generate that content. Some people wanted relaxation, some excitement, some affiliation, and some solitude. But we found EBM insufficient, too, especially for community recreation, because it emphasized individual tastes and preferences independent of larger community interests. Coupled with a gradual decline in the public's willingness to support leisure services through taxes, our traditional public and merit good orientation to service delivery was modified to a considerable extent by a private good orientation. It was harder to justify leisure services as merit or public goods with EBM because government officials could say, "Why should we be catering to individual tastes and preferences? What do our communities get out of this?"

The Benefits approach of the '90s attempts to answer these questions. BBM is helping leisure service professionals identify the specific benefits that are possible through community-based recreation. It provides a straightforward approach to explaining and justifying the expenditures for community leisure services by demonstrating how such services enhance a community's welfare. In this context, BBM has been a major step in the right direction for our field. Increasingly, we are able to explain to people why what we do is important.

Our profession has fully embraced the Benefits approach. The National Recreation and Park Association has formally endorsed BBM and incorporated it into agency and college curriculum accreditation standards. State associations are sponsoring Benefits workshops; a marketing firm has a formal trademark on the slogan "The Benefits are Endless"; publishers are coming out with BBM textbooks and videotapes; federal agencies are funding large BBM research projects; articles in our professional journals are recommending BBM for managing everything from wilderness areas to urban programs for at-risk-youth; and one can purchase Benefits posters, mugs, banners, and T-shirts.

But is the current emphasis on Benefits doing justice to the big picture? In the economic arena, one must consider both benefits and costs. If the benefits outweigh the costs, then one can talk with confidence of net benefits. We should be doing the same thing in leisure services. But to do that, we must also consider the negative consequences of leisure behaviors.

Underlying Assumptions

Our line of reasoning is based upon five assumptions. First, leisure and recreation are ideals for which to strive. In their purest form, these ideals are "out there," somewhere just beyond our reach, in carefully configured potentials seldom realized. Second, what people do in the name of leisure and recreation has social consequences, both positive and negative; that is, the effect of what they do goes beyond the individual. Third, the benefits of leisure and recreation can ultimately be determined only by subtracting the negative social consequences from the positives. Benefits are positive outcomes, which may or may not be left over after we do some sort of calculation. Fourth, we can increase the benefits of leisure and recreation by reducing the negative consequences or increasing the positive consequences. Fifth, it is in our personal and professional best interests to do just that because, to the extent that we are successful, we move closer to doing justice to the ideals of our field.

For example, off-road-vehicle recreation in southern California's Mojave Desert should be fun, rejuvenating participants for their return to everyday life. We might quickly conclude that off-road-vehicle recreation is beneficial. But the litmus test of off-road-vehicle recreation rests, in part, in its environmental consequences. If an off-road vehicle damages the environment, if it disturbs or destroys desert tortoise or big horn sheep habitat, then those negative environmental consequences must be subtracted from any beneficial consequences of off-road-vehicle recreation. We would also note that any such net benefits could effectively be expanded if the negative environmental consequences were reduced or even eliminated. We would add further that leisure service professionals are obliged to try to do just that.

Now consider a boxing program for at-risk youth. Ideally, such a program should be fun for participants, teaching them skills that are beneficial in the outside world. We might quickly conclude that this activity, which helps participants feel better about themselves and their abilities, also is beneficial. But the litmus test of such a program rests in its social consequences. How will these youngsters use their improved self-esteem, new pugilistic skills, and heightened cardiovascular fitness? If they employ them in ways that have negative social consequences -- to rob someone, beat them up, and outrun the police -- then those consequences must be subtracted from any good the program is doing. At the same time, if those negative social consequences were reduced or eliminated, the program's net benefits could effectively be increased, thereby strengthening the rationale for the program's existence. Again, leisure service professionals are obliged to try to do just that.

Toward an Ecological Perspective

These two examples bring to light an even more fundamental assumption upon which our thinking is based. It is the assumption that people are inextricably connected to something larger than themselves. Call it a family, a community, an environment. Therefore, whether or not we acknowledge it, a person's welfare is wrapped up in the family's, in the community's, in the environment's. That is why we reason that the most consequential outcomes of leisure behavior, positive or negative, are always social in nature.

If you see people as separate and distinct from families, communities, and the environment, this reasoning may not carry much weight. But if you see people as part of something larger, then perhaps you feel the weight of the implications.

Most of our modern conceptions of recreation and leisure do not make this connection explicit. Indeed, the most common definitions of the terms treat them as matters of personal preference. Consequently, benefits can begin and end with the individual. Our field's approach to these phenomena in recent decades has been decidedly psychological. Our unit of analysis has been the person; yet, the larger history of our field has been sociological.

Think of Hull House in Chicago or the playground movement in Philadelphia and New York. In this regard, what we are asking the profession to consider is old fashioned. As much as anything else, it is a return to earlier perspectives -- some as far back as ancient Greece -- that emphasize people in community.

At the same time, however, there is an added twist to our point of view. We are asking, in the tradition of Aldo Leopold, to expand the concept of community to include the entire biotic world. In this, sense, our position is more ecological than sociological if the individual is the domain of psychology, and the community is the domain of sociology, then the individual in community is the domain of ecology. And that is where we think the proper focus of our field should be. We see benefits as the products of freely chosen, joyful actions that preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of families, communities, and the environment.

When it comes to tallying the positive and negative social consequences of leisure behaviors to come up with some appreciation of their beneficial outcomes, there is no scientific equation or formula. Rather, we are left to wrestle with each individual behavior in its own context. This is not something that lends itself easily to quantification. It is a different kind of calculus.

However, we should attempt some sort of calculation. As we acknowledged earlier, our position is not particularly new or radical. In the final paragraph of the seminal *Benefits of Leisure* text, Roger Mannell and Dan Stynes noted that "a full understanding of the beneficial consequences of leisure also requires knowledge about the detrimental consequences. Leisure choices involve both benefits and costs to individuals and society.

"Inherent in our model of the 'benefit process' is the need for a full and balanced accounting of consequences, followed by a valuation process that determines the worth of an activity based upon both benefits and costs."

Breaking New Ground

If, as a profession, we want to go in this direction, there is important foundational work to be done. First, we must revisit the core values and beliefs upon which our profession is based. In particular, we must think of human beings as part of the biotic community, the community of all living things. If, as a profession, we want to go in this direction, we have to redefine leisure and recreation in the light of this interconnectedness. Finally, our strategies for service delivery must reflect this new meaning.

Why wouldn't we want to go in this direction? Personally, we don't know. But naysayers would likely talk in patriotic terms of the United States as the champion of individual rights, freedom, and choice. They would argue that leisure pursuits are among the last opportunities for exercising these American ideals and, furthermore, that the leisure services profession is among their last guarantors.

They would reason further that an ecologically based orientation to service would inevitably constrain individual rights, freedom, and choice. Their language would be peppered with words such as restraint, regulation, and restriction. Ultimately, they would characterize what we are calling for as simply un-American.

Well, what do you think? How do you see leisure and recreation in relation to the welfare of the individual, the community, and the biotic world? How do you see the idea of benefits in relation to the positive and negative social consequences of leisure behavior? Do you think our profession's current emphasis on benefits does justice to the whole picture, or do you, too, think a preoccupation with benefits obscures a more comprehensive and, therefore, more realistic view?

Parting Thought

We often lose sight of the fact that the world, in large measure, is something we dream up for ourselves. We lose sight of the fact that words like leisure and recreation are only abstractions we employ in trying to describe that world. But they are not the world. We say, "leisure is this," and "recreation is that," when we really should be saying, "leisure ought to be seen as this," and "recreation ought to be seen as that." We lose sight of the fact that human beings have the capacity to change what we mean by our words and, in so doing, change the world.

We want the leisure services profession to dream up a new way of thinking about itself, a way that is based on interconnectedness, a way that is based on the idea of individuals in community. If our profession can do that, if our profession can begin to use its imagination, then perhaps it, too, will come to see benefits as the products of freely chosen joyful actions that preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of families, communities, and the environment. Perhaps it, too, will begin to see recreation as the joyful actions themselves. And perhaps it will begin to see leisure as the atmosphere in which such joyful actions are both desirable and possible.

That, at least, is our dream.

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APPENDIX 4

Recreational Opportunity Spectrum

Reference extract from **RECOGNISING AND SETTING LIMITS -- Integrated Planning and Management of Tourism Based on Natural Assets: A Kete (information resource)** <http://www.tba.co.nz/kete/home.html>

Description

Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a means of identifying and determining the diversity of recreation opportunities for a natural area or a group of natural areas. It is based on the idea that visitor services quality is best assured by providing an array of opportunities suited to the full range of expected visitors. However, not all visitors seek the same experience or want to join in the same type of activities when they visit a natural area. Also, the activities must be scheduled; otherwise conflict results when too many activities can occur at the same site at the same time.

A ROS provides a means for classifying the range of recreational opportunities and managing that range. It has been widely applied to recreation planning internationally, but particularly in natural areas in the United States, Australia and New Zealand. It has been applied both directly and as a component of other planning systems (see below).

The steps in the basic application process for natural area visitor planning are as follows:

1. Define the categories of opportunities along the ROS (see below).
2. Estimate the demand for opportunities along the ROS for the area(s) of interest.
3. Assess potential recreation capabilities of the area(s) to provide for different recreation opportunities using a resource capability analysis.
4. Identify current patterns of recreation provision and use along the ROS in the area(s).
5. Using the demand and capability data, determine where and how different opportunities should be provided.
6. Integrate recommendations from the previous step with those from other aspects of management (other uses).
7. Implement chosen alternatives.

The process is heavily dependent on collecting and analysing biophysical and social information for the first two steps. This information sets up a spectrum of recreation opportunity classes, ranging from the "primitive" to the highly developed, which can then be analysed against a range of biophysical, social or managerial management factors. The resulting matrix provides a wealth of information which can be used for management planning. The end point of implementation is usually some kind of zoning system. Information-gathering is integral to the analysis process that follows the definition of ROS classes, and monitoring is required as part of any implementation process.

How and when the tool is used

In New Zealand ROS is extensively used by the Department of Conservation (DOC) as a basis for recreation planning. ROS is defined by DOC in its Visitor Strategy as "a combination of an activity, a setting and an experience." Every regional Conservation Management Strategy in the Conservation Act framework contains a ROS assessment of sites in the Conservancy, based on a New Zealand spectrum of ROS classes:

Urban and urban fringe; Rural; Back country drive-in; Back country 4-wheel drive access; Back country walk in; Remote; and Wilderness.

Based on the likely use of these different ROS classes, all visitors to the public conservation estate are divided into one of seven groups: Short stop travellers; Day visitors; Overnighters; Back country comfort seekers; Back country adventurers; Remoteness seekers; and Thrill seekers.

DOC's Visitor Strategy lists the characteristics of each visitor class according to setting (place of use), accessibility and nature of visit, activities undertaken, experience and degree of risk sought, facilities and services sought, make-up of visitor and visitor numbers, and projected numbers. All sites are placed within the matrix formed by the ROS

and visitor classes , and the provision of services and management zoning or other types of prescription can then be defined based on the matrix and the characterisation of types of visitor.

Recreational Opportunity Spectrum

The concepts behind ROS have been embedded in DOC's 2005 General Policies for Conservation and National Parks. The basis of recreation planning under General Policy are policies is that a range of recreation opportunities will be provided on public conservation lands and waters, consistent with the values and outcomes planned for places.

ROS has also been used by other recreation providers than DOC. For example, a Visitor Opportunity Spectrum was prepared for the Hauraki Gulf area for the agencies involved in Project Hauraki in the late 1990s. This exercise set up a spectrum of four Visitor Opportunities classes - Remote, Living Heritage, Interactive Heritage, and Developed - and a guide to communities to use the tool to allocate areas in the Hauraki Gulf to the range of Visitor Opportunities.

Applications

A simple example for planning overnight accommodation provision in a range of areas would see analysis of factors such as: ease of access, remoteness, naturalness, size of area, habitat requirements of sensitive flora and fauna species (biophysical); contacts with other visitors, acceptability of visitor impacts (social); level of site developments, infrastructure requirements, and applicable regulation (managerial). The resulting matrix would come up with a range of accommodation sites ranging from small freedom campsite in a wilderness area (wild end of spectrum) to built resort village on edges of outside a natural areas at the most developed end of the spectrum.

ROS concepts lie behind several other widely-used planning frameworks. For example, the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) framework includes a step of defining ROS (or zones based on ROS) as part of the basic process. Similarly, ROS is a component of several other processes for visitor impact management, such as the Visitor Activity Management Process (VAMP) used in Canada, which includes a description of visitor opportunities. In most applications of ROS, classes are interpreted and applied as zones.

Evaluation

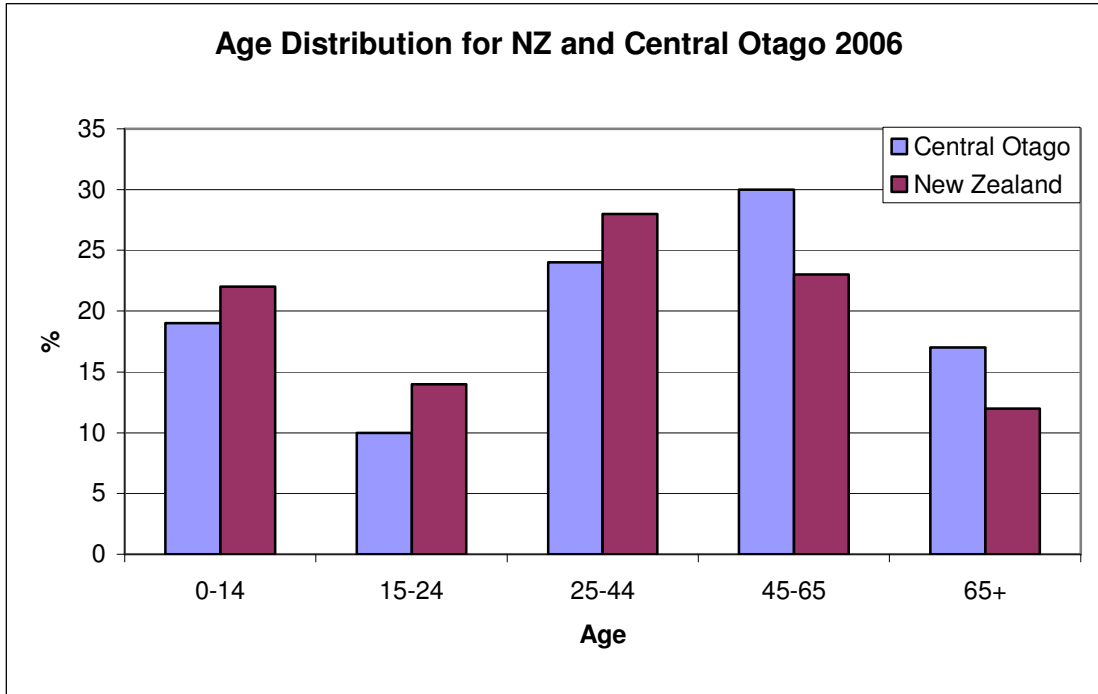
Setting and applying ROS is based on the powerful central premise of providing a diversity of visitor experiences, in order to fulfil both the requirements of different types of visitor, and environmental needs. As such, ROS has been widely applied in natural area management and has also been an important component of many other planning approaches. It is a flexible and adaptable approach and the spectrum of recreation opportunities defined can be very variable, depending on the size and characteristics of an area. It is valuable for integrated planning, particularly so for analysis and planning in a region with a range of natural areas. Its main weakness has stemmed from its interpretation and over-use.

The setting of ROS classes or zones was not intended to be the endpoint of management, but appears to have been widely assumed to be so, without providing additional guidance to managers on how to deal with the complexity of the settings and experiences available within single ROS classes. The ROS framework does not necessarily provide explicit guidance for linking uses of different ROS classes with the impacts of use and managing those impacts – high use areas are not necessarily the most resilient. Further problems in New Zealand application stem from the lack of an explicit information-gathering component in the setting of ROS classes, and the lack of recognition of stakeholder values, but it can be used by a range of stakeholders to be actively involved in visitor planning in their communities.

APPENDIX 5

Background - Key Characteristics of Central Otago

People



- Based on 2006 figures from Statistics New Zealand;
- 18.5 % of Central's population are aged under 15. This compares with 22% for New Zealand
- 10.5% of Central's population are aged 16-24 - 14% for New Zealand
- 54% of Central's population are aged 25-64 - 52% for New Zealand
- 17% of Central's population are aged over 65 - 12% for New Zealand

The median age for Central Otago residents is 43 years (compared to New Zealand at 35 years). It is anticipated that the median age of Central Otago's and New Zealand residents will continue to increase in the future. This will be an important factor when considering the design and development of activities and facilities. There is a growing trend of older people undertaking activities traditionally associated with younger age groups.

49% of the 2006 usually resident population Central Otago was resident elsewhere in New Zealand in 2001. This has resulted in a population that may have differing expectations for outdoor activities than longer term residents. New people in our community may not understand where they can undertake recreation and "wander at will".

The number of occupied dwellings has increased from 6,000 in 2001 to 6,825 in 2006.

Median household income has increased from \$30,000 in 2001 to \$43,000 in 2006.

Residential Growth

There has been rapid residential growth in recent years with residential subdivisions both close to the towns and in the rural zone. Although there has been a slowdown of late for reasons of financial constraint, there have been over 1600 new household building consents issued in the district since 2001.

Summary of New Dwelling (Household) Consents For all Wards since 2000. July 1st to June 30th.

	Alexandra	Cromwell	Earnscliffe	Maniototo	Manuherikia	Roxburgh	Total
2001/02	19	66	19	7	1	1	113
2002/03	41	122	31	6	1	2	203
2003/04	45	129	41	4	4	6	229
2004/05	37	80	40	9	5	1	172
2005/06	35	136	50	6	4	2	233
2006/07	25	153	42	11	4	1	236
2007/08	48	125	42	10	10	7	242
2008/09	33	62	15	14	7	3	134
2009/10							
*	13	23	6	4	0	2	48

* To October 2009.

Land Use

The district has seen dramatic land use changes over the last ten years.

These include:

- Viticulture – for the Otago region the area in grapes rose from 280 hectares in 2000 to 1,415 hectares in 2007.
- Small lot rural subdivision has seen more sections and houses in lowland countryside. Local studies (CODC Blue Print Study) have identified areas where further rural residential subdivision may occur.
- Changing public access arrangements, with some access being lost through development, and some being gained or formalised through the subdivision process.
- Increasing amounts of land coming under Department of Conservation management through tenure review exchanges.

APPENDIX 6

Other Strategies

Community Outcomes – Central Prospects 2007/08 to 2013/14

The Central Otago District Council (CODC or Council) facilitated a consultation process targeted specifically to find out what local communities wanted Central Otago to be like as a place to live, work and play in the next 10 years. The Council and many of the agencies that work in the area are guided by the local community outcomes. The outcomes express what the community sees as its long term vision and what priorities need to be worked on to make this community a good place to live in. This process of developing the community outcomes was known as Central Prospects.

Central Prospects identified the following key outcomes:

- A thriving economy
- A safe and healthy community
- A sustainable environment that provides good quality of life

For recreation the following was identified:

	What the community would like to see:
Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Respect landowner's rights, while enjoying access to our lakes and recreational areas. ✦ Encourage walking and cycling for the community's health and wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Access to lakes and recreational areas. ✓ Appropriate acknowledgement of landowners' rights. ✓ Wilderness experience maintained for future generations. ✓ Encourage walking and cycling for health and wellbeing.

There are a series of actions identified under recreation that include:

- Better signage of Lakes Dunstan and Roxburgh,
- Creation of an outdoor recreation strategy,
- Develop walking and cycling opportunities,
- DOC identifies recreation opportunities in areas as emerging public conservation areas are developed,
- Ensure there is supporting infrastructure available for those undertaking recreation pursuits,
- Develop a management strategy for camping,
- Develop further education and promotion to those who use high country areas, which outlines when areas are accessible, designated roads to use, code of access and environmental care code,
- Continued development and support for a series of walkways adjacent to the Clutha River.

Recreation based issues also come up under other sections within the community outcomes including managing development impacts on landscape and natural ecosystems.

Community Plans – Outdoor Recreation

Council has been helping communities to develop local community plans. These community plans help to determine the future that a local community wants to see and what they perceive as the opportunities for their area.

Plans have been completed in the following communities:

- Roxburgh and Teviot Valley
- St Bathans
- Clyde
- Naseby

- Alexandra
- Patearoa and Upper Taieri
- Maniototo
- Tarras
- Cromwell
- Waipiata
- Pisa District

Outdoor recreation and recreation opportunities have featured strongly in these documents. Examples of what has been raised include:

Roxburgh and Teviot Valley

- Develop new heritage trails that link into current district and regional touring routes and are based on national standards for heritage trails/touring routes. For example, a track from Roxburgh to Alexandra. Some of these trails might be biking, walking tracks or 4 wheel drive trails.
- Collate information and stories that would form the basis of interpretation panels at the heritage sites of significance.
- Teviot Valley Walkways Committee to liaise with the District's Tracks and Trails Strategy and bring local ideas.
- Identify opportunities for the current walking tracks and future walking tracks in consultation with landowners.
- Pursue opportunities for cycle linkages and tracks between Alexandra, Roxburgh and beyond.
- Encourage the promotion of the Millennium track and other walkways.
- Investigate the feasibility of an area within Roxburgh for a camping ground facility for the travelling public.
- Complete a feasibility study into developing trails along the old rail corridor.
- Develop, package and promote Pinders Pond and Lake Onslow, Pomohaka River, Mt Bengier and Potters as some of the new recreational areas to explore in Central.
- Develop quality fishing packages that are promoted for the domestic, international and family markets.

St Bathans

- Encourage improved signage of the domain and water based facilities and fencing of the cliff hazard (where required).
- Development of a project to ensure historic buildings, mining sites, water races and other remnants are recognized, preserved and provide interpretation of the heritage aspects of the area.
- Establish local walkways with appropriate signage and interpretation.
- Develop a walkway from the domain to the village.

Clyde

- Create distinctive signage, in keeping with the new regional identity specifications, which explains the heritage and stories of the area.
- Further development of the Clyde lookout/reservoir area and Miners Lane to the Camp walking tracks.
- The Clyde Working Party encourage better signage of amenities at Lake Dunstan eg boat ramps and barbeque areas.

Naseby

- Creation of a brochure for forest users outlining tracks in the area and code of conduct for users.
- Naseby Vision and Council identify potential recreation opportunities that will be in keeping with the intent of this Plan.
- Naseby Vision and Council hold discussions with the forest owners over access to current and future recreation opportunities.
- Create distinctive signage, in keeping with the new brand specifications, which explains the heritage and stories of the area.

Alexandra

- Develop a local touring route incorporating a range of key heritage sites in the local area and ensure this route has clear signage and appropriate interpretation of the heritage values.
- Identify key heritage sites and add protection to these where possible.
- Create local cycleways and walkways with appropriate track standards, signage and interpretation, in keeping with the new regional identity specifications.

- Promote improved access to and from the Rail Trail to the town centre thus enabling visitors to safely travel into Alexandra.
- Assess the possibility of a walking track from Alexandra to Roxburgh.
- Assess possible walkways associated with pastoral, gold fields heritage or ecological sites.
- The Working Party and Council identify potential recreation and cultural opportunities that will be in keeping with the intent of this plan.
- Assess opportunities for creating better use of recreational facilities in the area.
- Assess the need for a cinema and if required develop a complex to meet this need.
- Identify an area that can be used by motorbike enthusiasts.
- Improve the lower reaches of the Manuherikia River to provide water based recreational opportunities.

Patearoa and Upper Taieri

- Identify potential recreation and cultural opportunities that will be in keeping with the intent of this plan.
- Identify a range of key heritage sites that could be developed as a heritage trail with clear signage and appropriate interpretation of the heritage values.
- Create local cycleways and walkways to appropriate track standards with signage and interpretation and in keeping with the new regional identity guidelines.

Maniototo

- Identify a range of key heritage sites that could be developed as a heritage trail with clear signage and appropriate interpretation of the heritage values.
- Ensure there is good signage of heritage attractions in the area.
- Create local cycleways and walkways to appropriate track standards with signage and interpretation, in keeping with the new regional identity guidelines.
- Identify potential recreation and cultural opportunities that will be in keeping with the intent of this plan.
- Assess the current provision of tracks and trails, including the standard of these assets and assess whether there is a need for further developments.

Tarras

- Identify back country roads which are required for public access and advocate for these to be maintained.
- Identify further and potential recreation opportunities based on the activities identified in the Tarras area.
- Identify a range of key heritage sites that could be developed as a heritage trail with clear signage and appropriate interpretation of the heritage values.
- Develop heritage stories based around the local mining and agricultural characters of the area.

Cromwell

- When undertaking the long term plan for Cromwell that consideration be given to the areas amenity values, the recreation requirements and recreation land required to meet the future needs of the community.
- Review the management plan for the lake and maintenance of the lake margins.
- Ensure that future planning has allowances for extension of the greenway network.
- Identify areas of the lake margin where further development can occur or maintenance is required.
- Develop a walkway/cycleway round the top end of the lake.
- Investigate the feasibility of extending the Rail Trail through to Cromwell.
- Continue to develop walkways in the area.
- Develop heritage stories based around the local mining and agricultural characters of the area.
- Develop a local heritage trail using the many heritage sites in the area.
- Identify which back country tracks are required for public access and advocate for these to be maintained.

Waipiata

- Develop heritage trails and interpretation and brochures.
- Create local cycleways and walkways to appropriate track standards with signage and interpretation and in keeping with new regional identity guidelines.
- Develop a "Waipiata Village Walk" including plaques with a history of the various buildings and sites in the village.
- Assess the opportunities for other events in the area.
- Erect signage for historical/trails information.
- Encourage and support the re-establishment of Taieri Lake.
- Investigate opportunities for tours around the Maniototo.

- Explore options to develop the Waipiata Domain as a camping ground.

Pisa District

- Develop a plan for a network of walkways/cycleways that meet recreational desires and safety concerns. The network should consider linking key areas including reserves and Lake Dunstan.
- Create walkways/cycleways to an appropriate standard, which promote community use.
- Identify existing green spaces and reserves and potential ones and consider how they might be used, maintained and/or developed.
- Identify potential picnic sites and how these may be developed.
- Get the boat ramp assessed to determine future requirements and costs.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing and maintaining a jetty and/or pontoon.
- Develop landscape concept drawings that show reserves on the lake shore and plantings along the lake front.
- Identify specific issues for lake maintenance.
- Liaise with appropriate agencies to coordinate development on the lake shore.
- Liaise with the Clutha Management Committee to determine demarcation of in/on water activities (boating, jet skis, swimming) to avoid conflict of use.
- Discuss with the Clutha Management Committee how rules on and around the lake can be enforced.
- Gather data on the purpose, nature and area required for a bird sanctuary and how it might be protected.

It should be noted that several of the actions identified in various community plans have been completed or are underway.

Physical Activity Strategy

The Central Otago District Council, Sport Central, Public Health South and the Central Otago Principals Association commissioned the Physical Activity Strategy and Implementation Plan for Central Otago in mid 2006. The project was largely funded by SPARC. The strategy was developed over 10 months in 2006. During that time the consultant undertook the following research.

- A review of existing data held by each of the stakeholders. In Council's case a review of facilities was undertaken.
- Targeted consultation with a wide range of individuals and organisation in the community. This included 11 focus group meetings with;
 - Sporting groups
 - A disability group
 - A senior citizens group
 - Youth and ward based mixed focus groups

In addition to the above, thirteen, one on one interviews were held with key agencies in the district and a random survey was undertaken with 520 households in the district.

The purpose of the project was to clearly identify measurable strategic aims for the most effective and efficient delivery of physical activity, maximising participation by the community over the next three to five years. Objectives of the project were:

Assess the current provision of physical activity (including recreation facilities, services and programmes).

The strategy identified 5 key issues that affect the uptake of physical activity in the Central Otago District .

1. Lack of human resources (paid and volunteer): sports coaches, referees, administrators, as well as regional facilitators.
2. Lack of provision and support for children and youth:
 - Lack of support from parents and lack of 'grass root teaching'.
 - Lack of sports co-ordinators in schools.
 - Primary schools are poorly equipped for indoor activities.

- Declining number of 11 – 12 year old youth participating in sports.
 - Difficult for sports development officers from Sport Otago and other regional sports organisations to access schools.
3. Inadequate facilities:
- Several facilities in need of upgrading.
 - Poor management of facilities.
 - Roading issues, such as uneven footpaths, inadequate street lighting, inadequate pedestrian crossings and traffic lights, inadequate cycle lanes.
4. Lack of awareness of facilities and programme available.
5. 5. Geography of Central Otago: remoteness of some towns means people have to travel to larger towns to participate in recreational activities, but this is difficult for some people because of time and cost.

From this an action plan was developed to implement the findings of the strategy. Key actions included:

- Assess key Council facilities in each ward to ascertain they are “fit for use” by meeting the physical activity needs of the community.
- Review progress for walking and cycling strategy.
- Assess outdoor recreation opportunities in Central Otago.
- Promote structures for participation and inclusion of all in physical activity through schools.
- Promote national and local initiatives marketing active lifestyles.

Walking and Cycling Strategy

The Central Otago District Council’s Walking and Cycling Strategy was developed in 2004. The strategy applies to all walking and cycling with a predominantly transportation focus. The strategy includes all roads in the CODC, including state highways. The strategy covers both urban and rural areas.

Key actions identified that may contribute to outdoor recreation:

- Safety improvements SH 8 Cromwell Gorge or an alternative off road route for cycling and walking.
- Rail Trail crossing signs
- Identify link between Clyde-Alexandra River Track and Rail Trail through Clyde
- Earnsclough Road from Alexandra to Conroys Rd intersection.
- Letts Gully Road – width an issue for cyclists.
- Maintenance of gravel paths
- Develop the linkage from Omakau via Thomson Gorge to Tarras, Wanaka and Cromwell for biking.
- Promote the Millennium Track/Teviot Road as an alternative cycle route to State Highway.
- Investigate biking/walking track over the Knobbies to Roxburgh, linking the Rail Trail and the Beaumont Millennium Track.
- Mapping of routes – tourism/recreational/roading.

Tourism Strategy

The Tourism Strategy sets the overall direction for Central Otago with respect of tourism activities. Central Otago has endorsed a destination management approach which is essentially about communities and cross agency co-operation in all areas. This involves a mixture of communities, private companies, local and central government. There is a need to build and maintain effective working partnerships between these players if a sustainable future is to be achieved. Destination management calls for a whole of community approach.

There are several sections in the strategy which directly impact on outdoor recreation including recreation, eco tourism, cultural heritage, Otago Central Rail Trail and events and multisports.

Some key recommendations from this document are:

- Development of the outdoor recreation strategy
- Develop a management strategy for camping and overnight parking

- Ensure the development of areas for recreation enhances the reputation and image of Central Otago.
- Ensure that supporting infrastructure such as toilets, rubbish disposal and camping areas are available for use by those undertaking recreation pursuits in our wide open landscape.
- Develop further education of those who use high country areas which outlines when areas are accessible, designated roads to use, code of access and environmental care code.
- Increased appreciation and awareness of Central Otago's unique biodiversity among tourism operators and the general community.
- Develop specific biodiversity stories and interpretation for marketing.
- Encourage the development of ecotourism in Central Otago.
- Develop an integrated series of heritage trails.
- Many recommendations associated with the Otago Central Rail Trail.
- Ensure there are potable water supplies throughout the district and these are clearly identified in promotional material.
- Ensure the level of visitors to the area during the summer season is managed so that adequate water supplies can be provided in a manner affordable to the community.
- Where water is not suitable for drinking then investigate ways of stating it is not for human consumption.
- Have appropriate campervan waste disposal areas throughout the region that are well signposted and easy to find.
- Review the Council Toilet Strategy with consideration of visitor requirements in the future.
- Review the Council's Waste Management Plan with consideration of visitor requirements in the future.

District Plan

The Central Otago District Plan is a statutory document prepared as required by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The District Plan is currently operative. The purpose of the plan is to assist the Council to carry out its RMA functions which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The District Plan is important when considering outdoor recreation as it controls what activities can occur, where they can occur and potential access to recreation areas. There may also be implications and/or possible changes for the District Plan from identifying outdoor recreation opportunities and meeting future demands.

APPENDIX 7

Regional Identity

Brand Values

The regional identity brand, **Central Otago – “A World of Difference”** is more about articulating who we are - as people and our personalities, and about our emotional connection to this place - that sense of belonging.



Our brand is all about our regional identity - how we want our region to be now and the years ahead. It is about creating a blue print that supports change of the right kind. This change can then be carried out through the application of a destination management approach with all those in the community working towards a sustainable future.

That is why having a regional identity represented in a symbolic image enables us to think about what is so very special about Central Otago. We cannot take this special difference for granted, we must look after it, or it may be taken away.

Imagine Central Otago as a vast land of uncompromising beauty

People with noble hearts, strength, bravery, ingenuity, high spirits, freedom and pride that soars

It will be a better world for those that succeed us

Principles

- **Making a Difference**
We will inspire and lead others with our special point of difference.
We stand for: Vision, being the cutting edge, setting directions and accepting challenges.
- **Respecting Others**
We will respect our cultural and personal differences.
We stand for: Inclusive actions, harmonious, positive communities.

- **Embracing Diversity**
We will recognise differences and embrace diversity.
We stand for: Freedom of ideas and different thinking.
- **Adding Value not Volume**
We will always ask ourselves if there is a better way – one that achieves a premium status.
We stand for: Unique experiences and quality interactions.
- **Having Integrity**
We will seek to be open and honest.
We stand for: Friendly interactions, community mindedness and truthful approach.
- **Learning from the Past**
We will learn from past experiences with future generations in mind.
We stand for: Making a positive difference to tomorrow.
- **Making a Sustainable Difference**
We will make decisions in business with the community in mind and in harmony with the natural environment.
We stand for: Financial viability, sustainable business practices, quality and balance.
- **Protecting our Rich Heritage**
We will protect and celebrate our rich heritage in landscapes, architecture, flora and fauna and different cultural origins.
We stand for: A living heritage.
- **Meeting Obligations**
We will meet legal obligations at both a local and national level.
We stand for: development and activities that meet building and resource consent obligations, OSH and DOC Concessions.

The Outdoor Recreation Strategy must recognise these values and seek to build these into recommendations and products that will come out as result of this strategy.

APPENDIX 8

Other Agencies and Groups Involved

Sport Central and Sport Otago

Sport Central was established in 2002 to address the sport and recreation issues faced by the Central Otago region and co-ordinate access to the range of services available through Sport Otago. The Sport Central initiative is a partnership between Sport Otago, Sport Southland, the Central Otago District Council, and the Queenstown Lakes District Council - with support from the Community Trust of Otago and the Community Trust of Southland. Sport Central was set up with the following key objectives:

- Provide first point of contact for information and inquiries.
- Facilitate local training opportunities for volunteer administrators, managers and coaches.
- Identify needs and solutions with local community sport and recreation providers and assist them in developing appropriate policies.
- Coordinate the sharing of good management practice between clubs, codes and communities.
- Assist with the coordination of local events and facilities along with generating publicity and media coverage.
- Introduce appropriate community based programmes such as KiwiSport, Sport Development, KiwiWalks, Active Living etc., to encourage greater participation.

Central Otago Recreation Users Forum (CORUF)

The Forum aims to promote understanding and discussion between recreational users of public land in Central Otago, and the statutory managers of that land.

In particular the Forum:

- Promotes the enjoyment of Public Lands.
- Gathers the views of user groups on public land management issues as they affect recreation, and represent those views to statutory managers.
- Work with statutory land managers and others to promote understanding of issues of land management for recreation.
- Minimize conflict and promote understanding between user groups.
- Develop an ethic of use compatible with the protection of special places.

Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the central government organisation charged with conserving the natural and historic heritage assets for the greatest benefit and enjoyment of all New Zealanders; by conserving, advocating and promoting natural and historic heritage so that its values are passed on undiminished to future generations. DOC also has a requirement to promote recreation on land it administers. A key guiding document for DOC in an operational sense is the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). This sets the framework for managing DOC recreation assets in Otago. This document is due for review in late 2008 and 2009. Within the CMS there is the opportunity to review areas of DOC controlled land where conflict may occur eg snow areas used for multiple uses. DOC is a significant landowner in the District particularly of land which is used for recreation purposes.

DOC's mission is "to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for all to enjoy now and in the future".

Its vision is:

New Zealand's natural and historic heritage is protected; people enjoy it and are involved with the Department in its conservation.

Central Otago District Council

The Central Otago District Council (CODC or Council) has a dual role in that it provides strategic direction as well as being a provider of physical recreation opportunities and services in the district. Key strategic documents include many of those mentioned earlier such as the District Plan, Community Outcomes, Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), Community Plans, Tourism Strategy, Regional Identity, Physical Activity Strategy and Walking and Cycling Strategy. There is a focus on urban areas through the provision of recreation infrastructure such as pools, parks and reserves, stadia with walkways/cycleways extending out into rural areas. This role also covers the provision of infrastructure to access recreation areas such as roads or the management of areas such as provision of a harbourmaster for Lake Dunstan.

Clutha Fisheries Trust

Clutha Fisheries Trust is a Charitable Trust formed in 1992 in settlement of the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand's sports fisheries obligations under the Clutha Development (Clyde Dam) Empowering Act 1982. The Trust Deed holds the objective of the Trust to be:

"To establish, maintain and enhance primarily the sports fisheries values and secondarily the conservation values of the waters of the Clutha Catchment for the benefit of the people of New Zealand in recognition of the effects of the Clyde Dam Development."

For the initial five year period, the Deed specifically bound the Trustees to investigate the development of the sports fishery within Lake Dunstan (and the river reach below the Clyde Dam). The initial programme was designed to establish whether a fish hatchery would be required to sustain fish stocks. This phase has now been completed.

The Trust Deed, while retaining its focus on the Lake Dunstan sports fishery, now provides flexibility to expand the focus of work, acknowledging that the Trust's objectives must be achieved "for the benefit of the people of New Zealand."

To this end an office has been set up in Cromwell and a full time Field Officer has been employed to implement the requirements of the Business Plan. This includes Trust administration, management of contract research, survey work and liaison with associated agencies and being available for public inquiry.

It should be noted that the Clutha Fisheries Trust is not a statutory agency. Any issues relating to the legal management of the resource is the responsibility of statutory managers, such as Fish and Game New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.

Otago Fish and Game Council

Is the statutory agency responsible for the management of sports fish (trout and salmon) and gamebirds (waterfowl and upland game) in the Central Otago District. The Conservation Act assigns the following functions to the Fish and Game Council:

- Assessing and monitoring sports fish and game populations, and the condition of the ecosystems.
- Maintaining and improving access the sports fish and game resources.
- Undertaking such works as may be necessary to maintain and enhance the habitat of sports fish and game.
- Promoting and educating on sports fish and game matters.
- Preparing and maintaining sports fish and game management plans.
- Representing the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process.

Otago Regional Council

The Otago Regional Council has important functions particularly in respect of land use in the water ways of rivers and lakes, discharges to land, air and water and the taking, use, damming and diversion of water. The Regional Council have also created recreation assets in the district such as the Alexandra to Clyde River walkway.

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) - Management of Crown Property

Crown Property Management manages crown land not managed by DOC and decides who can use it or occupy it and for what purposes. This includes the leasing/renting of LINZ property and general inquiries on property management. Members of the public may establish if any Crown-owned land is available to lease or occupy by licence by contacting the property management contractors.

LINZ carries out the day-to-day administration of Crown property it is directly responsible for. There are two types of Crown Property:

- LINZ property which LINZ rents out or leases.
- Crown land held for a variety of purposes or which the Crown no longer needs and which can be sold or transferred.

Landowners

Landowners have an important role to play in the future of outdoor recreation in the district. As mentioned elsewhere in the document many of the tracks and trails used for various activities are on private property or access may be gained to them from over private property. This use of the land at the owners will mean that should tenure of the property change then partaking in the activities may be put at risk. Many private landowners have gone to considerable expense and effort to ensure there is access to outdoor recreation activities over their properties. In terms of disposal of waste, rubbish disposal, liability with accidents and fire all provide a concern or risk for private landowners.

There are also considerable opportunities for activities on land owned by DOC and the Central Otago District Council.

New Zealand Walking Access Commission (NZWAC)

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission (NZWAC) is a Crown Entity established under the provisions of the Walking Access Act 2008.

This Commission is the leading NZ access agency supporting efforts to enhance free, certain, enduring and practical access to the outdoors, in a way that respects everyone's rights and environment.

NZWAC has developed and published the following printed and online resources:

- National Strategy for Walking Access 2010 – 2035
- NZ Outdoor Access Code (2010)
- Guidelines for the Management of Unformed Legal Roads (2011)
- Walking Access Mapping System (WAMS)

WAMS is a free, user friendly online resource available to the public. It comprises layers of information covering the whole of New Zealand, including topographic, aerial photo imagery and cadastral parcels.

WAMS identifies publicly accessible land including formed and unformed legal roads, tracks and access points.

An enquiry system, built into WAMS, enables users to submit access and general enquiries to NZWAC.

Publicly available since December 2010, WAMS is being enhanced to enable the submission of recreation data from agencies and clubs. This will ensure the site becomes a principal portal for New Zealanders and visitors seeking recreation information. Future WAMS enhancements will include mobile applications.

NZWAC has Regional Field Advisors, situated throughout New Zealand, who work with local communities and local government on access issues.

Refer to the Commission's website for information, reference material and Regional Field Advisors' contact details:
www.walkingaccess.govt.nz

APPENDIX 9

Recreation Setting and Experience Preferences for Mountain Biking

Extract from - **Off-Road Mountain Biking: A profile of participants, setting and preferences**, by Gordan Cessford, 1995 adapted for Central Otago by Matthew Sole

- Some features of settings and experiences are consistently important to mountain bike riders of all experience levels, and would thus appear to be essential components of any mountain biking opportunities which may be provided or allowed for.

The riding features considered equally important by most riders included the opportunities for exploring new areas; appreciation of scenery, views and nature; experiencing some speed, excitement and risk; and socialising with others. Specific setting preferences included native vegetation settings, undulating routes, ride durations of between 2-3 hours, and good scenery. These results indicate that these features represent the basis of most satisfying riding experiences.

Should managers be considering a variety of tracks for potential mountain biking opportunities, those including most or all of these features should be given greater weight in allocation decisions. However, other results indicate that the relative importance of these, and other rider preferences does vary with experience. Managers may also need to consider the types of riders they wish to provide opportunities for in each case.

Of particular note for Central Otago is the new entrants to mountain biking represented by the baby boomer renaissance cyclist with time and money to reengage with cycling via the multi day Rail Trail experience and the technology advances of mountain bikes. Validated by the recent dramatic growth of mountain bike sales to the baby boomer generation.

As riders become more experienced, the balance of their setting and experience preferences shifts from an emphasis on more generalised passive types of riding experiences, toward more active types of features, which are more specific to the mountain biking activity.

Beginner riders tended to emphasise more 'passive' features of riding experiences, characteristic of preference for easier riding conditions (e.g., socialising; appreciating scenery, views and nature; easier and relaxed riding; few obstructions on the track/track not too difficult; uphill which were gradual/gentle/easy; track surface which was smooth/easy/open; ride duration of between 1-2 hours; downhill which were slow/gentle/easy; and riding on smooth gravel or sealed roads). *Typified locally by the Rail Trail experience. Antidotally a proportion of Rail Trail riders attempt the Alexandra – Clyde River track and struggle with the narrow twisting nature, varying gradients and loose surface sections suggesting the threshold between beginners and experienced is quite low. For some riders even the Rail Trail can pose a challenge especially when confronted with the combination of loose surface and increasing gradients.*

By contrast, more experienced riders emphasised preferences for more 'active' features characteristic of difficulty and challenge in riding (e.g., technical and physical challenge; speed and excitement; racing; single-track which is tight/narrow/winding; some technical difficulty/challenge; downhill which are fast/technical/tight; uphill which are long/steep/smooth; track surface which is dry/hard; track surface which is rough/technical/fast; and rides which include a mixture of single-track and other route types).

Of significance for Central Otago is the majority of the more challenging single tracks exist on freehold or pastoral lease farm land with access at the pleasure of the land holder, with the resulting insecurity of access and constraints on public promotion. While the Department of Conservation has extensive tracks for the most part they are situated further away from centres of population and are multi use being predisposed for walking on the shorter tracks and 4x4 vehicle and mountain biking traverses on the longer farm track based trails over day to multi day cross country trips.

These changes in rider setting and experience preferences as experience levels develop suggest that the principles of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) should be applied to mountain biking opportunities.

However due to the changing mix in age, rider experience and ability there is clear need for research into the make up of riders and their respective recreation settings and experience needs so limited resources are targeted for

maximum benefit to users, community and environment. . This is essential information required before any significant investment is made in track assets.

Rider preference for route types shifts strongly toward riding on single-track with experience.

Beginner riders showed greater preference for riding on more developed routes such as sealed and gravel roads, and 4WD tracks. But preference for single-track riding increased with experience to become the most preferred route type (e.g., narrow walking-type tracks). *This is clearly evidenced by the growth and demand for the Rail Trail experience both as a multi day experience but also for locals with the shorter local loops utilising select sections of the Rail Trail with local roads or linkages to other tracks. This brings with it the attendant conflicts with walkers.*

Provision of access to formed roads or retired road tracks may only cater for the less experienced riders. In the past these riders may have been unrepresentative of those rider types actually present in most off-road track settings however baby boomers have in significant numbers have been reacquainted with the more modern cycle and its advantages. *So for Central provision of opportunities are multi pronged requiring secure public single-track riding routes for experience riders along with easy accessible low gradient tracks for less experienced. These should be considered the priorities where possible.*

Rider preference for single-track riding raises the potential for conflict perceptions from other users of such tracks, particularly walkers. While most riders consider that these uses are compatible, other research indicates that many walkers would disagree. *This is dealt with in more detail under conflict section*

With increasing experience, riders have greater preference for tight and rough tracks, and have greater preference and tolerance for various types of track difficulties and obstructions.

Associated with their preference for single-track riding, the more experienced riders also had greater preference for riding challenges in general, and greater tolerance for track difficulties and obstructions (e.g., roots; rocks; steps; culverts; overhanging branches and foliage; wet muddy areas; and river crossings). The main exception to this is the strong aversion by all riders to unconsolidated surfaces such as sand and loose rocks.

Some tolerance for track difficulty by all riders was apparent from the proportion prepared to push or carry their bikes over rough sections. This indicated that many riders were prepared to ride up to, and occasionally over, the limits of their riding abilities. Just where this carrying or pushing would occur would vary for different riders, depending on their relative experience. A track where a beginner may push or carry may be easily ridden by an expert. Whatever the level of skill, few riders indicated they were prepared to carry or push their bikes for over 25% of a ride. This does indicate that where more than this percentage of a track is un-rideable by most riders, almost none will be present. *Is this still the case?*

Deliberate retention of rough track surfaces and/or location of maintenance features to maintain more difficult riding conditions could provide a 'filter' mechanism. Using such specific 'managed difficulty' would provide managers with some control of the numbers and types of riders present on different tracks, without the need to otherwise limit or ban mountain bikes altogether. Less experienced riders will be deterred by the more difficult riding tracks and conditions.

A clear example of this filter effect occurs on the Graveyard Gully to Doctors point track. Graveyard Gully to Shellbacks Beach Gully is rideable by those with moderate experience. Graveyard to Butchers Point is tackled by experienced riders but beyond to Doctors Point is avoided due to poor formation and high percentage of carry required.

The difficulty and amount of uphill riding required on tracks will provide an additional factor acting to limit riding use.

Preference and tolerance for riding long and difficult uphill sections increased with experience. This indicates that less experienced riders may be deterred by the degree of uphill difficulty. Experienced riders were more tolerant of difficult uphill's, and if forced to push or carry, would be doing so in much rougher conditions than would be the case for less experienced riders.

Experiencing speed and excitement in riding is important to most riders apart from beginners, and increases in importance with experience, although the setting of these experiences changes.

Most riders indicated a preference for experiencing fast downhill, and most indicated these types of experiences were essential to their riding enjoyment. The proportion desiring this was lowest amongst beginners, and those that did desire this preferred to do so on more smooth and open tracks. With experience, the preference for speed and excitement increased, and the settings preferred for this emphasised rougher and more challenging tracks. Rider preference to mix speed with challenge was most pronounced amongst the experts, some of whom indicated preference for slow technical downhill. This suggested they were prepared to sacrifice the maximising of speed on downhill for a greater technical challenge.

These results indicate that in many situations, although not necessarily all cases, riders like to go fast at times during their rides. This should be recognised by managers in providing any riding opportunities. If speed-related experiences are inappropriate for sites being considered because of hazard potential (e.g., popular day walking tracks), management actions may be required. Such actions could include both rider education and track maintenance strategies (e.g. strategic location of water bars, steps and other obstructions to limit speeds on blind corners, 'managed' degree of riding difficulty to limit rider numbers). Also, specific efforts to make known the availability of alternative settings for speed-related experiences would help increase rider acceptance of limits to the riding use of some tracks.

Racing is not an important motivating factor for most mountain bike riders, including most of those who have at some time actually entered a race.

Actual racing on lands managed for recreation purposes should not be permitted without agency consents.

Many experienced riders have some experience of overnight riding trips, suggesting that this aspect of riding behaviour will become more important in some settings and areas.

Riders indicated a strong interest in multi-day riding opportunities, though these comprised only a small part of their riding effort. Although most previous multi-day rides had been road-based, their interest in future trips appeared to be for off-road riding.

Riders specified a variety of areas they would like to do off-road multi-day trips. Given that mountain biking is still only recently developed in New Zealand, it is likely that one of the major factors limiting rider interest in off-road trips has been lack of knowledge, *and recognised trails developed for varied abilities, experience.* As more riders *take up, reengage with cycling both at beginning and experienced levels,* and information exchange increases, it is likely that more sites will be visited, and that some will become distinctly more prominent as preferred locations. This already appears the case with the Heaphy and Queen Charlotte tracks (due to high natural attractiveness, transport connections, rideable with weight and baggage) *and more recently the development of Rail Trail (due to high natural attractiveness, range of accommodation, creature comforts, transport connections, and ease of ride).* Managers should recognise that these types of riding opportunities in certain key sites will be important to riders on a national basis.

APPENDIX 10

Four Wheel Drive Code of Conduct

(Produced with the permission of the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council in the interests of promoting responsible Four-Wheel-Drive-Touring)

- Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands.
- Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public/private land by obeying restrictions that may apply.
- Respect our flora and fauna. Stop and look but never disturb.
- Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
- Keep the environment clean. Carry your own and any other rubbish out.
- Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
- Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
- Seek permission before driving on private land.
- Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
- Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and have Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent, radio contact
- Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
- Plan ahead and lodge trip details with a responsible person.
- Support four-wheel drive touring as a responsible and legitimate family recreational activity. Consider joining an affiliated four-wheel drive Club.

THIS CODE SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

APPENDIX 11

Mountain Bike Trail Specifications

Grade	Grade Description	Type of Trail
1.	<p>Description: Flat, wide, smooth trail. Trail feels safe to ride. Ideal as a first ride for non-cyclists, and those wanting an easy gradient or experience. Trail allows for cyclists to ride two abreast most of the time, and provides a social component to the ride. Cyclists will be able to ride the total distance of the trail without dismounting for obstacles.</p> <p>Gradient: 0-2 degrees for 98% of trail; maximum 4 degrees uphill and 5 degrees downhill for short sections.</p> <p>Width: ‘Double trail’ preferred = minimum of 2.5 m for 90% of trail, where cyclists may ride side by side. ‘Single trail’ average width 1.5 m, with 1.2 m minimum.</p> <p>Surface: Sealed path (concrete or asphalt) or compacted/stabilised base course, with maximum top course aggregate of 20 mm.</p> <p>Watercourses: All water courses bridged</p> <p>Length: 3.5-4.5 hours/day (30-50 km/day).</p>	Easiest
2.	<p>Description: Some gentle climbs, smooth trail. Suitable for beginner riders, the trail is predictable with no surprises. Social component with riders able to ride side by side at times, but possibly large sections of single trail.</p> <p>Gradient: 0-3.5 degrees for 95% of trail on any one day, maximum 6 degrees uphill and 8 degrees downhill for short sections.</p> <p>Width: Between 0.9 m and 1.5 m for single trail and minimum 2.2 m for double trail sections</p> <p>Surface: Compacted/stabilised base course or similar, with maximum top course aggregate of 30 mm.</p> <p>Watercourses: Watercourses bridged, except for fords with less than 100 mm of water in normal flow which can be easily ridden.</p> <p>Length: 4-5 hours/day (30-50 km/day).</p>	Easy
3.	<p>Description: Narrow trail with some hills to climb. Obstacles may be encountered on the trail, and there may be exposure on the edge of the trail. Suitable for riders with intermediate level skills.</p> <p>Gradient: 0-5 degrees for 90% of the trail, maximum 8.5 degrees uphill and 11 degrees downhill for short sections.</p> <p>Width: 0.9 m for 90% of the trail, 0.6 m minimum.</p>	Intermediate

	<p>Surface: Generally firm, but may have some muddy or loose sections.</p> <p>Watercourses: Watercourses bridged, except for fords with less than 200 mm of water in normal flow, which can be easily ridden.</p> <p>Length: 4-6 hours/day (30-50 km/day for an intermediate cyclist).</p>	
4.	<p>Description: Steep climbs, with unavoidable obstacles on a narrow trail, and there will be poor traction in places. Possibly some walking sections. Suitable for intermediate and advanced riders.</p> <p>Gradient: 0-7 degrees for 90% of trail, maximum 11.5 degrees uphill and 15 degrees downhill for short sections.</p> <p>Width: 0.6 m average, 0.4 m minimum.</p> <p>Surface: Firm and loose with some rocks and roots to ride over.</p> <p>Watercourses: Watercourses bridged, except for fords with less than 300 mm of water in normal flow, which can be easily ridden.</p> <p>Length: 4-8 hours/day for advanced cyclists.</p>	Advanced
5.	<p>Description: Technically challenging, and suitable for advanced/expert riders. Physically tough. Big hills, lots of rocks, some walking likely.</p> <p>Gradient: 0-10 degrees for 90% of trail, maximum 20 degrees uphill and downhill for short sections.</p> <p>Width: 0.4 m average, 0.25 m minimum.</p> <p>Surface: Huge variety of surfaces. Many rocks, roots and ruts.</p> <p>Bridge Width: 1.2 m with minimum width 0.9 m.</p> <p>Length: 4-12 hours/day.</p>	Expert
6.	<p>Description: Purpose built extreme Downhill/Freeride trails. Extremely steep and dangerous jumps and obstacles. Fear factor is essential. High risk of injury. Suitable for extreme riders.</p> <p>Gradient: Anything goes.</p> <p>Width: Minimum of tyre width.</p> <p>Surface: Anything is possible.</p> <p>Obstacles: 'North Shore' wooden obstacles, big jumps, etc</p> <p>Length: Trail may take only a few minutes to ride, but will be ridden over and over again.</p>	Extreme

APPENDIX 12

Walking/Tramping Track Classifications

User Group ²	Track Classification ³	Multi Use Classification ⁴	Market ⁵	Comments
Urban Residents (UR)	Path	Accessible	Local	Wheel chair capable; Smooth; 5°max grade; well signed Urban setting
Short Stop Travellers (SST)	Short Walk	Easy	Local/Domestic/International	Buggy capable; smooth; 8°max grade; Well signed; Setting - Urban/Rural/Natural
Day Visitor (DV)	Walking Track	Moderate	Local/Domestic/International	Well formed; 10°max grade and some <50m 15°; some signs; Setting - Rural/Natural.
Backcountry Comfort Seekers (BCC)	Easy Tramping Track	Moderate - Hard	Local/Domestic/International	Defined track, or marked; constructed, surfaced, 20° maximum and <50m @ 25°; some signs; Setting -Rural/Natural /Backcountry
Backcountry Adventures (BCA)	Tramping Track	Hard	Local/Domestic/International	Rough, rocks and roots; no minimums; some marking and signs; Setting - Backcountry
Remoteness Seekers (RS)	Route	Route	Local/Domestic	Rough; no minimum grades; cairns for marking; Setting - Backcountry/Remote Wilderness

² Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures SNZ HB 8630:2004 – User group terms/identifiers

³ Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures SNZ HB 8630:2004 – Track classification

⁴ Dunedin City Council Tracks Policy and Strategy developed a revised multi use system based on the 1992 Network of the NZ Conservation Authority system, A Track Classification for walkways and other foot tracks in NZ for the Walkways

⁵ Visitor market – Local (Otago Region) Domestic (New Zealand outside of Otago) International (Outside of New Zealand)

APPENDIX 13

Currently road/track formations and maintenance levels exist over the district. Types of road/track and maintenance level that exist are:

- Metalled
 - Drainage managed – culverts, cut-outs, water tables
 - Graded twice per year
 - Bogs/wet areas managed
 - Cattle stops maintained
 - Fords/ bridges maintained
 - Scouring repaired
 - Slips/slumps repaired
- Natural – only metalled where metal source onsite – natural bedrock
 - Drainage managed – culverts, cut-outs, water tables
 - Graded in part once a year
 - Bogs/wet areas managed
 - Cattle stops maintained
 - Fords/ bridges maintained
 - Scouring repaired
 - Slips/slumps repaired
- Natural formed – cut and benched in natural material existing onsite
 - Drainage managed – culverts, cut-outs, water tables
 - Scouring repaired
 - Slips/slumps repaired
 - Annual – bi annual maintenance
 - No surface maintenance
- Natural – limited maintenance
 - Blade to bare mineral earth
 - Farm access and fire break
 - Cut outs, water tables
 - Rocks in bogs
 - Option to spray
- Natural - Not maintained
 - Deteriorating over time
- Desire lines – No physical formation
 - Created by vehicles driving off formed tracks to point/s of interest – often to avoid walking or shortcut.
 - Require physical barrier to prevent vehicle use
- Access restricted – ‘Pleasure of Land owner’ tracks
 - Locked gates/fences
 - Ranging in formation across the full spectrum – Metalled through to desire lines.

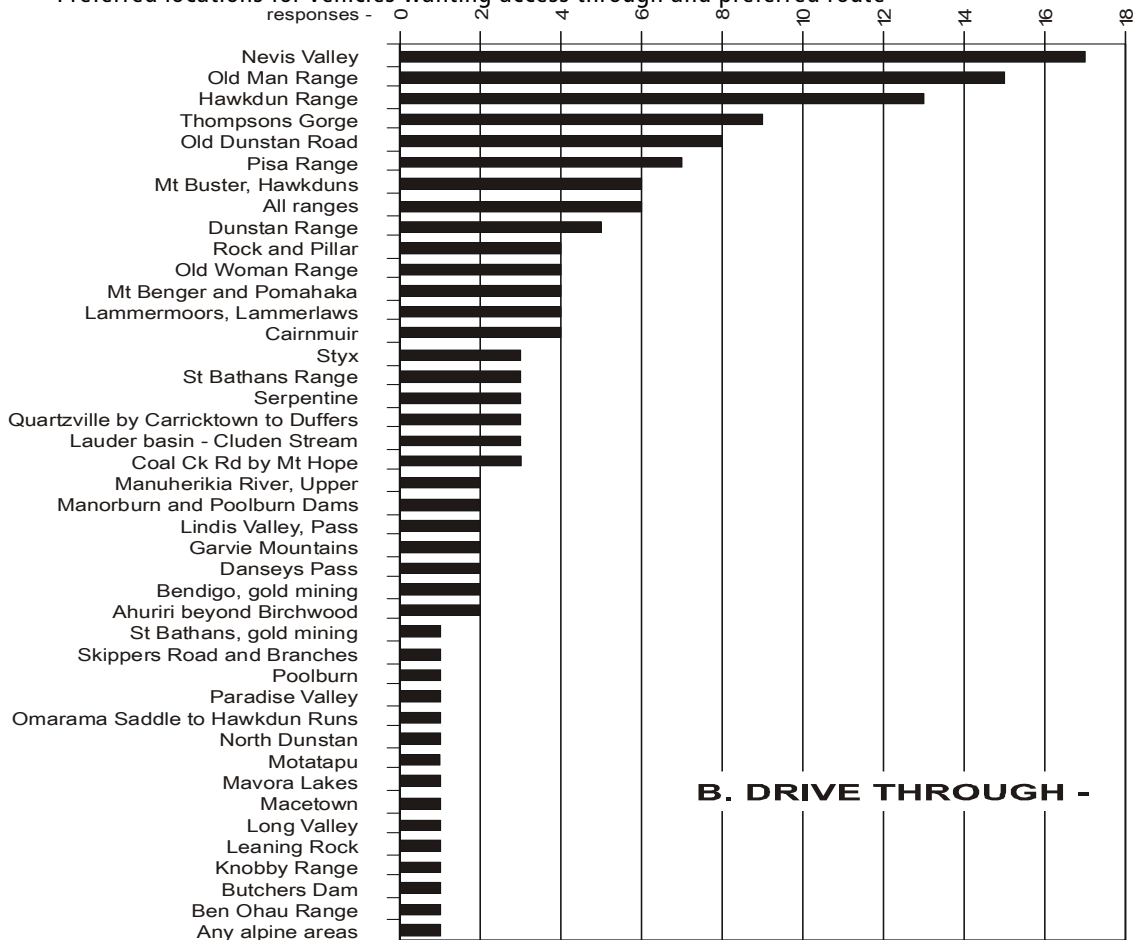
APPENDIX 14

CORUF hosted a spring forum in 2007 following on from the Otago Conservation Boards winter workshop with four wheel drive users. During and following the spring forum a series of questions were put to interested parties associated with four wheel driving and the high country. Participants covered a wide spectrum of four wheel driver users. Ranging from avid four wheel drivers (club and private) with driving the leisure activity, outdoor recreationalists using four wheel drives as a means to get to locations to undertake other outdoor past times to individuals that did not use or need four wheel drives.

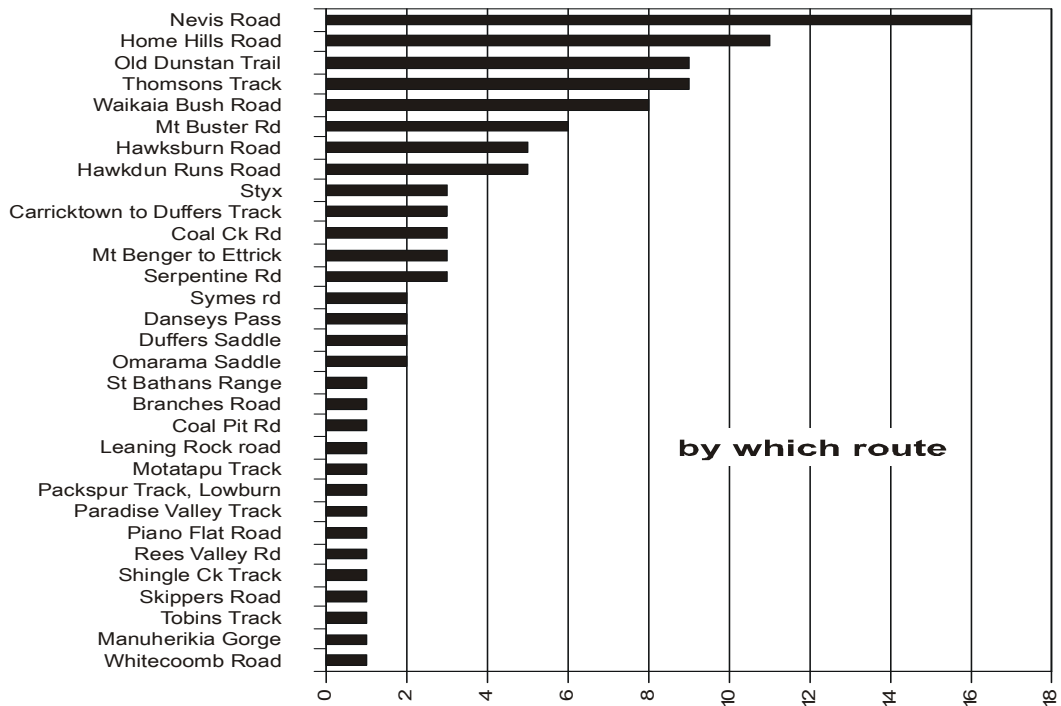
Participants were asked for recreational vehicle access, which areas were they wanting vehicle access through and by which route did they get to those areas.

For the second set of graphs participants were asked for non vehicular access which areas do they want access through and by which route would they use.

Preferred locations for vehicles wanting access through and preferred route -



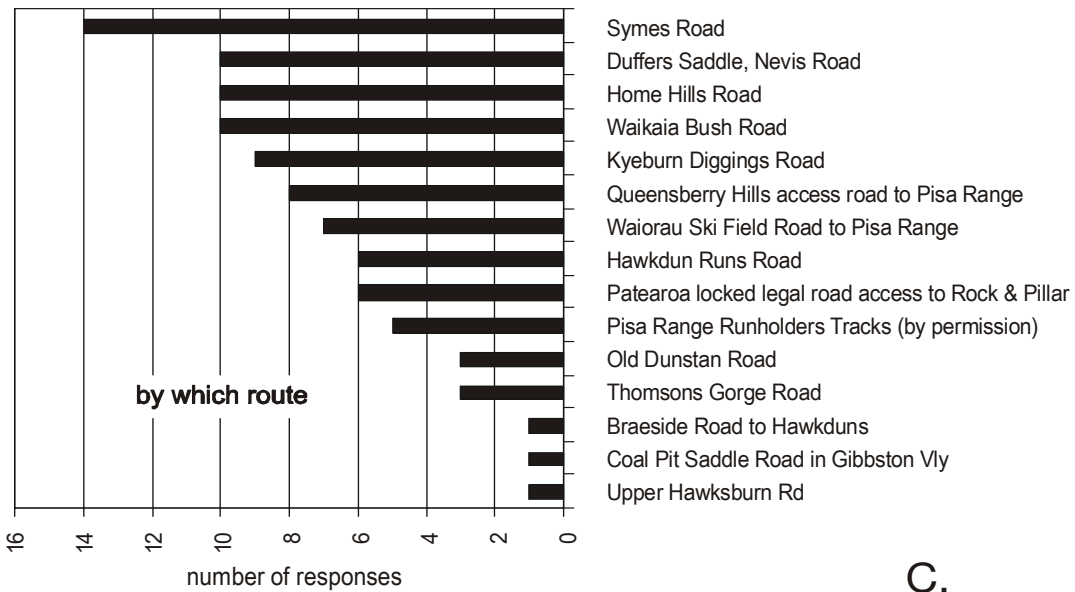
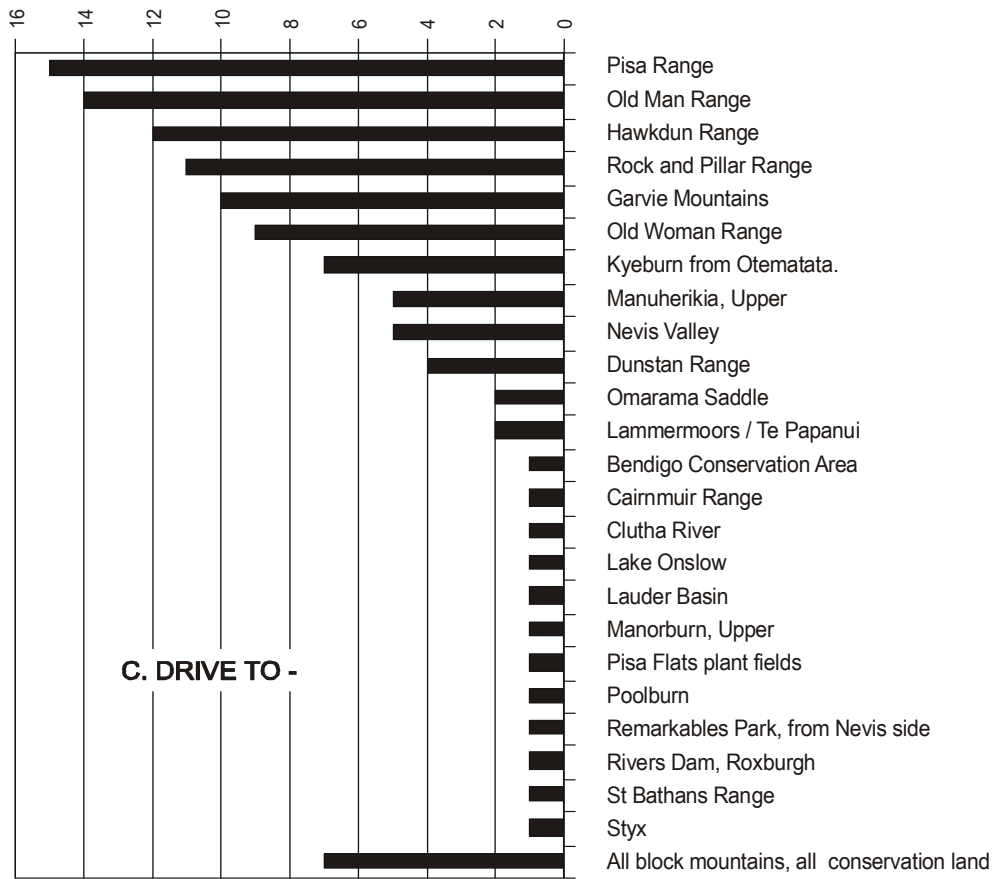
B. DRIVE THROUGH -



by which route

B.

For non-motorised recreation wanting vehicular access to and preferred route -



C.

APPENDIX 15

Trail Bike Care Code

Caring for the environment and others when trail biking. Help to ensure the long-term sustainability of both the activity and the environment.

- Abide by the laws and regulations covering all vehicles and drivers.
- Always use recognised vehicle tracks. Avoid widening tracks.
- Avoid sensitive areas such as alpine landscapes, swamps, waterways, sand dunes and river beds which are easily damaged.
- Keep the environment clean. Take all your rubbish with you.
- Protect plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features. Respect wildlife, look but don't disturb. Keep your distance.
- Plan your trip. Ask the local visitor centre and or DOC about track conditions, fire restrictions, huts and campsites.
- Find out if a permit is required for access. Ask permission if your trip crosses private land.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Take plenty of water, food, fuel, break-down tools, radio equipment and spares on trips. In remote areas travel with others.
- Always thoroughly clean your motorcycle before trips to avoid spreading weeds and plant and animal diseases.
- Respect the right of others for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors. Avoid noisy riding. Give way to walkers and mountain bikers.
- Be prepared for the unexpected, drive at a speed which will allow you to stop if a hazard arises.
- If winching is necessary, use another vehicle. If you must use a tree use webbing or padding to prevent damage to the tree.
- Cross waterways at designated crossings.
- Avoid tracks that are wet, they are easily damaged and expensive to repair.
- Keep your motor bike mechanically sound to reduce emissions.
- Carry a tent as huts can be full. Camp carefully and only light fires where permitted.
- Join a responsible club and learn more about how you can drive for minimal impact on the environment.