

The Māwhera Place provides opportunities for recreational sports fishing, whitebaiting, game bird, deer, chamois, goat and pig hunting.

*See also* Chapter 3.5 Authorised Uses of Public Conservation Lands  
Chapter 3.6 People's Benefit and Enjoyment

#### **4.2.6 Desired Outcome for Hokitika Place**

Section 4.2.6 describes what the Hokitika Place will be like in 2020 if the direction of this CMS is followed.

*See also* Chapter 4.1 Desired outcome for the Conservancy

##### **4.2.6.1 Place description**

The Hokitika Place extends from the Taramakau River in the north to the Waitaha River catchment in the south and inland to the crest of the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* (Maps 16-17). Part of Arthur's Pass National Park is located within this Place (see Map 16).

Hokitika is split in two both geologically and ecologically by the Alpine Fault, which lies about 20 km west of the crest of the Main Divide. East of the fault, the schist mountains and valleys are rugged and broken, and a large portion is protected as public conservation land. West of the fault the geology is more complex, landscapes extensively modified and public conservation lands fragmented. This Place is the historic heart of the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini's* pounamu trade and is the scene of gold mining, forestry and farming industries - particularly dairying. Hokitika is the largest town (population of 3,700 as at 2010).

##### **4.2.6.2 Arthur's Pass National Park in 2020**

Arthur's Pass National Park straddles the Main Divide of the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana*. The north-western part of the Park lies within the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy (see Map 16).

The Park is of considerable importance for scientific studies, its geological features, its Waimakariri River headwaters and as a habitat for threatened species. The rugged terrain, the wide range of altitudes, the relatively severe mountain climate, the swift rivers and the passes contribute to the nature of the Park in various ways. The Park is renowned for its alpine flora and the sharp contrasts in scenery that result from the topography and climatic influence. The environmental range from eastern grasslands, through beech forests to sub-alpine and alpine communities and western rainforests, is best represented within the spectrum of New Zealand's national parks by Arthur's Pass National Park.

The Park's more distinctive public use features are: its closeness to large and smaller population centres; the relative ease of access to its "remote" settings; the low level of obvious concessionaire development and activity; the dominance of walking as the means of access; and the high degree of natural quiet. People are able to enjoy the various natural, cultural and recreational values of the Park in many ways.

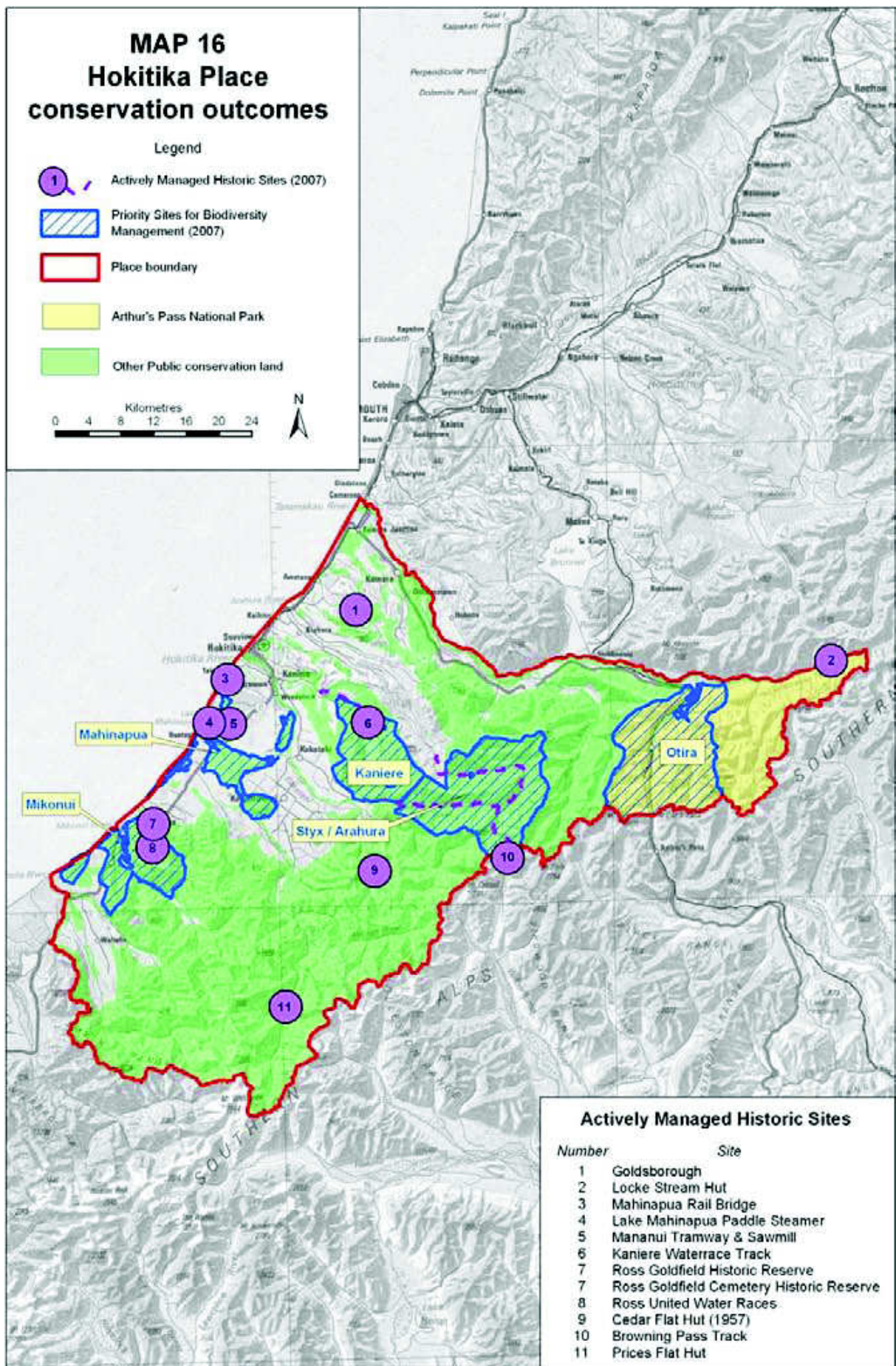
The Park is managed in accordance with the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan. Sections 4.2.6.3 to 4.2.6.7 provide further details about the desired outcomes for Arthur's Pass National Park.

# MAP 16 Hokitika Place conservation outcomes

## Legend

-  Actively Managed Historic Sites (2007)
-  Priority Sites for Biodiversity Management (2007)
-  Place boundary
-  Arthur's Pass National Park
-  Other Public conservation land

Kilometres  
0 4 8 12 16 20 24

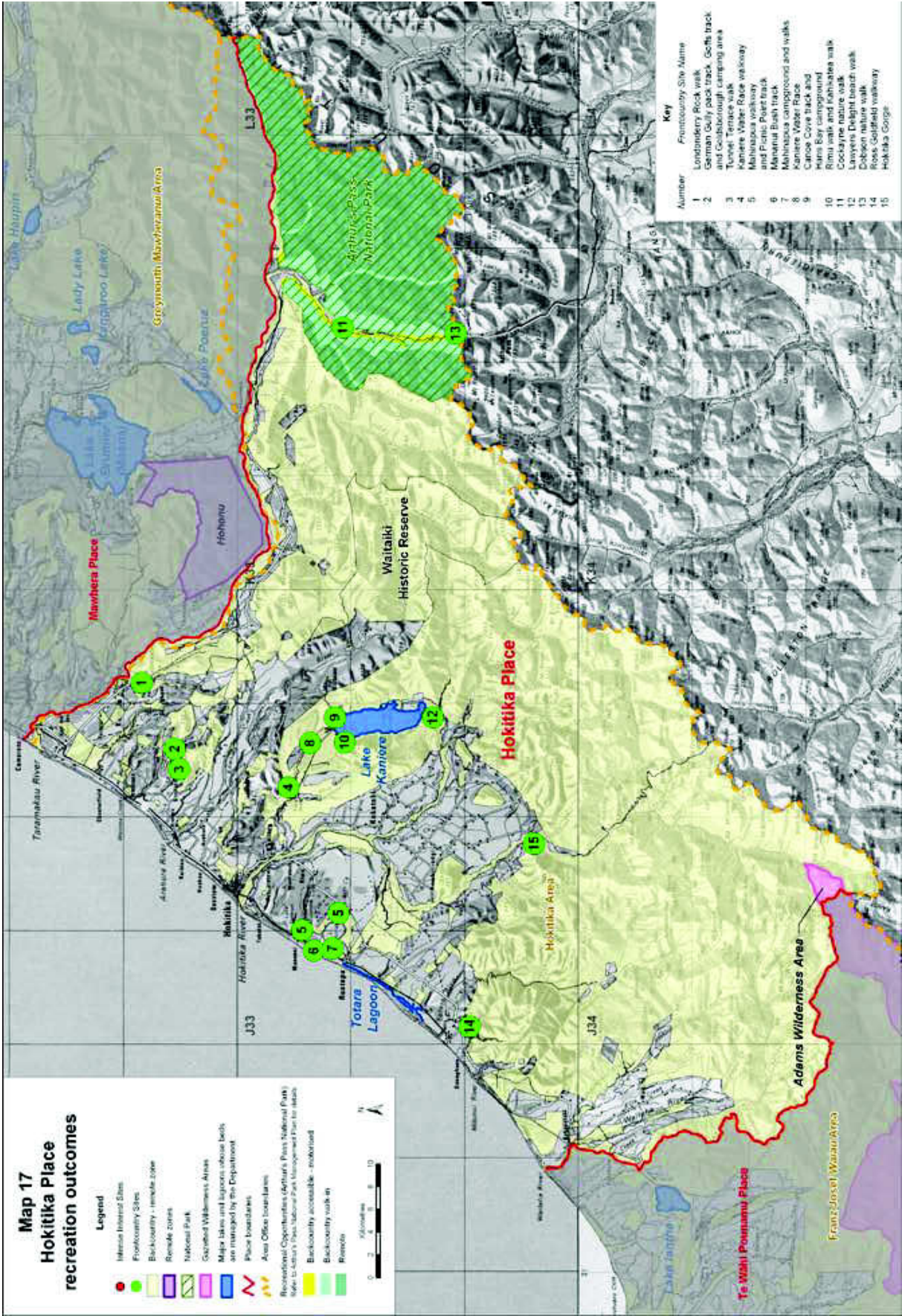


## Actively Managed Historic Sites

Number	Site
1	Goldsborough
2	Locke Stream Hut
3	Mahinapua Rail Bridge
4	Lake Mahinapua Paddle Steamer
5	Mananui Tramway & Sawmill
6	Kaniere Waterrace Track
7	Ross Goldfield Historic Reserve
7	Ross Goldfield Cemetery Historic Reserve
8	Ross United Water Races
9	Cedar Flat Hut (1957)
10	Browning Pass Track
11	Prices Flat Hut



**Map 17**  
**Hokitika Place**  
**recreation outcomes**



- Legend**
- Interest Interest Sites
  - Backcountry Sites
  - Backcountry - remote zone
  - Remote zones
  - National Park
  - Sacred Wilderness Areas
  - Major lakes and lagoons whose beds are managed by the Department
  - Place boundaries
  - Area Office boundaries
  - Recreation Opportunities (Archives Place National Park)
  - Key 12: Act 1977: National Park Management Plan for sketch
  - Backcountry accessible - motorised
  - Backcountry walk in
  - Remote

**Key**

Number	Frontcountry Site Name
1	Landonery Rock walk
2	German Gully pack track
3	and Cooborough camping area
4	Tunnel Terrace walk
5	Kanere Water Race walkway
6	Mahupou walkway
7	and Picnic Point track
8	Minerals on top ground and walks
9	Carole track and
10	Horn Bay campground
11	Cockayne nature walk
12	Layerns Delight beach walk
13	Dobson nature walk
14	Ross Goldfield walkway
15	Hokitika Gorge

#### 4.2.6.3 *Geodiversity, landforms and landscapes in 2020*

The overall character of geodiversity, landforms and landscapes in Hokitika Place is maintained in its 2010 condition, a summary of which is presented below.

East of the Alpine Fault the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* are composed of eroding sedimentary greywacke and schists. Granite outcrops occur extensively immediately west of the Alpine Fault (e.g. in Mounts Turiwhate, Tuhua and Rangitoto). Away from the ranges younger sedimentary rocks (limestone, sandstone, siltstone) provide much of the lowland hill country between the Taramakau River and Hokitika. An isolated occurrence of basalt is found on Mount Camelback. The Arahura and Taramakau riverbeds are a significant source of pounamu, which derives from geologic processes occurring along the Alpine Fault. Extensive alluvial gold deposits derive mainly from the ancient greywacke ranges located south of the Hokitika River (centred on Mount Greenland).

Close to the Main Divide are numerous narrow steep-sided gorged alpine valleys. The northernmost glaciers in the South Island occur near the headwaters of the Taramakau River, with glaciers becoming more frequent further south.

Large Ice Age glaciers issued from the Taramakau and Hokitika catchments and deposited vast heaps of morainic debris west of the Alpine Fault, creating extensive lowland landscapes. In this process many large lakes were created when valleys and basins were dammed by moraine, including Lake Kaniere and the coastal Lake Mahināpua.

**See also** Section 3.3.4 Geodiversity and Landscapes

#### 4.2.6.4 *Indigenous biodiversity*

##### **Threats to indigenous biodiversity as at 2010**

Freshwater habitat and water quality is at risk from discharges from activities such as mining, timber milling, farming or other land development and/or infestation by aquatic and riparian weeds. *Didymo* is present in the Arahura, Hokitika and Kakapotahi Rivers. The spread of plantation tree species also pose a threat to indigenous biodiversity and alters the natural character of landscapes in some areas, especially Blue Spur, Purcell (Kakapotahi), Blue Bottle and Falls Creek forests. Animal pests include chamois, hares, red deer and possums, many of which are widespread. Goats are present in some places including Kaniere Scenic Reserve and Vine Creek. The tahr range extends as far north as the Hokitika catchment, although there are occasional incursions beyond into the mountains further north. Predators, especially stoats, impact on great spotted kiwi *roroa*, blue duck *whio* and many other native species. Possums predate on *Powelliphanta* snails at Mt Tuhua and Mt Greenland.

**See also** Section 3.3.1 Biodiversity values and threats  
Conservation General Policy 2005, Policy 4.2(a)

##### **Indigenous biodiversity in 2020**

At the Otira, Styx/Arahura, Kaniere, Mahināpua and Mikonui priority sites (see Map 16) natural heritage values are maintained and, where practicable, protected and enhanced. Elsewhere in Hokitika Place, natural heritage values are maintained to at least the same condition they were in as at 2010.



A prominent feature of the forest communities in this Place is the absence of beech *tawai*. Although beech forest resumes again in the Pāringa River catchment (in Te Wāhi Pounamu Place), a number of other forest species from the northern parts of the Conservancy reach their southern limits in the Hokitika area, including *nikau*, northern *rātā*, and *kānuka*.

In the absence of beech *tawai*, montane forests are dominated by *kāmahi*, *quintinia tawberowbero*, southern *rātā* and Hall's totara with *rimu* increasingly present at lower altitudes. Nearer the coast, *rimu* is usually dominant on those glacial outwash surfaces that retain their natural cover. *Kahikatea* is found on wetter lowland alluvial sites where forest is regenerating. Other podocarps, *miro*, *matai* and *tōtara*, and a wide diversity of broadleaf species are common components of both original and regenerating lowland forests. Specialised podocarp communities of silver pine *kopara*, pink pine and yellow-silver pine are found on the wetter, colder or less fertile sites. Reserves such as Lake Kaniere Scenic Reserve, Shamrock Creek Amenity Area and the Doctor Hill and Mount Greenland Ecological Areas continue to protect some of the remaining lowland podocarp/broadleaf forest. Mananui Bush, a five hectare remnant of coastal sand plain forest near Hokitika, adequately maintains a scientifically valuable soil sequence of increasing age and decreasing fertility from the sea beach towards Lake Mahināpua.

Preserving and improving the natural heritage values of Arthur's Pass National Park remains a key focus, particularly within the Otira priority site (see Map 16). The slopes of the Otira valley turn red in summer when southern *rātā* blooms. *Rātā* flowers and the flowers and fruit of other species such as Hall's *tōtara*, mountain five-finger and fuchsia *kōtukutuku* provide a rich source of food for the abundant native invertebrates and birds. The valley floors of the upper Deception, Rolleston and Taramakau are virtually free of invasive weeds such as gorse and broom.

In areas of high ecological and recreational values (such as the river flats of the upper Taramakau and upper Styx valleys), shrublands and forest stands are recovering from a history of grazing.

All geothermal sites and surrounding landscapes retain their natural character and are not irreversibly altered in any way (see Section 3.6.4.8).

A representative sample of lowland forest and wetland remnants is legally protected within public conservation lands or via other mechanisms such as covenants and/or District Plans (see Section 3.8.3). The natural character of these remnants is improving.

The numerous lowland lakes, swamps and associated waterways in the Hokitika Place remain important habitat for rarer water birds and native freshwater fish. The former includes crested grebe *kāmana*, Australasian bittern *matuku*, marsh crake, spotless crake and white heron *kōtuku*. Native freshwater fish include inanga, giant *kōkopu taiwharu* and shortfin eels *tuna* present in coastal lagoons and lakes (e.g. Totara Lagoon, Lake Mahināpua), shortjaw and banded *kōkopu* which inhabit lowland streams flowing under forest cover, brown mudfish in areas of swampy forest or *pakihi*, and *koaro* in alpine streams. Survey and monitoring work is focused on freshwater habitat and species (with particular focus on inanga, brown mudfish and shortjaw and giant *kōkopu taiwharu*).

The wetlands of the Hokitika lowlands, including: Totara Lagoon, the Mahināpua wetland complex, Groves Swamp and Backcreek Swamp (Mahināpua priority site);

Lake Kaniere (Kaniere priority site); and Shearers Swamp (Mikonui priority site), are functioning naturally. Native species dominate the vegetation. The Department has worked in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga, Fish and Game West Coast and the local community to control aquatic weeds such as water lilies in Lakes Kaniere and Mahināpua, and viable populations of rare aquatic plants such as *Myriophyllum robustum* are maintained. The linkages between Bold Head, Shearers Swamp and Fergusons Bush Scenic Reserve are maintained (see Mikonui priority site on Map 16).

Large and relatively undisturbed river systems, including the Hokitika River, have retained connectivity to their floodplains. Some of the best surviving sequences of floodplain kahikatea forests and riverine-wetland systems (e.g. Hokitika-Groves and Harman Swamps - wetlands of international importance: Cromarty and Scott 1996) continue to be maintained. Streams within this Place retain their status as national strongholds for giant kōkupu *taiwharu*, shortjaw kōkupu and long-finned eels *tuna*. These populations are critical to the long-term survival of these species. Headwater catchments continue to provide important habitat for blue duck *wbio*.

Riparian management continues to improve with the assistance and support of landowners, the local community and local authorities, enhancing the connectivity, viability and life-supporting capacity of the area's ecosystems, including whitebait spawning habitat. Where practical, riparian margins throughout much of the Hokitika Place are fenced to exclude livestock. Knowledge about the effects of land use on threatened freshwater fish species is improved and advocacy for protection of their habitats (see Section 3.8.3) is successful. Indigenous freshwater fish habitat, particularly for shortjaw kōkupu, giant kōkupu *taiwharu* and brown mudfish, is enhanced throughout Hokitika Place. Containment and/or treatment of pollutant discharges, along with restoration of freshwater fish habitats, result in no further degradation of aquatic ecosystems.

Rock wren and kea are present in the subalpine and alpine habitats of Hokitika Place. Viable populations of the locally endemic land snails *Powelliphanta rossiana rossiana* and *P. fletcheri* are found in the subalpine habitats of Mounts Greenland (Mikonui priority site) and Tuhua (Kaniere priority site), respectively. A viable population of blue duck *wbio* is maintained in the Styx/Arahura catchments (see Styx/Arahura priority site on Map 16). The range of western weka does not contract and their abundance does not reduce. New Zealand falcon *kārearea*, South Island kākā, kākāriki and native bats *pekapeka* populations continue to exist. The southernmost populations of great spotted kiwi *roroa* are found in Arthur's Pass National Park. A viable population of the greenhood orchid *Pterostylis cernua* is maintained. The Mount Cook lily, the alpine buttercup *Ranunculus godleyanus*, the native broom *Carmichaelia arborea* and other species that are palatable to mammalian browsers continue to regenerate, flower and fruit as a result of wild animal control work. Tahr are prevented from expanding their range north of the Hokitika catchment.

Invasive weeds, including old man's beard, banana passionfruit, aluminium plant, kahili ginger and Asiatic knotweed, are rarely found and are prevented from spreading further southward into Te Wāhi Pounamu Place. Formerly logged areas on public conservation land are regenerating. Exotic trees are rarely found in public conservation lands.

Recreational and commercial hunting contribute to controlling deer, tahr and goats, thereby contributing to goals for the conservation of indigenous biodiversity and

improved ecosystem health. Goat control operations prevent dispersal to goat free areas. Regular surveillance prevents new populations of unwanted wild animals establishing. The Department is aided by local communities, businesses and other people and organisations in its efforts to control predators, animal pests, invasive weeds and unwanted organisms throughout Hokitika Place.

*See also* Section 3.3.3 Ecosystem management

#### 4.2.6.5 *Human history*

Human occupation of the Hokitika Place can be traced by Makaawhio back over 1000 years to the time that ancient iwi, such as Waitaha, Rapuwai, Ngāti Mamoe and Ngāti Wairaki, were known to have lived in the South Island. Tribal wars to gain control of treasured pounamu led to Ngāti Waewae and Kāti Māhaki gaining tribal authority on the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini*.

Māori settlements were located at sites such as Taramakau, Waimea (Goldsborough), Arahura, Hokitika, Kokatahi and Mananui. The forests, lakes, swamps and coast provided abundant supplies of birds and fish. The most significant natural resource of this region was the pounamu (greenstone) found in the beds of the Taramakau and Arahura rivers. The presence of pounamu made this part of the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* a centre for trade in Aotearoa. It led to 'greenstone trails' being established across the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana*, especially across Amuri, Noti Taramakau (Harper) and Noti Raureka (Browning) Passes. The Arahura River is culturally significant to Poutini Ngāi Tahu, particularly to Ngāti Waewae, as one of the main sources of pounamu. It is also unique as a river that is wholly in private Māori ownership under legislation.

European exploration of the region began with the coastal journey of Charles Heaphy, Thomas Brunner and guide Kehu in 1846 and continued with Brunner's extended second visit, again with Kehu in 1847-8. In 1857 Leonard Harper crossed the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana* to the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* via Noti Taramakau (Harper Pass). The area was further explored by surveyor John Rochfort in 1859 and geologist Julius von Haast in 1860. The first European crossing in 1863 via Rakaia Wai Pakahi (the Whitcombe Pass) was by George Henry Whitcombe and Jakob Lauper.

Payable gold was discovered in the Totara valley, Ross in late 1864. By the end of 1865 thousands of miners were working the alluvial gravels and sands from north of Greymouth to Haast. Hokitika was one of New Zealand's busiest ports at this time. A coach road over Arthur's Pass, constructed in 1865, also provided access from the east. The main phase of alluvial mining was followed by large-scale sluicing in the 1870s and 1880s and dredges worked the rivers, lakes and terraces in the early decades of the 20th century.

Sawmills began operating in the 1860s to supply the widespread goldfields. As early as 1868, kahikatea was being exported to Australia from the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini*. Since then timber milling has been an important industry with a major boost being provided by the opening of the Arthur's Pass rail link in 1923. Exotic plantations were introduced in a small way in the 1920s and more extensively in the 1960s, and continue to be logged in the Hokitika Place today. Logging of indigenous forests on Crown land ceased by 2002, when lands formerly managed by Timberlands West Coast Ltd were gazetted as public conservation lands. Farming

expanded considerably in the 20th century with places like Kokatahi-Kowhitirangi area and Waitaha valley providing excellent pasture. As in other parts of the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini*, tourism has now become a major industry: roads have improved, opportunities and facilities for travellers have increased, and information on the full range of recreational attractions has become widely available.

### **Historical and cultural heritage in 2020**

Comprehensive research is undertaken about the history of gold mining, the timber industry and wild animal control work in Hokitika Place.

A schedule of Māori archaeological sites located within public conservation lands is maintained and updated. These sites remain free of unauthorised human disturbance. The Department works in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio to monitor and mitigate (where appropriate) threats to archaeological sites, to actively manage specific sites, to increase knowledge about the Māori history of the area, and to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to protect wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga values (see Section 3.1.2.5 and 3.1.2.6).

All actively managed historic places in public conservation lands (such as the historic rail bridge over the Mahināpua Creek *Tūwharewhare* and the Price Flat Hut - see Map 16) are maintained in their 2010 condition or better. More information is obtained on the range of historic heritage remaining in Hokitika Place, to ensure the actively managed sites are the best representative examples of the different types of historic places found in this area. Some huts in the backcountry are maintained in their original condition to represent the early wild animal control era. A comprehensive network of huts and bridges, originally established for this purpose, continues to be used by trampers and hunters today. Nineteenth century exploration and pack track construction is preserved by a representative range of actively managed historic places. Actively managed historic places are monitored for any adverse effects, including cumulative effects, arising from visitation and appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure their continued protection. The Department enjoys a strong partnership with the Ross community in the management of the Ross Historic Goldfields. Hokitika is a central location for West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* archives and other resources associated with historic places.

The Waitaiki Historic Reserve is managed by the Māwhera Incorporation. The Department supports the Māwhera Incorporation in the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the Reserve (see Section 3.4.2.4) and continues to maintain the huts and other structures within the Reserve, in accordance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (see Appendix 3).

**See also** Chapter 3.4 Historical and Cultural Heritage Conservation

#### **4.2.6.6 Cultural values of significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu in 2020**

Cultural values of significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu are protected throughout Hokitika Place. The Arahura River remains the most important source of pounamu for Ngāti Waewae. Other significant cultural values of the Hokitika Place



include (but are not limited to <sup>58</sup>): Te Ao Turoa (the natural world); wai (water) and waiwera (hot springs); mahinga kai (cultural materials e.g. kiekeie, mussels and the places these are gathered); landscapes, maunga (mountains e.g. Tuhua) and other wāhi taonga; landforms (e.g. landmark rocks at the top of the Otira viaduct); rakau rangatira (trees of significance); rongoā (medicinal plants); oral histories of settlement of areas, travel, pathways, hīkoi; stories of how Hokitika got its name and of significant battle sites (e.g. at Mahināpua); early pa and kainga (e.g. at Taramakau, Arahura and Hokitika); urupā (burial ground); wāhi tapu; and ingoa wāhi (place names).

Each of the cultural redress sites identified in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (see Map 4 and Appendix 3) is managed in accordance with that Act, ensuring the protection of their significant Ngāi Tahu values (see Section 3.1.3). A Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition is established for the Taramakau River and Lake Kaniere (see Section 3.1.3.3). Ownership of the bed of Lake Mahināpua is returned to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, who also has the role of Statutory Adviser for this lake (see Section 3.1.3.2). Nohoanga Entitlements are granted for single sites at the Taramakau River and Lake Kaniere and for two sites at the Mikonui River (see Section 3.1.3.4). Some land is vested in the Mawhera Incorporation in fee simple in the lower Arahura valley and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in fee simple at Lake Kaniere and Lake Mahināpua. In the upper Arahura valley the Waitaiki Historic Reserve is created and vested in the Mawhera Incorporation.

*See also* Chapter 3.1 Working in Partnership with Tangata Whenua

Appendix 1 - Poutini Ngāi Tahu Association with the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini*

#### 4.2.6.7 *People's benefit and enjoyment in 2020*

Categories<sup>59</sup> of recreational opportunities available in the Hokitika Place (Map 17) include:

- frontcountry sites located adjacent to formed and maintained roads;
- backcountry-remote zones;
- remote zones; and
- the gazetted Mt Adams Wilderness Area (see Maps 17 and 19a - note that the majority of this area is located within Te Wāhi Pounamu Place).

Hokitika Place provides a number of scenic and historic walks, a range of opportunities associated with its rivers and larger lakes (especially Lakes Kaniere and Mahināpua), and a comprehensive network of backcountry facilities (almost all the valleys of the backcountry contain tracks, huts and bridges).

Concessionaires provide recreational opportunities that complement those provided by the Department and/or enhance people's enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of natural, historical or cultural values. Concession activities are generally of low impact and are sympathetic to, and in keeping with, the conservation values of the particular site.

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<sup>58</sup> This is not a comprehensive list of all values of cultural significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu in this Place; such information is held by the relevant Papatipu Rūnanga. In addition to Appendix 1 of this CMS, two documents (which were in draft form as at 2010) provide further details about the cultural values of the Hokitika place: Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae Natural Resource Management Plan and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio Natural Resource Management Plan.

<sup>59</sup> Section 3.6.2 includes a description of each 'recreation outcome zone' category.

## Frontcountry sites

The striking scenic and natural values of Lakes Mahināpua and Kaniere make both lakes popular destinations for boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, camping and walking. These lakes are an important focus of the Department's provision and development of services and facilities.

At Lake Mahināpua picnicking, walking, camping and boating activities take place in a peaceful natural setting, dominated by uninterrupted views of tall podocarp forests on the lake margins and beyond to the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana*. Poutini Ngāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu values are strongly evident in the interpretation themes at this site, which acknowledge the cultural significance of the site. Water and wetland values are the focus of other interpretation themes. Recreational facilities are progressively improved, in keeping with the values of the site. The Department successfully advocates for no high speed motorised boats and minimal overnight mooring on Lake Mahināpua (see Section 3.6.4.12). Several walking opportunities are available on the north-western side of the Lake, including the Mahināpua Walkway which follows the route of an historic bush tramway.

At Lake Kaniere, the Department provides low-key camping and day-use facilities. Several short walks and longer tramping tracks are also provided, including the Kaniere Water Race Track. Ngāi Tahu Whānui have access to, and regularly use, the nohoanga site and associated facilities located adjacent to Hans Bay. Recreational activities on and adjacent to this lake are limited to those that are in keeping with protection of the lake's scenic character and Poutini Ngāi Tahu cultural values<sup>60</sup>, and maintenance of the natural setting and environmental quality. There are no new moorings on Lake Kaniere (see Section 4.2.5.6, Frontcountry sites). Concession opportunities are in keeping with the protection of scenic natural character, environmental quality and recreational use by local communities.

Other important frontcountry sites include those in the western part of Arthur's Pass National Park (e.g. Cockayne Nature Walk), the Hokitika Gorge and the historic gold mining settlements of Kumara, Goldsborough *Waimea* and Ross:

- At Hokitika Gorge, people can easily access the spectacular gorge scenery and its quiet natural setting and the Department's presence and investment in recreational facilities remains low key.
- Sites around Lake Kaniere and at Goldsborough *Waimea* provide people with recreational opportunities such as camping, walking, picnicking and water-based activities. Existing recreational facilities are maintained.
- The history of the Ross goldfields is the basis for interpretive themes at the small historic reserve and on the adjacent walkway. The Ross community and the Department work together to progressively improve recreational facilities, enabling people to appreciate and understand the historic themes relevant to the area.
- Recreational gold fossicking opportunities are available at Shamrock Creek and Jones Creek (see Table 6).

Within the Hokitika Place, mountain biking (see Section 3.6.4.9) and horse riding (see Section 3.6.4.3) are possible on some roads (e.g. Wainihinihi forestry roads; Totara Valley Road to Old Mikonui Valley Homestead). Other roads are also available

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<sup>60</sup> Lake Kaniere is a Deed of Recognition site under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. In addition, a nohoanga site is located adjacent to Hans Bay.

for four-wheel driving (see Section 3.6.4.17) (e.g. Taipo Valley access road; Mt Greenland). Four-wheel drive use will continue until such time as these roads become hazardous or unsuitable for vehicle use. Many of these roads cross lands of other tenure. Additional mountain biking opportunities are also available on some tracks or routes (e.g. the Kaniere Water Race track and the Lake Kaniere Walkway).

### **Backcountry-remote zone, remote zone and gazetted wilderness areas**

New Zealanders continue to regard the extensive Hokitika backcountry as the country's backcountry adventurer 'capital', because of the comprehensive network of backcountry tracks, routes and huts. Opportunities range from multi-day valley and trans-alpine tramping via remote and challenging terrain, to day tramps and weekend trips to accessible huts or natural hot pools (the latter are found in several valleys, including at Cedar Flats and in the Taipo valley; see Section 3.6.4.8). A number of tramping tracks and historic huts are associated with historic routes across the Southern Alps *Kā Tiritiri o te Moana*, especially Harper Pass *Noti Taramakau*, Browning Pass *Noti Raureka* and Whitcombe Pass *Rakaia Wai Pakahi*. Numerous opportunities exist for extended north to south traverses utilizing routes and passes into the Newton Saddle, Mikonui, Tuke, Mungo and Waitaha catchments. Circuitous routes are also available, such as the Scamper-Torrent circuit up the Waitaha Valley and down the Smyth Range. Recreational facilities are generally concentrated on valley floors along the more popular tramping and traditional access routes. However there are several huts, ridge routes and a few bridges specifically sited to maximise 'non-tracked' linkages between valleys. Such facilities include Bluff Hut, Sir Robert Hut, Moonbeam Hut, County Stream Hut, County Junction swing bridge, Price Basin Hut and Ivory Lake Hut.

Part of Arthur's Pass National Park is within the Hokitika Place and is managed in accordance with the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan. The backcountry corridor through the Otira valley and the classic backcountry tramps to Lake Kaurapataka and up the Deception and Taramakau valleys are within this part of the Park. There are also challenging routes to the open tops and remote huts and bivvys, including links to the popular 'Three Pass' route. Most of the Park is the 'Arthur's Pass remote zone' (see dark green area on Map 17), with few facilities, requiring people to be self-sufficient. Much of the opportunity in this area is challenging, remote and on nature's terms. Maintained huts and bivvys include: Carroll Hut, Pfeifer Biv, Otehake Hut, Koropuku Hut and Townsend Hut, some of which are reached via marked routes only.

The Minga/Deception tramping track is a classic east-west traverse of the Main Divide crossing over Goat Pass.

Maintained routes within short proximity of State Highway 73 include those in the Rolleston valley and up Barrack Creek and Mt Barron. There are tramping tracks into the upper Otira Valley and to Carroll Hut, providing people with access to challenging backcountry terrain.

The Taramakau Valley Track provides access through Harper Pass to the Hurunui valley, via the historic Locke Stream Hut. It is a multi-day tramp in backcountry with many river crossings. Group sizes of concessionaire-guided parties travelling over Harper Pass into Canterbury Conservancy do not exceed 15 people (see Section 3.6.1.4).



'Classic' backcountry tramps available include the 'Three Pass' circuit, the Browning Pass *Noti Raureka*, the tramp along the Toaroha Valley across Frew Saddle and the Whitcombe valley linkage to Canterbury. Concessionaire-guided party size on the Arahura - Styx circuit do not exceed 15 people, while east of the Arahura/Styx junction party size does not exceed 8 people (see Section 3.6.1.4). Group sizes of concessionaire-guided parties travelling over the Main Divide into Canterbury Conservancy via the Three Pass trip or elsewhere further south, do not exceed 8 people (see Section 3.6.1.4).

Hokitika is a world-renowned rafting and whitewater kayaking destination. The Styx, Toaroha and Kakapotahi rivers and Totara Lagoon are maintained as key places for kayaking that are free from high numbers of other users during kayaking trips (see Section 3.6.4.10).

Aircraft landings within Arthur's Pass National Park are managed in accordance with the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan. A 500 m wide 'restricted aircraft landing' buffer zone is maintained along the ridgeline bordering Arthur's Pass National Park, for the purpose of protecting the natural quiet values of the Park. Aircraft landings for scenic flights, heli-skiing, heli-hiking or positioning recreationists should not be permitted in this buffer zone. See also Section 3.6.4.2.

Irregular or occasional aircraft landing concessions may be granted throughout the backcountry-remote zone and the remote zone (see Map 17). Concessions may be granted for regular aircraft landings within the backcountry-remote zone where adverse effects on conservation values, recreational users, remote or wilderness values can be avoided or otherwise minimised. Regular landings may occur for the purpose of positioning backcountry recreationists (including hunters, rafters and kayakers) or for scenic landings (including scenic snow landings). Regular landing concession conditions specify restrictions on landing sites and frequency of landings. (See Section 3.6.4.2).

The Hokitika Place provides opportunities for recreational sports fishing, whitebaiting, game bird, deer, tahr and goat hunting.

*See also* Chapter 3.5 Authorised Uses of Public Conservation Lands  
Chapter 3.6 People's Benefit and Enjoyment

#### **4.2.7 Desired Outcome for Te Wahi Pounamu Place**

Section 4.2.7 describes what Te Wāhi Pounamu Place will be like in 2020 if the direction of this CMS is followed.

*See also* Chapter 4.1 Desired outcome for the Conservancy

##### **4.2.7.1 Place description**

The northern boundary of Te Wāhi Pounamu Place runs west along the Smyth Range to Pukekura, then north up State Highway 6 to the Waitaha River and out to the Waitaha River mouth (Maps 18-19). The southern boundary begins at Awarua Point (at the northern end of Big Bay *Tihei Mauri Ora*), and follows the boundary inland between the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* and Southland Conservancies. Much of the eastern boundary follows the Main Divide.

Te Wāhi Pounamu Place encompasses all the land within the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy designated as the Te Wāhipounamu *South-West New Zealand* World