

APPENDIX C(1)

AREAS OF CONSERVATION MERIT

Note: The following areas have conservation merit but do not have any formal legal protection in this Plan.

Barrier & Ohau Ranges	Large tracts of high alpine herbfield and scree with a very high degree of naturalness and characteristic flora and invertebrate fauna. Extensive alpine grassland communities with mixtures of low shrubs and large herbs. Significant mountain beech forest in Maitland catchment.
Ahuriri River, Ben Avon Moraine Kettleholes and Shamrock Flats	Ahuriri River and its associated wetlands have high significance in representativeness, naturalness and diversity of native flora, fauna and landform. Ben Ohau kettleholes are the best in the Ahuriri system and is significant for its native bird species and tarn-edge flora. Presence of breeding habitat for the black stilt underlines the quality of the river system and the variety of wetland systems present.
Shelton Downs	An important and extensive montane short-tussock grassland system containing significant shrubland and kettlehole systems. Diversity of native flora, especially the short turf surrounding the kettleholes, and fauna is high with the array of insects especially significant.
Benmore Range	Important for its alpine and high-alpine landforms, fellfield vegetation and representative insect species. High degree of naturalness and representativeness.
Stony Peak	This area adjoins the Ahuriri River is an altitudinal sequence from valley floor wetlands, through shrublands, snowgrass to high-alpine herbfield and fellfield. Larger area of lateral moraine containing abundance of wetlands with a high diversity of flora and fauna. Significant area for insect species.
Wether Range	Contains significant connected areas of native grasses, shrublands on boulderfields and high-alpine fellfield communities that have high representativeness and high natural values. Relict Halls totara and celery pine areas.

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Mt St Cuthbert	Large intact alpine and high-alpine area of very high diversity, naturalness and representativeness. <u>Chionchloa macra</u> grasslands at high altitude, celery pine and snow totara communities on boulderfields and <u>Olearia odorata</u> shrublands at low altitude. Area has significant altitudinal sequence with good quality communities.
Hawkdun, Ewe and Ida Ranges	Form a large and continuous area with very high naturalness, diversity and distinctiveness in landform, flora, fauna and plant communities. Glacial cirques with tarns and extensive boulderfields, hummocky topography with extensive cushionfields, southern limit of scree and scree vegetation in the eastern South island, high-alpine cushionfields and grassland, extensive wetlands, scree skink, large-bodied insects such as two species of each of speargrass weevil and weta, and excellent populations of local endemic plants such as <u>Raoulia petriensis</u> , <u>Aciphylla dobsoni</u> and <u>A gracilis</u> . Ewe Range has an altitudinal sequence from low altitude fescue through to snowgrass and shrubland to high-alpine vegetation. Superb expanse of mixed communities on a high alpine plateau of national significance in terms of landform, intactness and biodiversity.
Otematata Saline Area	Only saline site in inland New Zealand outside Central Otago with a suite of halophytic plant species and attendant insect species. Site and saline soils are of national importance. Features nationally rare plant species including <u>Chenopodium detestans</u> , <u>Plantago sphathulata</u> and <u>Polygonum plbeium</u> .
Lower Waitaki River	Important braided river and back-water habitat for a large range of native bird species. Also contains smaller stony river terrace areas of native flora and high entomological values. River-mouth wetlands, including saltmarsh vegetation are important as feeding and breeding sites for both native fish and birds.
Kakanui Mountains	Alpine and high-alpine areas are important because they contain a range of vegetation types on both volcanic and schist substrates, large array of landforms including snowbanks, wetlands, and patterned ground. Intactness, representativeness and biodiversity values are very high with native plants and insects being particularly distinctive and diverse. Many uncommon local and rare plant and insect species present. Contains altitudinal sequences of significance for their intactness and representativeness. Many significant remnant forest patches and shrubland, copper tussock and impressive rocky areas within snowgrass found and are important for the diversity of the bird and invertebrate species present.
Herbert Forest	Large and important area of forest, forest remnants and steep rocky areas of shrubs and herbs that have an excellent diversity of native plant, bird and insect species. Some local endemic

	species of insects add to the general richness of the area.
Swampy Hill	Large expanse of upland snowgrass vegetation on peneplain landform, with shrub- or wetland-filled gullies. Highlights the high diversity of three large-bodied skink species in the genus <u>Oligosoma</u> , endangered herbs and grasses, bog pine remnants, rare moths of tors and tor-ledge herbs, good falcon population and ephemeral wetland communities. Area is of major importance for its cohesiveness, diversity, naturalness and intactness. Impressive variety of different communities.
Awahokomo Limestone	Important refugia for a suite of rare and endangered native herbs, grasses and shrubs. Several species, of which two are about to be formally described, are now completely confined to the limestone outcrops.
Twizel-Omarama Grassland	Large corridor of semi-natural short-tussock grasslands with a good degree of naturalness. Sparsely dotted with native shrubs and open low vegetation. Important area of short tussock grassland with good diversity of inter-tussock herbs. Invertebrate values are of significance. In terms of size, visibility and condition, it is of national significance.
Sailors Cutting Shrubland	Sparse dry important for its array of native brooms, both prostrate and upright species. Significant because of diversity, viability and representativeness of the flora and fauna of these very dry slopes.
Aviemore Shrublands	Patches of mainly prostrate kowhai shrubland on dry slopes, interspersed with wetlands of sedge and Olearia-dominated shrub communities. Significant on the basis of rarity, viability, diversity and naturalness. Also important for the insect assemblages present.
Kurow Hill Shrublands	Dense shrubland on steep, dry slopes that is significant in terms of the diversity of native species, its large area and for the presence of the shrub <u>Primelea aridula</u> at its type locality. The site is significant for the number of small-leaved native plant species and the suite of insects present.