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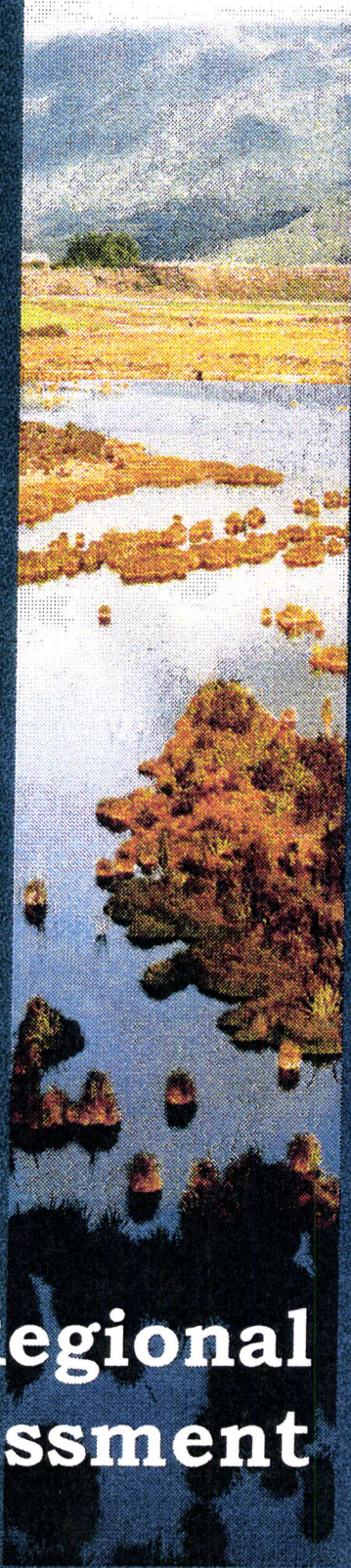


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Southland Regional Landscape Assessment

Southland
Regional Landscape Assessment
Part I

Prepared for
the Southland Regional Council

by



Boffa Miskell Limited
planning • design • ecology

August 1997

Prepared for

**SOUTHLAND
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

By



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Acknowledgments

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Introduction

Why a Landscape Assessment ?

The Southland Regional Council is required under the Resource Management Act 1991 to exercise certain functions and powers (section 30). In exercising these functions and powers the Council shall recognise and provide for "the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development" (section 6(b)).

Also, the Council shall have particular regard to a number of other matters set out in section 7, including (c), "the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values". Under section 8, the Council shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi " (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)".

The Council commissioned Boffa Miskell Limited to prepare this assessment of the region's outstanding and characteristic natural features and landscapes. Requirements of the assessment were that it should not repeat the work completed for the District Councils and that it should be highly consultative. This assessment focuses on the identification of outstanding and characteristic Southland landscapes and not on the management of the effects on the landscape. It is not an end in itself. Rather, it is a platform from which to provide guidance and further discussion on the role of the Southland Regional Council in landscape initiatives and to help achieve the purpose of the Act.

Whilst this assessment does not address protection mechanisms, it is important to recognise that these are not limited to rules. Mechanisms such as education, economic instruments (rates relief etc.), covenants, consent conditions, guidelines, and purchase may be equally effective or more appropriate.

Study Approach

The approach of the study is not the traditional one of using an expert to determine what is, or is not important. Instead, the Council has used its consultant to act as a facilitator, with the emphasis being on seeking the views of the Southland community. No site investigations have been undertaken as part of this study. This report is the result of a staged process involving workshops, public meetings, preparation of background reports, and various requests for public involvement. During this process a number of documents and analyses has been produced. Rather than confuse the main body of the report, these have been placed in appendices.

Appendix

1	The Meaning of Landscape: a paper prepared as a background to the stakeholders' workshop.
2	Regional Landscapes of Southland. An analysis of Southland landscape types based on District Council landscape investigations.
3	A list of outstanding and characteristic landscapes with descriptions prepared as a result of the stakeholders' workshop.
4	A database of Southland's natural features and landscapes, noting sources.
5	Public meeting reports: the results of the Regional Landscape Assessment sheets returned by members of the public, and article from the "Southern Lights".

Every attempt has been made to keep this report as succinct as possible. However, the wide range of views expressed in the public meetings and in the assessment sheet returns did not make this an easy task. Consequently the approach adopted in this report is to try to separate out the views expressed by the public from those interpretations provided by the Council's consultant.

This report should be seen as another stage in the process of refining the Council's involvement in the management of the Southland landscape. The further involvement of the public through written submissions will greatly assist the Region in the next stage of the process. In a sense this report provides an end point to the Council's deliberations on what is the status of Southland's landscapes, and is the starting point for considering the potential effects of activities on these landscapes.

The Council recognises the controversial nature of landscape protection as required by the Act, and as a consequence had attempted to separate out the identification of landscape characteristics and values from any discussion of their future management. Unfortunately, but perhaps understandably, some groups were reluctant to contribute to this first stage, in the fear that further constraints on their activities would be the consequence.

It should be recognised that only a small proportion of the Southland community made direct contributions to the assessment process and any representativeness of the wider community view cannot be judged. However, the Council has provided what may be a unique level of opportunity for public involvement and the amount of information contributed by members of the public that took this opportunity has been impressive.

The Meaning of Landscape

Before moving on to the findings of this assessment it is necessary to clarify what is meant by outstanding natural features and landscapes (a fuller discussion is contained in Appendix 1). Natural features and landscapes cover a wide range of natural and human-modified places and elements. Their value may result from their geological or biological significance, their heritage qualities, their spiritual significance, as well as the more familiar aesthetic values. Landscape is not restricted to scenic views. It is more fundamental. This distinction is important. If a broad definition of landscape is accepted (and in this report it is recommended that it is), then it becomes something of an 'umbrella' or 'integrator' for other issues. Statutory planning documents will need to reflect this. It may not be appropriate to treat landscape in the same way as issues such as indigenous vegetation - nor indeed is it appropriate to treat it the same way as it would be if only the visual landscape was involved. With a 'broad' interpretation landscape may be 'protected' through the protection of contributing values such as vegetation, geomorphology, heritage and so on. With a narrow 'visual landscape' definition, protection of landscapes in a wider sense, may not occur.

The results of this investigation supports a broad definition of landscape and consequently many other values are embraced apart from visual qualities. Throughout this report the term 'landscape' is used to cover both natural features and landscapes.

The Resource Management Act requires the Council to concern itself with those natural features and landscapes that are 'outstanding'. The Act provides little guidance on how the term 'outstanding' should be interpreted. A particular issue is the scale at which comparisons are

made. For example, a landscape that is considered outstanding when compared with other South Island landscapes, may be of higher quality than a landscape considered outstanding at a local level. It appears that this decision is left very much to the community to decide.



The Findings

1. Landscape Appreciation

The results of the assessment returns, and the views expressed in the public meetings and workshop clearly illustrate that the Southland landscape is much loved, and is seen by many as an essential backdrop to Southlanders' lives. There was considerable enthusiasm for identifying the whole of Southland as an outstanding landscape. Opposing views were expressed - the most extreme being that only restricted parts of Fiordland were truly outstanding. Examples of outstanding landscapes were sometimes dependant upon ephemeral events such as particular weather patterns or seasonal change. In some instances, landscape quality was expressed in terms of change - where people saw recent modifications as having significant adverse effects on their enjoyment and landscape appreciation.

Consultant's Comments

Consideration of landscape can be a highly emotive issue. Many people experience change through modifications to the landscape. Unlike the loss of a particular plant species or the pollution of groundwater, for example, change is usually highly visible. However, it is very important that the natural dynamics of the landscape are recognised when considering change. No landscape remains the same forever, whether or not it is directly changed by human endeavour. In other words the baseline against which change should be assessed is a dynamic baseline. What we see and value today is, in most instances, a product of both natural processes and a history of human management and modification.

The blanket identification of Southland as an outstanding landscape is unlikely to assist in its management. A more selective regional perspective is appropriate. Early in these investigations a distinction was made between "outstanding" and "characteristic" landscapes. Characteristic landscapes are those Southland landscapes that have been substantially modified but are recognised as making a significant contribution to the region's sense of place.

2. Landscape Awareness

A wide range of views on "what landscape is" were presented. In a number of instances considerations such as geological outcrops and other geo-preservation sites, vegetation and wildlife, heritage values, and Maori spiritual values were all included as part of landscape.

Consultant's Comments

Awareness is the first step towards sustainable landscape management. The comments from many of those involved in this process illustrate an obvious awareness and sophisticated understanding of landscape. However, there were also suggestions that landscape is no more than a scenic consideration restricted to natural areas.

3. Historical Awareness

Many attendees at the workshop and public meetings displayed a considerable awareness of the historical significance of Southland's landscapes. This embraced both an awareness of early Maori activities and a recognition that much of the Southland landscape is a working landscape. While people expressed a genuine love and appreciation of the landscape as it currently is, they recognised that this is a product of human endeavour, particularly agricultural modifications, over many decades.

Consultant's Comments

Landscape is not a superficial aesthetic. It is a product of a whole range of processes. In "wilderness" areas these are natural processes, eg erosion, plant succession, etc, while in the working landscape they are often dominated by human activities, both past and present. This is significant when considering issues of future management. There will be relatively few situations where a modified landscape could justify outright preservation. The difficulty arises where a landscape has been partially modified, but contains many natural remnants, or is still highly expressive of natural processes. In these instances, there may well be polarised views, particularly if protection of natural areas could result in significant restraints on land use activities. High Country landscapes are a classic example of this polarisation. It will be vital that all the processes underpinning the landscape's appearance are understood if satisfactory outcomes are to eventuate.

4. Further Controls

A desire to avoid any further controls on agricultural (and forestry) activities was expressed by a number of participants in the public meetings and in the questionnaire returns. There is a strong view expressed by farmers and farmers' representatives that any identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes will inevitably lead to additional controls. In a climate where agriculture is already a marginal activity in some locations, the additional costs of more onerous resource management requirements are seen as unacceptable. An alternative view was put forward - that the protection of outstanding landscapes could protect farmland (where this is part of the identified landscape) from other less appropriate activities.

Consultant's Comments

The Council in these investigations has attempted to separate the identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes from any assessment of the need for further controls. Nonetheless, the farming community's concerns are understandable and to some extent are justified. Discussions on which landscapes are outstanding have to be considered against the backdrop of the RMA which requires that all persons exercising functions and powers under it recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. Therefore if outstanding landscapes are identified, then considerations of the various protection mechanisms and decisions on what constitutes inappropriate subdivision, use and development become necessary. This could, in the extreme, lead to controls over farming activities. Having said that, a strong contrary view was

expressed that farmland should not be exempt from resource management controls, and that the community needs to protect the remaining outstanding natural features and landscapes which still characterise the rural landscape.

If the Council adopts a liberal interpretation of 'outstanding' and a broad definition of 'natural features and landscapes' then much of Southland will justifiably be placed into the category 'outstanding'. If a more demanding interpretation of 'outstanding' is adopted, then fewer areas will be identified. The ways in which landscapes are protected would have to differ. If much of Southland is seen as outstanding, then these levels of protection could be less onerous than if a few highly prized landscapes are identified. The recommendations contained in this report attempt to find a rational and acceptable path between these two extremes - recognising the quality of the Southland landscape but also accepting that it is largely a working environment where sustainable management realistically requires the support of the wider rural community.

5. Existing Protection

A number of strongly held views were put forward that the important natural features and landscapes in Southland are already adequately protected, particularly through National Park and Reserve status. An alternative view that these protected areas are patently inadequate was also expressed.

Consultant's Comments

Historically, many decisions to purchase land for conservation have been somewhat ad hoc. At the time of reservation there was no strategy for representative protection, either at a national or local level. Consequently, to suggest that all suitable land must already be appropriately protected is incorrect. Having said that, it is also clear that large areas of Southland have received protection in one way or another. Reservation of all areas that may be considered outstanding is not realistic given the lack of resources. Therefore, it is important to adopt a strategy whereby key locations are identified, given an adequate level of protection and managed by the Crown or other appropriate body, and additional areas of more restricted or lesser significance are protected by other land managers, particularly farmers. To successfully achieve this it will require approaches other than compulsion to encourage protection of some areas.

Unlike the biological sensitivity of a natural area, which may require substantial restrictions on farming practices, many landscapes have the ability to absorb some modifications without compromising their values. Consequently there may be considerable opportunities for outcomes that benefit both the landscape and farming activities. It is important that a climate of mutual understanding and confidence is created so that these opportunities are maximised. Overseas and New Zealand experience suggests that the agricultural industry is broadening its objectives to embrace tourism, recreation and other non-traditional activities. As this diversification occurs, the benefits of attractive and memorable environments become increasingly apparent. Voluntary protection and appropriate management is the ideal situation for many landscapes.

6. Landscape Sequences

Many participants in the public meetings expressed a view that it was not easy to focus on regional places in the landscape. Their experience of Southland was often from the road when travelling considerable distances. Their "mental maps" consisted of a detailed knowledge of a relatively restricted "home" area and an extensive, more superficial, recognition of landscape sequences between their home base and other distant centres. They considered that this reflected the reality of Southlanders travelling long distances coupled with the environmental gradients (climatic and altitudinal) across the region. To identify specific natural features and landscapes, and to determine their outstanding values was exceptionally difficult as it did not take account of the importance of the sequences and diversity of landscapes.

Consultant's Comments

This was an interesting observation which has some close parallels to takata whenua views of landscape. It is the connections between places that are of as much significance as the places themselves. Inevitably, such a view makes the identification (and protection) of natural features and landscapes extremely difficult. The retention of a particular site or feature may not succeed in protecting its outstanding qualities if these are part of a sequence with a far broader geographical base. If there is an outstanding sequence of landscapes, does this suggest the protection of all landscapes within the sequence? If such an approach was accepted then most, if not all, of Southland would be identified as outstanding and require protection.

The view from the road is highly significant. For many people - residents and visitors - this is the basis of their experience of the wider Southland landscape.

7. The Natural Landscape

Many people focused on the natural landscape as being the outstanding aspect of Southland. The obvious absence of human dominance and the presence of natural processes, patterns, and elements, were seen as the key ingredients of landscape quality. Based on these observations it was the "fringe" or transitional landscapes that were perceived as being most at risk. The coast, hill country and montaine valleys were of particular importance. In these instances it was difficult to unravel the specific features that give these areas their special values, from those contextual aspects that are not fundamental to their landscape quality. For example, in the montaine valleys various views were put forward as to the essential ingredients that result in quality. There was general agreement that tussock grasslands are an important element, but water bodies, vegetation sequences, and so on were also mentioned by some people. An alternative view was put forward that these features are a consequence of past farming management and that to perceive them as natural is incorrect. Without management, the landscape would change and its values would be eroded.

Consultant's Comments

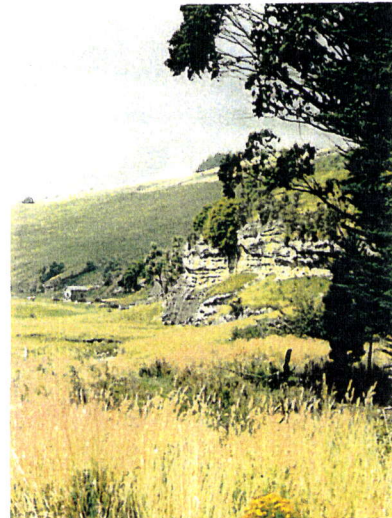
These transitional landscapes provide the most perplexing situation for landscape management. Clearly there is considerable truth in the view that these are managed landscapes and the product of human endeavour, at least in part. Nonetheless, natural processes and patterns often still dominate. In a number of instances they are vulnerable to change due to their prominence and visual simplicity. Many Southlanders

see these areas as their playground while for others they are their source of income. Views expressed on the appropriate management of these landscapes were highly variable. This study cannot hope to find a solution. However any ongoing debate should recognise that :

- Many of the natural processes underpinning these landscapes are robust and highly dynamic and will continue regardless of the "superficial" activities on the land.
- Many of the natural vegetation remnants seen by some as the essential ingredient of the landscape, are of biological or historical significance also.
- The coast and high country are etched deep in the psyche of many New Zealanders - not just those currently farming the land.
- The coast, rivers and many upland areas are highly significant to the takata whenua.

Some balance must be found, whereby the most valued natural characteristics of these broad landscapes are protected whilst the viability of the farming and other enterprises that underpin many of the characteristics of the land cover is maintained. For example, unreasonable constraints on agricultural activities in the high country may prove to be highly counterproductive for landscape protection if all landowner support is lost.

These findings lead to a number of general and specific recommendations.



Recommendations

General Recommendations

It is recommended that :

1. This report is sent to all people who have requested further involvement in these investigations, plus a wider public distribution and advice on its availability. A date for public submissions should be included with a commitment to further consultation if necessary once the submissions have been analysed.
2. Public involvement in the submission process is encouraged. Although some members of the public questioned the value of this study, there has been a considerable benefit to the Council in hearing the differing views, many strongly held. The discussions have resulted in an increased awareness of the Council's responsibilities under the Resource Management Act.
3. The Council persevere with its consultative approach to this issue while recognising the differing views on landscape quality, on suitable control and management, as well as on the role that the Council should adopt.
4. The Council liaise closely with the District Councils to ensure that a consistent approach to landscape protection is adopted.
5. The Council continues to liaise closely with relevant agencies and organisations with the objective of developing a coherent and long term strategy for Southland's landscapes based on the development of awareness, understanding, pride and stewardship.
6. The Council considers :
 - a) that the bulk of Fiordland and Stewart Island, and parts of the Inland Mountains and the Coast are outstanding natural features and landscapes requiring protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
 - b) that the many valued natural features and landscapes of Southland's hills and lowlands are "characteristic landscapes". These are more "robust" landscapes capable of absorbing substantial change. However, they contribute significantly to the Southland experience and as such, a range of imaginative mechanisms to encourage their maintenance and enhancement will be necessary.

Specific Recommendations

Outstanding Landscapes

The following two extensive landscapes are considered to be outstanding. Within them are numerous natural features that are themselves outstanding in different ways, but it is the quality of the total area that is exceptional.

Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area - Fiordland

Fiordland National Park is a World Heritage Site of international significance and outstanding natural beauty. It is a wild, untamed, rugged, and largely pristine landscape. The entire area is outstanding for the drama of its landforms, the quality and abundance of water in its various forms, the richness and diversity of its vegetation and the almost complete absence of buildings and structures. Mitre Peak is an icon that typifies the majestic, unpolluted landscape on which New Zealand is marketed internationally. There are rare exceptions to this unmodified wilderness eg Milford and Doubtful Sounds, however these are relatively restricted "nodes" of development that do not detract from the broader values.

Boundary The National Park, extending north to Awarua Point and to include the forests of Waitutu in the south. This includes some freehold land.

Possible Mechanisms The Southland Regional Council, through its policies and plans, can support and reinforce the existing protection provided by Crown ownership and Department of Conservation management. The Southland Regional Council through its policies and plans, in association with the District Council, can ensure that modifications within this landscape, or immediately adjacent to it, recognise the importance of this landscape in their siting, layout and design.

Rakiura (Stewart Island)

Stewart Island is a largely natural landscape with extraordinary landform and coastal diversity. The land/water interface is of particular importance due to the indented coastline and numerous islands, islets and rock stacks. The beauty of the bush/water connection, the clarity of the water, the abundance of wildlife, and the rich history of human endeavour all give Rakiura an exceptionally strong sense of place.

The island is a dominant focal point when viewed from many parts of southern Southland and Foveaux Strait.

Halfmoon Bay and Oban township are the only development nodes of any size. They have their own distinctive character and quality reflecting a relaxed lifestyle and close links with surrounding natural features. While it would not be appropriate to include these areas in an outstanding natural landscape, their exceptional characteristics and qualities and their relationship to the surrounding island are such that special attention should be given to their future development.

Boundary The entire island and its surrounding islets with the exception of the modified area of Oban and Halfmoon Bay.

Possible Mechanisms The Southland Regional Council, through its policies and plans, can support and reinforce the existing protection provided by Crown ownership and Department of Conservation management. The Southland Regional Council through its policies and plans, in association with the District Council, can ensure that modifications within this landscape, or immediately adjacent to it, recognise the importance of this landscape in their siting, layout and design.

Additional Outstanding Landscapes

Other special areas with characteristics that may be considered outstanding include : the Inland Mountains of the Takitimu, Livingstone, Eyre, Garvie and Umbrella Ranges and the entire Southland Coast. Within these broad areas many natural features and landscapes have outstanding characteristics but without the same uniform quality as Fiordland and Stewart Island. It is apparent that there is currently insufficient information to determine the extent of outstanding natural features and landscapes within them. While some argue that they are outstanding in their entirety, others have suggested that they are not unlike many other South Island mountain and coastal landscapes.

The Inland Mountains

These mountains stretch along the border between Otago and Southland. The mountains reflect a precipitation gradient from the Livingstone Range which borders Fiordland, east to the drier Umbrella Mountains. Areas in the west are generally less modified with more extensive native vegetation. Despite these differences the ranges have a number of similar qualities. They provide a very strong contrast with the nearby farmed plains. They provide an impressive backdrop and their varied skyline is a signature that orientates the viewer. They are a transition - a gateway to the Otago landscape beyond. Each range retains its own distinctive patterns of landcover.

The major Southland rivers rise in these mountains and their upper reaches meander through the valley flats with areas of extensive river terraces and steep mountain slopes. The natural character of these valleys with the rivers as a central focal point provides a vivid and coherent image, and is an essential aspect of the Southland landscape experience. The rivers provide a focus for angling and other recreational experience, and make a significant contribution to the Southland lifestyle.

Boundary These areas are mosaics of natural and modified landscapes. The identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes is fraught with difficulty and hence boundary definition is problematic. It does appear inappropriate to include or exclude the entire area as an outstanding landscape. Consequently it is necessary to differentiate particular localities or features which have the necessary qualities to rank as outstanding. A wide range of places were mentioned in public meetings and assessment form returns. The locations most frequently mentioned in this context were : the upper Mararoa; Upukeroa and Oreti valleys; the Mavora Lakes; the red tussock reserve at Mossburn; West Dome and all land above 1200 metres. However, there was a wide range of views as to the appropriateness of these being ranked as outstanding.

Possible Mechanisms Until outstanding natural features and landscapes are confirmed, the appropriate mechanisms for their protection or sustainable management cannot be determined. However, there does seem to be some logic in limiting any restrictive rules to the few most highly valued locations rather than attempting to restrict change in landscapes that are largely the result of past agricultural activities. In the broader landscapes the Southland Regional Council, in association with the District Council and other agencies, could assist in providing information and education about these landscapes with the objective of raising their profile, explaining the importance of on-going land use management and exploring the potential for integrated conservation and

agricultural initiatives. The Southland Regional Council may wish to explore opportunities for voluntary partnerships and agreement, support for landcare initiatives and land purchase, or compensation where recognised values come under pressure.

The Coast

The Southland Coast is relatively unmodified and for much of its length retains its natural character. It is a diverse landscape, with bays, estuaries, headlands, beaches, etc reflecting the underlying geology and its exposure to coastal processes. This variety gives the individual areas a specific sense of place and also aids orientation from the land and sea. High ground acts as a beacon, and the vistas from these are particularly expansive. The quality of the light adds to the beauty of this coastal landscape. Many areas of the coast, and particularly the wetlands, are of exceptional scientific and ecological importance. Connections between the natural character of coast and hinterland are significant for both aesthetic and ecological reasons.

Parts of the coast are outstanding for their natural character, and wild and rugged qualities. The entire coast is of ecological value, and of historic and contemporary significance to the takata whenua. The river mouths in particular are of social and cultural significance with their crib communities and unique social and aesthetic styles.

Within the coast there are a number of extensive areas of urban industrial development as well as holiday and fishing settlements.

Boundary Much of the length of coast is still dominated by its natural qualities. Clearly the highly modified urban and industrial locations would be excluded from any outstanding landscape. It is difficult to determine whether all or parts of the remainder meet the criteria of "outstanding". A number of locations were specifically mentioned at public meetings and in assessment sheet returns eg the Catlins Coast, Toetoes Bay, Awarua Bay, Bluff-Omaui, Riverton, Colac Bay, Te Waewae Bay and the Fiordland Coast. These cover the majority of the coast and it is recommended that, with the exception of the coastal settlements, the entire coast is recognised as being outstanding. The distance inland that is included within these outstanding coastal landscapes requires detailed investigation.

Possible Mechanisms Since the majority of the coast is included as outstanding the Southland Regional Council should explore mechanisms that avoid unnecessary compulsion. Awareness and education initiatives, voluntary agreements and, where necessary, compensation arrangements should be explored. These initiatives coupled with existing protection should ensure that landscape values are retained.

Characteristic Landscapes

The plains, valleys, basins and rolling hills of central and eastern Southland are the working landscapes familiar to all who live in or visit the region. Although these lowland and hill landscapes generally lack the qualities of the outstanding landscapes described earlier, they contain many highly prized landmarks, special features, views, and remnant natural areas of importance.

There was some consistency in the features and areas identified as being particularly valued. At both public meetings and in assessment sheet returns, the same locations recurred.

The Southland Hills

Longwoods

The Longwood Range was seen as important for a variety of reasons. These included its wooded skyline and extensive forest cover, its Chinese gold mining past, and its barrier effect which has isolated Tuatapere and the Waiau Valley from the rest of Southland encouraging a distinctive sense of community.

Taringaturas

The Taringaturas appear to be less well known than the Longwoods or Hokonuis. However their limestone outcrops, the topography of the ridges and valleys of North Range, and the extensive areas of red tussock were all identified as highly significant.

Hokonuis

The Hokonui Hills enjoy a high profile, probably resulting from the visibility from main highways in the region. Of particular importance was the landforms of the Waterfall Range which many recognised as being particularly expressive of Southland's syncline. In addition to its topography, many of the remaining natural vegetation areas eg Croyden Bush, are also seen as being of particular importance.

Inland Catlins

The Catlins appear to be thought of as occurring largely in Otago. They were not referred to frequently in public meetings or indeed in assessment sheet returns. Nonetheless their unique combination of vegetation, landform and sweeping pasture was recognised as highly characteristic by some. Their skyline features viewed from the Southland Plains were also highly valued.

In the case of these four landscapes it would appear to be appropriate for the Southland Regional Council to rely on the protection of significant vegetation areas provided by existing reserve status, conservation covenants, and District Plan provisions. The Southland Regional Council should draw the District Council's attention to the list of valued landscapes and, in association with the District Councils and other appropriate bodies, explore the opportunities for increasing awareness, understanding and pride in these characteristic landscapes.

The Southland Valleys and Plains

The valleys and plains of Southland are seen as highly characteristic Southland landscapes. They are recognised as being working landscapes and any restrictions on land use activities are considered to be inappropriate unless specific features would be adversely affected. These features are mostly remnant vegetation areas, landforms or heritage sites. In each case their protection is better addressed through biological conservation, geo-preservation or heritage provisions in the District Plans. The Southland Regional Council's role in relation to these natural features and landscapes should be restricted to education and advocacy.

Final Comments

The recommendations contained in this report attempt to make sense of the highly diverse opinions expressed during public consultation. The choice of outstanding landscapes will only have real meaning once the appropriate mechanisms to achieve their protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development have been determined. Similarly, the mechanisms chosen to maintain and enhance landscape amenity in the characteristic landscapes will determine the level of community support for their choice and boundary definition.

The long term goal of the agencies, bodies and individuals committed to landscape conservation will be the sustainable management of a diverse and memorable landscape; one that will continue to provide a working environment for many, a sense of place that is distinctively Southland, and a joy and inspiration for all those that visit.



Appendix 1

Prepared as background to the stakeholders workshop. This paper describes the complex issues surrounding perception of landscape, and offers a vocabulary of landscape related ideas for use in subsequent studies.

The Meaning of Landscape

Why a Landscape Study ?

The Southland Regional Council is required under the Resource Management Act 1991 to exercise certain functions and powers (section 20). In exercising these functions and powers the Council shall recognise and provide for "the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development (section 6).

Also, the Council shall have particular regard to a number of other matters set out in section 7, including (c), the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values. Under section 8 the Council shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Council has commissioned Boffa Miskell Limited to prepare an assessment of the region's outstanding and characteristic natural features and landscapes.

Study Approach

The approach proposed by the consultants is :

1. To prepare this background paper which discusses 'landscape' and its meaning under the Act, describes the regional landscape context and lists natural features and landscapes that may be considered outstanding or special. Where possible the characteristics, qualities and extent of these natural features are noted.
2. To run a stakeholder's workshop at which the study approach will be discussed and the schedule of natural features and landscapes amended and refined.
3. Based on 1 and 2 to prepare a more detailed schedule which will provide the basis for a number of local meetings to confirm, delete or add to the list as appropriate.
4. To prepare a report on the above.

A later study will identify the 'effects' that would unacceptably compromise the valued characteristics and qualities of these natural features and landscapes, and provide guidance on how the Council should manage and monitor landscape change within these areas.

The Southland Landscape

The Southland landscape has been described in a number of documents including the draft Regional Policy Statement, DOC's Conservation Management Strategy and landscape assessments prepared by Gore, Southland and Invercargill District Councils. The findings from these documents provide an invaluable source of material and the basis for these investigations. The relationships between the current investigations and these studies may be a subject for workshop discussion.

Since 1991 there has been considerable debate on how landscape should be interpreted under the Resource Management Act. This debate continues today. Agreement on 'what landscape is', is clearly essential if this study is to have an appropriate focus. It is important that it does not unnecessarily overlap with other regional investigations or with district council responsibilities. It is also important that it does not leave gaps. The following notes set out the consultants' understanding of landscape under the Resource Management Act. These views result from landscape assessments prepared by Boffa Miskell and others, case law and observations on professional trends both here and overseas.

The Meaning of Landscape

Under Section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act

"all persons exercising functions and powers"

under the Act are required to :

"recognise and provide for ... the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development".

Landscape is not defined in the Resource Management Act. In a recent paper to the World Planning Congress in Auckland, the Hon. Simon Upton, Minister for the Environment, suggested that :

"landscape is simply a collection of natural and physical resources viewed according to a particular personal and cultural value set. Its make-up is determined by history, by the legal and institutional arrangements that govern land ownership, and importantly, by the ethic landowners bring to land stewardship. As with amenity in an urban context, perceptions of landscape quality vary across time, across cultures and amongst various sectors of society"

In this view, landscape has both a physical and a perceptual side. It reflects an evolution in our understanding of landscape - from a narrow and simplistic view of landscape as scenery to an in-depth appreciation of landscape as a complex physical and perceptual entity of fundamental importance to society. The emphasis has moved from the visual, through the aesthetic, to the experiential.

The following notes explore some of the significant issues that relate to the physical landscape character and quality and to the perceptual landscape (values).

The Physical Landscape

The physical landscape is the expression of a complex interplay between physical, biological and cultural processes. Each area has its own unique character and identity which reflects the particular mix and emphasis of the processes that formed it. It has its own unique combination of climate, rocks, soil, water, vegetation, fauna and human artefact. Landscape character is a quality of all landscapes - urban, rural and wilderness. Thus we can clearly differentiate between 'the Fiordland landscape' and 'the Southland Plains' character and these differences can be explained in terms of their physical and natural characteristics. The Act does not directly address landscape character however 'natural character', the 'intrinsic values of eco-systems' and 'natural features' all receive specific mention.

Natural Character (RMA S6(a))

Natural character will be a significant quality of the physical landscape in unmodified areas. Natural character is not defined in the Resource Management Act, however there has been substantial research in this area¹. A landscape with natural character is not necessarily a pristine, unmodified environment but rather a place or feature where the influence of nature substantially dominates the influence of humans. This equates to a non-specialist's understanding of natural character. The RMA S6(a) refers specifically to the coastal environment wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins. For example, a river's natural character will be dependent upon the presence of rock outcrops, water, vegetation, fish and so on, and an absence of artificial structures and artefacts. The natural elements should occur in natural patterns. For example, river meanders, braids, riffles and pools, falls and gorges, varied bank profiles and riparian vegetation all occurring with a distinctive natural aspect. The presence of natural elements occurring in unnatural patterns eg as a result of canalisation, will reduce or remove natural character.

To be sustainable, the natural elements and patterns must be underpinned by natural processes.

Landscape and the Intrinsic Value of Eco-systems (RMA S7(d))

There is clearly an extensive overlap between natural character and the intrinsic values of eco-systems. Processes are fundamental to eco-system values. Landscape can be seen as the expression of the underlying ecology. The ecological interconnections between rivers and their catchments and the consequences on their flow dynamics are issues of significance. For example, regular flood flows may have the benefit of removing vegetation from in-stream gravel banks, particularly in braided rivers. They may also cause bank erosion ultimately leading to cut-off meanders which themselves develop into valuable - if ephemeral - wetland adjuncts to the river ecosystem. Adequate and timely low-flows may be essential to migrating fish and so on.

Natural features (RMA S 6(b))

Natural features can be taken to mean 'distinct and spatially restricted parts of the landscape such as rock outcrops, bush remnants, lakes and rivers, or components of the landscape such

¹ R Maplesden, 1995, Preserving the Natural Character of New Zealand's Coastline
SC Ulrich and VC Ward, 1996, Indicators of Natural Character of Freshwater - Generic Approaches to Management

as a geomorphological feature'. Natural features are often experienced from beyond their boundaries eg a river viewed from its banks or surrounding valley contrasting with landscapes which are spatially extensive places that are usually experienced from within.

The Perceptual Landscape

The perceptual resource is a more elusive concept. Each landscape or natural feature takes on values when it is perceived or experienced. These values are subjective. Individuals, the community, or society may place particular values on a landscape. Inevitably, most landscapes have a range of 'landscape' values ascribed to them. How each individual experiences a particular landscape - whether they make some specific use of it, and whether they enjoy their experience - will reflect their expectations, aspirations and prior experience. It may evoke pleasure and invitation; belonging or alienation; hopes or fears. Variables such as weather, knowledge, familiarity and the disposition of the viewer will all play their part in how people respond. Nonetheless, having made the point that each individual's response will be unique and may vary over time, it is also true that many people share broadly similar responses.

It is necessary to consider this complex and interconnected set of values when assessing landscape. To assist in unravelling the value that we place on landscape recent research has drawn attention to difficult 'focuses' (sub-sets of landscape value) within landscape value. These can be grouped under the convenient titles² of Natural Values, Legibility, Ephemeral and Aesthetic values. Additional to these are the values, frequently referred to as 'spiritual', that are peculiar to the Tangata whenua, and the wider shared values reflected through art, literature and popular culture.

Natural Values in Landscape

The ecology of an area is generally expressed in the landscape. Consequently the health and ecological sustainability of an area will have an effect on our perception and experience, for example, the difference between a crystal clear brook and a turbid, scummy stream. All natural values influence the perception and experience of landscape. They add depth and meaning. While this is derived from the physical entity of land, water and air, it is in some meaningful sense separate.

This value is strongly interwoven with natural character and with intrinsic values of ecosystems.

Legibility Values in Landscape

An extension of natural values embedded in landscape is the concept of legibility. Legibility is the ability of a landscape or natural feature to convey information and meaning. This may be information that sheds light on past natural processes, such as glaciation or erosion or it may give meaning to historical events and activities which in some instances help define society in time and place. 'Cultural history' may be expressed in extant physical features.

² These values were identified in the Canterbury Regional Council Landscape Assessment, 1993, prepared by Boffa Miskell Limited and Lucas Associates

An understanding and appreciation of legibility values will influence many people's appreciation of pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes and therefore is linked to amenity values. There may also be a strong linkage to heritage values (Section 7(e) of the Resource Management Act).

Aesthetic Values in Landscape

The Resource Management Act makes reference to aesthetic coherence and aesthetic values but does not define the terms³. A useful working definition of aesthetics is :

"pertaining to the quality of human perceptual experience (including sight, sound, smell, touch, taste and movement) evoked by phenomena or elements or configurations of elements in the environment".

In other words, aesthetic values are determined by the landscape's physical and natural properties coupled with the cultural values of the person experiencing the landscape.

Although each individual will have different perceptions of landscapes there are also many similarities within pakeha appreciation of beauty and meaning.

Terms used to explain the aesthetic qualities of landscape include vividness and coherence. A vivid landscape is a striking landscape that remains long in the memory. A coherent landscape is one that visually 'hangs together'. Unity and harmony convey similar meanings. There is likely to be considerable agreement that Lake Manapouri is beautiful the forest and gorge parts of the Motu River are beautiful. Words like 'breathtaking' and 'spectacular' might be applied to some of the fiords. Some of the high country in the north of the region or on the south coast may be described as bleak, stark, wild and barren. We would probably find many similarities in our views on which landscapes are picturesque, serene, wild, scenic and so on. This suggests that it is feasible to obtain some measure of agreement on what is aesthetically special and why.

Ephemeral Values in Landscape

Ephemeral values can make a significant contribution to the values attached to a river at a particular time. Some events such as reflections of rainbows or exceptional sunsets may occur randomly and rarely. Other ephemeral events, such as the presence of a concentration of wildlife, flood flows, or the icing over of a water body may be regular and characteristic events. Where these occur they may add to the value of a place.

Maori Values in Landscape

Maori perspectives on land and water are distinct from those of the pakeha. They are of increasing influence on the way all New Zealanders view their environment. The spiritual significance of place and the interconnectedness of people and land are increasingly strong influences on our perception of place.

³ The term aesthetic coherence is used in the definition of 'Amenity Values'; Section 2, RMA
The term aesthetic values occurs in the Fourth Schedule S2(d) of the RMA

Popular Shared Landscape Values

Some landscapes and natural features take on added value because of their popularity and importance to the general public. This may be reflected through writing or painting, or through tourism and recreation interests for example. These values are likely to incorporate several of the values described above. If large numbers of people have access to a site then arguably it may be of greater value. The contrary argument is that the absence of people increases the worth of a place, for example for its sense of peace and solitude.

There is a strong overlap between these popular values and what the Resource Management Act includes within Amenity Values in Section 7(c).

Summary of Landscape Values

Based on this discussion it is clear that a range of values apply to landscape.

Although these values overlap and are inextricably interwoven, they provide a checklist when preparing a landscape assessment. They provide a more targeted basis for assessing qualities and values. They also assist in identifying overlaps with biological, recreation, Maori and other values.

One of the main objectives of the stakeholders' workshop is to seek a measure of consensus on how widely the definition of landscape should be drawn for these investigations. Should the Region focus on Aesthetic Values? Should it attempt to cover all physical and perceptual aspects of landscape?

A further consideration is the depth to which the study should go. This will be an issue of particular interest to the districts.

How should the regional and district studies relate?

The consultants have prepared a preliminary schedule of landscapes and natural features which may be regionally outstanding or characteristic. The list is a long one. It is anticipated that some of these places and features may be more appropriately addressed at the district level. The workshop will be an opportunity to discuss this.

Appendix 2

Prior to the series of stakeholder workshops, a preliminary report surveying Southland landscape types was produced by the Southland District Council. The following notes were provided to participants as background information for the workshops.

Regional Landscapes of Southland

Introduction

During summer 1992-93 Southland District Council and Invercargill City Council jointly commissioned studies of the landscape and ecology of their respective areas. Together, these two studies covered almost all of Southland Region. The descriptions and evaluations in the reports of these studies are based on large "Landscape Types" and smaller "Landscape Units".

At the same time, the Department of Conservation was developing the Conservation Management Strategy for the mainland part of the Southland Conservancy (which comprises Southland and West Otago). The CMS is also based on landscape units, the boundaries of which have many similarities with those described for the local authorities.

Landscape and ecology studies have been separately carried out for Gore District (targeted at a District planning scale); however, it appears from the other works, that the landscape of Gore District falls into the "Plains" and "Hills" units described for Southland District.

Below are brief descriptions of the Landscape Units described for Southland District and Invercargill City. Their relationship with the CMS Units is also noted.

Fiordland Type

- 1 **Inland Fiordland Unit (part of CMS Fiordland)**
This massive unit encompasses some of the most dramatic landscapes in New Zealand, with a unique combination of rock types, landforms, and unmodified vegetation. The international recognition given to the area reflects the high quality and sensitivity of features there.
- 2 **Pyke Unit (part of CMS Big Bay)**
A small unit at the north-west extremity of the Region, this area has some affinities with the remote forested landscapes of South Westland. It remains a predominantly natural area with the impact of people seen in only small and localised mining and fishing activities.

Stewart Island Type

- 3 **Stewart Island Unit (separate CMS here)**
The island landscape is dominated by the sea and inland mountains, with native vegetation cover forming a continuous link between ridges and the water's edge. In

Oban much of the “urban development” reflects the environment, remaining low-key and small scale in nature, maintaining the visual quality which attracts so many tourists to the island.

Coast Type

NB: the Local Authority studies separate out coastal units, but the CMS incorporates these in the adjacent land units.

- 4 **Catlins Coast (part CMS SW Catlins)**
This area is characterised by diversity, including high cliffs, rocky shores, estuaries, dunes and coastal lagoons as well as small settlements. The windswept coast remains largely unspoilt, partly through its inaccessibility, but the impact of farm developments down to the shore has left only remnants of native forest and shrub cover.
- 5 **Estuaries Unit (part CMS Waituna)**
The stretch of coast between Fortrose and Invercargill is characterised by large estuaries and lagoons, sand spits and bars, and low coastal vegetation. There are few settlements although farmed land extends to the sea in places. The area is generally wind-swept and wild, having a sense of remoteness. The smelter complex at Tiwai is in this unit, although its scale is dwarfed by the expanse of the Awarua wetlands and Waituna lagoon.
- 6 **Bluff-Omaui Coast Unit (part CMS Southland Plains)**
This unit is dominated by the influence of the sea and the coastal climate. The unusual volcanic landforms, forming the prominent hills, and the windblown sands and dunes are covered by remnants of native forest and shrublands. Except around Omaui and Bluff, houses and farm buildings are also spread across the landscape.
- 7 **Sandy Point - Riverton Coast Unit (part CMS Southland Plains)**
For much of its length the long stretch of sandy beach from Riverton to near Invercargill is backed by low farmed land, giving the unit a remote character. There are few access points, but for those people using the beach there are long views to the hills and islands to the south.
- 8 **Riverton - Orepuki Coast Unit (part CMS Longwood)**
This unit has diverse landforms with small inlets, rocky shores and sweeping bays. It has a long history of human occupation, reflected in the character of the farming, fishing and mining settlements. It is a popular area for local and national recreation and tourism use, with visitors attracted by the landscape quality and variety.
- 9 **Te Wae Wae Coast Unit (part CMS Longwood, part Lower Waiau, part Waitutu)**
The long sweeping and open vista of the bay and the dynamic nature of the coastline characterise this unit. Close contact with the coastal vegetation, the absence of settlements, and dramatic views to Fiordland from the cliff tops, provide a strong experience of the coastal environment.
- 10 **Fiordland Coast Unit (part CMS Waitutu)**
The Fiordland coast is long and diverse and has many unique, unusual and outstanding natural features and processes. Its many bays and long inlets are rarely visited and provide some of the most remote and unmodified stretches of coast in the country.

- 11 **Big Bay Coast Unit (part CMS Big Bay)**
This is a small stretch of remote coast at the north-west of the Region comprising rocky reefs and a large sand and gravel beach. It is characterised by unmodified and intact dunes and lagoons, backed by natural forested habitats.

Mountains Landscape Type

- 12 **Umbrella-Garvie Unit (similar to CMS Umbrella + Garvie)**
These, more easterly, mountain ranges are covered by large areas of intact tussock grasslands at higher altitudes, with beech forests lower down. Farming has influenced the landscape through clearance of some valleys for grazing creating attractive recreation areas, and oversowing and development of tracks in tussocklands.
- 13 **Livingstone-Eyre Unit (CMS Eyre + Mavora + part Te Anau Basin)**
These wetter, more westerly mountains are characterised by extensive tracts of native vegetation, including tussock grasslands and large areas of beech forest, and the presence of large lakes in the headwaters of many of the Region's significant rivers. Much of the land in the unit is in the Conservation Estate, particularly reflecting the lack of modification there.
- 14 **Western Takitimu Mountain Unit (similar to CMS Takitimu)**
The dominant and highly visible scree features of these steep and rugged volcanic mountains make the a landmark in northern Southland, particularly since they lie relatively close to the main western highway into the Te Anau basin. At lower altitudes the land is covered by forests and shrublands, while human influences are seen in farming and forestry developments.

Hills Character Type

- 15 **Hokonuis Unit (CMS Hokonui extending to Gore)**
The Hokonui Hills are a striking feature in the Southland landscape, being highly visible from State Highways and forming a north-eastern boundary to the Plains. The hills have a long history of use and change, pre-human forest cover having been removed by natural and deliberate burning. The present day landscape reflects a variety of land-uses including forestry, farming, mining, and soil and water conservation. The landforms vary from strongly ridged to softly rolling, reflecting variety in underlying rock-types.
- 16 **Taringaturas Unit (similar to CMS Taringatura)**
The unit is characterised by low, rolling hills which support a mixture of land uses. Extensive sheep grazing and pine plantations predominate on the higher land, while more intensive farming development is reflected in the paddock patterns in the valleys. Although the old mining townships include some run-down buildings, they are important historical areas. Adding to the landscape diversity in the unit are the geological features associated with the Southland Syncline and limestone outcrops.
- 17 **Longwoods Unit (similar to CMS Longwood)**
The long, hump shaped ridge of the Longwoods dominates the skyline of this unit, visible from as far away as Invercargill. At closer quarters the patterns of native vegetation, land clearance and pine plantation can be picked out, with scattered buildings and small settlements on the lower, undulating slopes. This is an area of attractive "little landscapes" around rivers and streams.

- 18 **Waitutu Unit (slightly smaller than CMS Waitutu)**
The extensive and intact native forest cover and the sequences of unmodified vegetation from the coast to mountain tops make this one of the most important landscapes in the Region. The landforms comprise rounded hills and wide valleys, through which meandering and often large rivers flow. Access is generally confined to the eastern fringes of the area where farm and forestry developments occur in the lower country.

Catlins Character Type

- 19 **Inland Catlins Unit (similar to CMS NW Catlins + SW Catlins which extend into Otago too)**
This is an attractive agricultural landscape made up of a mosaic of farm paddocks, forest and shrubland remnants, larger areas of native forest and small scale forestry plantings. Running through these are incised streams, often appearing only as threads of flax and native shrubs. Because of the scatter nature of small settlements and houses in this gently rolling landform, there is often a sense of isolation. This landscape type extends into Otago.

Plains Character Type

- 20 **Southland Plains Unit (similar to CMS Southland Plains, which has less in Waituna area, but extends to Gore)**
The unit's strongest characteristic is that of scattered settlements and natural features in gently rolling pastoral land. The plains originated from ancient river gravels carried down from the north, and rivers remain important features. Variety from east to west is reflected in changes in the soil cover and climate, and the resultant diversity in land developments.
- 21 **Waimea Plains Unit (similar to CMS Northern Plains unit)**
In this higher altitudinal section of plains' landscape, there is a strong contrast between the developed river valleys and terraces, with their enclosed paddocks, and the spaciousness of the surrounding mountains and hills. The area is highly modified, so that little native vegetation remains, while there are small settlements, particularly along the State Highway.
- 22 **Te Anau Basin Unit (CMS Te Anau Basin, but excludes a Mid Waiau Unit and some of local authorities' Livingstone-Eyre)**
This unit is strongly influenced by the mountains of Fiordland. The underlying geology is complex, forming a variety of landforms; the climate is montane, so that land development patterns are less intensive; and remnants of native wetland and montane vegetation fringe the core areas of the National Park. Altogether, this is a unit in which landform, land cover and land use are diverse.
- 23 **Lower Waiau Unit (similar to CMS Lower Waiau)**
Although often only visible as a line of willows, the Waiau River dominates this unit. The valley has long been a corridor for people and water movement, and its history is reflected in land clearance and development patterns, settlements and their architecture, and current increase in tourism traffic. Features such as the limestone outcrops add diversity to the patterns of river terraces, scarps amid braided shingle channels.

Important and Characteristic Landscapes

The following list (Table 1) is drawn from the local authority reports, the CMS, and other publications about the Region's landscapes. It comprises some of the most frequently mentioned areas of value, and provides a starting point for drawing up a schedule of outstanding or significant places in the Region. No firm boundaries have been suggested at this stage, but will be discussed in the workshop.

	Landscape Unit	Comments	Criteria					Significance
			Physical values	Aesthetic values	Popular values	Heritage/historic values	Tangata whenua values	
Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area	1,2,10,11,18	includes Fiordland NP, Waitutu Forest, Big Bay, and parts of the Te Anau basin area	*	*	*	*	*	
Waiau River	9,22,23	the main river corridor from headwaters to the sea	*	*	*	*	*	
Longwood Range	17	the hills and forests	*	*	*	*		
Forest Hill	20	the Scenic Reserve	*	*	*			
Thomson's Bush Recreation Reserve	20, Invercargill City	the Reserve	*		*	*		
Pukerau Red Tussock Scientific Reserve	Gore District	the Reserve	*	*	*	*	*	
Hokonui Hills	15	the hills, including forests, rock areas and farmed land	*	*	*	*	*	
Takitimus	14	the mountains	*	*				
Garvie Mountains	12	the mountains	*	*	*			
West Dome	13	the mountain, boundary yet to be defined		*				
Mavora River	13	the river valley, including the Mavora Lakes	*	*	*			
Te Anau Basin Wetlands	22	the basins in which these wetlands sit	*	*				
Offshore Islands and rock stacks	Offshore	large and small islands around Stewart Island	*	*	*	*	*	
Stewart Island	3	the whole island including rocks and stacks just offshore	*	*	*	*	*	
The Southland Syncline (Murihiku Escarpment)	21, 22		*					
Mataura River	12,21,5,20,Gore	the main river corridor from headwaters to the sea	*	*	*	*	*	
All A and B sites from the Geopreservation Inventory for Southland	Throughout areas as defined in the Geopreservation Inventory							

Table 1 : List of landscapes that may be outstanding or characteristic in Southland Region

Appendix 3

The following is an excerpt from Background Report Number 2, and records the outcome of the stakeholders workshops related to definition of landscapes as either outstanding or characteristic.

List of Outstanding and Characteristic Landscapes

Study Approach

At the end of 1996 the Council's landscape consultants prepared a paper on the 'Southland landscape' which formed the basis for discussions at a workshop, held at the Regional Council offices, chaired by Councillor Bruce Paterson. The outcomes from that workshop provide the basis of this paper. Workshop participants were provided with a background report that contained a discussion on the meaning of landscape. This is reproduced as Appendix 2 to this report.

The Southland landscape is very special. It includes internationally and nationally recognised outstanding landscapes such as Fiordland National Park and Stewart Island. It also contains many other valued landscapes and natural features of less stature. In combination, these landscapes and natural features give the region its unique identity and sense of place. The RM Act requires the Council to identify and protect outstanding natural features and landscapes. These must 'stand out' as being special.

There are many ways in which they may be special. For example they may be scientifically exceptional, outstandingly beautiful or a major recreation or tourism attraction. They may be outstanding when compared with other South Island landscapes, or they may be outstanding at a District level. It is up to the Southland community to decide which natural features and landscapes they consider are outstanding. The following schedule has been prepared to assist in this task. This schedule was originally developed at the workshop and has subsequently been refined by the consultants. Public meetings around the region will be used to discuss, amend, remove or add to the list. At these meetings it will also be necessary to discuss the characteristics or qualities that make features or areas outstanding, and how their boundaries should be defined. Once the results have been analysed the consultants will prepare a report which will be available for public comment.

All of the Southland landscape is important. Within it there are :

1. Very extensive areas of outstanding quality and extensive areas with special characteristics some of which may be considered to be outstanding. These form a 'ring' around the boundaries of the region.
2. Characteristic areas of landscape containing discrete outstanding or significant natural features. These landscapes occur in the core of the region and include most of the low hills, valleys and plains. These two groupings are now described with suggestions for appropriate boundaries.

It should be noted that this investigation is to identify the values and characteristics of Southland's landscapes and natural features. It does not include an assessment of the potential

effects of activities nor does it make any management recommendations. These aspects will be addressed in subsequent studies.

1 Outstanding Landscapes

Two extensive landscapes are outstanding in their entirety. Within them are numerous natural features that are themselves outstanding in different ways, but it is the quality of the total area that is exceptional.

Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area - Fiordland

Fiordland National Park is a World Heritage Site of international significance and outstanding natural beauty. It is a wild, untamed, rugged and largely pristine landscape. The entire area is clearly outstanding for the drama of its landforms, the dominance of water in its various forms, the richness and diversity of its vegetation cover and the almost complete absence of buildings and structures. The exceptions are parts of Milford and Doubtful Sounds. Here there are relatively restricted 'nodes' of development of particular importance to the tourism industry. Mitre Peak is an icon that typifies the majestic, unpolluted landscape on which New Zealand is marketed.

Suggested boundary: The National Park, extended north to Awarua Point and to include the forests of Waitutu in the south.

Rakiura (Stewart Island)

Rakiura is a largely natural landscape with extraordinary landform and coastal diversity. The land water interface is of particular importance due to the indented coastline and numerous islands, islets and rock stacks. The beauty of the bush water connection, the clarity of the water, the abundance of wildlife and the history of human endeavour all give Rakiura an exceptionally strong sense of place. Halfmoon Bay and Oban township are the only development node of any size. They have their own distinctive character and quality reflecting a relaxed lifestyle and close links with surrounding natural features.

The island is a dominant focal point when viewed from many parts of southern Southland and Foveaux Strait.

Suggested boundary : The entire island and its surrounding islets.

Other special areas with characteristics that may be considered outstanding include the Inland Mountains and the Coast. Within these broad areas many natural features and landscapes have outstanding characteristics but they do not have the same uniform quality of Fiordland and Stewart Island.

The Inland Mountains (Takitimu, Livingstone, Eyre, Garvie, Umbrella Ranges)

Mountain ranges stretch along the border between Otago and Southland. The characteristics of these mountains reflect a precipitation gradient from the Livingstone Range which borders Fiordland east to the drier Umbrella Mountains. Areas in the west

are generally less modified with more extensive native vegetation. Despite these differences the ranges have a number of similar qualities. They all provide a very strong contrast with the nearby farmed plains. They provide an impressive backdrop and their varied skyline is a signature that orientates the viewer. They are a transition - a gateway to the Otago landscape beyond. Each range retains a coherent pattern of landcover with patterns of scree on the tops through subalpine and bush habitats down to valley flats.

The major Southland rivers rise in these mountains and the upper reaches meander through the valley flats with areas of extensive river terraces and steep mountain slopes. The natural character of these valleys with the rivers as a central focal point provide a vivid and coherent image and are an essential aspect of the northern Southland landscape experience. The rivers provide a focus for angling and other recreational experience and make a significant contribution to the Southland lifestyle.

Suggested boundary : problematic - to be defined on landform and landcover.

The Coast

The Southland coast is relatively unmodified and, for much of its length, retains much of its natural character. Within these landscapes are limited areas of development - holiday and fishing settlements, industry and urban fringe development around Invercargill. Apart from Tiwai Point, Bluff and Invercargill City the coast remains wild and untamed. It is a diverse landscape with bays, estuaries, headlands, beaches etc. reflecting the underlying geology and their exposure to coastal processes. This variety gives individual areas a specific sense of place and also aids orientation - from the land and sea. High ground acts as a beacon and the vistas from these areas are particularly expansive. The quality of the light adds to the beauty of this coastal landscape. Much of the coast, and particularly the wetlands are of exceptional scientific and ecological importance. Connections between the natural character of coast and hinterland are significant for both aesthetic and ecological reasons.

Much of the coast is outstanding for its natural character and wild and rugged qualities. It is of great ecological value and of historical and contemporary significance to the Tangata whenua. The extensive, windswept wetlands backed by distant rocky headlands are a characteristic of the Southland landscape. The river mouths in particular are of social and cultural significance with their crib communities and unique social and aesthetic styles.

Suggested boundary : length of coast, including land inland to edge of coastal environment, but excluding highly modified urban and industrial nodes.

2 Characteristic Landscapes

The plains, valleys, basins and rolling hills of central and eastern Southland are the working landscapes familiar to all who live in or visit the region. Although these lowland and hill landscapes generally lack the qualities of the outstanding landscapes described earlier, they contain many highly prized landmarks, special features, views and remnant natural areas of importance.

The outstanding natural features within the plains and hills have been grouped under different landscape types identified in the Southland District Landscape Study. The hill landscapes include the Longwoods, the Taringaturas, Hokonuis, and Catlins. The plains, valleys and basins include the Te Anau Basin, the Lower Waiau Valley and the Waimea and Southland Plains.

Longwoods

Within the Longwood range there are a number of important landscape features. These include the headwaters of tributaries of the Aparima, Pourakino and Waiau Rivers, the Longwood and Woodlore Forests, a number of historic sites including the Turnball Race, Printz Battery and Pourakino Valley. Pourakino Valley is also an important recreational asset to Western Southland. The wooded upper slopes and skyline are a very significant landscape feature when viewed from the Southland Plains and from the South Coast Scenic Route.

Suggested boundaries : the upper wooded Longwoods and Woodland slopes but including the Pourakino Valley and the highpoints on the roads at Scotts and Raymonds Gaps.

Taringaturas

The Taringaturas contain a number of significant features including Tarrington Scenic Reserve, Castle Rock limestone outcrops and the ridges and valleys of North Range. Each of these features may be seen as outstanding - either for their vegetation characteristics or for their landforms.

Suggested boundaries : likely to relate closely to vegetation boundaries in the case of tussock and bush remnants. Boundaries problematic for landforms.

Hokonuis

The Hokonui Hills contain a number of significant ecological and scenic areas. Croyden Bush Scenic Reserve is a particularly significant area of remnant vegetation. However, the entire hills enjoy a mosaic of vegetation remnants which give the hills, and their valleys, a particular charm and emphasise their contrast with the surrounding plains and valleys. The landform of the Waterfall Range is particularly expressive of the Southland syncline.

Suggested boundaries : likely to relate closely to vegetation boundaries in the case of tussock and bush remnants. Boundaries problematic for landforms.

Inland Catlins

The Catlins contain a number of forest reserves eg. Venlaw, Slopedown and Waipapa Point. The Pukerau Red Tussock Scientific Reserve is nearby. The hills themselves provide a backdrop to the eastern Southland Plains.

Suggested boundaries : likely to relate closely to vegetation boundaries in the case of tussock and bush remnants. Boundaries problematic for landforms.

Te Anau Basin

This landscape contains many remnant wetlands and tussock areas, a number of which are very significant for both ecological and landscape reasons. The landscape also has great significance as a foreground to the mountain landscapes of Fiordland, the Takitimus and the Livingstone Mountains.

Suggested boundaries : in the cases of bush, tussock, swamp and wetland remnants, boundaries are likely to relate closely to vegetation boundaries. Views to the surrounding mountains are problematic but boundaries are likely to be based on the foreground from major viewpoints.

Lower Waiau Valley

The Lower Waiau Valley contains a number of interesting and significant features including limestone caves, an historic suspension bridge at Clifden, and recreational sites at the Waiau River mouth and Tuatapere Domain and Scenic Reserve.

Suggested boundaries : defined by combinations of landform, vegetation and land use.

Waimea Plains

The Waimea Plains are crossed by major rivers which link the mountains with the lower plains and coast. The Murihiku escarpment (a physical expression of the Southland syncline) is a major visual feature to the south of the plains.

Suggested boundaries : the major rivers and their boundaries - and the north facing escarpment slopes from ridgeline to lower slopes.

Southland Plains

Within the Southland Plains key landscape features include the limestone outcrop at Forest Hill which is a geological feature of considerable visual significance, acting as a landmark within the plains, a number of peatland and wetland reserves, the major rivers that cross the plain, and a number of small reserves of remnant bush close to the city of Invercargill.

Suggested boundaries : the ridgeline and upper prominent slopes of Forest Hill, and the boundaries of isolated vegetation remnants.

Appendix 4

Southland Landscape Database

The meaning of different words related to landscape can create difficulties. The convention followed in this report is described here:

Landscape relates to extensive areas of landscape, usually enjoying certain characteristics that give it a definite identity. A landscape may be very large eg. The Southland Plains, or quite small eg. The Mavora Lakes Valley. Landscapes are generally experienced from 'within', ie people move around within the landscapes.

Features are specific areas of landscape - an escarpment, a lake, an estuary or a bush remnant. These are usually smaller in extent than landscapes and are generally experienced from beyond their boundaries eg. an area of bush seen from surrounding open country.

The Resource Management Act refers to natural features and landscapes.

Four further terms used in this report are **places**, **elements**, **qualities** and **values**.

Places may overlap with landscapes (or features), but are characterised by a special identity. They are usually more localised than landscapes, but less defined than features. Generally, they are familiar locations. For example the head of Milford Sound would be a 'place', set within the Fiordland 'landscape', with views to the 'feature' of Mitre Peak. Places can be thought of as little landscapes.

Landscape Elements are parts of landscapes or features. For example, tussock grassland is an element in the wider high country landscape. All landscapes and features are made up of different physical, biological and cultural elements and in some instances it will be one or more of these that are seen as valuable, rather than the whole landscape.

Landscape Qualities are particular attributes of natural features and landscapes eg scenic views, rare or abundant wildlife.

Landscape Values are the various ways in which people, community and society appreciate natural features and landscapes eg their spiritual values, aesthetic values, or heritage values.

Landscape Database

The Southland Regional Landscape Study has involved a number of investigations. One of these has been a review of recent conservation and planning documents. A database of landscapes and landscape features has been prepared using the following studies.

References For Landscape Database

DoC 1995(1)

Department of Conservation. 1995(1). Draft Conservation Management Strategy for Mainland Southland/West Otago. Southland Conservancy Conservation Management Planning Series No.5. May 1995. Invercargill, New Zealand.

DoC 1995 (2)

Department of Conservation. 1995(2). Draft Conservation Management Strategy for Stewart Island. Southland Conservancy Conservation Management Planning Series No.4. April 1995. Invercargill, New Zealand.

Ernest New 1992(1)

Ernest New and Associates Limited. 1992(1). Discussion Papers: Stakeholders' Meeting. 4 September, 1992. Gore District Council, Gore District Plan Group, Resource Management Act 1991.

Ernest New 1992(2)

Ernest New and Associates Limited, in association with Judith Roper-Lindsay. 1992(2). Preliminary Ecological Evaluation of the Gore District. Background Paper No. 16, 1992, for Gore District Council.

GDC 1995

Gore District Council. 1995. Proposed Gore District Plan.

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Kenny, J.A. and Hayward, B.W. First Edition 1993. Inventory of Important Geological Sites and Landforms in the Southland Region. Joint Earth Science Societies' Working Group on the New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory. Geological Society of New Zealand Miscellaneous Publication No.78.

Petrie 1994

Petrie, A. Coastal Landscape Assessment. Department of Conservation. Dunedin.

SDC 1993

Southland District Council. 1993. Landscape and Ecology in Southland District. Prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd.

SRC 1991

Southland Regional Council. 1991. Southland Regional Coastal Plan. Southland Regional Council. Publication No. 36/3. October 1991. Resource Management Act 1991.

SRC 1993

Southland Regional Council. 1993. Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Southland. Publication No. 49. 1 October 1993. (Notified).

The information contained in these references is varied both in its focus and in its level of detail. Inclusion in this schedule only means that these locations have been mentioned in one or more of the references. It does **not** mean that they have been carefully evaluated and included as outstanding landscapes. Their value is simply as a checklist that may shed light on workshop and public meeting discussions.

Database

This database tabulates information collected in the various Southland Regional Studies mentioned in the preceding reference. For this report the information has been updated to include new data collected from the public landscape assessment survey.

Landscape Units and Sites	Feature/ Place/ Element	Reference
Inland Fiordland		
Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area		DoC 1995(1)
Fiordland National Park		SDC 1993
Inland Fiordland Unit		SDC 1993
Pyke		
Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area		DoC 1995(1)
Pyke Forest Conservation Area	Protected forests	DoC 1995(1)
Wetlands along Pyke Valley	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Pyke and Big Bay areas	Recreation: hunting	DoC 1995(1)
Pyke Unit: Red Hills		SDC 1993
Stewart Island		
Paterson Inlet		DoC 1995(2)
Mason Bay sand passes and dunes	Dunes	DoC 1995(2)
Toitoti wetland		DoC 1995(2)
Tin Range	Geology	DoC 1995(2)
Fraser Peaks	Geopreservation Index	DoC 1995(2)
Ernest Island (Mason Bay) tombolo	Geopreservation Index	DoC 1995(2)
Gog and Magog exfoliation domes	Geopreservation Index	DoC 1995(2)
Ringaringa intrusives	Geopreservation Index	DoC 1995(2)
Tin Range schist and tin workings	Geopreservation Index	DoC 1995(2)
Bald Cone exfoliation dome		DoC 1995(2)
Big Hellfire Beach sand pass		DoC 1995(2)
Granite Knob exfoliation domes		DoC 1995(2)
Lees Knob exfoliation domes		DoC 1995(2)
Cow and Calf Point gabbro intrusion		DoC 1995(2)
Harold Bay Spheroidal weathering		DoC 1995(2)
Port William dikes		DoC 1995(2)
Ruggedy Flats		DoC 1995(2)
Table Hill/Mt Allen tops		DoC 1995(2)
Toitoti Flats		DoC 1995(2)
Ruggedy Flats		DoC 1995(2)
Freshwater Flats		DoC 1995(2)
Port Pegasus		DoC 1995(2)
Codfish Island		DoC 1995(2)
Rakiura (Stewart Island)	Maori	DoC 1995(2)
Offshore islands and rock stacks		DoC 1995(2)
Freshwater River	Significant natural areas	DoC 1995(2)
Lords River (parts)	Significant natural areas	DoC 1995(2)
Tin Ranges	Shrubland/Alpine/sub-alpine	DoC 1995(2)
Mt Anglem	Alpine/subalpine	DoC 1995(2)
Mt Rakeahua	Alpine/subalpine	DoC 1995(2)
Island Hill at Mason Bay	Grassland	DoC 1995(2)
Toitoti, Heron and Lords Rivers	Freshwater ecosystems	DoC 1995(2)
Rakeahua River	Freshwater ecosystems	DoC 1995(2)
Stewart Island coast	Coastal ecosystems	DoC 1995(2)
Port Adventure	Coastal ecosystems	DoC 1995(2)
Codfish Island		DoC 1995(2)
Ruapuke group		DoC 1995(2)

Titi Islands		DoC 1995(2)
Ernest Island		DoC 1995(2)
Foveaux Strait		SRC 1991
Petersons Inlet	Ecology	SRC 1991
Port Adventure	Ecology	SRC 1991
Port Pegasus	Ecology	SRC 1991
Stewart Island Unit: Protected areas = Paterson Inlet; Halfmoon Bay (Incl Oban)		SDC 1993
Ruggedy		Petrie
Mason and Doughboys Bays		Petrie
South-west Coast		Petrie
Pegasus		Petrie
South-east Coast		Petrie
Breaksea		Petrie
Eastern Bays		Petrie
North Coast		Petrie
Titi Islands		Petrie
Catlins Coast		
Waikawa Harbour	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Haldane Estuary	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Waipapa Beach	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Lake Brunton	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Lake Vincent	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Fraser's beach	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Waikawa Scenic Reserve	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Haldane Scenic Reserve	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Waipapa Beach/Point	Protected dunes	DoC 1995(1)
The Reservoir	Protected dunes	DoC 1995(1)
Haldane Beach	Protected dunes	DoC 1995(1)
Porpoise Bay/Waikawa Harbour	Protected dunes/dolphins	DoC 1995(1)
Waikawa River	Whitebait	DoC 1995(1)
Curio Bay	Petrified forest/dolphins	DoC 1995(1)
Lake Cook	Wildlife	DoC 1995(1)
Waikawa	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Haldane, Fortrose and Toetoes	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Waipapa bucket dredge (Lake Cook)	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Tararua wreck site (Waipapa Point)	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Coastal Catlins	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Southern Scenic Route	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Catlins Coast, in particular Curio Bay petrified forest (scenic reserve), Waikawa Harbour, Haldane, Waipapa Beach and Fraser's Beach	Diversity and naturalness	SDC 1993
Waikawa Harbour		SRC 1993
Curio Bay		SRC 1993
Haldane		SRC 1993
Waipapa Beach		SRC 1993
Fraser's Beach		SRC 1993
The Waikawa-Niagara area		SRC 1993
Porpoise Bay		Petrie

Haldane		Petrie
Waipapa		Petrie
Fortrose		Petrie
Estuaries		
Seaward Moss Conservation Area	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Waituna Lagoon		DoC 1995(1)
Waituna Wetland Scientific Reserve	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Toetoes Conservation Area	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Tiwai Point	Tussock	DoC 1995(1)
Fortrose Spit	Dunes	DoC 1995(1)
Waituna Scenic Reserve	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Joeyes Island Scenic Reserve	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Awarua Bay	Ecology	DoC 1995(1)
Toetoes Harbour	Ecology	DoC 1995(1)
Dog Island	History/ecology	DoC 1995(1)
Rabbit Island	Ecology	DoC 1995(1)
Tiwai Point	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Colyers Island	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Southland Estuary management zone includes New River Estuary, Toetoes Harbour, Haldane Estuary and Waikawa Harbour		SRC 1991
Awarua Bay	Ecology	SRC 1991
Waituna Lagoon	Ecology	SRC 1991
Bluff-Omaui Coast		
The Three Sisters dune system	Rare plants	DoC 1995(1)
The New River Estuary	Wildlife	DoC 1995(1)
Other coastal wetlands	Wildlife	DoC 1995(1)
Omaui Island		DoC 1995(1)
The coast		DoC 1995(1)
Bluff Hill Scenic Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Te Wherra settlement at Ocean Beach	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Foveaux Walkway	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Otatara Scenic Reserve	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Bluff Hill Scenic Reserve	Panoramic views	SRC 1993
Three Sisters - Bluff dunes system		SRC 1993
Bluff Harbour, Awarua Bay, Waituna Lagoon, Toetoes Harbour	Wetland complex	SRC 1993
New River Estuary/Mokomoko Inlet	Wetland	SRC 1993
Southland Estuary management zone includes New River Estuary, Toetoes Harbour, Haldane Estuary and Waikawa Harbour.		SRC 1991
Bluff Harbour	Ecology	SRC 1991
Mokomoko Inlet		SDC 1993
Bluff Hill		SDC 1993
Bluff Township		SDC 1993
Ocean Beach		SDC 1993
Back Beach Bluff		Petrie
Greenhills		Petrie
Sandy Point-Riverton Coast		
Other coastal wetlands	Wildlife	DoC 1995(1)

Jacobs River Estuary	Wildlife	DoC 1995(1)
Silver Lagoon		DoC 1995(1)
Waimatuku Lagoon		DoC 1995(1)
Waimatutu Mouth	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
The coast		DoC 1995(1)
Sandy Point Domain	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Sandy Point Domain	Ecology	SRC 1993
Southland Estuary management zone includes New River Estuary, Toetoes Harbour, Haldane Estuary and Waikawa Harbour		SRC 1991
Wallace Coastal Protection: Jacobs River Estuary, and the Waiau River	Wildlife, recreation	SRC 1991
Invercargill Estuary		SRC 1991
Oreti		Petrie
Sandy Point-Riverton Coast Unit: Waimatuku River Mouth; Sandy Point Domain (in Invercargill City)	Wildlife refuge	SDC 1993
Riverton-Orepuki Coast		
Howells Point Recreation Reserve	Dunes	DoC 1995(1)
Centre Island	Penguins	DoC 1995(1)
Pig Island	Weta	DoC 1995(1)
Escape Reefs		DoC 1995(1)
Lake George Wetland		DoC 1995(1)
Orepuki Wildlife Management Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Offshore islands and stacks		DoC 1995(1)
Southern Scenic Route	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Taramea Point	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Kukutaunoa Cliff	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Tikaka	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Korako	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Pahia	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Riverton township		SDC 1993
Jacobs River Estuary		SDC 1993
Cosy Nook		SDC 1993
Colac		SDC 1993
Orepuki		SDC 1993
Riverton Rocks		Petrie
Riverton Back Beach		Petrie
Colac Bay		Petrie
Wakatupu		Petrie
Pahia		Petrie
Orepuki		Petrie
Southern Scenic Route	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Te Waewae Coast		
Point Craig School House	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
The sawmill site	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Te Waewae Bay		DoC 1995(1)
Waiau Lagoon		DoC 1995(1)
Te Waewae	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Monkey Island	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Waimatuku Stream	Fish	DoC 1995(1)

Waiau River Mouth	Ecological, landscape and cultural values	SRC 1993
Preservation to Te Waewae Bay	Submission on Regional Policy Statement	SRC 1993
Waiau River Mouth	Ecology	SRC 1991
Waitutu Forest and coastal owned Maori land		SDC 1993
Waiau River Mouth		SDC 1993
Te Waewae Bay		Petrie
Southern Scenic Route	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Marine terraces		DoC 1995(1)
Wallace Coastal Protection: Jacobs River Estuary, and the Waiau River	Wildlife, recreation	SRC 1991
Crombie Stream	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Waitutu uplifted marine terraces	Geology	SRC 1993
Waiau River		DoC 1995(1)
Waiau River	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Fiordland Coast		
Milford Sound	Recreation: cruises	DoC 1995(1)
Piopiota (northern side of Milford Sound)	Protected marine reserve	DoC 1995(1)
Doubtful Sound	Recreation - Cruises	DoC 1995(1)
Te Awaatu Channel (The Gut)	Protected reef in Doubtful Sound	DoC 1995(1)
Tricky Cove (Doubtful Sound)		DoC 1995(1)
Sutherland Sound		DoC 1995(1)
Chalky and Preservation Inlet	Recreation: Cruises	DoC 1995(1)
Dusky Sound		DoC 1995(1)
Caswell Sound		DoC 1995(1)
Rock wall opposite Anchorage Cove		DoC 1995(1)
George Sound		DoC 1995(1)
Pigeon Island		DoC 1995(1)
Turnabout Point		DoC 1995(1)
Bligh Sound		DoC 1995(1)
Edward Sound		DoC 1995(1)
Shipwrecks in the fiords	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Knife Harbour	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Steel Harbour	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Long Point	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
The Fiordland coastline, including Martins Bay, Milford Sound and Mitre Peak, Doubtful Sound, Dusky Sound, Chalky and Preservation Inlets		SRC 1993
Milford Sound		SDC 1993
Port Craig		Petrie
Waitutu		Petrie
Puysegur		Petrie
Fiords		Petrie
Milford		Petrie
Fiordland National Park		SRC 1993

Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area		DoC 1995(1)
Waitutu in general	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Big Bay Coast		
Wainua Lagoon	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Big Bay		SRC 1993
Waiuna Lagoon		SDC 1993
Martins Bay		Petrie
Big Bay		Petrie
Te Wahipounamu (South-West New Zealand) World Heritage Area		DoC 1995(1)
Awarua River	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Umbrella-Garvie		
Leithen Bush Scenic Reserve	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Argyle Forest	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Devil's Gorge	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Waikaia River catchment	Forest	DoC 1995(1)
Umbrella River - southern slopes	Birds	DoC 1995(1)
Whitcombe - Gem Lake - Argyle Burn	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Leithen Burn Headwaters	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Awatere: Charlies Hill South/Tussock Block	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Crown Rock/Stronach Hill	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Awatere: Waikaka Stream Headwaters	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Awatere: King Solomon Flats	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Awatere: Charlies Hill North	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Dusky Hill Slopes (Northeast Uplands)	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Archies Spur		DoC 1995(1)
Garvie		
East Dome Scenic Reserve	Protected forest/tussock	DoC 1995(1)
Waikaia Forest	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Mataura Scenic Reserve	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Glenlapa Conservation Covenant	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Cupola-Mid Dome Ridge	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Blackmore Conservation Covenant	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Garvie Mountains	Management agreement	DoC 1995(1)
Upper Dome Burn around Mt Tennyson	Bog and island wetland/recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Alpine bog systems		DoC 1995(1)
Upper Nokomai	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Steeple	Recommend protection	DoC 1995(1)
Mid Dome/Dome Creek		DoC 1995(1)
Waikaia Water Race at Piano Flat	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Piano Flat Campsite in the Waikaia Valley	Recreation: Camping	DoC 1995(1)
Waikaia River	Recreation: Fishing	DoC 1995(1)
Mataura Range Scenic Reserve	Recreation: Hunting	DoC 1995(1)
Piano Flat, Waikaia Forest		SRC 1993

A number of protected natural areas in this unit		SDC 1993
Otapiri Stream Scientific Reserve	Fossils	SDC 1993
Otapiri Gorge	Recreation	SDC 1993
Waterfall Range (including Croydon Bush)	Potential	Ernest New (1992)
Hokonui Forest		
Titipua Stream		Ernest New (1992)
Waterfall Range, Hokonui Hills	Scenic	
Ridgelines: Hokonui Hills		GDC 1995
Mountain landscapes: Hokonui Hills; foothills of the Umbrella Ranges	Backdrop	GDC 1995
Mountain landscapes. Including the Western Takitimu Mountains, the Umbrella and Garvie Ranges, the Livingstone and Eyre Mountains and the Hokonui Hills, providing a backdrop to the basins and plains		SRC 1993
Taringaturas		
Etal Creek Catchment	Tussock	DoC 1995(1)
Takatimu Mountains (base)	Tussock	DoC 1995(1)
Taringatura Scenic Reserve	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Castledown Swamp	Private	DoC 1995(1)
Taringatura Scenic Reserve south of Dipton West	Remnant forest	SDC 1993
Castle Rock - limestone outcrops		SDC 1993
North Range ridges and valleys		SDC 1993
Streams feeding into Waiau and Aparima catchments		SDC 1993
Castle Rock Limestone Outcrops	Geology, scenery	SRC 1993
Longwoods		
Longwood Range		DoC 1995(1)
Twinlaw Hills		DoC 1995(1)
Woodlaw Hills		DoC 1995(1)
Tributaries of the Aparima River		DoC 1995(1)
Tributaries of the Pourakino River		DoC 1995(1)
Headwaters of the Waiau tributaries		DoC 1995(1)
Longwood Forest		DoC 1995(1)
Woodlaw Forest		DoC 1995(1)
Pahia Hill Scenic Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Mores Top Mill site	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Johnson Locomotive in the Pourakino Valley	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
The Turnbull race, dam and hut	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Martins hut and race	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
The Ports water race	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
The Printz Battery	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Pourakino Walking Track	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Pourakino	DoC Reserve	DoC 1995(1)
Pourakino Valley	Recreation	SDC 1993
Longwood Ecological Area	Ecology	SDC 1993
Southern Scenic Route	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)

Tributaries of the Aparima	Fish	DoC 1995(1)
Waitutu		
Waitutu Forest	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Dean Forest	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Rowallan Forest	Protected forest	DoC 1995(1)
Diggers Ridge Ecological Area	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Lillburn Ecological Area	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Lindsay Ecological Area	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Waterways of importance include: Aan, Grant, Crombie, Percy, Francis, Edwin, Outlet Bay tributarys and the Wairaurahiri R+A762iver		DoC 1995(1)
The Waitutu Tramway Viaducts	Historic	DoC 1995(1)
Ecological Areas protecting representative areas of the range of vegetation types		SDC 1993
Lillburn Valley		SDC 1993
Marine terraces		DoC 1995(1)
Waitutu in general	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Crombie Stream	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Waitutu uplifted marine terraces	Geology	SRC 1993
Inland Catlins		
The Reservoir	Wetlands	DoC 1995(1)
Slopedown Hill	Vegetation	DoC 1995(1)
Mokoreta Forest	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Waikawa Forest	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
West MacLennan Forest	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Mokoreta Nature Reserve	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Waipapa Point Recreation Reserve	Protected forests	DoC 1995(1)
Slopedown Ecological Area	Protected forest/tussock	DoC 1995(1)
Oware Forest	Protected forests	DoC 1995(1)
Venlaw Forest	Protected forests	DoC 1995(1)
Munro Bush Scenic Reserve	Protected forests	DoC 1995(1)
Pukerau Red Tussock Scientific Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Waipohatu area (in Waikawa Forest) Forest	Recreation	DoC 1995(1) SDC 1993
Pukerau Red Tussock		Ernest New 1992(2)
Pukerau tussock and bog	High	Ernest New 1992(2)
Waikawa Scenic Reserve	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Haldane Scenic Reserve	DoC reserves	DoC 1995(1)
Presbyterian Church: 19th Century portions, East Gore		Ernest New 1992(1)
Mataura River Catchment		SRC 1991
Southland Plains		
Otautau Scenic Reserve	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Forest Hill	DoC Reserve	DoC 1995(1)
Bayswater Peatland Scenic Reserve	DoC Reserve	DoC 1995(1)
Wyndham	DoC Reserve	DoC 1995(1)
Titiroa	DoC Reserve	DoC 1995(1)

Seaward Downs Scenic Reserves	DoC Reserve	DoC 1995(1)
Drummond Wildlife Management Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Makarewa Wildlife Management Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Rivers of the plains	Whitebaiting	DoC 1995(1)
Arowhenua	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Gropers Bush	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Wallacetown	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Kingswood Bush		DoC 1995(1)
Thomson's Bush Recreation Reserve	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Anderson's Park	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Edendale Scenic Reserve	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Forest Hill limestone caves	Geology, scenery	SRC 1993
Southland Plains Unit		SDC 1993
Peat mosses near the coast	Visual/ ecological	SDC 1993
Rivers - especially the Mataura, Oreti, Makarewa, Aparima, Waihopai and Waikiwi.		SDC 1993
Hokonui Downs		SDC 1993
Forest Hill - limestone and forest reserve	Landmark	SDC 1993
Mataura Dairy Factory		Ernest New 1992(1)
Mataura Railway Station		Ernest New 1992(1)
Mataura Pond A	Potential	Ernest New 1992(2)
Mataura Pond B	Potential	Ernest New 1992(2)
Mataura Pond C	Potential	Ernest New 1992(2)
Mataura Pond D	Potential	Ernest New 1992(2)
Mataura Pond E	Potential	Ernest New 1992(2)
Mataura Pond F	Potential	Ernest New 1992(2)
Presbyterian Church: 19th Century portions, East Gore		Ernest New 1992(1)
Tributaries of the Aparima	Fish	DoC 1995(1)
Mataura River - Gore to Fortrose	Native fish	DoC 1995(1)
Mataura River		
More's Scenic Reserve	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Waimea Plains		
So Big Swamp Conservation Area	Protected	DoC 1995(1)
Castle Downs Swamp	Wetland	SDC 1993
Lumsden		SDC 1993
Major rivers which link the Hills and Mountains with the Lower Plains and Coast		SDC 1993
The Garston and Waikaia Valleys		SDC 1993
Otama Flat Road Oxbow		
Mataura River Catchment		SRC 1991
Oreti River	Fish	DoC 1995(1)
The Murihiku Escarpment/Southland Syncline	Distinctive feature/geology	SRC 1993
Upper Hamilton Burn	Some protected	DoC 1995(1)
North Buxton	Some protected	DoC 1995(1)
Weydon Burn	Fishing	DoC 1995(1)

Te Anau Basin		
Redcliffs Wetlands	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Burwood Bush	Takahe	DoC 1995(1)
Bald Hill	Beech forest	DoC 1995(1)
Kepler Mire	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Dome Mire	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Dismal Swamp	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Dunton Swamp	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Kakapo Swamp	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Burwood Conservation Area	Red tussock	DoC 1995(1)
Te Anau Wildlife Park	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
	Being considered as RAMSAR group	
Te Anau Basin wetlands		DoC 1995(1)
Te Anau Basin Unit		SDC 1993
Te Anau township		SDC 1993
Te Anau Basin Wetland (proposed under Ramsar convention)		SDC 1993
Dome Mire-Dismal Swamp		SDC 1993
Kepler Mire		SDC 1993
Ameoboid Bog		SDC 1993
Kakapo Swamp		SDC 1993
Dunton Bog		SDC 1993
Whitestone, Upukerora and Mararoa Rivers	Recreation: Fishing	DoC 1995(1)
Borland Mire Scientific Reserve	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Freestone Tarns	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Fernhill Wildlife Management Reserve	Wetland	DoC 1995(1)
Wilderness Bog Pine Scientific Reserve	Shrubland	DoC 1995(1)
Ivon Wilson Park	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Waiau River	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Lower Waiau		
Clifden Domain limestone outcrop		DoC 1995(1)
Piko Piko West Scenic Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Clifden Caves	Limestone	DoC 1995(1)
Wairaki River	Whitebaiting	DoC 1995(1)
The Clifden Suspension Bridge Historic Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Clifden Historic Reserve		DoC 1995(1)
Tuatapere Domain and Scenic Reserve	Recreation	DoC 1995(1)
Te Tua	Maori	DoC 1995(1)
Limestone hills along the eastern side of the valley - rock outcrops, bluffs and caves - especially at Clifden		SDC 1993
Tuatapere		SDC 1993
Waiau River habitat		SDC 1993
Lake Murihuku	Conservation	SRC 1993
Maori Reserves at Omaui, Forest Hill, Bluff, Invercargill and Waimumu	Waahi tapu and waahi taoka	DoC 1995(1)

Historic Places Trust has other sites		DoC 1995(1)
Submissions re locations in 1993 SRC 1993		
Red tussock grasslands		SRC 1993 sub
Upper Mararoa Valley		SRC 1993 sub
The Bastion		SRC 1993 sub
Ben Bolt		SRC 1993 sub
Native forests		SRC 1993 sub
Sub-alpine herb-fields		SRC 1993 sub
List of watercourses not to be altered without consent of the Council - P.80 of SRC (1991)		SRC 1991
Offshore islands		SRC 1991
See Protected Natural Areas report for potential protected sites		SDC 1993
Floodways		GDC 1995
Waahi tapu areas		GDC 1995
See "Heritage" section of "Discussion Papers: Stakeholders' Meeting 4 September 1992) Gore District Council, Gore District Plan Group, RMA 1991.		
All A and B sites from the Geopreservation Inventory for Southland		Geopre
Sites of international scientific importance (Landscape section SRC 1993)		
Aurora Cave		SRC 1993
Bare Hill		SRC 1993
Clifden Miocene sediments (upstream from Clifden Bridge)		SRC 1993
Green Lake rock avalanche deposit		SRC 1993
Hidden Lake tarn		SRC 1993
North Range zeolite facies		SRC 1993
Pembroke granulite located in the Pembroke Valley on the north side of Milford Sound.		SRC 1993
Productus Creek Permian fossils in bluff above Productus Creek		SRC 1993
Preliminary Ecological Evaluation of the Gore District. Background Paper No. 16, 1992, for Gore District Council (Ernest New in association with Judith Roper- Lindsay).		
Significant Ecological Sites in Gore (landscape unit not defined)		Ernest New 1992(2)
Hillcrest Bush		Ernest New 1992(2)
Old Workings Pond		Ernest New 1992(1)

Willowbank Pond		Ernest New 1992(2)
McNab Oxbow		Ernest New 1992(2)
Miller Road Plantation		Ernest New 1992(2)
Trig V Bush		Ernest New 1992(2)
Training Track Lagoon		Ernest New 1992(2)
Murray Field Lagoon		Ernest New 1992(2)
Downs Road Plantation		Ernest New 1992(2)
Mcllwraith Pond		Ernest New 1992(2)
<i>Submissions re locations in 1997 Southland Regional Landscape Assessment - SRLA 1997</i>		
Landscapes not mentioned in other reports		
Greenhills Coast		SRLA 1997
Upper Upukeroa - Dunstan Mts		SRLA 1997
Upper Oreti - Thompson Mts.		SRLA 1997
Mossburn red tussock reserve		SRLA 1997
Mossburn - river gorge below		SRLA 1997
Waikaka - Mt. Wendon	distinctive butts	SRLA 1997
Redcliffs Reserve		SRLA 1997
Pyramid	Pyramid Hill	SRLA 1997
Josephine Hill		SRLA 1997
Escarpment East of Josephine Hill		SRLA 1997
Kingston Flats depression		SRLA 1997
Centre Basin - Swales Bush		SRLA 1997
Wyndham Ridges		SRLA 1997
Otikerama Hills near Pukerau	lower grazing hills	SRLA 1997
Waikahoi landslip near Pukerau	history/geology	SRLA 1997
Tinkertown	Red Tussock area	SRLA 1997
Blue Bottle Stream	native fish resource	SRLA 1997
McCrackens viewpoint of Te Waewae Bay		SRLA 1997
Craigs Bush	remnant forest	SRLA 1997
Kowhai Reach , George Hill		SRLA 1997

Appendix 5

Public Meeting Reports

A series of well advertised meetings were held throughout the Southland Region to engage the public in open discussion about the significance of local landscape features. While attendance to meetings in three of the areas was light (Te Anau, Oban, and Tokonui), a significant number of responses were returned by mail. A summary of the responses is shown in the following table:

Environmental Update



Does Southland have any important landscapes?

The Southland Regional Council wants to know which landscapes you think are important to Southland. Some landscapes can be important because they are outstanding or special. Other landscapes can be important because they are typical or characteristic of Southland. Your views will help the Council identify and describe the region's outstanding or characteristic landscapes.

While many people may value a landscape for its overall visual appeal, what they may forget is that a landscape is the result of a mix of the natural and cultural processes.

Within Southland there are a range of landscape forms, including:

- ⇒ plains,
- ⇒ rolling hills in bush, tussock and pasture,
- ⇒ rocky bluffs.

- ⇒ sandy beaches,
- ⇒ vegetated, barren or snow covered mountains,
- ⇒ fiords, harbours and estuaries,
- ⇒ lakes, rivers and wetlands.

The Council is about to begin a study of the landscapes of the Southland Region, to fulfil its requirements in the Regional Policy Statement for Southland.

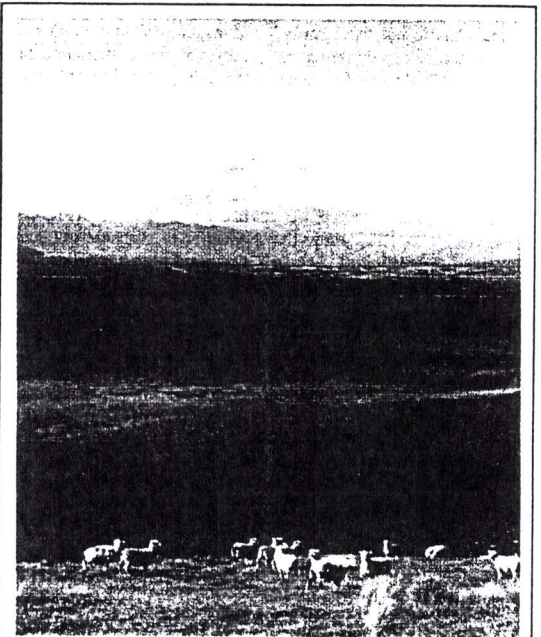
"It is important that the Council is aware of the landscapes that

Southlanders consider regionally outstanding or characteristic.

This will guide Council policy and decision making" said Linda Kirk, Policy Analyst.

The Council will be holding meetings throughout the Region so that communities can express their views. A schedule of meetings is outlined below.

We are looking forward to hearing whether or not you think Southland has any regionally important landscapes.



The green rolling hills giving way to the plains of Southland is a landscape that we often take for granted. Step back and reconsider the landscapes around you and what significant part they play in the overall character of the region.

Do you agree? Are these the outstanding and characteristic landscapes of Southland?

Outstanding Landscapes

Fiordland - The drama of its land and water forms, richness and diversity of vegetation, absence of buildings and structures, heritage significance and cultural importance.

Stewart Island - Landform and coastal diversity, beauty of the bush water connection, clarity of water, abundance of wildlife and history of human endeavour.

The Inland Mountains - Contrast and impressive backdrop to plains and valleys. Coherent vegetation patterns, recreation values - especially of rivers.

The Coast - Diversity and naturalness, landmarks and views, ecological and aesthetic qualities and recreational values.

Characteristic Landscapes

Longwoods - Wooded upper slopes and skyline, historic sites and recreational areas.

Taringaturas - Aesthetic values or scenic reserves, limestone outcrops at Castle Rock.

Hokonuis - Aesthetic and ecological values of Croyden Bush and native remnants. Waterfall Range, expressiveness of Southland syncline.

Waimea Plains - Natural qualities of major rivers and the Murihiku escarpment as an expression of the Southland syncline.

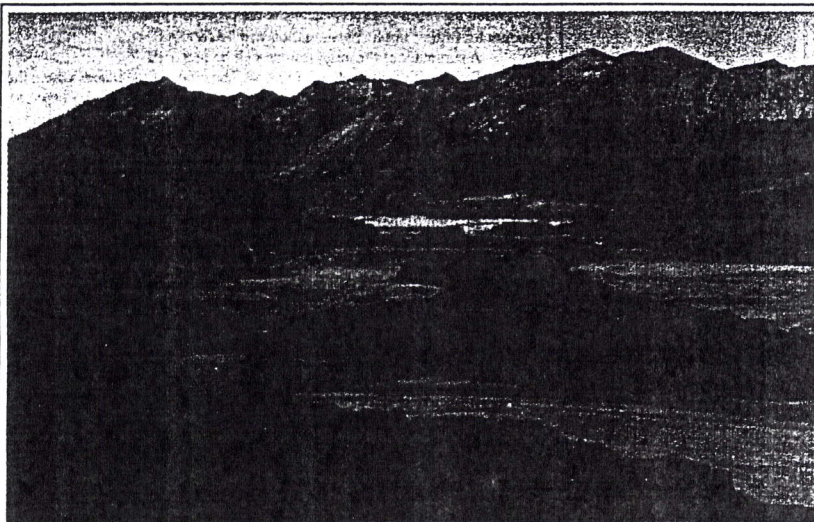
Southland Plains - Ecological and visual importance of Forest Hill, ecological and aesthetic values of rivers and remnant vegetation areas.

Te Anau Basin - Ecological and aesthetically important wetland bush and tussock remnants. Foreground to mountains.

Lower Waiau Valley - Clifden suspension bridge, river and rock outcrops, Waiau River mouth, Tuatapere Domain.

Inland Catlins - Ecologically and aesthetically important bush reserves including Venlaw, Slopdown and Waipapa Point, and Pukerau "tussock" Scientific Reserve.

Tell us which regional landscapes are important to you!



A stark contrast to the green plains and rolling hills is the head of the Mararoa River Valley with the Eyre Mountains in the background.

SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Managing your Environment

Landscape study meetings

Date	Time	Place
16 June	1.30pm	Tokanui, RSA Hall
16 June	7.30pm	Invercargill, Southland Regional Council headquarters
17 June	1.00pm	Tuatapere, RSA Hall
17 June	7.30pm	Te Anau, Travelodge
19 June	1.00pm	Gore, James Cumjming Wing
20 June	10.00am	Stewart Island Fire Brigade Hall

For additional information please feel free to contact

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