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<b>Significant Natural Area Assessment</b>			
Project No:  11001/034	Property Name: <i>Alphaburn Station</i>  Site Name: <i>Alphaburn SNA B</i>	Ecologist: <i>Simon Beale</i> Date: <i>11 May 2015</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Simon Beale and Rebecca Teele</i> Survey undertaken by helicopter.		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>NZTM: 1285240E 5044590N</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>Q2.2a, Q2.2b</i>  Ecological District: <i>Wanaka Ecological District</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See below.</i>	
Topography: <i>Gully that forms part of Alpha Burn catchment.</i>	Slope: <i>(Generally &gt;10°)</i>	Altitude: <i>600 – 800 m asl</i>	Aspect: <i>Variable</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically underprotected</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>14.9</i>	
Representativeness: Montane shrubland - high degree of representativeness.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> "eastern" (eastern NZ Falcon)		At Risk - Recovering	
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation types: Kohuhu ( <i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> )-broadleaf ( <i>Griselinia littoralis</i> ) shrubland merging with mingimingi ( <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> )-matagouri/bracken shrubland higher up the gully. Sub-dominant shrubs in the kohuhu-broadleaf shrubland are likely to include wineberry ( <i>Aristotelia serrata</i> ), lancewood ( <i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> ), karamu ( <i>Coprosma lucida</i> ), koromiko ( <i>Hebe salicifolia</i> ) and mountain ribbonwood ( <i>Hoheria lyalli</i> ). Sub-dominant shrubs in the mingimingi shrubland are likely to include <i>Coprosma rugosa</i> , <i>Olearia odorata</i> , and koromiko ( <i>Hebe salicifolia</i> ).			
Structural Classes: Shrubland. Shrubland Canopy: Kohuhu-broadleaf & mingimingi-matagouri.			
Degree of Modification: The area would have experienced historical disturbance (fire) but does not appear to have not been disturbed in recent times due to presence of advanced successional shrubland vegetation.			

<p>Degree of Recruitment: Broadleaf species (kohuhu, broadleaf and lancewood) dominant shrubland at lower elevations.</p> <p>Overall Health: The shrubland appears to be in good health by virtue of the relatively dense nature of the cover and closed canopies especially within the gully proper.</p>
<p>Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: Shrubbyland provides suitable habitat for fructivorous birds (tui, bellbird) and insectivorous birds (tomtit, fantail, grey warbler) and predatory Australasian harrier and Eastern falcon.</p> <p>The shrublands provide high quality feeding habitat for NZ (Eastern) falcon.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Fire is the greatest threat to the integrity of the indigenous vegetation cover.</p>
<p>Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the Q2.2a and Q2.2b environments to have 39.92% and 44.68% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 5.07% and 1.96% protected, respectively.</p> <p>The shrubland is not uncommon in the Wanaka Ecological District. The vegetation and steep terrain likely to provide suitable habitat for threatened avifauna (NZ Falcon).</p>
<p>Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio: The location of the shrublands within a confined gully ensures self-sustaining/successional processes despite the high area/edge ratios.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): The shrubland occurs over wide altitudinal range and contains a diversity of species and shrubbyland mosaics that contribute to the vegetation pattern.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. &amp; landform features, distribution limits?): Highly distinctive in terms of the varied vegetation types associated with gully system encompassing a gully and some bluffs and rocky outcrops.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): The shrubland exhibits low to moderate degree of connectivity with other gully systems due to intervening areas of semi-improved pasture and bracken. There is a high degree of connectivity with the conservation estate that encompasses the upper part of the catchment.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): The shrubland appears to be in good condition. Regeneration and succession is evident in the shrubbylands with broadleaved trees such mature kohuhu and broadleaf prevalent in the gully.</p>

**Recommendation (Accept/Decline):**

We consider these areas should be designated as SNAs in view of the following ecological attributes:

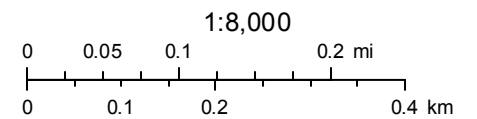
- The diversity of vegetation types and landform features;
- The floristic diversity of the shrublands;
- The altitudinal range and vegetation sequences;
- The variety of habitats the area affords to indigenous fauna, providing suitable habitat for one threatened species of native bird;
- The good condition of the shrubland vegetation with closed canopies and regeneration and succession processes evident.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Alphaburn SNA B - G34B

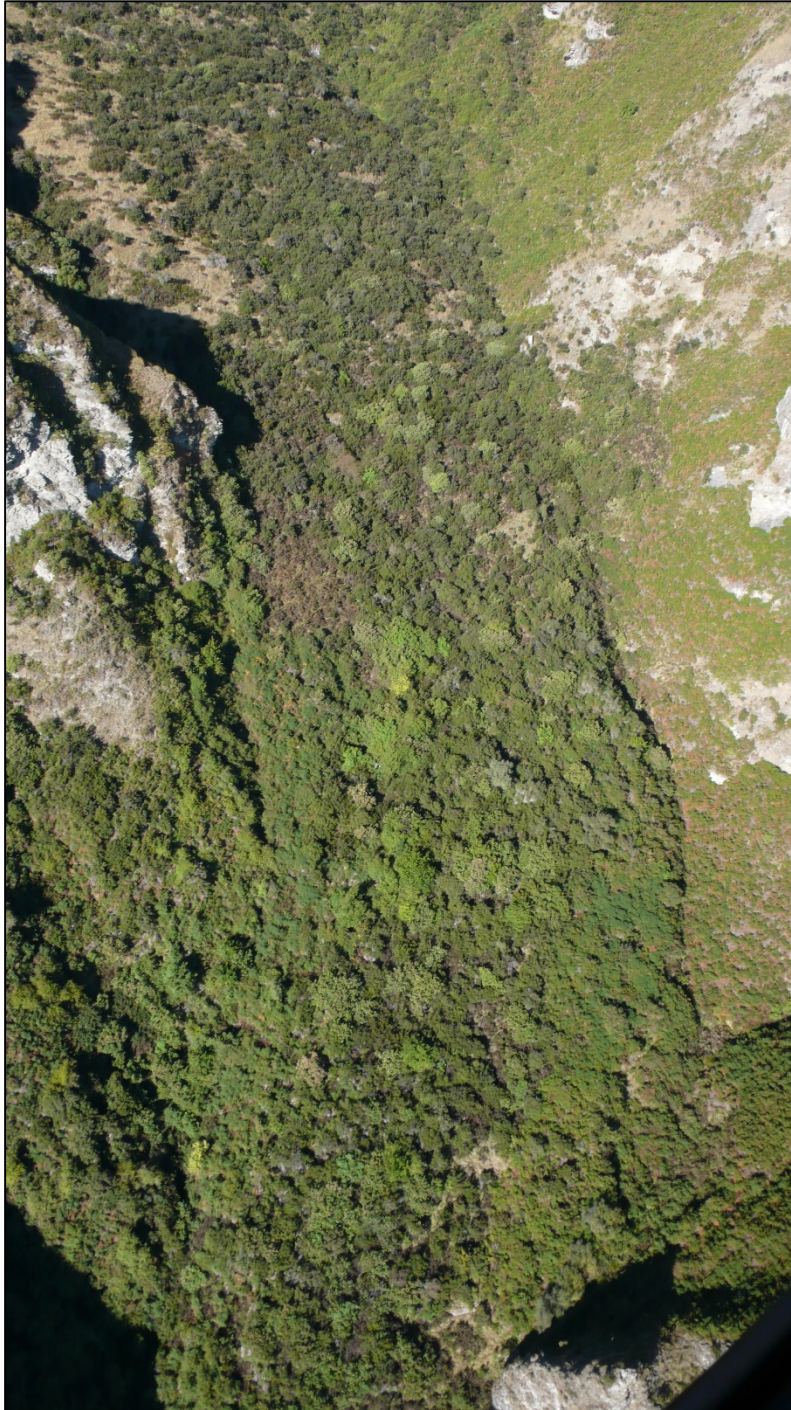


June 23, 2015

- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



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



**Figure 2:** Extensive shrubland cover within broad gully and amongst bordering bluffs.