







Introduction

Hāwea Conservation Park covers over 105,000 hectares of rugged mountain country, interspersed with tussock, beech/tawhai forest and sparkling clear rivers. The park borders Mount Aspiring National Park to the west and Ahuriri Conservation Park in the east.

The name Hāwea is thought to derive from the tupuna/ancestor Hāwea-i-te-raki, whose name was applied by his descendants to the Waitaha hapu of Ngāti Hāwea – part of the extended family of Ngāi Tahu.

Recreation

This brochure is a guide to the recreational opportunities in the conservation park. Tracks and public easements offer day and overnight walking and mountain biking access into this beautiful, challenging and relatively pristine backcountry area. You can fish for brown or rainbow trout in the park's rivers or hunt for red deer, tahr and chamois.

 Walking track – gentle walking from a few minutes to a day	 experience required
 Tramping track – backcountry skills and experience required	 Mountain biking
 Route – navigation and high level backcountry skills and	 Fishing
	Track times stated are for walking only

Below – Hunter Valley. John Robinson

Top right – Hunter Valley looking down stream to Corner Peak. DOC



Hunter River Valley



Biking is permitted from the Dingleburn carpark to the Turihuka Conservation Area and along the Lake Hawea Track to the Hāwea Conservation Park.

Eastern side access: From Turihuka Conservation Area, ford the Dingle Burn to meet the track leading to the confluence of Lake Hawea and the Hunter River. Along the lake edge flats the track weaves in and out of pockets of kānuka and silver and mountain beech forest. After entering the Hunter Valley follow the valley flats to reach the head of the valley.

Turihuka Conservation Area to Hunter Valley: 5-6 hr, 21km

There are extensive grassy river flats in the Hunter Valley and forested deep canyon gorges. The valley's open grasslands and braided river system lie beneath the McKerrow, Young and Huxley Ranges.

Western side access: Meads Road gives access to the Kidds Bush Camping Area. Access along the western side of Lake Hawea to Hunter Valley requires permission from Hunter Valley Station.

Kidds Bush to Scrubby Creek: 7-8 hr, 45km
Scrubby Creek to Ferguson Hut: 1.5-2 hr, 7km
Ferguson Hut to Forbes Hut: 2-3 hr, 12km

Boundary Creek Track



The access track to the McKerrow Range by way of Boundary Creek starts opposite the camping area of the same name on SH6. This is a pleasant climb up an old musterers' track, above an upland river gorge. The track gives access to open flats. At the head of the flats a silver beech forest by the forks provides an ideal campsite.

State Highway 6 to the top of flats: 3-4 hr, 6 km

Nature Walk



The Kidds Bush Nature Walk is an enjoyable loop track through a mountain beech forest. The track starts at the Kidds Bush Camping Area, 6km along Meads Road from State Highway 6.

Kidds Bush Nature Walk: 30 min, 1 km



Dingle Burn Valley



Biking is permitted from the Dingleburn carpark to the Turihuka Conservation Area and beyond to the Hunter Valley, on the formed track.

The Dingle Burn Valley Track (walking only) runs from Lake Hawea (Turihuka Conservation Area) to the Top Dingle Hut, before branching off into Ahuriri Conservation Park.

Carpark to Bush Hut: 7-8 hr 20 km

Bush Hut to Cotters Hut: 7-9 hr 10 km

Cotters Hut to Top Dingle Hut: 3-4 hr 12 km

Top Dingle Hut to Ahuriri Valley: 3-4 hr 5 km

Ben Avon Hut is an historic hut for day use only.

Turihuka Conservation Area: 3-4 hr 11km

Access is from the Dingleburn carpark. The track skirts around the Rocky Point Bluffs above the lake and on to Silver Island Bay. Here, it leaves the 4WD track, crosses the Silver Burn and gains height to sidle around the peninsula. The conservation area is at the mouth of the Dingle Burn and is available for camping, with a basic toilet and picnic table.

Hāwea Conservation Park: 2-3 hr 6km

From the Turihuka Conservation Area the track follows the Dingle Burn before climbing onto a terrace and along the edge of the bush, as it enters the conservation park.

Timaru River Valley



From Lake Hawea, the Timaru River Track follows the river to the head of the valley before crossing the 1680-metre Mt Martha Saddle to the Ahuriri Valley. The upper section of this track forms part of Te Araroa - The Long Pathway, a walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff, developed by the Te Araroa Trust. A signposted junction 11km from the Timaru River carpark marks the start of the Breast Hill Track section of the Te Araroa trail. For more information on this track, please check the website: www.doc.govt.nz.

Lake Hawea to Top Timaru Hut: 10-11 hr, 23 km

Top Timaru Hut to Mt Martha Saddle: 1.5-2 hr, 8 km

Mt Martha Saddle to Ahuriri Valley: 3-4 hr, 18.5 km

Timaru River Loop Track: 4-5 hrs return 12 Km

A high river track, signposted 50m along the road leads to a 4WD track above the Timaru River. Follow this undulating track to Deep Spur Creek near Junction Hut (1.5km), cross the river and return via the way of the Lower Timaru River track.

River crossing skills required; loop track may not be possible after heavy rain.

Corner Peak route – full day

The route to Corner Peak is signposted off the high river track. This long summer day trip should not be attempted in adverse weather. Navigational skills are required as this route is only marked to the Hāwea Conservation Park boundary.

Access from Mount Aspiring National Park



Experienced trampers can access the Hāwea Conservation Park by way of the upper reaches of the Cameron, Wills and Makarora Valleys. These routes are unformed, unmarked, rough and steep. Navigational and alpine skills are necessary.

Safety

- Your safety is your responsibility.
- Plan your trip properly and be prepared for all conditions.
- Leave your intentions with a trusted contact. Information on the Outdoor Intentions system can be found at www.adventuresmart.co.nz.
- We recommend that you carry the appropriate topographical maps. This pamphlet is a guide only and should not be used for navigation purposes.
- Treat all river crossings with great care.
- Always be prepared to wait if the river is too high for a safe crossing.

Further Information

For further details on the recreational opportunities, separate DOC track guides are available for the Timaru River and Dingle Burn Tracks.

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Cover – Top Timaru Hut and Timaru River Valley

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
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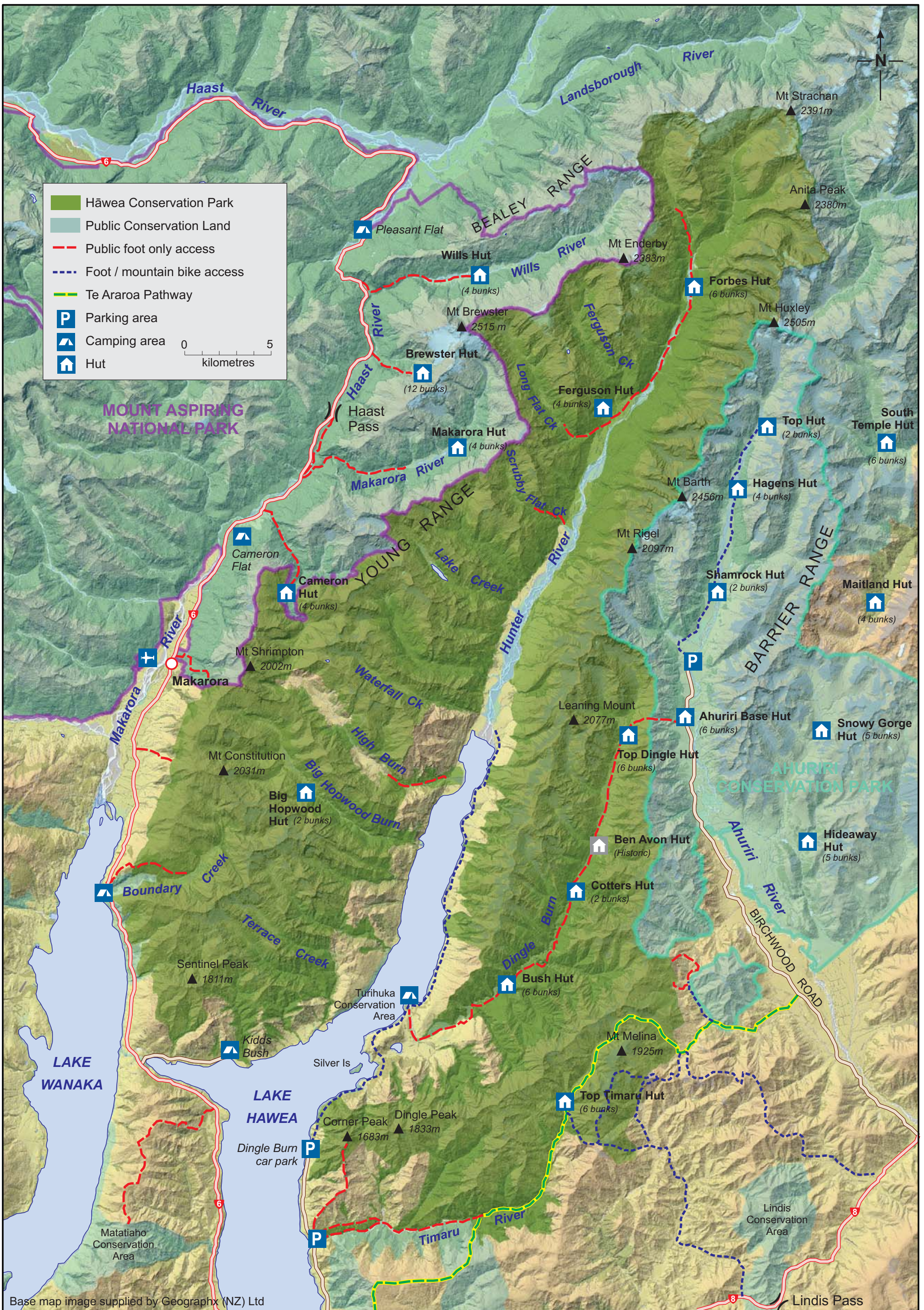
Hāwea Conservation Park



Wanaka



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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