

Camping

Camping is possible anywhere within Ruataniwha Conservation Park—look at the map carefully so you know where park boundaries are. You cannot camp on any of the public access easements which lead to public conservation land.

Be a responsible dog owner

Always keep your dog under control

- Remove any dog droppings from tracks or track verges
- Dogs are not allowed inside huts. Tie your dog up somewhere suitable outside.
- Check whether pest-control poisons have been laid in the area you wish to visit. Go to www.doc.govt.nz/pesticide-summaries.
- If passing through farmland help prevent the spread of sheep measles by keeping your dog regularly dosed with an effective tapeworm drug. Generally Droncit is used and given monthly in tablet form. Alternatively collect dog faeces and take to an appropriate waste disposal centre.



Tread carefully with your horse

Make sure all your riding gear and horse's hooves are free of any seeds or soil which could potentially spread weeds.

- Have your horse eat weed-free feed for 48 hours prior to entering public conservation land
- Do not take your horse into fragile areas such as wetlands
- Keep horse manure away from hut and campsite areas.



Take care visiting Ruataniwha Conservation Park

Be prepared: The weather in this conservation park can change rapidly. Check the weather forecast before you leave home. Carry warm and waterproof clothing and be prepared to retreat if rain causes river levels to rise.

Fire: Fire restrictions apply to all public conservation land. Consult with local information centres or DOC offices for the current fire status.

Avalanche: Backcountry travellers should be able to recognise hazardous avalanche terrain and run-out zones. We recommend carrying 457 khz transceivers, probes and shovels. Avalanches can flow down to valley floors anytime from May to November during, and after, severe snow storm cycles.

Communications: Cell phone coverage cannot be relied upon in this park; satellite phones or mountain radios are a better option. We recommend all parties carry a personal locator beacon for increased safety.

Take care with river crossings

- always treat the river with respect
- never cross a dirty or flooded river
- when four-wheel driving have an adult walk the river first
- river currents are often stronger than they appear
- river levels can rise rapidly due to rain in the catchment headwaters
- river levels may rise due to afternoon snow melt (spring)
- braids of the river can shift and there may be soft sinking sand/silt
- if in doubt, retreat.

Ruataniwha Conservation Park

SOUTH CANTERBURY



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ruataniwha Conservation Park covers rugged mountain country, tussock lands, beech/tawhai forest and sparkling clear rivers. Major valleys included within the park are Duncan, Dobson, Hopkins, Huxley, Maitland and Temple. The eastern side of the park is bordered by the tussock-clad Ben Ohau Range/Ruataniwha which runs up to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park.

The name Ruataniwha has been associated with this area for over 400 years, after two Māori brothers who travelled here. 'Rua' translates as two while 'taniwha' means powerful or strong person.

This park is an adventure paradise

Many recreationalists visit the park including trampers, mountain bikers, climbers, photographers, anglers, horse riders and hunters. You can hunt for tahr or chamois and the occasional red deer. All hunters must have a hunting permit obtained from a DOC office or online at www.doc.govt.nz.

BEN OHAU RANGE/RUATANIWHA

When westerly conditions make it unpleasant along the main divide, the Ben Ohau Range provides a great tramping destination. On the river flats, the tracks mentioned here make great walking, mountain biking and horse riding options.

Most of the public access into this area of the park is along easements crossing private high-country stations.

Please ensure you:

- stay on the public access easement
- leave gates as you find them
- do not disturb stock
- keep your dog away unless you have private runholders permission
- take all rubbish away with you

Merino sheep are often stocked on these high-country stations and they spook easily. If on bike or horse, please ride slowly past these animals. In some cases during lambing season alternative routes will be suggested, and will be clearly signposted (October-December).

Boundary Stream

A narrow strip of public conservation land meets Aoraki/Mount Cook highway at Boundary Stream. This provides good access to Ben Dhu Peak (1607 m) and over into Duncan valley. There is no formed track.



Big Rock Stream

A public access easement is signposted at Big Rock Stream. You can tramp to the top of Rhoboro Hills from here, but this route is unmarked.



Native tussocks provide a home for our wildlife

The sweeping tussock slopes of Ben Ohau Range host a myriad of wild-life including moths, butterflies, lizards, grasshoppers, spiders and beetles. Unfortunately these creatures are at risk of being displaced by introduced weeds like wilding pines and brier. They are also threatened by vigorous predators including hedgehogs, stoats and feral cats.



Duncan valley.....

All track times mentioned are a guide for people on foot.

Tracks start from a signposted car park beside Aoraki/Mount Cook highway (SH 80).

Baikie Hut 9 km, 2 hours 30 min

The track into Baikie Hut runs parallel to Twizel River. This hut makes a great overnight destination or picnic spot.



From pull-over area on Glen Lyon Road beside Pukaki Canal

Dusky Trail 23 km, 6 hours

Dusky Trail climbs alongside Fraser stream and then travels along the valley floor below Ben Ohau Range. It then descends from Gladstone valley out to the highway. This trip involves crossing both the Fraser and Twizel rivers.



From large car park alongside Glen Lyon Road (100 m further up the road)

Ben Ohau Wetland 1 km, 15 minutes

This short walk leads to a carex wetland.



Pyramid Saddle viewpoint 5 km, 1 hr 30 min

This is a great destination for walkers. The track passes Ben Ohau Wetland and goes through exotic forest. It is then a short, steep climb to the saddle for fantastic views. There is the option of taking the Flanagan Pass Trail from here or going down valley via Darts Bush Stream.



Flanagan Pass Trail 20 km, 7 hours

Descend from Pyramid Saddle to the Darts Bush flats and carry on up to Flanagan Pass. The trip over Flanagan Pass (formerly known as Glen Lyon Saddle) was regularly used in the late 1800s as a stock route. Remaining telegraph poles from the 1940s can be seen beside the track in places—they once provided communication for Glen Lyon Station. For mountain bikers the track is rough on the eastern side but provides an exhilarating diagonal descent on the western side to Lake Ohau.



WESTERN SIDE OF BEN OHAU RANGE/RUATANIWHA

Access to Ben Ohau/Ruataniwha Peak and the western side of the Ben Ohau Range is along the eastern shore of Lake Ohau via Glen Lyon Road. Drive carefully as this is a narrow gravel road. You will drive past a rock retaining wall built in the 1930s by workers during the depression.

Greta Track 16 km, 6-7 hours

Remnant beech, mānuka, tōtara and an old musterer's hut from the 1890s makes for an interesting start to this track. It is a 5-km climb up the western flank of Ben Ohau/Ruataniwha Peak (walkers will need to deviate from the track to climb to the true summit at 1522 m). Descend Greta's Stream. You will need to cross the stream in places, passing rock bluffs and mountain beech on the way to Lake Ohau.



Travel further along Glen Lyon Road for Dorcy Stream Track. Stock may be grazing beside the road so be prepared to stop if required.

Dorcy Stream Track 4 km, 2 hours

A direct zig-zag 4WD track takes you up to the airstrip



where you can park your vehicle. Please note that this vehicle track is open all year round but may be treacherous in winter. From where you park your vehicle it is a 1 to 1 hour 30 min walk up to Flanagan Pass.

Dobson valley

Dobson valley is at the end of Glen Lyon Road. Please drive slowly past Glen Lyon homestead buildings to reduce dust. Initial travel past the homestead is on a high-country station so access permission is required from Glen Lyon Station. You also need permission to take your dog with you. You can 4WD to Grough and Kennedy huts but you need to be skilled in backcountry/river travel.

Walking times

Glen Lyon Station–Grough Hut 26 km, 6 hours

Grough Hut–Kennedy Hut 7 km, 2 hours 30 min

Kennedy Hut–Waterfall Hut 6 km, 2 hours

Waterfall Hut–Reardon Hut 4 km, 1 hour 30 min

Access to Freehold, Temple, Maitland and Hopkins valleys is from the western side of Lake Ohau. Take care on Lake Ohau Road as it is narrow and winding in places. The road changes to gravel after Lake Ohau Lodge.

Freehold Creek

Mountain-beech forest clings to the gullies alongside Freehold, Parsons and Sawyers creeks in this area. You can walk your dog on a lead. The new Alps to Ocean cycleway track will be formed from Lake Ohau Lodge to Freehold Creek.

Glen Mary Ski Club Huts access – Freehold Creek track 2 km, 45 minutes

This track provides a direct route to Sawyers Stream and on to Freehold Creek. It then takes over an hour to climb up to Freehold Creek bushline. Please park in the signposted area near Lake Ohau Road (not by the huts).

Parsons Creek – viewpoint 300 metres, 10 minutes

Look out for the DOC sign just before Parsons Creek one-lane bridge on Lake Ohau Road. A short steep walk to a vantage point in the beech forest.

Parsons Creek – Freehold Creek bushline 6 km, 2 hours
From Parsons Creek the track meanders along ancient

glacial moraine terraces with a bridge-crossing at Sawyers Creek. Once across the Freehold Creek bridge you are walking on an old beech logging trail. Note the distinctive curved nature of the track where bullocks (young bulls) dragged large beech and tōtara logs from the forest.

Freehold Creek bushline – Dumb-bell Lake 4 km, 4 hrs
A diverse selection of native plants hug the Freehold Creek bush edge. Continue on a marked route within Freehold Creek basin which is then unmarked to Dumb-bell Lake.

Mistletoes/pikirangi look beautiful in flower

The Ohau beech forests are regarded nationally as a great place to see mistletoe/pikirangi. This parasitic plant puts on a spectacular flowering display in November/December. Easy access places to see these mistletoes include Greta Track, Freehold Creek and Temple valley. Keep a look out for bellbirds/korimako as they, along with tūi, spread this plant from tree to tree.



Watch out for stock grazing beside Lake Ohau Road. As a courtesy, drive slowly past Lake Ohau Station buildings to reduce dust.

Maitland valley

Maitland valley is reached via Lake Ohau Road. Initial travel is across private land so access permission is required from Lake Ohau Station.

Lake Ohau – Maitland Hut 10 km, 4–5 hours

The track signage states it takes four hours for this trip but many people take longer. You will encounter a steep climb early on to get to the top of a scree slope. Once you have descended down to Maitland Stream the track is well marked to Maitland Hut.

Maitland Hut – Snowy Gorge Hut 9 km, 4 hours

Once out of the beech forest dodge the spaniards/tamea as you climb steadily to the pass at 1352 m. Continue down to Snowy Gorge Hut in Ahuriri Conservation Park.

Temple valley

Temple valley camping area, signposted off Lake Ohau Road, has basic facilities including a shelter and toilet

Temple valley circuit track 2 km, 1 hour

This short track circles through mountain-beech forest.

Temple valley campsite – North Temple cirque

5 km, 2 hours 30 min

After crossing North Temple Stream the track travels along the beech-forest margin and ends at an impressive cirque basin.

Temple valley campsite – South Temple Hut

7.5 km, 3 hours

You need to cross South Temple Stream to reach the hut; this may be tricky after heavy rainfall.

Possums do enormous damage to native forests

A possum-trapping programme is running in the Temple valleys. Please leave all traps alone and if your dog is with you note any poison signage. Possums browse on our native vegetation including mistletoes and a rare, threatened tree called *Pittisporum patulum* (left) found in the Ohau forests.



Forces of nature are changing the landscape

Over recent years the rivers have been changing their course in many of the mountain valleys in Ruataniwha Conservation Park. This has altered previous existing tracks. Erosion and slips have occurred in the narrow valleys as well.



Braided river birds nest here

If you drive in the Hopkins riverbed—please keep to any established tracks. This reduces the danger of nests and chicks being run over by vehicles.



Hopkins valley

To continue beyond Ram Hill (the first main gate you come to across the road) you will require a 4WD. The track now finishes 10-minutes walk from Monument Hut due to the changing course of the Hopkins River. You can either park here at the Ruataniwha Conservation Park boundary, or cross the river to carry on further by vehicle. It is possible to drive up the valley as far as Elcho Hut but you need to be skilled at backcountry vehicle travel. Dogs need to remain in your vehicle until the conservation park boundary is reached downstream of Monument Hut.

Walking times

- Ram Hill – Monument Hut** 9 km, 2 hours *dogs in vehicles only*
- Monument Hut – Red Hut** 6 km, 2 hours *dogs on lead*
- Red Hut – Dasler Biv** 6 km, 3 hours
- Red Hut – Dodger Hut** 14 km, 5 hours
- Monument Hut – Elcho Hut (NZAC)** 9 km, 4 hours
- Elcho Hut – North Elcho Stream bush line** 4 km, 2 hours
- Elcho Hut (NZAC) – Cullers Hut** 1.5 km, 30 min
- Cullers Hut – Dodger Hut** 5.5 km, 2 hours
- Dodger Hut – Erceg Hut** 7 km, 3 hours
- Erceg Hut – Richardson Biv** 3 km, 1 hour

A beech tree can live for over 400 years

The forests in this region contain a mixture of mountain and silver beech. Bush birds include tomtit/miromiro, fantail/pīwakawaka, bellbird/korimako, rifleman/tītipounamu and morepork/ruru koukou. Further up the Hopkins valley NZ falcon/kārearea, kea and rock wren/pīwauwau may be encountered.



Huxley valley

Huxley valley branches off Hopkins valley and is an open, grassy riverbed as far as Huxley Forks Hut. In periods of heavy rainfall the creeks near Huxley Forks Hut can be difficult to cross. From Huxley Forks Hut you can either travel up North Huxley valley or South Huxley valley.



Walking times

- Monument Hut – Huxley Forks Hut** 9 km, 3 hours
- Huxley Forks Hut – Brodrick Hut** 4.5 km, 2 hr 30 min–3 hr
- Brodrick Hut – Brodrick Pass** 2.5 km, 3 hours
- Huxley Forks Hut – South Huxley Biv** 5 km, 2 hr 30 min–3 hr

Your hut fees help maintain the huts

Hut fees go back into upgrading and maintaining our backcountry huts. There are no charges for children up to the age of 10 years in the backcountry huts in this region.

Logburner  open fire 

	Baikie Hut 		Huxley Forks Hut 
	Brodrick Hut 		Kennedy Memorial Hut 
	Cullers Hut 		Maitland Hut 
	Dasler Biv 		Monument Hut 
	Dodger Hut 		Reardon Hut <i>no heating</i>
	Elcho Hut (NZAC) 		Red Hut 
	Erceg Hut <i>no heating</i>		South Huxley Hut 
	Greta Lodge 		South Temple Hut 
	Grough Hut <i>no heating</i>		Waterfall Hut 



Remember—your safety is your responsibility

Leave your intentions with a trusted contact. Information on the Outdoor Intentions system can be found at www.adventuresmart.co.nz



Check, Clean, Dry

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Conservation
Te Manahuna Area Office
Wairepo Road
TWIZEL
Phone: 03 435 0802
Email: TwizelAO@doc.govt.nz

For more information about recreation and conservation visit: www.doc.govt.nz.

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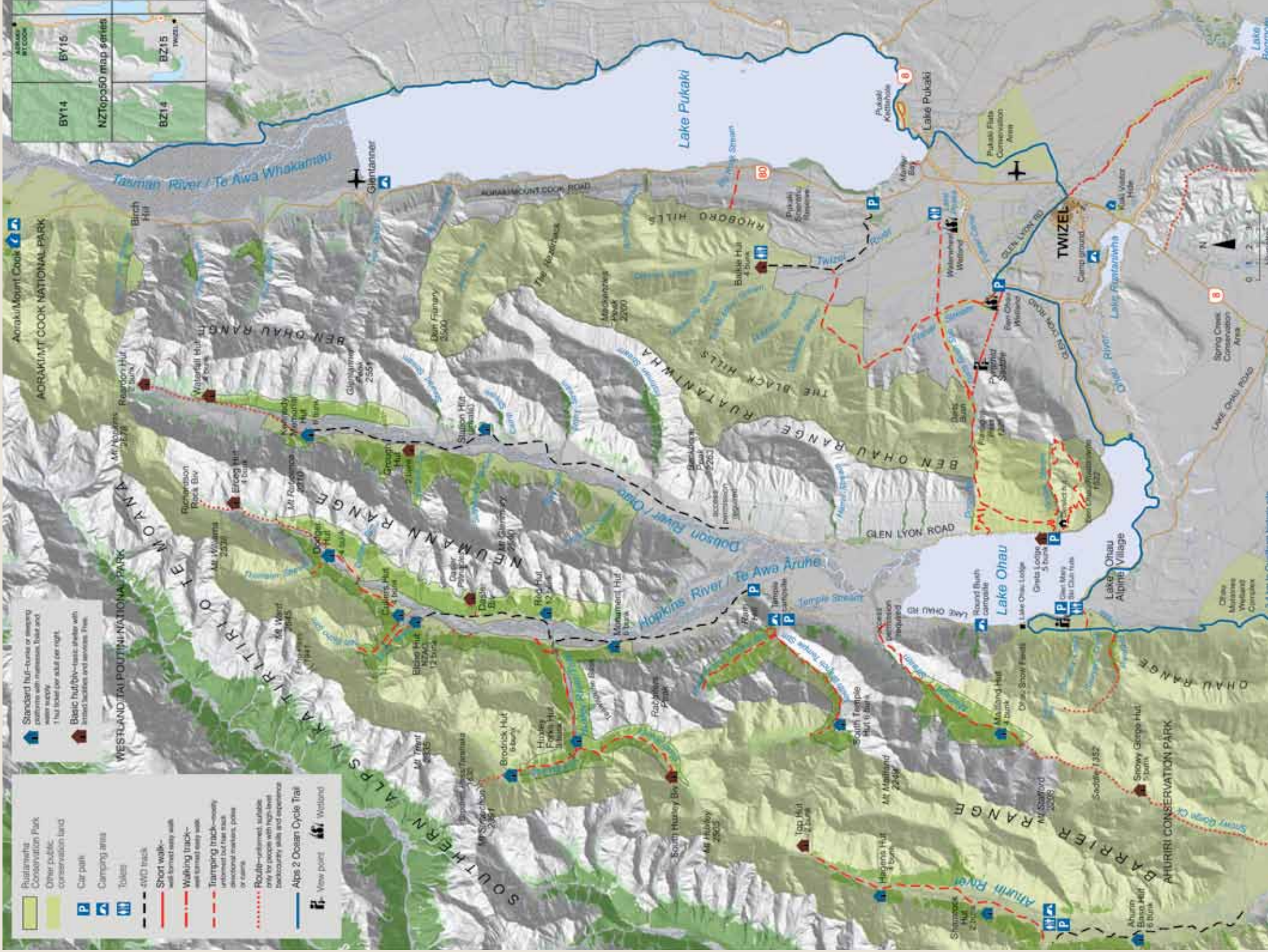
NEW ZEALAND environmental CARE CODE

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Camp carefully
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For fire and search and rescue call 111



9 421005 173123 >



- Ruanui/Hahei Conservation Park
- Other public conservation land
- Car park
- Camping area
- Toilet
- 4WD track
- Short walk - well formed easy walk
- Walking track - well formed easy walk
- Tramping track - morey formed but fair track, occasional markers, poles or camps
- Route - unformed, suitable only for people with high level of fitness, skills and experience
- Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
- View point
- Wetland

- Standard hut - basic or emergency contents with mattress, table and seat nearby
- 1 hr food per adult per night
- Basic hut/food - basic shelter with limited facilities and services. Free

Access:

Baikie Hut/Duncan valley 4WD access road:
Permission to drive along this 4WD track is required from Pukaki Downs Station. Phone: 08 435 0191

Dobson valley: Permission to access this area via the 4WD track is required from Glen Lyon Station. Phone: 03 488 9844 or alternatively 03 488 9642

Ohau Snow Fields road: Permission to drive up Ohau Snow Fields road is required from Lake Ohau Lodge. Phone: 03 488 9885

Mainland valley: Permission to access the lower Mainland valley is required from Lake Ohau Station. Phone: 03 488 9686