

Care for property

Gates

Leave gates as found.

Fences

If there is no gate handy go through the wires or climb over at strainer posts. Unsupported wires should not be climbed.

Huts

Obtain specific permission to use station huts. Do not use food or fuel except in emergency (in which case inform runholder on return). Replenish firewood.

Stock

Avoid mobs of stock where possible. If you cannot avoid walking through stock, move in single file. Do not 'drive' stock. Report to the runholder any stock you consider to be in distress or missed in a muster.

Crops

Walk around the edges of crops.

Care for the land

Observe the Minimum Impact Code

- **Prevent litter.** Carry out all your rubbish.
- **Do not cut live trees** or shrubs or cut blazes.
- **Ensure fires are totally extinguished** when leaving camp or huts. Use portable stoves for preference. Most high country areas are covered by closed fire seasons in summer.
- **Minimise camp-site construction** and leave them tidy.
- **Bury toilet wastes** well away from open water.
- **Avoid polluting streams or lakes**, particularly with soap or detergent.
- **Protect nature**, wildlife and plants that give the high country its special value.

Photo: Lake Grasmere, Waimakariri basin. G. Stowger.

A High Country Recreational Users' Code



PUBLIC LANDS COALITION

"Working to protect nature and foster recreation on New Zealand's Public lands, waterways, and seacoast"

Contents approved by the
High Country Committee of
Federated Farmers.

PLC member bodies—
Federated Mountain Clubs, NZ Fish & Game Council,
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society.
May 1991

Access — a matter of communication

The Recreational Visitor

Obtain permission unless defined legal access exists or local practice does not require runholder permission, but the onus is on you to establish this first.

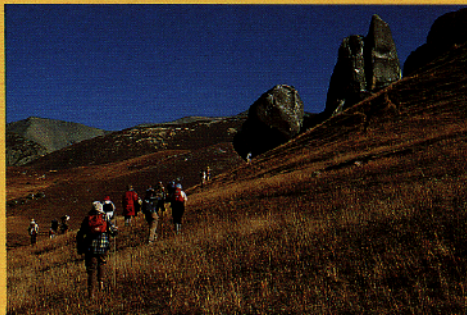
If possible contact runholders, by phone or letter, a reasonable time before your visit. Give your name and a contact address or phone number (collect). State the nature of your recreation, intended route and duration of visit. Indicate where you will leave your vehicle(s). Describe make, colour and registration number. Ask if you can assist by bringing mail or supplies.

If you do not know who to contact ask the local branch of Federated Farmers, DOC or Landcorp Offices for the runholder's name and address.

If you want to use a motor vehicle on the property or take a dog or firearm, make this clear when seeking permission.

There may be valid reasons (particularly lambing or mustering) why runholders may deny access.

Accept refusals with good grace.
If you encounter persistent or unreasonable refusals, refer these to your national recreational body for negotiation.

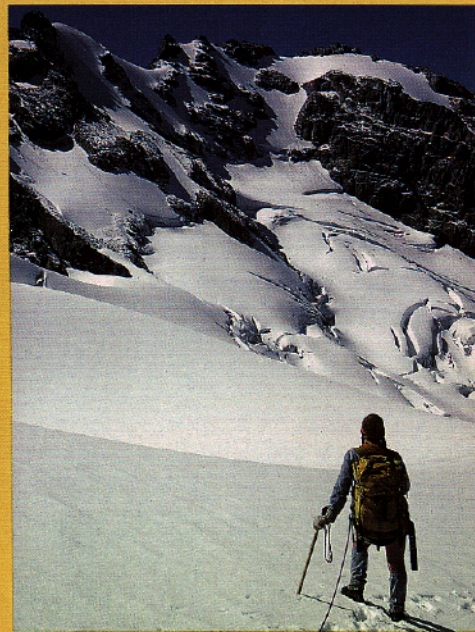


Castle Hill Station. *Mike Harding*

The Runholder

The High Country Committee of Federated Farmers recognises the desire of the public to use the high country. Federated Farmers encourages its members to allow the maximum possible use of pastoral land that is compatible with their farm management and does not encumber them with additional liability.

When permission is sought by members of the public to gain access to or across leasehold land, lessees should endeavour to view the request favourably. If there are reasons to refuse then it is courtesy and helpful to explain the reasons for refusal. If possible offer alternative times or places.



Mt Barth, Birchwood Station, Ahuriri Valley. *Donald Lousley*

This High Country Users' Code is intended to promote good relations between the recreational public and high country runholders.

The high country sustains a vibrant rural economy and contains vast areas which have major landscape, ecological and recreational significance.

This code refers principally to the South Island pastoral high country. Approximately 2,800,000 hectares of this land (18 percent of the South Island) are covered by grazing runs. The majority of this land is leased by the Crown to runholders as pastoral leases. Some land is owned by universities and leased under similar conditions. Many runs include some freehold land.

The runholder has trespass rights—
s/he can grant or deny access
on both leased and freehold land.

The beds of rivers, major streams and sizeable lakes are not normally included in leases. Public access may exist in the form of riparian strips along river and stream banks (not on all runs), or formed or unformed public roads, and by special clauses or easements registered against lease titles. The Crown owns all game, birds, fish and the beds of most lakes and rivers.

In some high use areas formal marked public access has been established. Examples are the St James Walkway, the entry to Craigieburn Forest Park at Cass, and the Remarkables Road, as well as anglers' access in some districts.

Recreational use may occur on a lease itself or access may be needed across a lease to public land beyond. Recreational use can affect run management. Remember that runholders live and work in the high country. The nature of the land can create particular problems with stock management. Co-operation and understanding are therefore important for both resident and visitor.