



How appropriate are industrial structures in national parks? A review of the Tongariro National Park management plan is at present taking place and will provide the groundwork for management long into the future.

The carpark at Turoa looks like any downtown shopping mall conglomeration.



ple. I see it as a benefit for a few against a cost for many" (*New Zealand Herald*). Certainly the serenity of the many was shattered long ago at Mt Cook National Park where ski planes buzz the Tasman Glacier, their sound reverberating against the mountain walls. It is worse in Westland National Park where a superb wander up the Fox Glacier past the huge ice pinnacles and ice caves and across the magnificent herbfields around Chancellor Hut is shattered on most fine days by a virtually continuous noise that would drive a modern worker to ear muff protection.

What emerges from these contemporary examples is that New Zealand lacks a clear philosophy of values for its national park management. If Tongariro holds out against any further major development within its boundaries it may appear, along with Hauraki, to be shutting the barn door after the horse has bolted. But the situation is redeemable. Concessions can be removed to outside park boundaries. Further roading in national parks can be seen as inappropriate. The flying-over and landing of planes and helicopters can be restricted to very specific areas, or denied altogether.

However, to convince the tourists, the public and themselves that such wonderful fun conveniences are very destructive to park values, the park administrators will need to develop a philosophy that recognises the full range of human and other values which they are protecting in national parks. They will need to dig seriously into the writings of Thoreau and others who loved spaces where people could find a natural world free of con-

sumer comfort and impact. A world where time and space is measured out by natural rhythms and where people see, hear, taste and smell only what they can never create. National parks and reserves are among few places left where this experience can be protected in law and management. If in our bid for the international tourist dollar we turn national parks into fun parlours we destroy the important human experiences and values that national parks can offer.

Conservationists have long extolled the value of national parks. Now they must insist the new Department of Conservation develops a philosophy that preserves and manages them for their pristine state. 🦅

Tongariro National Park has advertised for submissions on its intention to review the Tongariro National Park Management Plan. All interested people may send their thoughts and feelings to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Lands and Survey, Private Bag, Wellington.

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