



The mere fact that national parks exist is sometimes cited as a benefit — making people feel good that areas are being preserved for future generations. Lake Waikaremoana, Urewera National Park.

Photo: Eric Taylor



Above: Most people surveyed regarded preservation as the principal purpose of national parks, with recreation placed second. Some would argue that national park staff spend more time catering to the public than preserving the natural environment. Tongariro National Park skifield. Photo: J Mazey



Above and right: The national park system caters for different types of visitors with facilities that range from interpretative centres to huts and tracks in remote areas. Mangatepopo Hut, Tongariro National Park. Photos: Conservation Department; Gerry McSweeney (right)

