



Logging site – Rowallan forest.

"The sensitive management practices advocated by the United Council would not result in the wholesale destruction of bird habitat." (W J Watt Southland United Council 24/8/87). "The area of land logged annually is relatively small with no harmful effects." (Wood Export Tokanui Ltd in Southland Times 27/8/87). Photo: Gerry McSweeney

tionists have also only recently discovered that the Forest Service in its dying days in October 1986 pushed through a further woodchip sale of 30,000 cubic metres per annum from Rowallan. This also expires on July 31 this year.

### Fifteen Times the Sustained Yield

This sale was contrary to the provisions of the ministerially approved 1981 Southland Regional Management Plan.

Total timber sales from Rowallan are therefore about 78,000 cubic metres per year – 90 percent as woodchips sent direct to Japan. This is 15 times the sustained yield calculated for all the Western Southland beech forests.

If the logging was switched immediately onto a sustained yield basis, employment in managing and processing would total about 15 jobs. Should logging be halted immediately these 15 jobs would be lost, but there need be little social impact as a massive volume of pine is coming on stream from

1990 onwards. If an advanced cutting strategy is adopted, many additional jobs will be created. Already Tuatapere's Lindsay and Dixon mill has chosen to substitute exotic pine for part of its beech entitlement.

### Heavily Taxpayer Subsidised

Ironically logging in Rowallan is a big loser – about \$250,000 annually according to a 1986 Native Forests Action Council study. This does not include the costs of the loss of a virgin forest and its wildlife. Hoping for better economic results, the Forestry Corporation conducted another economic analysis. Their staff admit their study showed Rowallan logging to be "economically unattractive."

Southland Forestry Corporation manager Dennys Guild said in a *Southland Times* interview that: "the operation has not made a profit for the Forest Service." He admitted that even under a more efficient corporation it "would never be a money spinner." (20/3/87).

## What You Can Do

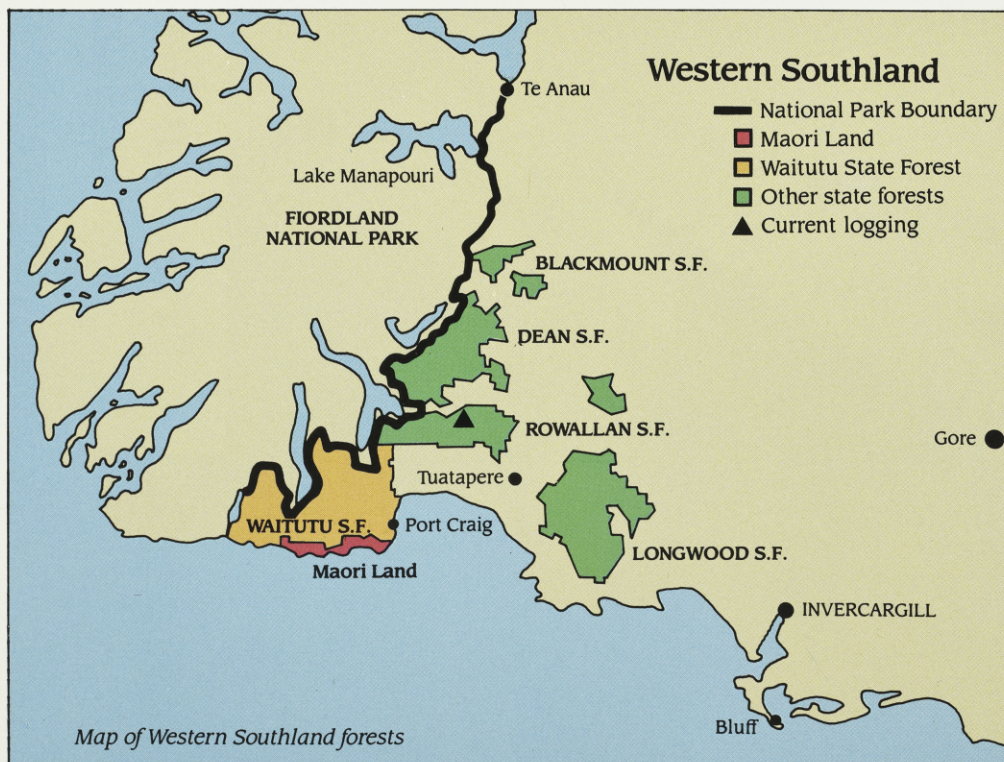
Now is the time to influence the future of Dean, Rowallan and Longwood. The Government is due to make decisions on them by March 31 this year. The Government must get the clear message from New Zealanders that woodchipping our heritage is not on. They will respond to widespread public concern.

Please write immediately to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Conservation, the Minister of State Owned Enterprises and the Minister of Finance, C/- Parliament Buildings, Wellington, and let them know your view. Please also send copies of your letters and replies to Forest and Bird, PO Box 631, Wellington so we can also lobby on your behalf. If you need any more information, don't hesitate to contact us.

## Straightforward Solution

The issues in Southland are therefore straightforward. On the one hand we can either allow a huge, predominantly woodchipping operation to continue in World Heritage quality rainforests, thereby endangering a national stronghold of kaka, parakeet and the yellowhead. The operation squanders taxpayer money and provides only a handful of jobs in the long term.

The alternative is for the Government to move quickly to protect the forests and their wildlife. Dean and Rowallan forests would become part of a South-West World Heritage Area. They would form a natural gateway to southern Fiordland and offer opportunities for lowland forest walks and drives. Any job losses could be prevented by adopting an advanced cutting strategy for Southland's exotic forests. Alternative high quality beech timber will remain available for furniture from the sustained yield forests in Westland, agreed for sale to the Forestry Corporation under the 1986 West Coast Accord. ✈



## Petrocorp shows the way

In October last year oil explorer Petrocorp decided to shift its proposed oil drilling from virgin beech forest in Western Southland on to adjoining farmland.

Protests from Forest and Bird persuaded Petrocorp to make the shift, after they had earlier decided to clear a 1.8 km long road through virgin forest in Rowallan, then clear a further 3 hectares of forest to set up the oil rig. Instead, they are now drilling on an angle underneath the forest from farmland adjacent.

The cost of changing their rig position would have run to several hundred thousand dollars.

It is too much to hope that the Forestry Corporation will show a similar sensitivity over the beech forests of Western Southland?