DOC’s Roads – Managing a remote network of roads throughout NZ

Brian Dobbie
DOC’s Roads

• DOC manages huts, tracks, structures, campsites, toilets

• 2,200 km of road

• In (almost) every part of NZ

• Connect with most RCA’s roads

• Lead to tourism destinations
DOC’s Roads

• Low volume

• Considerable 4WD network

• Not in great condition

• DOC is in top 10 RCAs by length and top 3 for unsealed road
Franz Josef Glacier Access Road
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Owawenga Road (Pureora)
Fletchers Road (Pureora)
Dominion Road, Tongariro Forest
Manuherikia East Branch Road
(Central Otago)
Akatarawa to Renata Road (Tararua Forest Park)
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DOC Roads – the problem

• DOC has failed as a Road Controlling Authority to systematically manage roads on public conservation land as part of the national network of roads.

• This has resulted in reactive maintenance and deterioration of the road assets for users accessing conservation land

• By not managing roads well we are failing to leverage the potential value of public conservation land to the NZ visitor economy (tourism)
Benefits of investing in roads

• Better able to mitigate the risk to visitors and other road users whilst on public conservation land

• A safe and sustainable network of roads able to meet the growth in visitor numbers
Who uses DOC’s roads?

- Travelling international and domestic short stop and day visitors
- *Scenic/*”tourist” drivers
- Businesses – tourism concessionaires, farming, forestry, communications etc.
- Trampers, walkers, hunters, fishers, mountain bikers, horse riders
- Campers, including freedom campers
- Off-road enthusiasts
- Volunteers, community groups, school groups, DOC staff
What is DOC doing to address “the problem”?

• Inventory and inspection (Opus, 2016)

• All DOC roads classified to fit One Network Road Classification – 87% Low volume*

• 10 year maintenance and renewal plan

• Activity management plan developed

• Working closely with NZTA – agreed criteria for determining eligible roads

  • *Major, intermediate, minor
What is DOC doing to address “the problem”?

• Seeking NZTA funding in 2018-2021 National Land Transport Programme for 1,062 km of DOC road – in 14 RTC regions*

• Employing a Roads expert (“Programme Manager – DOC Roads”) in Operations Planning team

• Long-term plan is to closely collaborate with RCAs in managing DOC roads that connect with theirs

• * All except East Coast and Chatham Islands
Kopuwai Conservation Area, Alexandra