

5.3.3 Visitor Settings (A methodology for recreation management in Fiordland National Park)

The Department of Conservation’s aim is to provide for a range of recreation opportunities within Fiordland National Park without compromising the natural and historical values. To facilitate the provision of this range of opportunities and experiences being sought by visitors, Fiordland National Park has been split into visitor settings. These visitor settings ‘set the scene’ for the type of activities and effects that are appropriate within a particular setting thereby protecting the experience of those undertaking the activity. The physical attributes of an area, the existing visitor use, accessibility, facilities and services, and the level of management have determined the settings.

While recognising the international significance of Fiordland National Park, it is important to note that the visitor settings established in this plan have been developed according to New Zealand values and expectations.

Five visitor management settings have been identified for Fiordland National Park. They are:

- Wilderness Areas;
- Remote Experience Areas;
- Backcountry Areas;
- High Use Track Corridors; and
- Frontcountry Areas.

The relationship between the Visitor Management Settings and Visitor Groups is shown in Table 4:

TABLE 4 – THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VISITOR MANAGEMENT SETTINGS AND VISITOR GROUPS

VISITOR MANAGEMENT SETTING	VISITOR GROUP
Wilderness Areas	Remoteness Seekers
Remote Experience Areas	Remoteness Seekers, Backcountry Adventurers
Backcountry Areas	Backcountry Adventurers
High Use Track Corridors	Backcountry Comfort Seekers
Frontcountry Areas	Short Stop Travellers, Day Visitors and Overnights

The Visitor Settings for Fiordland National Park are shown on Map 7. The scale of the map necessitates that the boundaries shown are indicative only. For clarity some additional boundary definition is included in the text that follows, but for accurate visitor setting boundary information, plans held in the Invercargill or Te Anau offices of the Department of Conservation should be consulted.

The prescription for management of each of these visitor settings is described below.

MAP 7. VISITOR SETTINGS

