

WE ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WETLANDS.

Wetlands can improve water quality and provide additional habitat for birds, animals and insects.

If you are planning to construct a wetland on your property, give us a call first and we can walk you through the process, resource consents, and other relevant issues.



Go to www.orc.govt.nz to find out if you have Regionally Significant Wetlands on your property, and to get more information about what you can and can't do in wetland areas. Search for 'Regionally Significant Wetlands'.

If you're interested in protecting your wetland for future generations, contact QEII National Trust on 04 472 6626 or www.openspace.org.nz to find out about covenants.



WETLANDS IN OTAGO



OTAGO'S WETLANDS ARE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES.

WHAT IS A WETLAND?

Wetlands are permanently or intermittently wet areas that support natural ecosystems of plants and animals. They can include bogs, swamps, fens, shallow water and salt marshes, and are found from the coast to the high country. 90% of New Zealand's wetlands have been cleared and drained in the last 150 years, however an increasing number of land owners are now seeing the value in restoring these unique landscape features.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT WETLANDS?

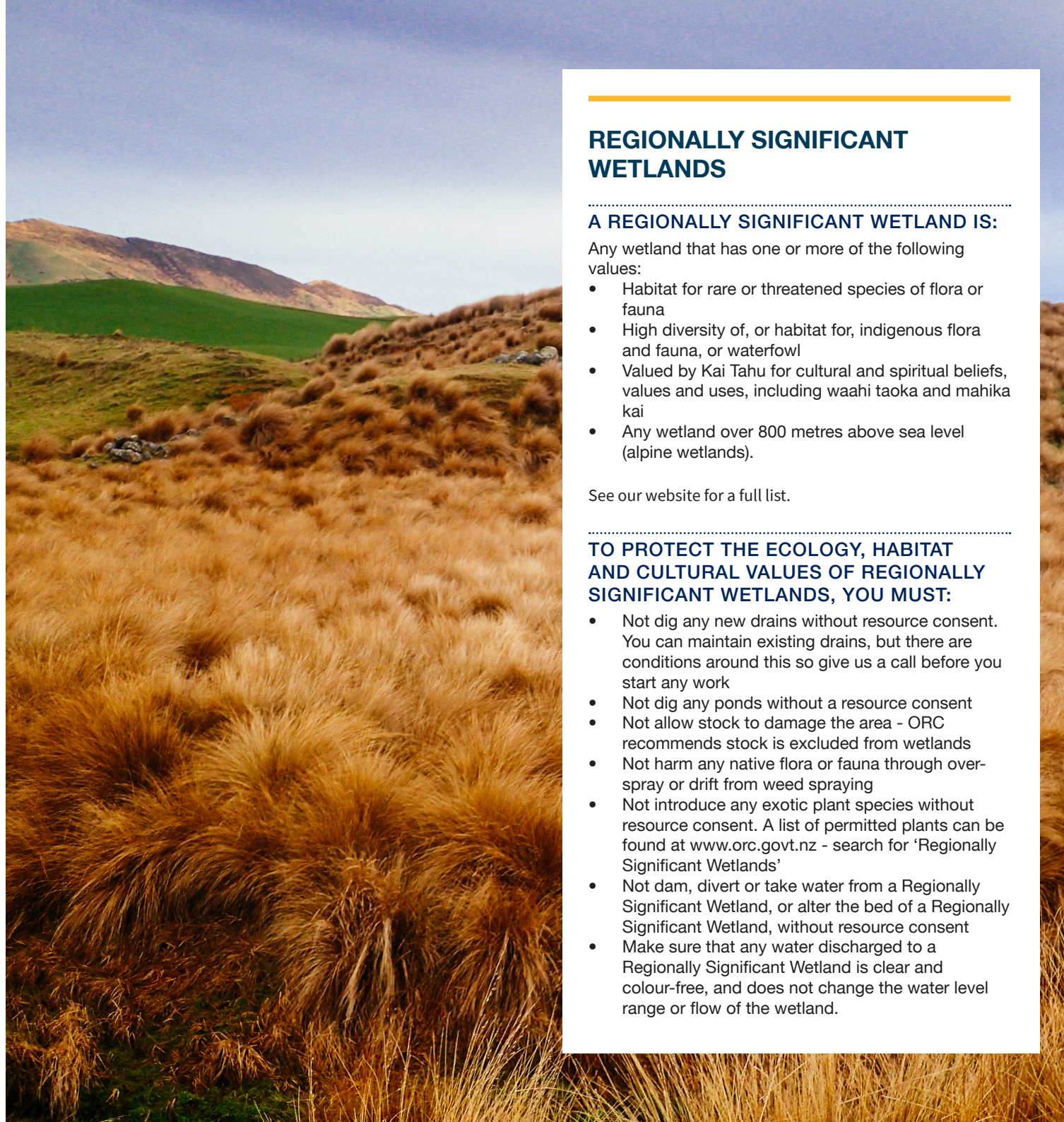
Wetlands are important environmental filters, often described as the kidneys of the landscape.

WETLANDS CAN IMPROVE WATER QUALITY BY:

- Filtering sediment and nutrients
- Removing soluble nitrogen from runoff and resurfacing groundwater. In some soils, managed wetlands are the most effective solution to reducing the amount of nitrogen reaching waterways. Too much nitrogen in the water can cause nuisance plant/algae growth, which affects ecosystems and water quality.

WETLANDS ARE ALSO VALUABLE FOR OTAGO'S ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE THEY:

- Improve local biodiversity by providing a habitat for fish, birds and insects
- Reduce flood peaks by slowing the water flow
- Retain summer water flows by releasing water slowly
- Have both recreational and educational value.



REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS

A REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLAND IS:

Any wetland that has one or more of the following values:

- Habitat for rare or threatened species of flora or fauna
- High diversity of, or habitat for, indigenous flora and fauna, or waterfowl
- Valued by Kai Tahu for cultural and spiritual beliefs, values and uses, including waahi taoka and mahika kai
- Any wetland over 800 metres above sea level (alpine wetlands).

See our website for a full list.

TO PROTECT THE ECOLOGY, HABITAT AND CULTURAL VALUES OF REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS, YOU MUST:

- Not dig any new drains without resource consent. You can maintain existing drains, but there are conditions around this so give us a call before you start any work
- Not dig any ponds without a resource consent
- Not allow stock to damage the area - ORC recommends stock is excluded from wetlands
- Not harm any native flora or fauna through over-spray or drift from weed spraying
- Not introduce any exotic plant species without resource consent. A list of permitted plants can be found at www.orc.govt.nz - search for 'Regionally Significant Wetlands'
- Not dam, divert or take water from a Regionally Significant Wetland, or alter the bed of a Regionally Significant Wetland, without resource consent
- Make sure that any water discharged to a Regionally Significant Wetland is clear and colour-free, and does not change the water level range or flow of the wetland.