## Vegetation of Te Waihora 2013-2015

Jodi Rees – Senior Biodiversity Officer Selwyn-Waihora Zone



# How will we know when we have achieved success?

"Significant indigenous vegetation of the lake margin, wetlands and tributary streams is protected and restored"



#### State of the vegetation

- Lake margin and adjoining areas surveyed in 1983 and 2007
- Survey to be repeated in 2017



#### Pressures

- Weeds
- Stock grazing
- Vehicles



#### Weeds

- Serious threat to indigenous biodiversity around the lake
- Weed control program underway
- Guided by strategy



## Reed canary grass Phalaris arundinacea





# Grey willow Salix cinerea





# Yellow flag iris Iris pseudacorus





# Green goddess Zantedeschia aethiopica cv. Green Goddess



Environment Canterbury Regional Council Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

# Purple loosestrife Lythrum salicaria





## Beggar's tick Bidens frondosa



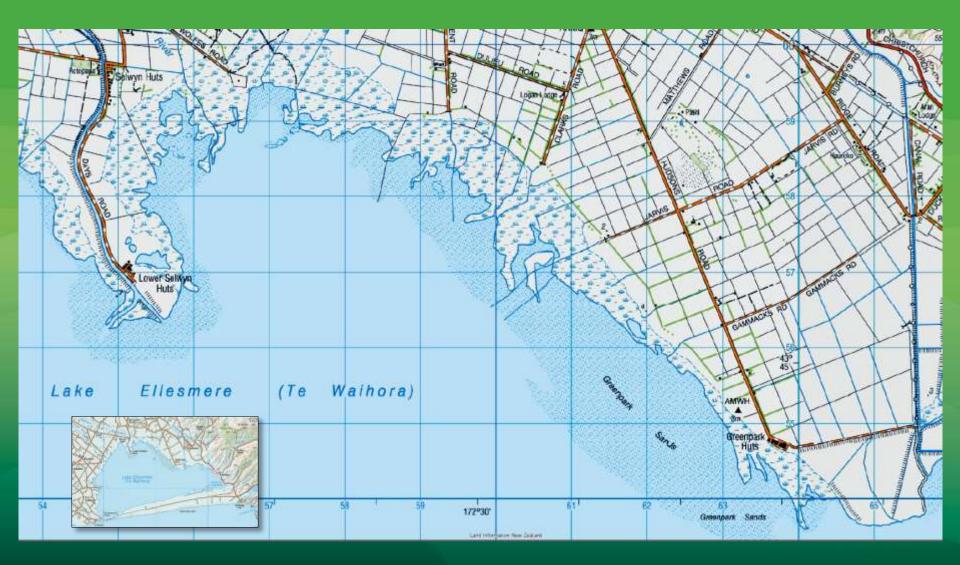


#### **Reed canary grass**

- Highlighted as concern in 2013 State of the Lake report
- Well established and widespread in northern and north-western tributaries



## Stock grazing and vehicles



# **Stock grazing**





# Stock grazing





#### Vehicle access





## **Canterbury Maps Demonstration**

#### http://canterburymaps.govt.nz/

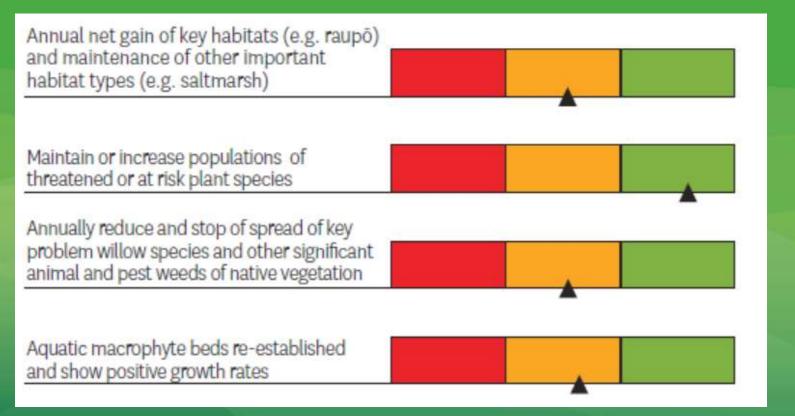


# Influence of lake level management in last two years

- Several episodes of unusually prolonged lake openings 2012-2013
- Period of unusually high lake levels and associated flooding in June 2013



# So how are we going with measures of success?





#### **General recommendations**

- Measures to address damage caused by vehicles access
- Additional resourcing for weed control and lake margin acquisition



## Monitoring recommendations

- Establish permanent 10x10m plots on public conservation land
  - Ensure comprehensive monitoring undertaken at regular intervals e.g. 3 yearly
- Continue to monitor lake margins and key tributaries for weed spread



### **Monitoring recommendations**

- Establish photo points to monitor change
  - Where willows have been removed
  - Where vehicle/stock access has been removed from lake shore



