

On Track: Updates from the DOC SSI Flood Recovery Program

Keeping you up-to-date with the latest developments and news on the Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National Parks flood recovery work.

The summer walking season is here and with many Kiwis heading out to explore their backyard, it is important that people have the most up-to-date information to plan their safe summer experiences. Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National Parks are both open for business. Check the DOC website or your local visitor centre for all the activities you can do and the places you can go while we fix the damage.

The Latest News – Key Summit OPEN!

We are delighted to announce that the track to Key Summit is now OPEN from the Divide carpark.

The gravel bunds blocking the entrances to the Divide carpark have been removed and the toilets given a spring clean. It is great to have this popular day walk track repaired and open to all. Enjoy 😊

Photo 1: Open for business!



- There are “No Stopping” signs at either end of the repaired area and these signs will stay in place until the new track ‘beds’ in.
- All walkers must move quickly through the area.
- There is a physical barrier with signage at the junction of the Key Summit track with the section of CLOSED Routeburn Track. This is designed to prevent unauthorised access down to Lake Howden Hut site.

General Advisory Notice: There are some sections of the track from the Divide carpark to Key Summit that are rough and uneven under foot due to the damage sustained from the February floods. Planning of the track improvement work is underway.



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Photo 2: One of the worksite hazards at Lake Howden

Lake Howden Hut Demolition & Removal

- From Monday 23 November, Lake Howden Hut will be demolished and completely removed.
- As well as the multiple hazards of this work site (see photo 2) there will be increased helicopter activity between the Lake Howden site and the Divide carpark as the demolition progresses.
- The lower half of the Divide carpark will be closed off by barriers and signage for the helicopter operations. There is plenty of car parking available in the top half of the carpark for visitors and park users.



Photo 3: the demolition begins with the verandah

Great Walks Tracks

Milford Track - Reopening 30 November 2020

- Currently **PARTIALLY OPEN** from Glade House to Mintaro/Mackinnon Pass. Bookings can be made for the huts for that section of open track.
- The track is **CLOSED** from Dumping Hut to Sandfly Point due to the numerous damaged sections of track.
- The progress of the recovery work to the tracks and structures is going well, however there are some sections of unstable ground still being repaired.
- We are “on track” to have this Great Walk fully opened as scheduled on Monday 30 November.



Photo 5: New Giants Gate Bridge - ready and waiting!

Routeburn Track – Reopening 7 December 2020

- Currently **PARTIALLY OPEN** from Routeburn Road End Shelter to Lake Mackenzie Hut. Bookings can be made for the huts and campsites for that section of the track.
- The track is **CLOSED** between the Key Summit Track/Lake Howden track junction and Lake Mackenzie Hut.
- The new bridges for the various track washouts between Lake Howden and Earland Falls have been flown into place but are awaiting engineer signoff.
- Everything is progressing well that should enable us to have this Great Walk fully opened as scheduled on Tuesday 7 December. Watch this space!

Day Walks and other visitor sites

The **Lake Marian Track** was opened last week. We had some keen day-walkers follow the team up the track to remove the barrier and signage.



Photo 4: New steps at Upper Gantry

- The **Hollyford Road** is **CLOSED** from Marian carpark to road end. There are multiple hazards present - from lost bridges and road washouts to major earthwork activity and heavy road construction machinery.
- All tracks with access from the Hollyford Road, excluding Lake Marian Track, remain **CLOSED**.
- The **Chasm** remains **CLOSED** due to the significant damage - including unstable areas, damaged structures, ground slumping, washouts and absent bridges.
- We are aware of the intense interest in the status of the **Chasm Walkway and carpark**. We will have an update on this facility soon.

Safety Information

Please observe and follow all signs, barriers and safety messaging that is in place on tracks, structures and facilities. They are there for a reason – not all hazards are visible.

Got questions? Helen Matthews is the Program Engagement Coordinator for the SSI Flood Recovery Program, based at the Te Anau office. She can be contacted by email or phone as detailed below.

The next SSI Flood Recovery Program Update will be issued in 5-10 working days.

Continue to check the DOC website for updates and the latest news.