

REVIEWS

OUR LAND RESOURCES, published for the National Water and Soil Conservation Organisation by Water and Soil Division, Ministry of Works and Development, 79 pp. Wellington, 1979. Obtainable from Government Bookshops (\$4.50).

This soft-cover booklet is published to accompany the New Zealand Land Resources Inventory Worksheets (produced at a scale of 1 : 63 360 for the whole of New Zealand by the same body) as a comprehensive guide to their interpretation.

One of the objects of the Resources Survey has been to collate physical data on a nationwide scale so that they could be readily available for interpretation by a number of varied users. The survey is based on the established Land Use Capability classification which is already widely used by catchment authorities and is familiar to some planners, foresters, agriculturalists, etc.

The book outlines the techniques of aerial photograph interpretation and field mapping that were used to prepare the worksheets, details interpretation of the inventory parameters of rock types, soil types, slope, erosion type and severity and vegetation into land use capability classification, and describes how to use the extended legends. The section which deals with the above is very well presented and can be clearly understood. The use of illustrative examples from a worksheet is particularly useful to the user who may be completely unfamiliar with the worksheets.

At present the printed worksheets are available from the Ministry of Works and Development through the local catchment authorities and each sheet is accompanied by the relevant extended legend(s). There are eleven regions covering the country: the South Island is covered by one region and the North Island is divided into ten regions each with a different legend. The location of the regions is not shown in the book but the appropriate legend is noted on each worksheet. In the future the information (such as area of each mapped land capability unit, inventory factors, location of units in the national grid, etc.) will be recorded and stored on computer. This information will be available to users on request through MWD Science Centres and/or catchment authorities.

There are a number of photographs which illustrate typical units of the land use capability classes and are accompanied by a brief description of the capability or limitation of each class.

A large section is devoted to twenty-five examples of a number of uses to which the worksheets may be put by a range of users

— farm adviser, forest logger, drainage contractor, etc. Interpretation can be either manual or by using the computer storage facilities in the future.

As units of land capability are groupings of land inventory units which are capable of growing the same kind of crops, pasture or forest species, the worksheets allow comparison of yields between a variety of land uses — *e.g.*, forest production is expressed in site index with (pastoral) farming described in stock units per hectare for each capability unit. Other examples relevant to forestry application deal with physical limitations to management such as excessive wetness and degree of topography.

The information presented is in a clear and concise form, allowing anyone without previous knowledge of land use capability work to interpret the mass of information on the worksheets. It is useful also to the more experienced user as a source of information as to uses and services available for interpretation. The photographs add to the attractiveness of the publication and are helpful in some (but not all) instances. However, the line drawings and enlarged sections of worksheets which are used as examples are very helpful.

A glossary at the back of the booklet defines some of the terms which may not be familiar to some users.

A most important footnote regarding interpretation of the scale of the worksheets is added at the end of the text. The scale of 1 : 63 360 limits application to exercises appropriate to that scale, and where answers sought depend on finer scale definition, specific exercises need to be undertaken.

Publication of this booklet to accompany the worksheets makes the Land Use Capability classification available to a wide range of users many of whom have long recognised the need for nationally consistent criteria on which to describe the country's physical land resources.

R. M. PRIEST

SLOPE-STABILITY AND GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT MANGATU STATE FOREST, by Maxwell Gage and Robin D. Black. Forest Research Institute, N.Z. Forest Service Technical Paper 66. 1979. 37 pp., 13 figs., 19 plates, 2 fold-out maps.

The rapid extension of dual-purpose protection-production forests in the erosion-prone eastern Raukumara Ranges poses a number of interesting problems for future forest managers. Questions such as which forest areas, if any, should be left unlogged to