

An area of 48,440 acres of provisional State forest in Southland Region has been incorporated in the Sounds National Park, which it adjoins. It lies along the Eglinton Valley – Milford Sound Road, and is clothed in very beautiful bush, which has made this locality such a popular scenic resort since it has been provided with such easy access. The area really forms an integral part of the Park, which is controlled by the Lands and Survey Department, and for obvious reasons it was desirable, in view of the recent development of the district as a tourist resort, that it be placed under one controlling authority.

TABLE 2.

SUMMARY OF AREAS WITHDRAWN FROM PERMANENT AND PROVISIONAL STATE FOREST RESERVATION, 1ST APRIL, 1934, TO 31ST MARCH, 1935.

Region.	For Settlement Purposes.		For Scenic Reserve.		For Public Domain.	For National Park.	Total.
	Permanent State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	Permanent State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	Permanent State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	241	2	177	..	..	..	420
Rotorua	..	..	36	..	..	..	36
Wellington	..	70	..	..	101	..	171
Nelson	30	477	..	1,250	..	..	1,757
Westland	..	1,435	..	..	..	..	1,435
Southland	4,527	..	..	..	..	48,440	52,967
Totals	4,798	1,984	213	1,250	101	48,440	56,786

Table 3 is self-explanatory and requires little comment ; the total new area proclaimed (55,253 acres) exceeds last year's figures by nearly 17,000 acres. The major portions of this area are in the Southland and Westland Regions.

TABLE 3.

SUMMARY OF AREAS ADDED TO PERMANENT AND PROVISIONAL STATE FORESTS, 1ST APRIL, 1934, TO 31ST MARCH, 1935.

Region.	Permanent State Forest.		Provisional State Forest.		Total.
	Ordinary.	National Endowment.	Ordinary.	National Endowment.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	850	..	201	..	1,051
Rotorua	8	..	..	..	8
Nelson	614	..	100	5,870	6,584
Westland	12,845	65	1,407	906	15,223
Canterbury	24	..	..	..	24
Southland	12,360	..	20,003	..	32,363
Totals	26,701	65	21,711	6,776	55,253

2. PROTECTION FORESTS.

The work of consolidating and extending the boundaries of the existing protection forests and of reserving new areas was vigorously pushed on during the year with such satisfactory results that when the year closed a further 850,000 acres of high-country forest land had been permanently set apart for the purpose mentioned. The total area thus dedicated over the past two years is 1,600,000 acres, which is an effective answer to any charge of neglecting this important phase of forest-conservation. The Department has also consistently refused to permit sawmillers to become established in essentially protection forests not because the bush is unsuitable for milling, but because it should be left in its virgin state to protect the rich farming downs and valleys of the lower-lying country. It should be further stressed that in ordinary circumstances no bush is allowed to be milled within 10 chains of a main-travelled highway, and that for many years past it has been a standing instruction to forest officers that clumps of bush of historic or scenic value adjacent to lakes or rivers, camping-places, &c., should be excluded from sale when boundaries of sawmill areas are being defined.