

772541

Protruding above the higher plateau surface as ridges of rugged hills are three separate areas of land which comprise this land system. The largest is situated just east of the Great Lake stretching in an arc from Little split Rock in the south to Wild Dog Tier and Rats Castle. Smaller areas occur just north of the Great Lake in the Mickeys Creek area and north west of Wild Dog Tier in the Bastion Bluff - Ironstone Mountain region. All sections of the land system experience extreme weather conditions due to their exposed position above the higher plateau surface.

Geologically the area is dominated by Jurassic dolerite with extensive outcrop and boulder slopes. The Ironstone Mountain area may have been ice covered during the Pleistocene whilst Wild Dog Tier and its environs were probably on the eastern extremity of the ice cap(s). Ice encroaching from the west may have banked up against the ridges of Little split Rock and the Tiers.

Stony, strong brown to dark reddish brown gradational soils cover all components with organic soils occurring in swampy regions.

The vegetation reflects the extreme weather conditions. Lower slopes affected by temperature inversion support open heaths dominated by *Helicrysum hookeri* and *orites* spp. Exposed crest are also dominated by open heaths of *orites* spp. Swampy areas support sedgelands and various bolster plant communities. In contrast, the more protected and relatively warmer mid slopes have woodlands of *Eucalyptus coccifera* with an understorey of open heath and Poa spp. grassland.

The Wild Dog Tier Land system is situated in the Central Plateau Protected Area. Land uses are nature conservation and recreation. Large areas have been severely degraded by fire induced sheet erosion. It is likely that larger areas would be covered by organic soils if fires could be precluded. Re-establishment of the vegetation and the resulting peat build up is severely hampered in these exposed situations by extremely low temperatures and frequent frosts. The formation of ice needles in the surface soil dislodges young seedlings before they can become establishes. These well drained ridge environments include some of the most severely degraded (sheet eroded) areas on the Central Plateau. Fires which are often lit to provide 'greenpick' for sheep grazing in low lying regions can move rapidly onto these ridges.



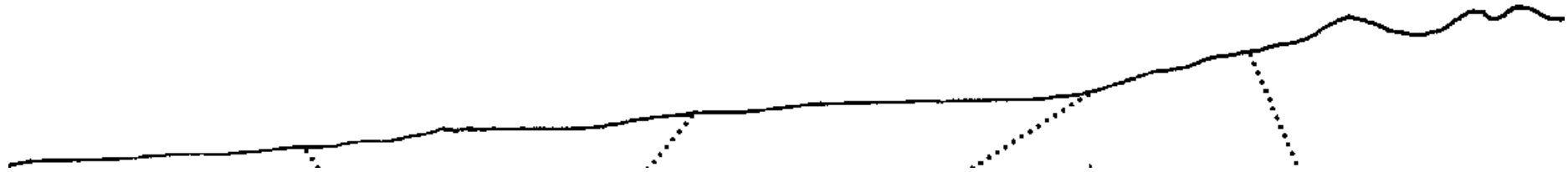
Exposed rocky crests with open heath vegetation.

LAND-SYSTEM

Wild Dog Tier

772541

Area (ha):
7956



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION(%)	20	25	25	10	20
RAINFALL (mm)	Approximate Annual Rainfall: 1500-2000				
GEOLOGY	Jurassic dolerite with extensive outcrop and boulder fields				
TOPOGRAPHY	Alpine ridges and rugged hills				
Position	Lower Slopes	Rocky Mid Slopes	Rocky Upper Slopes	Boulder Fields	Rocky Crests with
Typical Slope(°)	5	3-5	3-5	3-5	3-5
NATIVE Structure				Closed to Open Heath with extensive areas devoid of vegetation	
Floristic Association (See Appendix 1 for common names)	Open Heath Helichrysum hookeri Orites acicularis O. revoluta Richea acerosa Lissanthe montana Grevillea australis Exocarpos humifusus Poa sp.	Woodland/Open Heath Eucalyptus coccifera Leptospermum rupestre Richea acerosa R. scoparia Cyathodes parvifolia Lissanthe montana Poa <u>sp.</u>	Low Woodland/ Open Heath Eucalyptus coccifera Orites revoluta O. acicularis Monotoca empetrifolia Helichrysum hookeri Cyathodes parvifolia Epacris gunnii Richea acerosa Coprosma	with extensive areas devoid of vegetation Orites acicularis O. revoluta Coprosma nitida Nothofagus cunninghamii Olearia pinifolia O phlogopappa Trochocarpa thymifolia Drlmys lanceolata Telopea truncata Cyathodes parvifolia C	Open Heath/Sedgeland Orites acicularis O revoluta Mlcrocacbrys tetragona Leptospermum rupestre Baeckea gunniana Richea scoparia <u>Epacris gunnii</u> Bellendenana montana Abrotanella forstenoides Pterygopannus
SOIL Surface(A)Textu	Loam	Loam	Loam	Organic Loam	Organic Loam (Peat in Swamps)
B Horizon(subsoil) Colour (wet) Texture and	Gravelly, strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) clay loam. Gradational.	Stony dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/3) clay loam. Gradational.	Gravelly, brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) to strong brown (7.5	Stony, very dark brown (10 YR 2/2) clay loam.	Stony, very dark brown (10 YR 2/2) clay loam.
Permeability	High	High	High	High	High
Typical depth(m)	>0.45	>0.40	>0.40	>0.30	>0.50
Depth(A)Horizon(0.15	0.15	0.05-0.10	0.10	0.15
LAND USE	Nature conservation/ recreation				
HAZARDS	High sheet erosion				