



Steller sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus* on sea ice, with the Shiretoko mountain range in the background photo by ISH Eiji

4. Management

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4a. Ownership

National Forest, which is administered by the Forestry Agency, accounts for 95 percent of the nominated site. In addition, the nominated site also includes lands owned by the national government, Hokkaido prefectural government, municipalities and the private owners. The contact addresses of the major landowners namely, the Forest Agency, Hokkaido prefectural government, Shari town and Rausu town are listed in sections 4d. and 4e.

4b. Legal status

The nominated site is appropriately protected according to national laws and regulations. Table 4-1 indicates detailed information on the protected areas such as the designation date and relevant regulation. Each protected area is illustrated in Figures 4-1-a, 4-1-b, 4-1-c and 4-1-d.

In order to maintain the value of the nominated site as a World Natural Heritage for future generations, a comprehensive administration scheme will be implemented for the entire site taking into account the objectives of the various systems. The nominated site is divided into the following two management classifications:

- i) The core area with little impact of human activities (Core area);
- ii) The area surrounding the Core area and acting as a buffer area (Buffer area).

The Core area consists of the Onnebetsudake Wilderness Area, Special Protection Zone of the Shiretoko National Park, Class I Special Zone of the Shiretoko National Park, Preservation Zone of the Shiretoko Forest Ecosystem Reserve and Special Protection Area of Shiretoko National Wildlife Protection Area. The total area of the Core area is 34,000 ha.

The Buffer area contains of the land surrounding the Core area and the sea area within one kilometer from the coastline (shoreline), consisting of Special Protection Zone of the Shiretoko National Park, Class I, II and III Special Zones of the Shiretoko National Park, Ordinary Zone of the Shiretoko National Park, Conservation and Utilization Zone of the Shiretoko Forest Ecosystem Reserve and the Shiretoko National Wildlife Protection Area. The total area of the Buffer area is 22,100 ha.

National Forests surrounding the internal buffer area of the nominated site, that are adjacent to the Conservation and Utilization Zone of the Forest Ecosystem Reserve, will be managed properly to avoid any drastic environmental change to the nominated site (Figure 4-2).

As described above, the nominated site including the surrounding area is appropriately conserved and a buffer area has been designated within the site. As these measures are deemed sufficient to maintain the value of the nominated site as a World Natural Heritage for future generations, there are no additional buffer zones established around the nominated site.

Table 4-1 Designation of the protected areas in the nominated site

Protected area (Date of designation)	Objective for the designation etc.	Restricted activities etc.		Designation law (promulgation date)
Onnebetsudake Wilderness Area (February 4, 1980): 1,900 ha	To provide necessary protection for virgin natural environments without being influenced by human activities.	Permission of the Minister of the Environment is required for the following activities (Article 17): 1) Constructing, reconstructing, or expanding buildings or other structures. 2) Making housing lots, clearing land, or changing the feature of the land. 3) Mining minerals or extracting soil and stones. 4) Reclaiming the surface of water or reclaiming by drainage. 5) Causing increase or decrease in the water-level or quantity of water of rivers, lakes, marshes, swamps and wetlands etc. 6) Felling or damaging trees and bamboos. 7) Collecting or damaging plants, or collecting fallen leaves or branches. 8) Planting trees and bamboos. 9) Capturing, killing or wounding animals, or collecting or damaging their eggs. 10) Pasturing livestock. 11) Setting or making fire. 12) Accumulating or storing things in the open air. 13) Using horses, vehicles or power-driven vessels, or landing airplanes. 14) Other activities specified in laws and regulations.		Nature Conservation Law (June 22, 1972)
Shiretoko National Park (June 1, 1964): 46,000 ha (including the sea area)	To protect the places of scenic beauty as well as promote its utilization as a resource for the health, recreation and culture of the people.	Special Zone: (except Special Protection Zone): 15,100 ha	Permission of the Minister of the Environment is required for the following activities (Article 13): 1) Constructing, reconstructing or extending structures. 2) Felling trees and bamboos. 3) Mining minerals or extracting soil and stones. 4) Causing increase or decrease in the water level or quantity of water of rivers, lakes, marshes, swamps and wetlands etc. 5) Discharging polluted or waste water into designated lakes etc. 6) Putting up or setting up advertisements etc. 7) Accumulating or storing soil and stones or other designated items in the open air. 8) Reclaiming the surface of water or reclaiming by drainage. 9) Clearing land or changing the feature of land. 10) Collecting or damaging the designated plants etc. 11) Capturing the designated animals etc. 12) Changing the colors of roofs and walls etc. 13) Entering into designated wetlands etc. 14) Using horses, vehicles or power-driven vessels, or landing airplanes. 15) Other activities specified in laws and regulations.	Natural Parks Law (June 1, 1957)
		Special Protection Zone: 23,500 ha	Permission of the Minister of the Environment is required for the following activities (Article 14): In addition to the above 1) Damaging trees and bamboos. 2) Planting trees and bamboos. 3) Pasturing livestock. 4) Accumulating or storing things in the open air. 5) Setting or making fire. 6) Collecting or damaging plants, or collecting fallen leaves or branches. 7) Capturing, killing or wounding animals, or collecting or damaging their eggs. 8) Using horses, vehicles or power-driven vessels, or landing airplanes. 9) Other activities specified in laws and regulations.	
		Ordinary Zone: 7,400ha	Prior notification to the Minister of the Environment is required for the following activities (Article 26): 1) Constructing, reconstructing or extending large-scale structures. 2) Causing increase or decrease in the water-level or quantity of water of rivers, lakes, marshes, swamps and wetlands etc. 3) Putting up or setting up advertisements etc. 4) Reclaiming the surface of water or reclaiming by drainage. 5) Mining minerals or extracting soil and stones.* 6) Changing the feature of the land. 7) Changing the feature of the seabed.* * applies only around the Marine Park Zone.	



Protected area (Date of designation)	Objective for the designation etc.	Restricted activities etc.		Designation law (promulgation date)
Shiretoko Forest Ecosystem Reserve (April 25, 1990): 35,500 ha	To preserve natural forests in virgin condition in order to maintain a natural environment of the forest ecosystem, protect plants and animals, preserve genetic resources, develop forest operation and management technique, and promote scientific research etc.	Preservation Zone: 25,800 ha	In principle, the area is left to follow its natural course without human intervention. (Exceptions include: activities necessary for public benefit such as monitoring and academic research; relief activities against natural disasters; other activities according to relevant laws and regulations.)	Law on the Administration and Management of National Forests (June 23, 1951) National Forests Administration and Management Bylaw (January 21, 1999)
		Conservation and Utilization Zone: 9,600 ha	Forest operation for wood production is not allowed. (In planted forest areas, the forest can be managed to create and maintain a multi- storied forest). The area can also be utilized as an educational resource or a recreational site excluding any large-scale development.	
Shiretoko National Wildlife Protection Area (November 1, 2001) (Initial designation: March 24, 1982): 43,200 ha	To protect wildlife by prohibiting the capture of wildlife and the collection of eggs, thereby ensuring their safe habitats as well as conserve, manage and maintain environmental conditions which support a diverse range of wildlife.	Capturing wildlife is prohibited in the wildlife protection area. In the Special Protection Area, permission of the Minister of the Environment is required for the following activities (Article 29): 1) Construction, reconstruction and extension of structure. 2) Reclamation of surface of water or land reclamation by drainage. 3) Felling of trees or bamboo. 4) Other activities designated in the government ordinance.* * In the Designated Special Protection Area which is designated based on item 4 above, the following activities require permission of the Minister of the Environment: 1) Collecting plants etc. 2) Clearing by fire, other types of open fires. 3) Use of horses or vehicles. 4) Use of motor-powered boats. 5) Entering with dogs or other animals that may be threatening to the wildlife. 6) Wildlife observation activities by photographing etc. 7) Outdoor sports and other recreational activity.		Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law (July 12, 2002)
National Endangered Species White-tailed eagle, Steller's sea eagle, Blakiston's fish-owl etc.	To protect endangered wildlife species in Japan which are designated in the government ordinance according to the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.	Hunting, killing or damaging and transfer of organisms of endangered species are prohibited. (Articles 9, 12 and 17)		Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (June 5, 1992)
Natural Monuments White-tailed eagle (January 23, 1970) Steller's sea eagle (January 23, 1970) Blakiston's fish-owl (May 19, 1971) Black woodpecker (May 12, 1965) <i>Vaciniina optilete</i> <i>Knoch</i> (May 2, 1967)	To protect animals, plants and geological features and minerals which have a high scientific value in Japan.	An activity that would alter the existing state of the Natural Monuments or act affecting the preservation thereof requires permission from the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. (Article 80)		Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (May 30, 1950)

The nominated site is the habitat for various wildlife including the Steller's sea eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, white-tailed eagle *H. albicilla* and Blakiston's fish-owl *Ketupa blakistoni blakistoni* and some of these species are protected by the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.