

Wenita Forestry Natural Areas Assessment Form

Site Location Description

Site Name:	Fallaburn		
Location:	Fallaburn Road		
Catchment:			
Region:	Manuka Creek		
Compartment ID:			
NZMS Grid Reference		GPS Coordinates	
NZMS Grid Reference		East	169 47 57.15
East	4 891 675	North	46 05 01.07
North	1 352 509	Accuracy	10m
Area in Hectares from GIS	10.3		
Aerial Photograph Reference			

Site Assessment

Assessment Date(s)	9/6/2014
Revision Date (s)	
Final Report Date (s)	
Assessed By	Mike Mullan (Wenita), Robin Thomas (QEII Trust)
Recorded By	Mike Mullan
Notes:	

Primary Vegetation Type

Tick box as appropriate

Primary native forest (undisturbed) with emergent podocarps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modified native forest (disturbed through logging of native timber)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secondary (regenerated forest after land clearance)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-vegetated forest (re-established on bare land through planting)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heavily modified (dominated by weed and exotic species)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pasture land (predominantly exotic grassland with some weeds)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tussock grassland with typical native shrub species	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetland (predominantly wetland/marshland)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exotic Production Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

(Predominant) Vegetation Health	Describe as appropriate
Did the primary, modified or secondary forest sites have significant canopy gaps? If yes give an estimate of the number of these and their approximate size.	No- Presence of heavy canopy
<p>In the primary, modified or secondary forest sites show signs of regeneration of native seedlings and shrub size species in the forest floor using the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No visible seedlings 2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse 3. Very common almost every step with a few gaps 4. Abundant and thick making access difficult 	3: Sign of regen coming through majority is whitewood and small ferns coming back.
<p>In the primary, modified or secondary forest sites was the plant composition of the forest floor intact with fern and other smaller ground cover species?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No visible forest floor species 2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse 3. Very common almost every step with a few gaps 4. Abundant and thick making access difficult 	2: Yes signs of fern regen, sparse throughout, Heavy on some slopes.
In the tussock grassland with typical native shrub species were there visible gaps, areas of bare vegetation, or areas dominated by exotic forest species visible in the site? If yes give an estimate of the number of these and their approximate size.	N/A
<p>In the tussock grassland sites was there evidence of regeneration of the native plant cover of grass, shrub and groundcover across the site using the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No visible seedlings 2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse 3. Very common 4. Abundant 	N/A
In the wetland (predominantly wetland/marshland) sites visible gaps, areas of bare vegetation, or areas dominated by exotic forest species visible in the site? If yes give an estimate of the number of these and their approximate size.	N/A
In the tussock grassland sites was there evidence	N/A

<p>of regeneration of the native plant cover of grass, shrub and groundcover across the site using the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No visible seedlings 2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse 3. Very common 4. Abundant 	
<p>Notes: A healthy abundance of fuchsia (<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>) and presence of Totara (<i>Podocarpus totara</i>) . The site has also been fenced off around the boundry</p>	

Describe the presence, density and species of weeds within the assessed area and give estimations of the potential cover of those species.

Pest Plant Presence					
Vine Species	Heavy >50% Canopy	Moderate >10-30% Canopy	Light <5-10% Canopy	Sparse <5% Canopy	None Not Observed
Muehlenbeckia					
Passionfruit					
Old Man's Beard					
Chilean Flame Creeper					
Convolvulus					
Other				√	
Are there multiple vine species present? (If yes describe)					
Are the vines species limited to gullies or area fringes? (Describe)	No, not present in these areas				
Notes:					

Pest Plant Presence

Shrub Tree Species	Heavy >50% Area	Moderate >10-30% Area	Light <5-10% Area	Sparse <5% Area	None Not Observed	Peripheral edges of area? Yes/No?	Internal parts of area and advancing? Yes/ No?
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Gorse						Yes	
Broom							
H Honeysuckle							
Elderberry							
Hawthorn							
Spanish heath							
Willow							
Sycamore							
Wilding Pine <5 years							
Wilding Pine >5 years							
Other (Describe)							

Notes: Gorse growing on the edge of the fenced site.

Pest Plant Presence

Ground Cover Species	Heavy >50% Area	Moderate >10-30% Area	Light <5-10% Area	Sparse <5% Area	None Not Observed	Peripheral edges of area? Yes/No?	Internal parts of area and advancing? Yes/No
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Aluminium plant							
Periwinkle							
Ivy							
Nasella tussock							
Iris							
Blackberry							
Montbretia							
St John Wort							
Agricultural grasses							
Other (Describe)							

Notes:

Pest Animal Presence

Species	Heavy Significant faeces sign, marking or prints. Animals seen or heard	Moderate Fresh scattered sign, prints or marking in areas	Light Uncommon sign, marking or prints in area	Sparse Very uncommon sign, marking or prints in area	None Not Observed	Domestic stock sign is the area fenced? Yes /No?	Does the area border a farm Yes/No?
Opossum			√				
Deer			√				
Pigs			√				
Goats							
Sheep (Wild)							
Cattle (Wild)							
Feral Cat							
Mustelids							
Vermin							
Other (Describe)							
Are there known animal control programmes undertaken in this area? (Describe)	ABH control throughout forestry block and also local contractors						
Is the number of recreational hunting permits and animals harvested from the area known for the last 12 months? (Describe)	No						
Notes:							

Uncontrolled Human Impacts

Activities	Common use within the area, heavy vehicle tracks	Occasional incursions into the area	Light Sporadic use	Sparse	None
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4 WD Ute/Car					√
4WD Quad Bike					√
Motor Bike					√
Mountain Biking					√
Fire-wooding					√
Camping/Fires					√
Camping/Toileting					√
Hunting (unpermitted)					√
Dumping Vegetation					√
Dumping Household					√

Notes:

Note the type and number of bird species found within the area. This is not a definitive count or an estimate of abundance only an observation based on the time of assessment.

Avian Fauna

Native Species	Number	Notes
Falcon		
Tui		
Bellbird	6	A few birds seen
Kereru	1	
Robin		
Tomtit		
Morepork		
Shining cuckoo		
Silvereye		
Fernbird		
Scaup		
Pukeko		
Other (Describe)	Fantail (1), Greywarbler (1)	

Note the type and number of bird species found within the area. This is not a definitive count or an estimate of abundance only an observation based on the time of assessment.

Avian Fauna		
Exotic Species	Number	Notes
Blackbird		
Sparrow		
Starling		
Harrier		
Thrush		
Rosella		
Magpie		
Geese		
Mallards		
Chaffinch	1	
Other (Describe)		

Water Catchment Overview	Yes	No	Estimated Number
Major water bodies (>5 metre in width) within its boundaries?		√	
Minor water bodies (<5 in width) within its boundaries?	√		
Are there wetlands, bogs or fens within the areas boundaries?		√	
Artificial water races or water courses?		√	
Storage ponds or dams		√	
Does the area have an existing SHMAK monitoring site within it?		√	
Do roading culverts run into the area?		√	
Notes:			

The shape, scale and situation of the assessed site will describe how the site connects to the wider landscape as a habitat for the growth of flora and fauna. Aerial photograph and mapping will give a good understanding of this aspect of the assessment, but should be undertaken with a physical inspection.

Landscape and Connectivity

Describe the shape of the assessed area.

E. A defined area up to 10ha within the exotic forest, a large patch.

- a) A narrow long strip < 50 metres wide adjacent to a waterway
- b) A narrow long strip <50 metres wide adjacent to farmland or exotic forest
- c) A small patch <1-2 hectares
- d) A compact core area with outer strips reaching out from the core
- e) A solid compact defined area
- f) Neither (Describe)

Is the area isolated from similar sites within the location? (i.e. surrounded by exotic forest)

A. Surrounded by pine forest

- a) The area is surrounded by exotic forest
- b) The area is surrounded by pasture or farm land
- c) There are similar sites within 5-10 kms
- d) There are other similar sites within 2-5 kms
- e) There are other similar sites <1 km
- f) There are other sites immediately adjacent
- g) Unknown (Describe)

Notes:

Natural Area Ranking Classification

Rank	Description	Criteria	Score
1	Exceptional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large undisturbed site • No exotic weeds or introduced species • Highly endemic and representative to the particular ecological district 	
2	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last example of its type which was previously widespread in the district • Some peripheral disturbance to vegetation in pre European period • Creates a large continuous section across the area • >200 hectares with minor <5% weed or introduced species cover along fringes • Secondary vegetation creates buffer to "exceptional" areas 	
3	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modified native vegetation representative of the district and with elements of former composition remaining • Contains areas of modified secondary vegetation which provides a buffer to "very high" areas • >75 hectares with small areas of weed infestation on the outer fringes (10-20%) • Last of the vegetation type in the district but in a modified condition through historical change 	3
4	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial human modification of areas • Small areas of disparate native vegetation • Occasionally act as buffers to larger higher quality sites • Very high weed dominance along fringes moving towards outer core • Native vegetation cover >10-25% of the area 	
5	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very small disjointed areas of native vegetation (sporadic trees or shrubs) • Heavy dominance of exotic vegetation and weeds • Heavily modified landscape and landforms • Examples of secondary succession caused by human disturbance that has created a vastly different vegetation type than previously found • Native vegetation covers <10% of area 	

Recommendations and Additional Comments

Record photographs and their storage of this site assessment

Photographic Recording

File number	Storage path	Date Taken	Photographer
5-12-014-a-ppt01-2014june	E/Data/EMS/HCVF	9/6/2014	Robin Thomas
5-12-014-a-ppt02-2014june	E/Data/EMS/HCVF	9/6/2014	Robin Thomas
Notes:			

