

# Wenita Forestry Natural Areas Assessment Form

## Site Location Description

Site Name:	Halfway Rd Bush Reserve		
Location:	Berwick Forest		
Catchment:	Meggatburn		
Region:	Berwick		
Compartment ID:	007		
NZMS Grid Reference		GPS Coordinates	
NZMS Grid Reference		East	-45.958347
East	1 369 740	North	170,028759
North	4 906 260	Accuracy	
Area in Hectares from GIS	5.5		
Aerial Photograph Reference			

## Site Assessment

Assessment Date(s)	1/10/2015
Revision Date (s)	
Final Report Date (s)	6/10/2015
Assessed By	Mike Mullan (Wenita)
Recorded By	Mike Mullan (Wenita)
Notes:	

## Primary Vegetation Type

Tick box as appropriate

Primary native forest (undisturbed) with emergent podocarps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modified native forest (disturbed through logging of native timber)	<input 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: This reserve is still a high quality old growth native forest the internal parts remain still undisturbed with Podocarp species of rimu, miro, totara, matai. No significant changes to the canopy which is still intact which includes the forest floor and sub canopy.

<b>(Predominant) Vegetation Health</b>	<b>Describe as appropriate</b>
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.	None Noticed
<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"> <li>1. No visible seedlings</li> <li>2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse</li> <li>3. Very common almost every step with a few gaps</li> <li>4. Abundant and thick making access difficult</li> </ol>	4- Heavy areas of native seedling regen throughout the forest floor.
<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"> <li>1. No visible forest floor species</li> <li>2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse</li> <li>3. Very common almost every step with a few gaps</li> <li>4. Abundant and thick making access difficult</li> </ol>	3- Public walking track still in reasonable condition. Still heavy areas of heavy ground fern present. Not on walking track- some minor areas of wind throw
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"> <li>1. No visible seedlings</li> <li>2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse</li> <li>3. Very common</li> <li>4. Abundant</li> </ol>	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"> <li>1. No visible seedlings</li> <li>2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse</li> <li>3. Very common</li> <li>4. Abundant</li> </ol>	
<p>Notes: Vegetation health is still very good throughout the site, some of the creek beds are dry with some minor flow through. Some older trees are starting to rot and collapse with age. The floor cover is heavy still with fern and fusia seedlings present.</p>	

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

<b>Pest Plant Presence</b>					
<b>Vine Species</b>	<b>Heavy &gt;50% Canopy</b>	<b>Moderate &gt;10-30% Canopy</b>	<b>Light &lt;5-10% Canopy</b>	<b>Sparse &lt;5% Canopy</b>	<b>None Not Observed</b>
Muehlenbeckia				✓	
Passionfruit					
Old Man's Beard					
Chilean Flame Creeper					
Convolvulus					
Other					
Are there multiple vine species present? (If yes describe)	No				
Are the vines species limited to gullies or area fringes? (Describe)	No				
Notes: The reserve is still very clean of vine species, nothing worth adding to control.					

## 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				•			
Broom					•		
H Honeysuckle				•			
Elderberry					•		
Hawthorn					•		
Spanish heath					•		
Willow					•		
Sycamore					•		
Wilding Pine <5 years					•		
Wilding Pine >5 years					•		
Other (Describe)							

Notes: Patches of gorse present in vacant car park area and honey suckle.

## 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: No major exotic weeds- grasses in the reserve compartment

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<b>Pest Animal Presence</b>							
<b>Species</b>	Heavy Significant faeces sign, marking or prints. Animals seen or heard	Moderate Fresh 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)	Not at the moment						
Is the number of recreational hunting permits and animals harvested from the area known for the last 12 months? (Describe)	Yes there will be in Wenita hunting database of hunter kill returns						
Notes: Small pig rooting and possum sign present.							

## 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: No Presence of any human impacts in the reserve. A mechanical hedge trimmer has opened up the forest road allowing access through the reserve which was previously overgrown.

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	2+	
Kereru	2	
Robin		
Tomtit		
Morepork		
Shining cuckoo		
Silvereye		
Fernbird		
Scaup		
Pukeko		
Other (Describe)	Grey warbler heard and seen 3+, Brown creeper heard as well.	

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.

<b>Avian Fauna</b>		
<b>Exotic Species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Blackbird		
Sparrow		
Starling		
Harrier		
Thrush		
Rosella		
Magpie		
Geese		
Mallards		
Chaffinch	2+	
Other (Describe)		

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

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 solid compact defined area with a forestry road

- 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. The area is surrounded by exotic 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: This area is different to the other reserves it has a high presence and abundance of podocarps which are very old.



## Natural Area Ranking Classification

Rank	Description	Criteria	Score
1	Exceptional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large undisturbed site</li> <li>• No exotic weeds or introduced species</li> <li>• Highly endemic and representative to the particular ecological district</li> </ul>	1.5
2	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last example of its type which was previously widespread in the district</li> <li>• Some peripheral disturbance to vegetation in pre European period</li> <li>• Creates a large continuous section across the area</li> <li>• &gt;200 hectares with minor &lt;5% weed or introduced species cover along fringes</li> <li>• Secondary vegetation creates buffer to "exceptional" areas</li> </ul>	
3	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modified native vegetation representative of the district and with elements of former composition remaining</li> <li>• Contains areas of modified secondary vegetation which provides a buffer to "very high" areas</li> <li>• &gt;75 hectares with small areas of weed infestation on the outer fringes (10-20%)</li> <li>• Last of the vegetation type in the district but in a modified condition through historical change</li> </ul>	
4	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial human modification of areas</li> <li>• Small areas of disparate native vegetation</li> <li>• Occasionally act as buffers to larger higher quality sites</li> <li>• Very high weed dominance along fringes moving towards outer core</li> <li>• Native vegetation cover &gt;10-25% of the area</li> </ul>	
5	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very small disjointed areas of native vegetation (sporadic trees or shrubs)</li> <li>• Heavy dominance of exotic vegetation and weeds</li> <li>• Heavily modified landscape and landforms</li> <li>• Examples of secondary succession caused by human disturbance that has created a vastly different vegetation type than previously found</li> <li>• Native vegetation covers &lt;10% of area</li> </ul>	

## Recommendations and Additional Comments

The overall health and condition of the reserve is still very good. The only things noted was some minor wind throw due to the fact some of the older trees are starting to rot with old age, Also was the very little presence of bird species this will be due to the fact the many tree and plants species haven't flowered yet thus not providing any food source for birds. But expect to see an abundance of bird activity come late spring and summer. Gorse and Honeysuckle will need to be monitored and controlled if it starts getting into the reserve.

Record photographs and their storage of this site assessment

## Photographic Recording

File number	Storage path	Date Taken	Photographer
P1000825		1/10/2015	Mike Mullan

Notes:

