

Wenita Forestry Natural Areas Assessment Form

Site Location Description

Site Name:	Post Office Creek		
Location:	Maungatuas		
Catchment:	Waipori/Mahinerangi		
Region:	Waipori/Mahinerangi		
Compartment ID:	316		
NZMS Grid Reference		GPS Coordinates	
NZMS Grid Reference		East	170°02'5079
East	1 370 900	North	45 52'4868
North	4 915 005	Accuracy	
Area in Hectares from GIS	3.4		
Aerial Photograph Reference	V383-1140		

Site Assessment

Assessment Date(s)	2/10/2015
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	
Modified native forest (disturbed through logging of native timber)	
Secondary (regenerated forest after land clearance)	
Re-vegetated forest (re-established on bare land through planting)	
Heavily modified (dominated by weed and exotic species)	
Pasture land (predominantly exotic grassland with some weeds)	
Tussock grassland with typical native shrub species	
Wetland (predominantly wetland/marshland)	✓
Exotic Production Forestry	

Notes: Wetland bog area with tussock grass species

(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.	N/A
<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 	N/A
<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 	N/A
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 	2. Sparse
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.	None just areas of wire rush species
In the tussock grassland sites was there evidence	

<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: Vegetation is uniform and consistent</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)	N/A				
Are the vines species limited to gullies or area fringes? (Describe)	N/A				
Notes: No Vine species observed					

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				•			No
Wilding Pine >5 years				•		Yes	
Other (Describe)							

Notes: D.fir wildings on fringes of wetland area

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: Oversewing of fog grass on fringes of wetland

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?
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Opossum				•			
Deer					•		
Pigs			•				
Goats					•		
Sheep (Wild)					•		
Cattle (Wild)					•		
Feral Cat					•		
Mustelids					•		
Vermin					•		

Other (Describe)	
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Are there known animal control programmes undertaken in this area? (Describe)	No
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Is the number of recreational hunting permits and animals harvested from the area known for the last 12 months? (Describe)	No Staff/Contractor private hunting block
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Notes: Some signs of hare presence through the wetland. Possum sign and pig sign on the edges of the wetland.

Uncontrolled Human Impacts

Activities	Common use within the area, heavy vehicle tracks	Occasional incursions into the area	Light Sporadic use	Sparse	None	
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		
Kereru		
Robin		
Tomtit		
Morepork		
Shining cuckoo		
Silvereye		
Fernbird		
Scaup		
Pukeko		
Other (Describe)	None seen	

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	1	
Thrush		
Rosella		
Magpie		
Geese		
Mallards		
Chaffinch		
Other (Describe)	1 Skylark	

Water Catchment Overview	Yes	No	Estimated Number
Major water bodies (>5 metre in width) within its boundaries?		N	
Minor water bodies (<5 in width) within its boundaries?	Y		
Are there wetlands, bogs or fens within the areas boundaries?	Y		
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		1
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

<p>Describe the shape of the assessed area.</p> <p>D. A compact core area with outer strips reaching out from the core</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<p>Is the area isolated from similar sites within the location? (i.e. surrounded by exotic forest)</p> <p>A. The area is surrounded by exotic forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Monitor D.fir wildings on fringes and remove if needed.

Record photographs and their storage of this site assessment

Photographic Recording

File number	Storage path	Date Taken	Photographer
P100083		2/10/2015	Mike Mullan
Notes:			

