

# Wenita Forestry Natural Areas Assessment Form

## Site Location Description

Site Name:	Berwick		
Location:	Berwick		
Catchment:	Waipori/Mahinerangi		
Region:	Berwick/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	V 383-1140 (Wenita)		

## Site Assessment

Assessment Date(s)	16 <sup>TH</sup> May 2017
Revision Date (s)	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Final Report Date (s)	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exotic Production Forestry	

Notes:

Primarily a wetland/bog with a tussock grassland species.

## (Predominant) Vegetation Health

Describe as appropriate

Did the primary, modified or secondary forest	N/A
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sites have significant canopy gaps? If yes give an estimate of the number of these and their approximate size.	
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; <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>	N/A
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? <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>	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.	None
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: <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>	3 Very Common
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 – with exception of a wire-rush area within the wetland area.
In the tussock grassland sites was there evidence of regeneration of the native plant cover of grass, shrub and groundcover across the site	3 Very Common

using the following:  1. No visible seedlings 2. Occasional but sporadic and sparse 3. Very common 4. Abundant	
Notes: Overall the vegetation was uniform and consistent.	

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					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Passionfruit					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Old Man's Beard					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Chilean Flame Creeper					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Convolvulus					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are there multiple vine species present? (If yes describe)	No						
Are the vines species limited to gullies or area fringes? (Describe)	N/A						
Notes:							
Pest Plant Presence							
Shrub	Heavy >50%	Moderate >10-30%	Light <5-10%	Sparse <5%	None Not	Peripheral edges of	Internal parts of

Tree Species	Area	Area	Area	Area	Observed	area? Yes/No?	area and advancing? Yes/ No?
Gorse							
Broom							
H Honeysuckle							
Elderberry							
Hawthorn							
Spanish heath							
Willow							
Sycamore							
Wilding Pine <5 years							
Wilding Pine >5 years							
Other (Describe)							

<b>Pest Plant Presence</b>							
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
Aluminium plant					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Periwinkle					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ivy					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Nasella tussock					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Iris					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Blackberry					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Montbretia					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
St John Wort					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Agricultural grasses				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Other (Describe)	Peripheral areas of Yorkshire Fog grass was noted and this has probably arrived with over-sowing of adjacent areas for exotic forestry site preparation.
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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 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					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Deer					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Pigs					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Goats					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Sheep (Wild)					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Cattle (Wild)					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Feral Cat					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Mustelids					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Vermin					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No
Other (Describe)							
Are there known animal control programmes undertaken in this area? (Describe)	The Post Office creek site was subject to a 1080 drop by TB Free New Zealand last year in July targeting possums. This should have reduced the possum population quite significantly.						
Is the number of recreational hunting permits and animals harvested from the area known for the last 12 months? (Describe)	This block only has been recently reopened to recreational hunting after the 1080 drop in July last year.						

Notes: There was pig sign present in the assessed area.

## 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					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4WD Quad Bike					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Motor Bike					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mountain Biking					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire-wooding					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Camping/Fires					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Camping/Toileting					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hunting (unpermitted)					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dumping Vegetation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dumping Household					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	0	
Tui	0	
Bellbird	1	Heard in adjacent D.fir across from site
Kereru	0	
Robin	0	
Tomtit	0	
Morepork	0	
Shining cuckoo	0	
Silvereye	0	
Fernbird	1	Wasn't visually confirmed but song was heard in the area
Scaup	0	
Pukeko	0	
Other (Describe)		

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	3-4	
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?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Minor water bodies (<5 in width) within its boundaries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3-4
Are there wetlands, bogs or fens within the areas boundaries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Entire area
Artificial water races or water courses?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Storage ponds or dams		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Does the area have an existing SHMAK monitoring site within it?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Do roading culverts run into the area?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Notes:			
<p>This area is a significant wetland site that has multiple narrow streams running into and through the site. Significant water flow comes out of this area into an adjoining similar site.</p>			



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.

- 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)

D: 2 larger central cores attached by a narrow strip

Is the area isolated from similar sites within the location? (i.e. 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)

A. The area is surrounded by recently harvested and mature exotic forest.

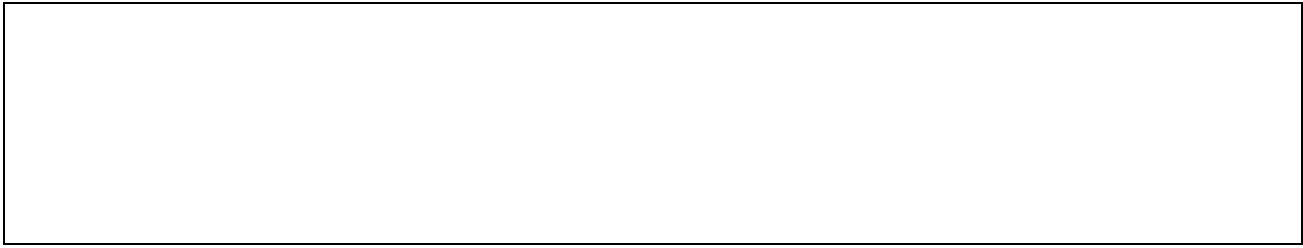
Difficult toll whether there are other similar types of sites in the area.

Notes: No significant change during the last assessment. There was no signs of wildings or major pig rooting observed. The site is still in a good order.

## Natural Area Ranking Classification

Rank	Description	Criteria	Score
5	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>	
4	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>	3
2	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>	
1	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> </ul> <p>Native vegetation covers &lt;10% of area</p>	

A tussock grassland wetland/bog that has been surrounded by production forestry the site provides a high value part of the wider catchment with typical native species intact, though with a degree of modification at some stage in its history. It has no major buffer zones of similar or higher value but provides a high degree of wetland and biodiversity connectivity from its position in the wider landscape. While the site looks uniform in vegetation the understorey and ground cover has a wide range of wetland moss, fungi and plant life.



## Recommendations and Additional Comments

- Monitoring and removal of the wilding exotics and woody weeds as required.
- Care to ensure that over-sowing in adjacent areas does not overlap into the wetland area.

Record photographs and their storage of this site assessment

Photographic Recording			
File number	Storage path	Date Taken	Photographer
Post office creek 2017		16/5/2017	Mike Mullan

