

## INA\_27 – Blackwater River (26.4299 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Blackwater River	26.4299	2806815	1

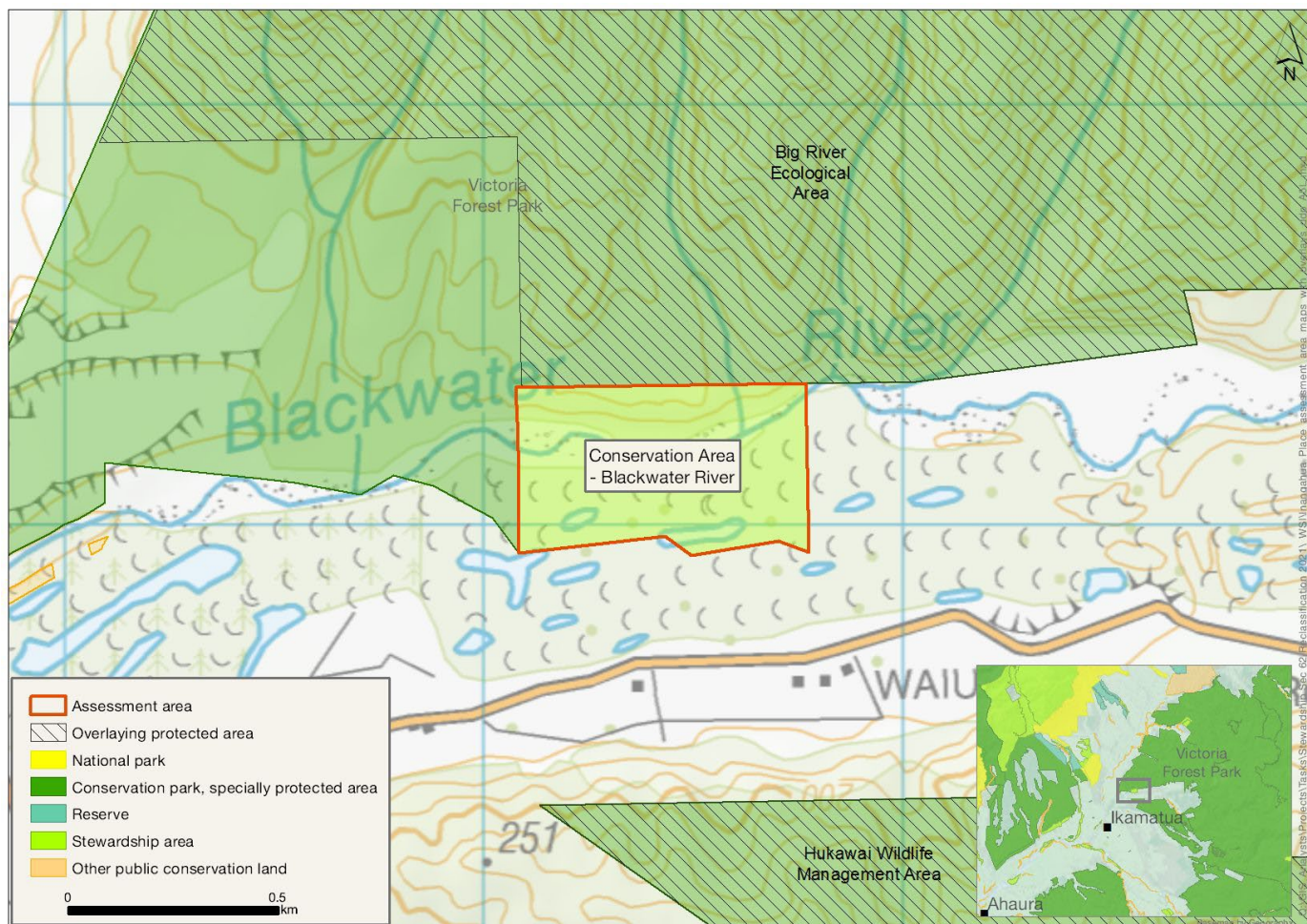
### Location

Blackwater River, north of the road to Waiuta, between Reefton and Ikamatua.

### Brief Description

A highly modified ecosystem from mining activity, including gravel uplift and indigenous vegetation removal. There are no at-risk or threatened terrestrial species recorded. There is a small section of indigenous forest on hillside, adjacent to Victoria Forest Park. There are old dredge tailing mounds from gold dredging operations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and an active mining permit on part of this area. No tracks, facilities, recreational use or permissions.

### Map



# Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

*Mo tātou, a, mo ka uri, a muri ake nei – for us and our children after us*

From the preliminary desk top assessments, there do not appear to be any site specific Ngāi Tahu values identified. However, there is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā, and the absence of site-specific values in the preliminary analysis does not detract from that connection, nor does it confirm that site specific values are not present. Further, a section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required as well, and it may be that areas of land are significant to Ngāi Tahu from that broader perspective. To avoid doubt, nothing in the proposed classification affects, limits or derogates from the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu over its takiwā, including in relation to freshwater; and/or any other rights or interests Ngāi Tahu may have.

## Ecological Values

### Representativeness

Low representativeness and naturalness for the Totara Flat Ecological District. There is a small section of indigenous forest on hillside but modified valley floor. It is a small-medium conservation area along Blackwater River, including the main stem, banks and riparian areas. Aerial photography indicates that there has been some land clearance or development. There is high predicted naturalness.

### Diversity and pattern

Low diversity and pattern. The ecosystem has been modified by mining activity. There are no species recorded here, but nearby are records of longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), torrentfish (piripiripōhatu, *Cheimarrichthys fosteri*), kōura (freshwater crayfish, *Paranephrops planifrons*), trout and upland bully (West Coast) (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*).

### Rarity and distinctiveness

A highly modified ecosystem from mining activity, including gravel uplift and indigenous vegetation removal. There are no at-risk or threatened terrestrial species recorded. Level 4 land environments M2.1a decrease in indigenous vegetation cover (1997-2002), classified as at-risk and O1.4a decrease in indigenous vegetation cover, no threat classification. There are no species recorded here, but there are nearby records of longfin eel and torrentfish (both At Risk: Declining).

### Ecological context

This area (26.4 ha) is in the Totara Flat Ecological District and adjoins Victoria Forest Park. It includes a river terrace, the river itself and a part of the hillside. The hillside looks relatively intact with beech forest, but the river terrace and bed have been modified through mining, with piles of gravel, several artificial ponds and exotic trees. There is an active mining permit on part of this area. There is some indigenous forest remaining on the hillside, otherwise it has been highly modified. There is also re-growth forest on old tailing mounds resulting from gold dredging operations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the Grey or Blackwater dredge. The area borders LINZ land and road reserves to the south.

## Recreation Values

### Setting

This area is in a Backcountry-remote zone with no tracks or facilities.

## **Visitor type and activities typically undertaken**

Likely to receive little recreation use.

## **Access**

No easy access. Access by foot via Victoria Forest Park.

## **Heritage Values**

### **Historical overview**

No sites or heritage values recorded, but this was an area of tailings from the Blackwater Dredge and the Big Grey Dredge. The Blackwater Dredge worked the Blackwater valley from 1903. The Big Grey Dredge worked up Mawheraiti (Little Grey) River, eventually crossing into Blackwater valley in 1946 and continued to Caribou Creek (upstream from the area). The dredge ceased operations in 1954.

### **Heritage values**

None recorded.

## **Permissions Summary**

None recorded.

## **Map (aerial photo)**

