

TWP_26 – Waiho River hill (137.0463 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Waiho River	137.0463	2805305	2

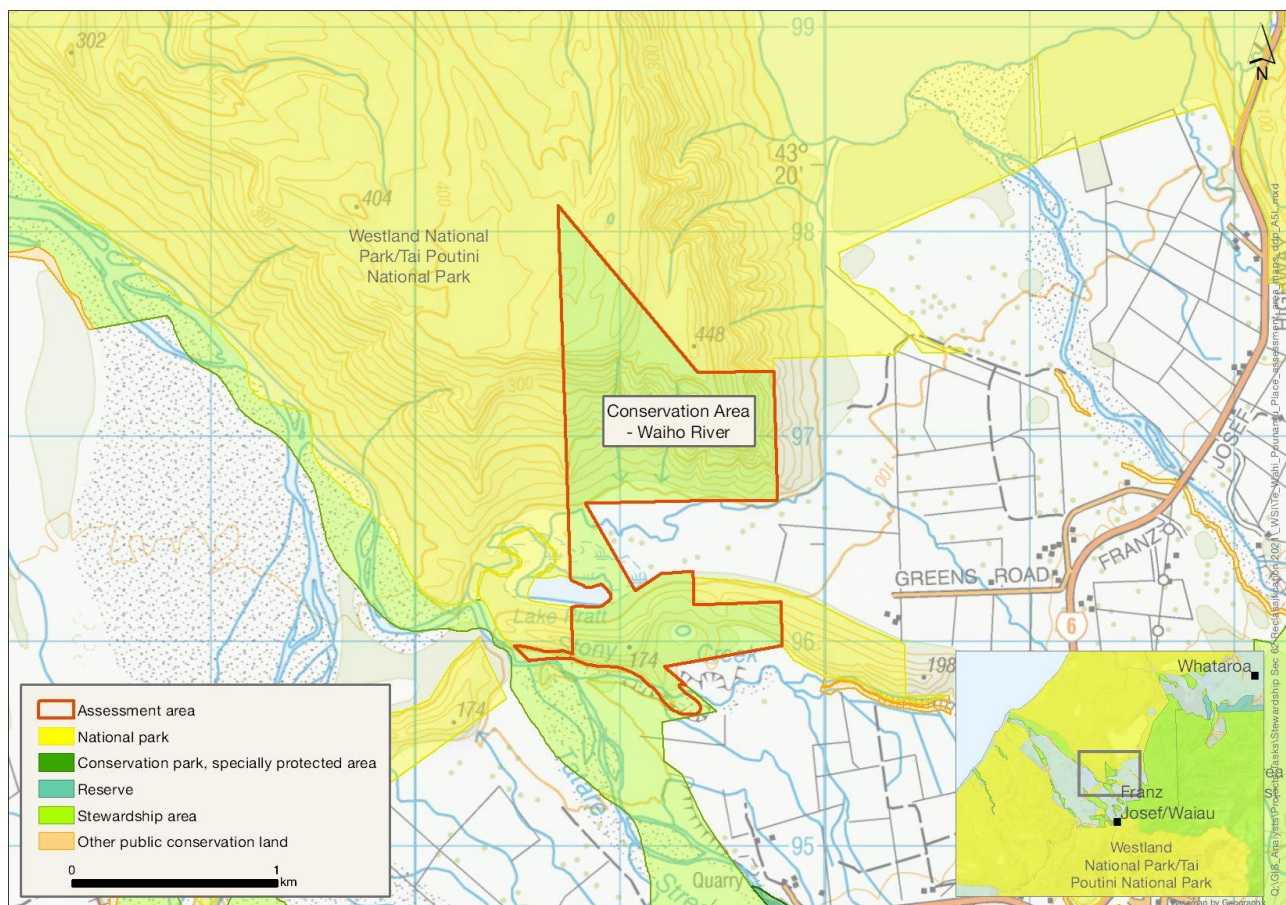
Location

On moraine and hillslopes north of Franz Josef township.

Brief Description

An area of lowland-montane forest adjoining Lake Pratt. Not easily accessible, it has no tracks or facilities but forms part of the backdrop of forested hill country north of Franz Josef. The area is within the Ōkārito South Ecological Management Unit (EMU No. 300002). The assessment area includes part of the Waiho Loop terminal moraine. It is currently one of two secure sites for rowi. There are no permissions in place, but there is some grazing pressure from cattle and pigs on an adjacent farm and some runoff issues. Occasional use for hunting.

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

Contains lowland/montane forest, wetlands and lake within Waiho Ecological District (ED). A relatively intact forest and wetland area on moraine. It supports a suite of native common and threatened terrestrial fauna.

Diversity and pattern

The assessment area contains sequences from forest to wetland and lake, occupying sections of late Otiran moraine including part of the Waiho Loop terminal moraine. An altitudinal sequence from 100–480 m with a range of aspects. The forest contains a range of forest birds, including rowi (Ōkārīto brown kiwi, *Apteryx rowi*), kākā (*Nestor meridionalis*) and kea (*Nestor notabilis*). The areas contain seven different land environment units.

No freshwater fisheries values are recorded, but there are many records of migratory fish downstream. Shallow water, marsh and swamp wetland plant species are recorded, indicating it sustains freshwater fisheries values.

Rarity and distinctiveness

The area contains a portion of Lake Pratt (and adjoining wetland). The lake is an important site for some ducks and other wetland birds (nesting, shelter, foraging). Threatened bird species recorded at this site are Australasian crested grebe (kāmana, *Podiceps cristatus*) (Nationally Vulnerable), pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) (At Risk: Declining), fernbird (mātātā, *Bowdleria punctata*) (At Risk: Declining) and kārearea (New Zealand falcon, *Falco novaeseelandiae*) (Nationally Endangered). The area is within mapped kea habitat. It is part of a larger area that forms important habitat for rowi (Nationally Endangered) and is known to carry breeding pairs of rowi. It is currently one of two secure sites for rowi as it has regular pest control (the other site being North Ōkārīto).

The threatened long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) (Nationally Critical) was recorded nearby (within 10 km) in the 1980s and may still use this habitat. Forest gecko (*Mokopirirakau granulatus*) (At Risk: Declining) are possibly present given the habitat. There is no evidence of rarity and distinctiveness from a freshwater perspective, but the area may be able to support rare species.

Moraines are naturally uncommon ecosystem type and are classified as Threatened-Vulnerable (Holdaway 2021).

Ecological context

An area of lowland-montane forest adjoining and surrounded on most side by Westland Tai Poutini National Park. The area is part of Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area and borders a

separate parcel of the Waiho River Conservation Area to the south (in TWP_25). A central part of the area is partly grazed although there is no concession associated with it. It includes a section of the Waiho River Loop – an important geological site (Kenny & Hayward 1993) listed as good example of moraine loop in terminal moraine, classified as an extremely well-defined landform of significance.

There is some grazing pressure from cattle and pigs on an adjacent farm and some runoff issues. The flat open area in the centre is not fenced along the boundary and it is difficult to fence up against a dynamic river, especially where boundaries are inconsistent with the landform. There have been past discussions around a land-swap with a neighbouring farm. There are willows in the general area which have been under some form of control. Lake Pratt is an Ecological Management Unit.

Recreation Values

Setting

This area is in a Backcountry-remote zone. There are no tracks or facilities in the area.

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

The area is likely to receive little recreation use. Occasional use for hunting as it is close to town with duck shooting on Lake Pratt.

Access

The area is relatively difficult to access. Foot access is possible via the bed of Tatare Stream.

Heritage Values

Sites recorded

None recorded.

Heritage values

No value statement possible.

Modifying factors

None recorded.

Permissions summary

None recorded.

Map (aerial photo)

