

INA_37 – Inangahua River – Rahu Saddle (6.4519 ha)

| Protected Area(s) | Area (ha) | NaPALIS # | # of Primary Parcels |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Conservation Area - Inangahua River | 6.4519 | 2807493 | 1 |

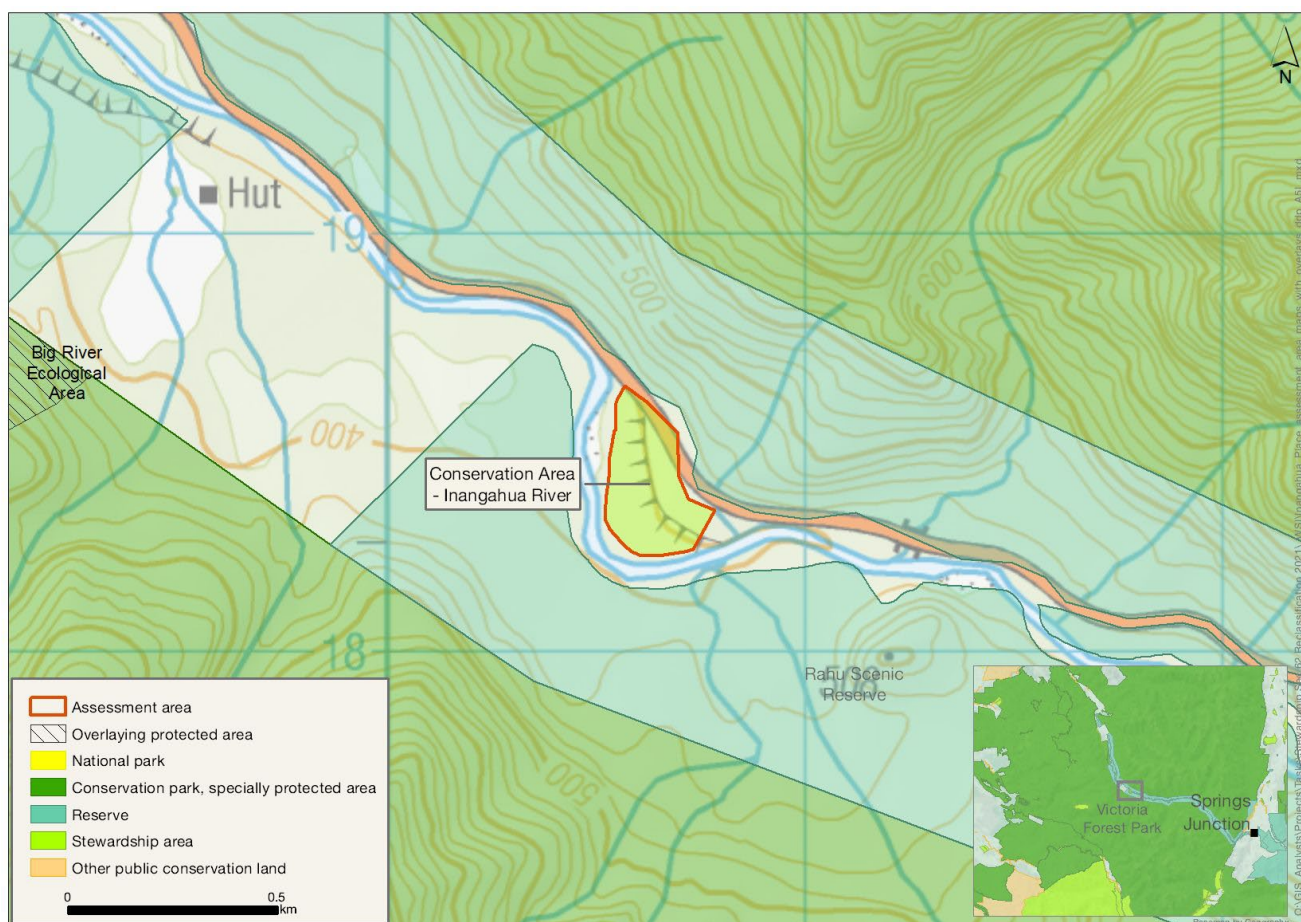
Location

On the western side of the Reefton-Springs Junction Road between the highway and Inangahua River.

Brief Description

Beech forest between the state highway and Inangahua River surrounded by Rahu Saddle Scenic Reserve. Large swathes of the riverbank downstream have been cleared for a variety of different uses, so the integrity of this upland section is important. There are no tracks or facilities in this area, and recreation is occasional hunting and fishing. No historic interest, or permissions in place.

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

High representativeness and naturalness. This area is part of the wider forest ecosystem and contributes to the diversity of habitat. This area is in the headwaters of Inangahua River. A high level of naturalness is assumed, given the surrounding landscape is covered in indigenous vegetation and, excluding SH7 that traverses along the river, there is very little evidence of anthropogenic disturbance. Water quality is predicted to be high.

Diversity and pattern

Moderate diversity, providing a forested margin for Inangahua River and part of the wider forested ecosystem. Despite the only records of freshwater fish being for trout, this area is within the headwaters of a large catchment. In close proximity downstream to this parcel, there are records of longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), torrentfish (piripiripōhatu, *Cheimarrichthys fosteri*), dwarf galaxias (*Galaxias divergens*), upland bully (West Coast) (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*) and redfin bully (*Gobiomorphus huttoni*).

Rarity and distinctiveness

There are no at-risk or threatened species recorded, however, this area provides forested cover and connects the Rahu Scenic Reserve to Victoria Forest Park, providing continuous habitat, intersected by the highway. Level 4 land environment O1.4a. decrease in indigenous vegetation cover (1997–2002), No Threat category.

There are no records of native freshwater fish here but records within close proximity include species of conservation importance (as endangered as At Risk: Declining) that could migrate through this area and use the adjacent watercourse as habitat.

Ecological context

This small area of 6.4 ha sits within the Reefton Ecological District on a terrace above Inangahua River and SH7, and has high indigenous vegetation cover. Part of the larger beech (tawhai, *Fuscopora* and *Lophozonia*) forest ecosystem, it is adjacent to the Rahu Scenic Reserve. Large swathes of the riverbank downstream have been cleared for a variety of different uses, so the integrity of the upland section of this catchment in Victoria Forest Park and Rahu Scenic Reserve is important.

Recreation Values

Setting

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

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

Occasional hunting or fishing.

Access

Access from SH7.

Heritage Values

Historical overview

No historic sites or heritage values recorded

Permissions Summary

None recorded.

Map (aerial photo)

