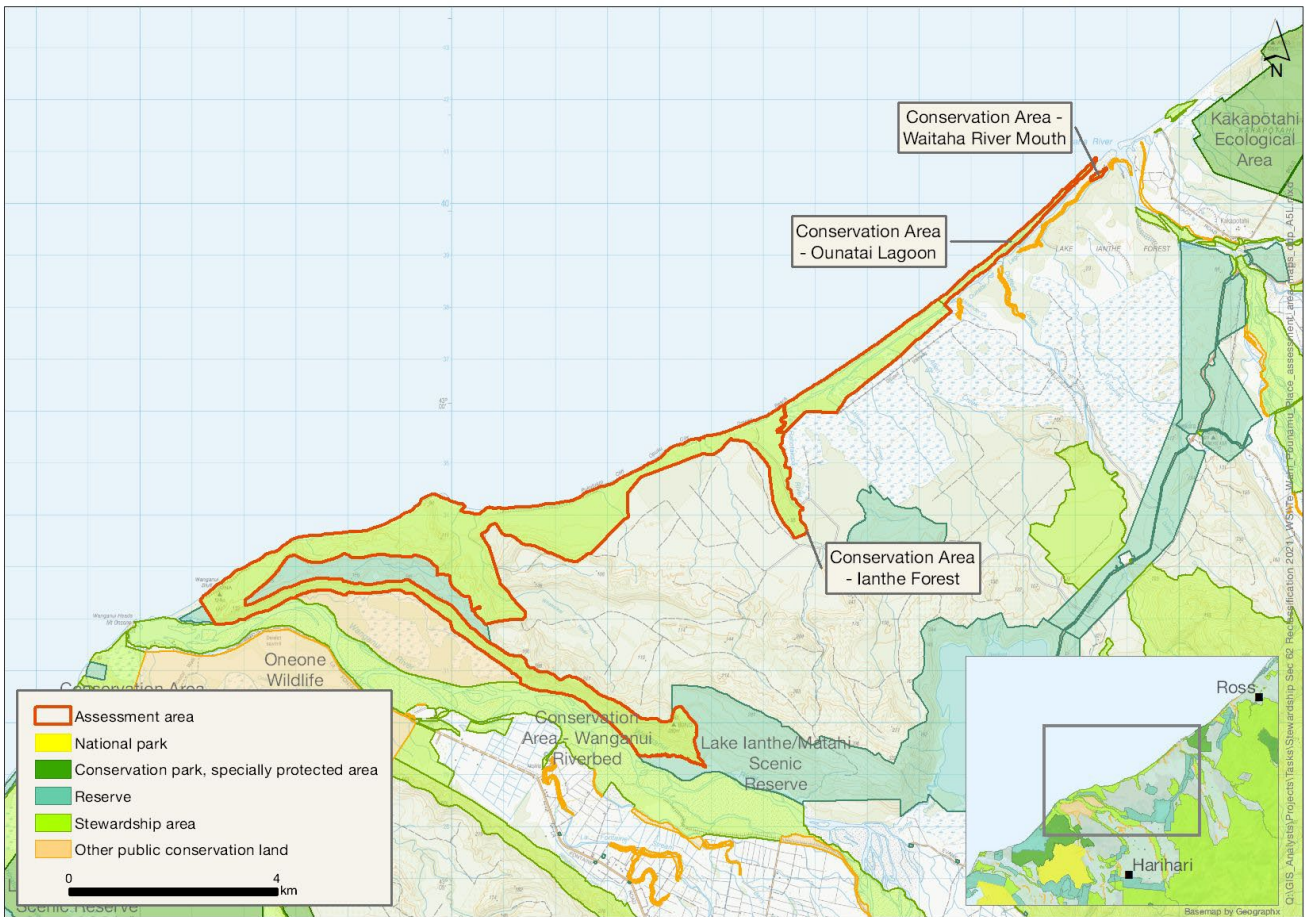


Stewardship Land Review: Recommendation

TWP_03 – Waitaha River Mouth, Ounatai Lagoon, Ianthe Forest

Departmental Region	Management Place	Technical report	Assessment #	Held Under
Western South Island	Te Wāhi Pounamu	DOC-6913482	TWP_03	s62

Waitaha River Mouth, Ounatai Lagoon, Ianthe Forest



Protected Areas	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Waitaha River Mouth	2.5965	2805515	1
Conservation Area - Ounatai Lagoon	47.6745	2805516	1
Conservation Area - Ianthe Forest	1404.103	2805636	5

Recommendation on Reclassification

Western South Island National Panel Recommendation

The Western South Island National Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Areas ‘Waitaha River Mouth’ (NaPALIS #2805515), ‘Ounatai Lagoon’ (NaPALIS #2805516) and ‘Tanthe Forest’ (NaPALIS #2805636) are declared to be held for conservation purposes, pursuant to section 7(1) of the Conservation Act 1987, and are classified pursuant to section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 as section 19(1)(a) Scenic Reserves.
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Mana Whenua Panel Recommendation

The Mana Whenua Panel does not seek to make its own recommendation for Conservation Areas ‘Waitaha River Mouth’ (NaPALIS #2805515), ‘Ounatai Lagoon’ (NaPALIS #2805516) and ‘Tanthe Forest’ (NaPALIS #2805636) and does not either support or oppose the Western South Island National Panel’s recommendation.

Western South Island National Panel Justification for Recommendation – Executive Summary

This conservation area has high landscape and ecological values, containing a variety of ecosystems and habitats noted to be highly natural. The area supports a diverse suite of indigenous forest birds as well as a variety of coastal and wetland avifauna. A range of freshwater species is present, including a recorded īnanga spawning site. The assessment area has recreation values associated with the presence of baches, beach use, wildlife (seal) viewing and 4WD access. Heritage values are present associated with Māori and European occupation, flax milling and gold mining.

Classifying this conservation area as scenic reserve is considered to preserve the identified ecological and landscape values, and protect any identified historic or archaeological features, whilst providing for the recreational use of the area.

Mana Whenua Panel Justification for Recommendation

The Mana Whenua Panel has been provided with the opportunity to review the Western South Island National Panel's reclassification recommendation for Conservation Areas 'Waitaha River Mouth' (NaPALIS #2805515), 'Ounatai Lagoon' (NaPALIS #2805516) and 'Ianthé Forest' (NaPALIS #2805636) and does not either support or oppose the Western South Island National Panel's recommendation.

Notwithstanding this, the Mana Whenua Panel expressly reserves the right of Ngāi Tahu to seek to have the classification of this area reviewed in the future. There is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā. The interests of Ngāi Tahu in this area may change over time which may require the classification to be revisited. In addition, more appropriate forms of protected area classifications from a Ngāi Tahu perspective may be developed through conservation law reform.

Western South Island National Panel Justification for Recommendation

1. Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi Obligations

The Western South Island National Panel is required to give effect to the principles of The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, in accordance with section (4) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The panel acknowledges that the assessment area is within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā and the rohe of Poutini Ngāi Tahu, and as such appreciates the connection between Ngāi Tahu and the whenua. In making the above recommendation the panel has considered the values and interests of Ngāi Tahu as presented to them. This information has been considered in conjunction with the content provided in the corresponding technical reports.

The panel considers that the above recommendation is consistent with the identified Ngāi Tahu values and interests.

2. Treaty Settlement Obligations

No Treaty/Tiriti settlement obligations are identified in the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) that specifically relate to this assessment area.

3. Consideration of Adjoining Land Classification

The panels are required to consider the classification(s) of adjacent and nearby public conservation land, enabling a 'landscape' approach to the reclassification work to be implemented.

This assessment area is noted to connect four scenic reserves while also bordering the Wanganui River Flat Wildlife Management Area. These conservation areas share complementary conservation values with the proximal scenic reserves, with the above recommendation considered to improve landscape continuity.

4. Conservation Justifications

The panel recommendation is required to include clear conservation justifications. These conservation justifications are addressed in sections 4 (a), (b), (c) and (d), based on information identified in the corresponding technical reports.

a. Identified Landscape Values

The assessment area contains highly diverse coastal landforms, features and vegetation and almost all is within Outstanding Natural Landscape.

b. Identified Ecological Values

The assessment area contains sand and gravel shoreline, three river mouths, intertidal and shallow rocky reef, important coastal lagoon, marsh and pākihi wetlands, glacial moraine surfaces and cliffs. Although parts of the area have been previously logged, it is noted to be highly natural. Species richness is high resulting from the variety of ecosystems and habitats. The area supports a diverse suite of indigenous forest birds as well as a variety of coastal and wetland avifauna. A range of freshwater species is present, including a recorded īnanga spawning site. The classification as scenic reserve is considered appropriate to preserve the identified indigenous flora, fauna, biological associations and natural environment.

c. Identified Recreation Values

The assessment area has recreation values associated with beach use, wildlife (seal) viewing and 4WD access. Some baches are present in and adjacent to these conservation areas. The recommendation as scenic reserve is considered to provide for these recreation values, being managed for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public as a primary objective.

d. Identified Heritage Values

This conservation area contains heritage values associated with Māori and European occupation, along with flax milling and gold mining. There are recorded archaeological sites related to all these activities, including the site of an early 20th century flaxmill. These heritage values are reflected by the above classification, being managed to protect historic and archaeological features as a secondary objective.

5. Current Land Use

A concession licence is held for a bach at Greens Beach.

6. Consideration of the Climate Change Commission Report

The panel gave consideration to the objectives of the [Climate Change Commission report](#) and the recommended policy direction. The key focus of the advice is ensuring a shift to a low carbon and resilient Aotearoa. The panel does not consider the recommended land classification to limit future decision making over the land to mitigate emissions, adapt to climate change and sequester carbon.

7. Strategic Policy Direction

The assessment area is governed by the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS. The CMS has been reviewed to identify all relevant provisions and conservation area-specific treaty settlement obligations when formulating the above recommendation, and the recommended land classification is considered to be consistent with the aims of the strategy.

The above recommendation has also been considered in conjunction with the Conservation General Policy and conforms with policy 6(b) regarding reclassification and 6(c) & (d) regarding disposal.