

## TWP\_32 – Clearwater River (37.9141 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Clearwater River	37.9141	2805317	1

### Location

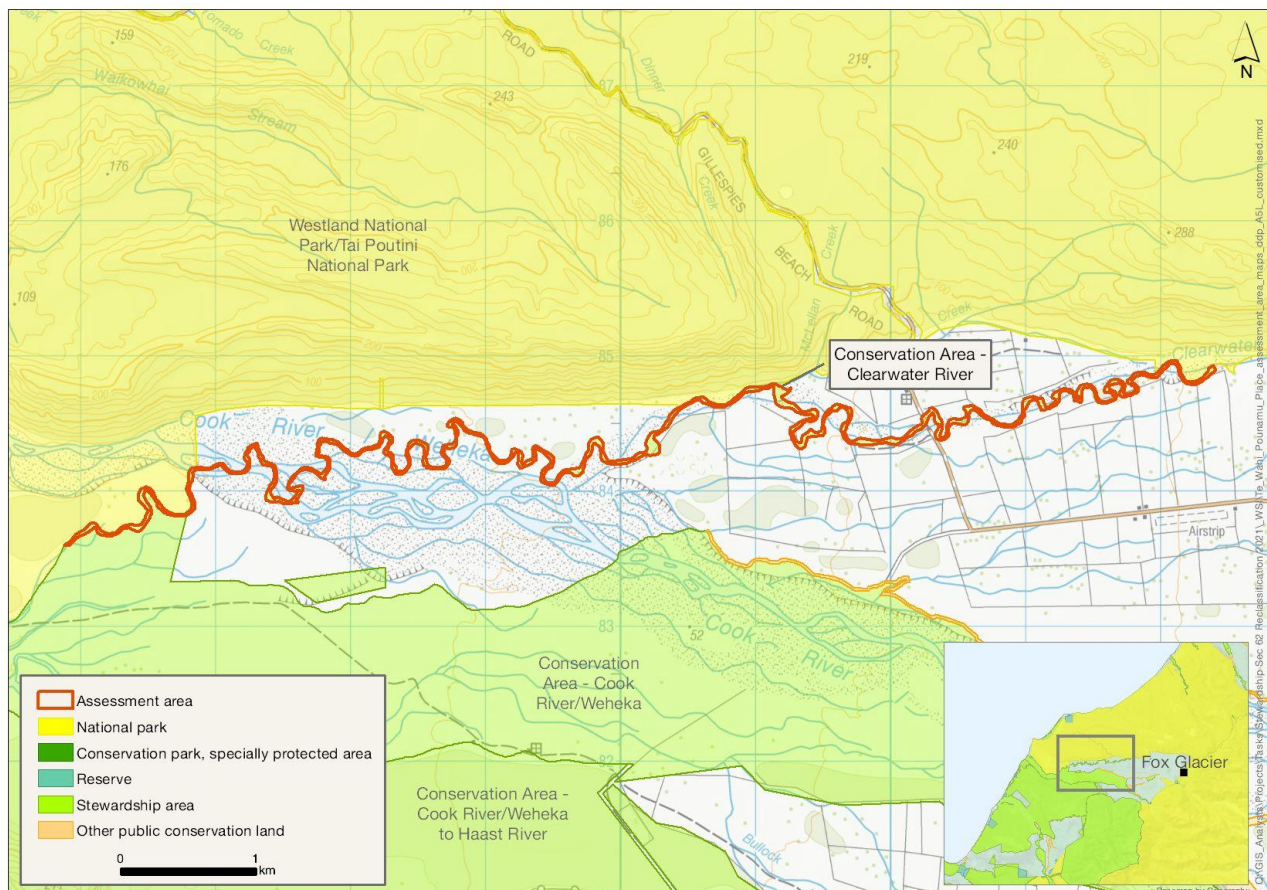
A meandering stream on the Clearwater River Cook River flats, west of Fox Glacier.

### Brief Description

The surveyed meandering bed of Clearwater River between Westland Tai Poutini National Park (near Lake Matheson carpark) and the Cook River Conservation Area. The lower portion of the area is within the Cook River Lower Ecological Management Unit (EMU No. 300016) and crosses the Cook River itself. It meanders across farmland and does not follow the exact course of Clearwater River. It is modified by stock grazing and exotic species and any future use will require agreement with the adjoining landowner.

The area is accessible via the road to Gillespies Beach. There are no DOC-managed tracks or facilities, but there is potential to extend a walking and cycling track through this area. This area is used for mahinga kai.

### Map



## Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

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

There is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā. A section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required, 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.

This area is used for mahinga kai.

## Ecological Values

### Representativeness

The area straddles the boundary between Karangarua and Waiho ecological districts. It is modified by stock grazing and exotic species and meanders across farmland. It does not follow the exact course of Clearwater River, a medium tributary of Fox River. The upstream sections of the catchment are protected by the Westland Tai Poutini National Park to the north. The lower sections traverse farmland before reaching an area defined as an Ministry for the Environment 'At Risk Catchment'.

### Diversity and pattern

Being alluvial flats, the area has only modest ecological diversity, but contains some natural patterning of landform. The area contains a single land environment. Redfin bully (*Gobiomorphus huttoni*), longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) and kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*) have been recorded here, indicating a degree of freshwater diversity.

### Rarity and distinctiveness

Kōaro and longfin eel (both At Risk: Declining) have been identified in this assessment area.

### Ecological context

The area is flood-prone land on alluvial flats and part of Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. The upstream catchment is quite large. Additionally, freshwater fisheries values are identified as migratory natives, so this whole catchment from source to mouth should be considered important; these species are also At Risk: Declining. Tributaries of this stream are all protected under Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

## Recreation Values

### Setting

This area is in a Backcountry-remote zone. Currently there are no DOC-managed tracks and facilities. There is the potential to extend the walking and cycling track from Fox Glacier, Cook Flat Road down Clearwater River to the Peak View Lookout, passing through this area. The area is managed as part of the adjacent farm.

### Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

None recorded.

## Access

Access is possible from the Clearwater River bridge on the Gillespies Beach Road. Any future use of the area will require agreement with the adjoining landowner.

## Heritage Values

### Sites recorded

None recorded.

### Heritage values

No value statement possible.

### Modifying factors

None recorded.

## Permissions summary

None recorded.

## Map (aerial photo)

