

INA_45 – Shenandoah River (1319.3756 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Shenandoah River	1319.3756	2807876	12

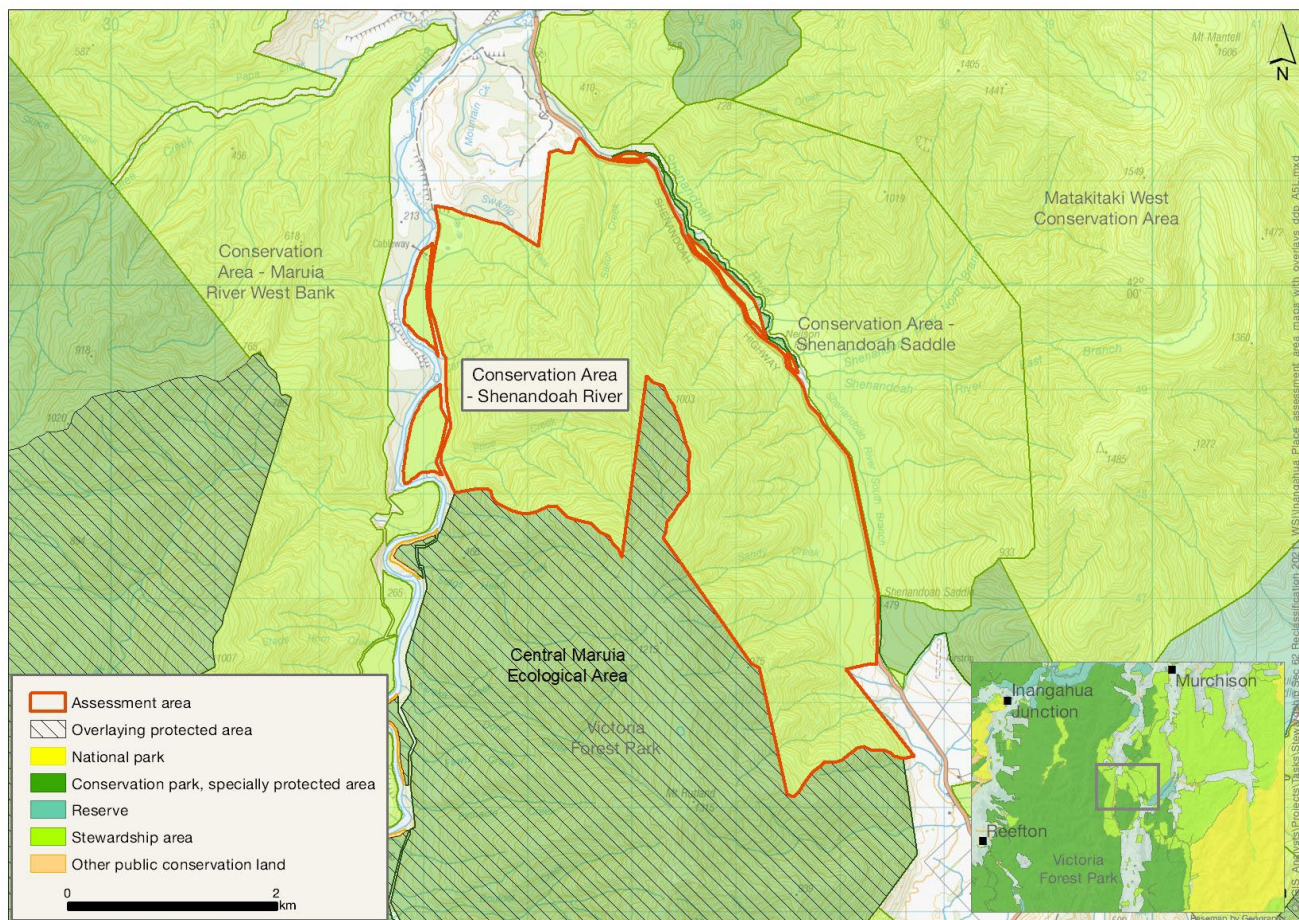
Location

Between the Maruia and Shenandoah rivers, northwest of Burnbrae in the Maruia valley.

Brief Description

A large area of beech forest on hillslopes, extending from the floor of both the Maruia and Shenandoah valleys to ridge crest. To the southeast the area adjoins farmland. There are no freshwater fish records from this area but many are within close proximity both upstream and downstream, most of which could use this area as habitat. There is occasional hunting, and the rivers are popular for recreational and commercial rafting and kayaking, fly-fishing, and swimming. No tracks or facilities, permissions, or historic interest.

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

The area is largely forested immediately above the Shenandoah and Maruia rivers, in the Rotorua Ecological District. A large area of beech (tawhai, *Fuscopora* and *Lophozonia*) forest extends from the Maruia and Shenandoah valley floors to ridge crest (c. 210–1160 m), with some cleared and regenerating hillslopes in Shenandoah valley. Shenandoah Highway borders the majority of the eastern boundary.

Diversity and pattern

The area is largely hillslopes, with small areas of alluvial flats. The hillslopes vary from gentle to steep, have a range of aspects, and extend from valley floor to ridge crest. The area includes several gullies and small catchments and contains eight level 4 land environments, which indicates high ecological diversity.

There are no freshwater fish records from here, but within close proximity upstream and downstream are records of dwarf galaxias (*Galaxias divergens*), northern flathead galaxias (*Galaxias* species N), kōura (freshwater crayfish, *Paranephrops planifrons*), bluegill bully (*Gobiomorphus hubbsi*), longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), upland bully (West Coast) (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*), common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*), kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*), freshwater shrimp (*Paratya*) and kākahi (freshwater mussel, *Hyridella menziesi*), most of which could potentially use the watercourses in this area as habitat. There is high predicted water quality, and marsh, seepage, and swamp wetland types are recorded here, representing a diversity of freshwater ecosystems.

Rarity and distinctiveness

There is an old oxbow of Maruia valley in the northwest of the area, and there are records of yellow mistletoe (*Alepis flavida*) and scarlet mistletoe (pirita, *Peraxilla colensoi*) (both At Risk: Declining) in nearby forest areas. The species recorded within close proximity both upstream and downstream of this area include longfin eel, kōaro and dwarf galaxias (all At Risk: Declining). This is potentially threatened long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) (Nationally Critical) habitat.

Ecological context

The area adjoins Victoria Forest Park and Central Maruia Ecological Area to the south, the Shenandoah Saddle Conservation Area to the east, and the Maruia River West Bank Conservation Area (INA_43), to the west, forming part of an extensive forest area in Maruia valley. To the southeast the area adjoins farmland. There

appears to be some tongues of developed land at the eastern end encroaching onto the assessment area, which are not permitted.

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. Along with the Maruia West Bank Conservation Area to the west, the rivers have a high use for recreational and commercial rafting and kayaking, fly-fishing, and swimming.

Access

Access via Shenandoah Highway.

Heritage Values

No historic sites or heritage values recorded.

Permissions Summary

None recorded.

Map (aerial photo)

