

MAW_04 – Grey River/Māwheranui and Rough River (330.2364 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Grey River/Māwheranui and Rough River	9.1119	2806491	1
Conservation Area - Grey River/Māwheranui	47.6376	2806787	4
Conservation Area - Grey River/Māwheranui	49.1336	2806788	1
Conservation Area - Grey River/Māwheranui	11.3599	2806811	1
Conservation Area - Grey River/Māwheranui	75.262	2806812	5
Conservation Area - Rough River	137.7314	2806820	5

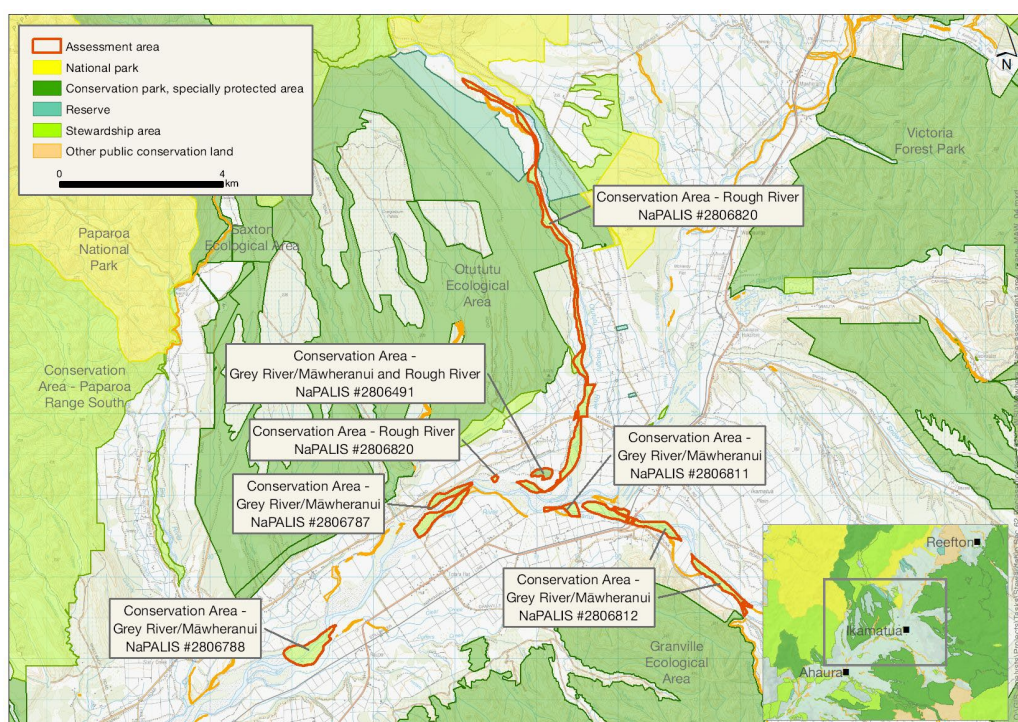
Location

In the Grey River/Māwheranui valley in the vicinity of Ikamatua township.

Brief Description

Ten discrete areas of land covering active riverbeds and adjacent terraces in the Grey River/Māwheranui valley. Collectively, these parcels cover substantial lengths of three different rivers that provide important habitat for native invertebrate and fish species. Some parts have been integrated into neighbouring farms. Concessions exist for easements, grazing licences and access to alluvial gold mining. There is no easy access or DOC-managed tracks or facilities, but jetboating and trout and game bird hunting may occur.

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 assessment area is part of a dynamic river system including active riverbed, indigenous forest dominated by hard beech (*Fuscospora truncata*)/rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) forest on the terraces, colonised islands reverting to forest cover, or seral species where the forest cover has been removed recently due to floods. Some parts of the area have been integrated into neighbouring farms and are included in the grazing regimes. There is regenerating forest at a goldmine site on Grey River/Māwheranui. The forested parts of the assessment area on the free draining higher nutrient soils likely include mataī (black pine, *Prumnopitys taxifolia*) and tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*). It is a high level of representativeness and naturalness. The area lies within Maimai and Totara Flat ecological districts.

There are six discrete parcels of land with varying levels of naturalness and connectivity with wider public conservation land. All parcels cover active waterways (either Otututu/Rough River or Grey River/Māwheranui) and riparian margins of rivers and are classified as an acutely threatened land environment. The northern-most parcel follows approximately 12 km of Otututu/Rough River, and has a high level of catchment naturalness and predicted high water quality, and the upper half is bordered by Otututu Scenic Reserve and Otututu Ecological Area, Paparoa National Park and Mirfin Scenic Reserve.

Diversity and pattern

There is moderately high diversity and pattern of ecosystems, including braided river, shrublands and indigenous forest, regenerating forest at the goldmine site and some pasture incorporated into neighbouring farms. These parcels have waterways with high species diversity with collective records of longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), dwarf galaxias (*Galaxias divergens*), torrentfish (piripiripōhatu, *Cheimarrichthys fosteri*), kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*), upland bully (West Coast) (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*), bluegill bully (*Gobiomorphus hubbsi*), redfin bully (*Gobiomorphus huttoni*) and brown trout (*salmo trutta*).

Rarity and distinctiveness

Braided river ecosystems are classified as endangered (Holdaway et al. 2012) and a large proportion of the assessment area is classified as an Acutely or Chronically Threatened Land Environment (Walker et al. 2015). There is little public conservation land in these ecosystems in the Grey River/Māwheranui valley or the lower reaches of the main tributaries. Old growth podocarp forest has been greatly reduced in the valley: less than 12% of the M2.1a Land Environment (moderately fertile, better draining soils) is within public conservation land in Maimai ecological district. The riverbed is a Threatened Land Environment (Holdaway et al. 2012). Black-billed gulls (tarāpuka, *Larus bulleri*) (Nationally Critical) nest and feed, probably also terns and other braided river birds.

The waterways within these parcels have multiple records of freshwater fish of conservation importance: longfin eel, dwarf galaxias, torrentfish, kōaro and bluegill bully (all At Risk: Declining) and upland bully (Not Threatened).

Ecological context

This is a disjunct grouping of conservation areas of irregular shapes, 25 m at the narrowest, but covering approximately 20 km of river in the Grey River/Māwheranui Conservation Area and Rough River Conservation Area. This area plays an important role in maintaining ecological connectivity in the valley, and it is connected through native cover and legal road. It provides valuable habitat for native avifauna.

These parcels all lie within an 'Acutely Threatened' ecosystem/environment and have a high diversity of freshwater species. It is only the long, thin northern parcel that flanks >12 km of Otututu/Rough River that has a connectivity with other protected areas (Otututu Scenic Reserve, Paparoa National Park and Mirfin Scenic Reserve). Collectively, these parcels cover substantial lengths of three different rivers that provide important habitat for native invertebrate and fish species.

Recreation Values

Setting

The areas are in a Backcountry-remote zone, with no tracks or facilities managed by the Department.

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

Trout and game bird hunting may occur. Jetboating occurs at least up to Ahaura confluence.

Access

There is no easy access to these areas as they are surrounded by developed farmland.

Heritage Values

Historical overview

Sites recorded

No sites or heritage values recorded

Permissions summary

- Powerline easement for Reefton to Dobson line
- Grazing licence for grazing part bed of Grey River
- Easement for access to alluvial gold mining on Grey River
- Gravel extraction on Grey River
- Easement through Rough River and Moonlight Creek to construct a replacement bridge
- Grazing licence 39.52 ha on Otututu River

Map (aerial photo)

