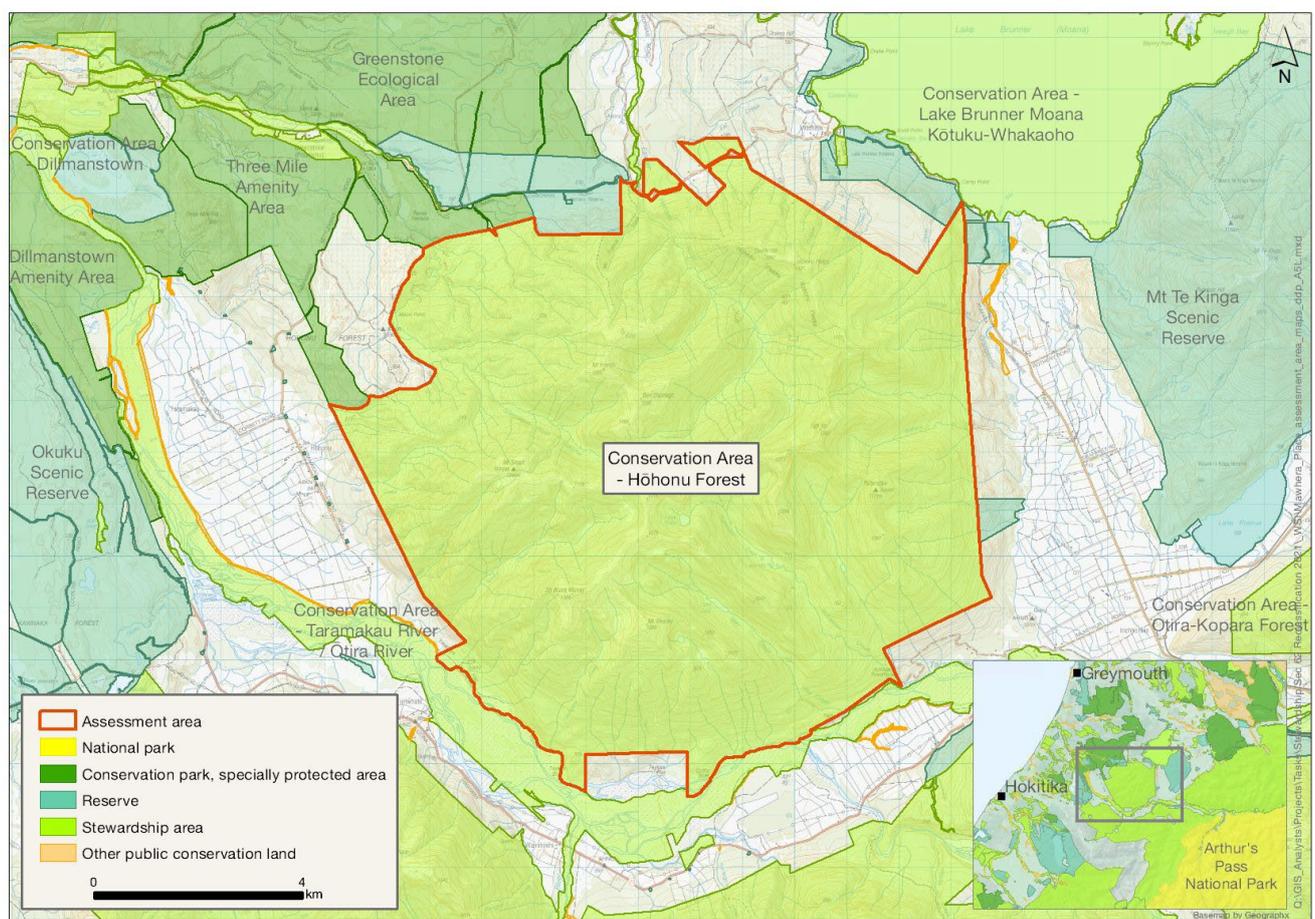


Stewardship Land Review: Recommendation

MAW_53 – Hōhonu Forest

Departmental Region	Management Place	Technical report	Assessment #	Held Under
Western South Island	Māwhera	DOC-6931071	MAW_53	s7(1) & s62

Hōhonu Forest



Protected Areas	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area – Hōhonu Forest	10,578.67	2806524	19

Recommendation on Reclassification

Western South Island National Panel recommendation

The Western South Island National Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area ‘Hōhonu Forest’ (NaPALIS #2806524) is declared to be held for conservation purposes, pursuant to section 7(1) of the Conservation Act 1987, and is classified pursuant to section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 as a section 18 Historic Reserve, and is named the ‘Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve’ (see Appendix).
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Mana Whenua Panel recommendation

The Mana Whenua Panel recommends:

- The Conservation Area ‘Hōhonu Forest’ (NaPALIS #2806524) is classified pursuant to section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 as a section 18 Historic Reserve and named ‘Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve’.
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Western South Island National Panel Justification for Recommendation – Executive Summary

This conservation area overlays the entirety of the Hōhonu Range, covering a large altitudinal and vegetational sequence, containing lowland and montane conifer/broadleaved forest, subalpine shrubland and alpine snow tussock land. The area is of high significance to Ngāi Tahu, as both a component of a Poutini Ngāi Tahu pounamu legend and a key landscape marker in the interconnected pounamu travel routes of Te Tai Poutini. High ecological values are present, including a high level of diversity, representation and naturalness with limited human modification. The Hōhonu Range is an outstanding natural landscape feature and forms the backdrop to Kōtuku-Whakaoho/Lake Brunner. Heritage values are present relating to historic gold mining on the Greenstone goldfields in addition to the recreation values associated with the Mt French tramping track and hunting (specifically chamois).

Classifying the assessment area as a historic reserve is considered appropriate to protect and illustrate the significance of the identified historic and archaeological features, while preserving the indigenous flora and fauna present and providing for the recreational use of the area.

It is noted that the Conservation Areas ‘Kumara – Wardens Road’ (HOK_01, #2809268), ‘Taramakau Riverbed’ (HOK_01, #2809263), ‘Taramakau River / Ōtira River’ (HOK_03, #2806316), ‘Kawhaka Forest’ (HOK_19, #2805715), ‘Wanganui / Otira Catchments’ (northern two units) (HOK_19, #2805713), ‘Wainihinihi Creek’ (HOK_24, #2805714), ‘Granville Forest’ (MAW_09, #2807465), ‘Grey River/Māwheranui’ (MAW_09, #2807468 & #2807469), ‘Otira-Kopara Forest’ (MAW_09, #2807512), ‘Robinson River’ (MAW_09, #2807517 & #2954675) and ‘Crane Creek – Haupiri Road’ (MAW_09, #2807522) have similarly been recommended as part of the ‘Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve’ (see Appendix).

Mana Whenua Panel Justification for Recommendation

The Mana Whenua Panel consider that reclassifying the Conservation Area ‘Hōhonu Forest’ (NaPALIS #2806524) as Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve appropriately acknowledges the mana of Ngāi Tahu and the immense cultural significance of the area to Poutini Ngāi Tahu. This central region of the West Coast is the heart of Poutini Ngāi Tahu legends, customs and traditions centred around pounamu. The Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve acknowledges the ara tawhito (old trails), the passes used to link east and west coasts, the mahinga kai resources that supported pā, seasonal nohoanga and travellers, and the legends and battles associated with this taonga. Historical and contemporary associations with pounamu are integral to Poutini Ngāi Tahu identity and this is recognised through the creation of a historic reserve.

It is noted that further clarification is required of the purposes of the reserve, particularly to ensure the purposes acknowledge the mana and rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu, and provide for Ngāi Tahu wellbeing, kaitiakitanga and mahinga kai. The reserve purposes must also provide a role for Ngāi Tahu in management and decisionmaking, including the option of vesting. These

are matters that can be worked through between the Minister of Conservation/Department of Conservation and Ngāi Tahu as the detail of the classification is developed.

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 acknowledges the significance of this site as both a component of a Poutini Ngāi Tahu pounamu legend and a key landscape marker in the interconnected pounamu travel routes of Te Tai Poutini. In forming the above recommendation, the panel has endeavoured to take the identified values into account.

2. *Treaty Settlement Obligations*

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

3. *Consideration of Adjoining Land Classification*

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

Although this conservation area is bordered by amenity areas and scenic reserves, those classifications are not considered to reflect the mosaic of conservation values identified.

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*

This conservation area forms part of the extensive fluvio-glacial basin, is a dominant landscape feature (together with Tekimoka/Mt Te Kinga) and lies within an Outstanding Natural Landscape in the Draft Te Tai o Poutini Plan.

b. Identified Ecological Values

This conservation area covers a large altitudinal and vegetational sequence, containing lowland and montane conifer/broadleaved forest, subalpine shrubland and alpine snow tussock land. There is a high level of diversity, representation and naturalness with limited human modification. There are several rare species present, including the threatened herb *Gratiola concinna* (Nationally Endangered). The classification as historic reserve is considered appropriate to protect the identified ecological values, being managed to protect indigenous flora, fauna and wildlife as a secondary objective.

c. Identified Recreation Values

This area contains the Mt French tramping track, used by day trampers and hunters. The area is noted as a quality site for hunting chamois. The above recommendation is considered to accommodate the identified recreation values, allowing the public freedom of entry and access, subject to such conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection of the identified historic sites.

d. Identified Heritage Values

This conservation area contains heritage values associated with gold mining on the Greenstone goldfields, located on the edge of this conservation area. There are some recorded archaeological sites related to nineteenth century gold mining. The above recommendation protects these heritage values, protecting structures, objects and sites so as to illustrate with integrity the history of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

5. Current Land Use

This conservation area contains an easement for a hydropower scheme, a grazing licence within part of the Taramakau River bed, an accommodation licence for a bach on the lower side of the Mitchells/Greenstone Road, and a telecommunications licence for a telecommunication site on Mt French.

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 was considered in conjunction with the Conservation General Policy and conforms with policy 6(b) regarding reclassification and 6(c) & (d) regarding disposal.

Appendix

The Proposed Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve

