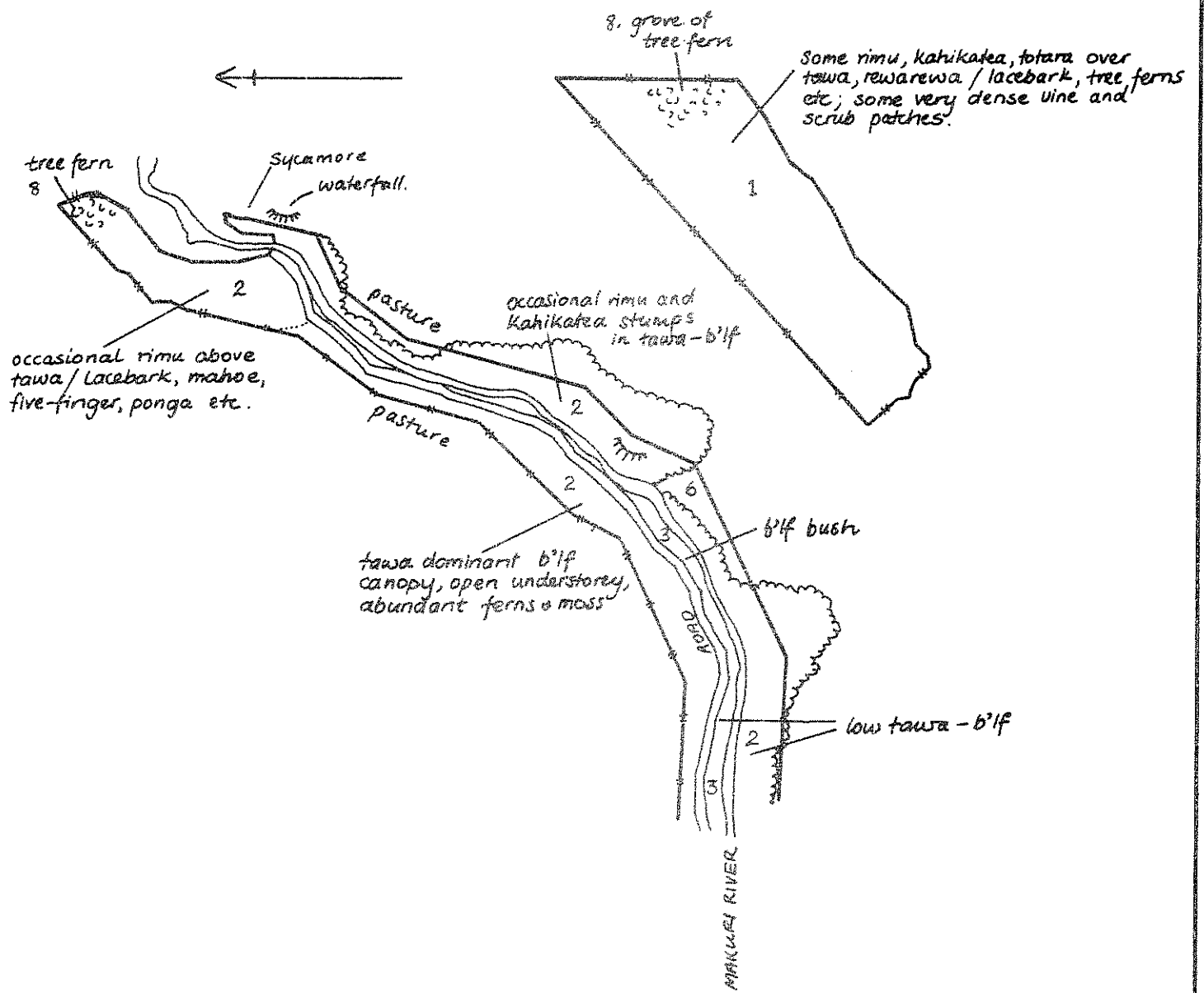


Makuri Gorge Scenic Reserve

Area: 159.4764 ha

1-11





MAKURI GORGE SCENIC RESERVE										GRID REF T25 327741-330742	
for:	scenery ✓	bush ✓	scrub/tussock etc	wetland	plants	animals	geology/soil	history/prehistory	water supply		
LOCATION Extending for approximately 5 km on both sides of the Pahiatua-Akitio-Pongaroa Road. 24 km SE of Pahiatua by road. ACCESS Access to the north areas is off the above road although there are no tracks. Public access is difficult for areas on the south side of Makuri River.										AREA ha:xx 159.4763 L.D. No. Block VIII Makuri Survey District	
OUTLINE & TOPO The reserve comprises the ribbon of bluffs and steep valley sides for 5 km along Makuri Gorge. The reserved strip is continuous apart from one interruption of farmland at the eastern end, and Pori Road, off the gorge road. At the western end the reserve extends into the valleys of two tributaries of the Makuri River. There are scattered podocarps here and in the small section nearest Makuri. Elsewhere tawa and light broadleaved bush predominate.										STATUS Scenic RES sub-Cities CONTROL CCL	
SURROUNDINGS Surrounded by grazed farmland on higher hillslopes and ridgetops. To the east is Makuri township, to the west is an operational limestone quarry.										GAZETTED 1906/689, 1912/698, 1936, 1919/2612 RESERVED 1891; Education Endowment Act	
GEOLOGY Coquina limestone.										HISTORY AIR PHOTO 5139 G25, H32 date 29.9.77.	
SPM Weathered limestone colluvium and alluvium.										nearby town 1.5 km Pahiatua nearest reserve 0.5 km Makuri Township SR public road Pahiatua-Akitio-Pongaroa Road zone (km) 33 km ALTITUDE m:tx 120-400	
SOIL Central yellow-brown earths and related steepland soils: Mahoenui and Pahiatua.										ASPECT North-south RAIN mm:xx 1650 (approx) NAT FERTILITY Moderate	
DRAINAGE Very good.											

RES		NOT		MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES	% area	area ha	native 1° 2° ind	ex	regen	NAT	trend	exotics
LD	NZ	LD	NZ									
✓	✓			1. A remnant of kahikatea-(rimu)-(totara)/ <u>law</u> /broadleaved species and tree fern, almost entirely in one section at the eastern end.	12	19.1	✓			M	H	S
✓	✓			2. Discontinuous <u>law</u> -rewarewa-lancewood canopy above mixed broadleaved bush, widespread on gentle to moderately-steep slopes. Occasional podocarps. Open, grazed floor on spurs at west end of reserve. Nikau palm common.	47.7	76	✓	✓		H	H	S
✓	✓			3. Low broadleaved cover on steep slopes and riverbanks. Lacebark, lancewood, mahoe, five-finger, tawa etc.	19.6	31	✓	✓		H	H	S
✓	✓			4. Scrub of koromiko-pate-tutu-Coprosma spp-flax-toetoe etc. mostly alongside roads.	-	-	✓	✓		M	M	S
✓	✓			5. Discrete patches of totara amongst the scrub on steep valley sides at western end of road.	4.4	7	✓			L	H	S
✓	✓			6. Open grazed grassland of exotic grasses and weeds. Ragwort dense.	3.6	5.7	✓	✓		L	L	S
✓	✓			7. Limestone bluffs with perching flax, toetoe, koromiko and tutu.	2.1	3.3	✓			L	H	S
✓	✓			8. Groves of tree ferns. Some <i>Tmesipteris</i> .	1.2	1.9	✓	✓		L	H	S
✓	✓			9. Riverside vegetation of willows, tutu, rushes, <i>Blechnum capense</i> "ordinary" and adventive herbs. Sycamore at township end.	-	-	✓	✓		L	H	S
✓	✓			10. Roadside vegetation of grasses, sedges and waterweed in drainage ditches.	-	-	✓	✓		H	M	S
✓	✓			11. Rock islands in river with grasses, herbs, mosses and lichens.	-	-	✓	✓		L	H	S
				12. Road.	4.4	7.1						
				13. Stream.	5.1	8.2						
					100	159.3						

CONDITION Good. Intact canopy and emergents with a high regeneration rate on more moderate slopes. The sycamore infestation at the township end is awaiting an eradication programme. There are few weeds elsewhere. The western section suffers from stock trespass.

FENCING Adequately fenced where practicable for the terrain.

PRIORITY Low, as long as fencing is maintained in areas other than bluffs.

RATING 0-10

SCIENTIFIC .A.. Range of habitats.

SCENIC 6 Good scenic views with a sense of widescale forestation when viewed from parts of the road.

RECREATION 2 Few picnic sites are provided and there are no bush walks but development of both would be worthwhile even though most use would be by the small local population.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

The greatest attraction of this reserve is its scenic qualities, with some excellent views from the road which winds along the valley surrounded by steep bush-clad hillsides and bluffs. The 160 ha of vegetation provides a diverse habitat range for biota: riverbed, bluffs and outcrops, gentle gradient fertile valley floors and steep bush-clad slopes. Tawa and light broadleaved bush is the main cover with patchy podocarp distribution; totara on steep bluffs and rimu and kahikatea on the more fertile low gradient sites. The vegetation is typical of the bush preserved elsewhere in the hilly region east of the North Wairarapa basin. The reserve is well fenced where the terrain allows, although the large western section has been quite heavily browsed in areas close to the farmland. Sycamore infestation poses the only major threat to native vegetation at present, as it spreads from the heavily planted area at the foot of Makuri township. Total eradication is the only effective solution. It was noted that soil erosion is prevalent on the slopes below farmland due to increased run-off which is forming rocky slope washes and channels down to the road in places. Unfortunately there is little one can do to prevent this continuing. The Makuri Gorge Road is used mostly by local residents, nevertheless, the development of well-positioned pull-offs and picnic sites with good views would be well worthwhile and would enhance the reserve's value as a scenic amenity.

REFERENCES

% area	SUMMARY	HABITATS												ORGANISMS		INFER		OBSERVED												
		WATER / SHORE			veg			substrate			pollution			access		a - adjoins reserve		N S M		N L M H initials										
16.5	tall conifer ¹ forest/trees	large	small	several	fill/cut/stable	overhanging	emergent	herbacc	cliff	rock	stony	s+shingle	mud	organic	rubbish	eutrophic	foot	boat	car	higher native plants	114									
67.3	conifer ² forest/trees																		lower plants											
	beech forest/trees																		exotic plants											
	BL ³ forest/trees																		bush											
	scrub/shrubs <6m																		exotic plants	scrub										
	tall tussocks/grassland																		in native	grass										
	short tussocks/grassland																		higher freshwater plants											
	grassland/grasses																		lower freshwater plants											
	sedgeland/sedgus																		native mammals											
	rushland/rushes/raupo																		native birds											
	herbland/herbs																		introduced birds											
	"tussock" herbland ⁴																		waterfowl s.l.											
1.2	fernland/ferns																		introduced waterfowl											
	"moss" land																		reptiles											
	bracken																		native/introduced amphibia											
4	exotic grassland ⁵																		fw native fish											
	exotic herbland/woodland																		fw introduced fish											
	exotic scrub/shrubs																		fw invertebrates											
	exotic forest/trees																		terrestrial invertebrates											
	introduced "native" cover																		saltwater life											
	bog/swamp/pakihi																													
	marsh sw/fw																													
	mudflat sw/fw																													
2	bluff/rocks																		planting of	natives										
	bluffs/rocks in bush																		"natives"											
	waterfall																		exotics											
	cave/gorge																		troublesome plants											
	gravel habitat/scree																		stock in reserve											
	dune/sand																		nett animal damage											
	limestone																		degree used											
	ultrabasics																		litter rubbish											
	geological site																		heavy rubbish											
	breeding ground																		casual cutting											
	rare/interesting animals																		logging											
	rare/interesting plants																		unnatural drainage - wet											
	historic site																		unnatural drainage - dry											
	historic building																		accelerated erosion											
	prehistoric site																		topdressing risk											
	camp/midden/pits																		burnt < 25 years											
	terraces/earthworks																		burnt > 25 years											
	burial/tapu																		fire risk											
93.8																														

¹ tall conifer: kahikatea, kauri, matai, miro, rimu, totara ² remaining 11 tree-sized spp ³ broadleaved ⁴ e.g. flax ⁵ incl. rough grassland, pasture etc

NATIVE SPECIES

Trees and shrubs

Alectryon excelsus
Aristotelia serrata
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosma grandifolia
C. rhamnoides
C. robusta
C. rotundifolia
Cordyline australis
Coriaria arborea
Dacrydium cupressinum
Elaeocarpus dentatus
Fuchsia excorticata
Geniostoma ligustrifolium

Climbers, lianes etc.

Clematis paniculata
Freycinetia baueriana ssp. *banksii*
Metrosideros colensoi var. *colensoi*
M. diffusa
M. perforata

Grasses, rushes and like plants

Carex flagellifera
C. geminata
C. solandri

Herbs

Acaena anserinifolia
Astelia fragrans
A. solandri
Australina pusilla
Cardamine sp.

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii
Anarthropteris lanceolata
Asplenium bulbiferum
A. flaccidum
A. oblongifolium
A. polyodon
Blechnum sp. (*capense* agg.)
B. chambersii
B. discolor
B. fluviatile
B. minus
B. penna-marina
Cyathea medullaris

buddleia
Clematis vitalba

blackbird
fantail

Griselinia littoralis
Hebe stricta
Hedycarya arborea
Hoheria populnea var. *lanceolata*
Knightia excelsa
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptospermum scoparium
Lophomyrtus obcordatum ✓
Macropiper excelsum
Meliccytus ramiflorus
Myrsine australis
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia rani
Paratrophis microphylla
Pennantia corymbosa

Muehlenbeckia australis
Parsonsia capsularis
P. heterophylla
Passiflora tetrandra

Carex virgata
Cortaderia toetoe
Microlaena avenacea

Collospermum hastatum
Earina mucronata
Epilobium pedunculare
Euphrasia cuneata

Dicksonia fibrosa ✓
D. squarrosa
Grammitis billardieri
Hymenophyllum bivalve
H. dilatatum
H. ferrugineum
H. flabellatum
H. scabrum
Lastreopsis glabella
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lycopodium billardieri
Paesia scaberula

EXOTIC SPECIES

iris
nightshade

BIRDS
greywarbler
kingfisher

Pittosporum eugenioides
Plagianthus betulinus
Podocarpus dacrydioides
P. spicatus
P. totara
Pseudopanax arboreus
P. crassifolius
Pseudowintera colorata
Rhopalostylis sapida
Schefflera digitata
Solanum aviculare ✓
Sophora microphylla ✓
Urtica ferox
Weinmannia racemosa

Ripogonum scandens
Rubus cissoides
R. schmidelioides

Poa anceps
Uncinia uncinata

Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae
Phormium tenax
Pratia angulata
Stellaria parviflora

Phymatosorus diversifolius
P. scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
P. vestitum
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris tremula
Pyrrhosia serpens
Rumohra adiantiformis
Tmespteris sp.
Trichomanes colensoi
T. venosum

thistle
willow

silveryeye
wood pigeon