

WHIRINAKI TE PUA-A-TĀNE

Conservation Management Plan
2017

Cover image: Whirinaki. Photo: © David Finn

Department of Conservation
PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143
New Zealand

August 2017

ISBN: 978-1-98-851421-5 (online)

ISBN: 978-1-98-851422-2 (print)



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WHIRINAKI TE PUA-A-TĀNE

Conservation Management Plan
2017



Operative from 9 October 2017

Rārangi upoko

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Kupu whakataki Foreword

*Hapainga mai i te kokako
Kaoka – Koaka
Whakangungua te huia
Tui Tui Tuia
Tuia te manu
Ki Te Pua a Tāne
Whirinaki Whirinaki
Hui e e
Taiki e e*

*Elevated by the Kokako
that sings and chants
and enforces the Huia
Binding, connecting
all the birds to
the forest of Tāne
to Whirinaki
Gathered
as One*

Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne is internationally significant for its magnificent mixed podocarp forests of tōtara, rimu, kahikatea, mataī and miro and the richness of its species. Professor David Bellamy said in the 1980s that the ancient podocarp forest of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne represents an internationally significant taonga and that to walk in the Whirinaki was to walk in a “dinosaur forest”.

To the iwi of Ngāti Whare, Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne is of enormous cultural and spiritual value, containing many wāhi tapu and other sites of significance, as well as being the habitat of numerous species of trees, plants, birds, fish and rongoā prized by Ngāti Whare.

Ngāti Whare’s determination over 25 years to resolve its longstanding Treaty grievances with the Crown was driven by a strong belief in the future of Ngāti Whare and the future of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne. Through its Treaty settlement with the Crown, Ngāti Whare sought to establish an ongoing and active partnership with the Crown in

relation to Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park, reflecting not only the significance of the forest and its resources and their management and protection to Ngāti Whare, but also the wider public interest in the conservation, enjoyment and use of the forest.

To achieve this, the 2009 Deed of Settlement between Ngāti Whare and the Crown acknowledges the significance of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne to Ngāti Whare as kaitiaki of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park and provides for the co-governance of the Park through the development of a conservation management plan to be approved jointly by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.

For the iwi, hapū and whānau of the Whirinaki valley, the health and wellbeing of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne is intimately connected with the health and wellbeing of the people, as reflected in the following whakatauki:

*Ka puāwai te Whirinaki, ka puāwai te iwi o Ngāti Whare
As the Whirinaki blossoms, so too do the people of Ngāti Whare*



*Ko te manu e kai i te miro nōna te ngahere.
Ko te manu e kai i te mātauranga, nōna te ao.*

*The bird that feeds on the miro berry, the forest is his domain.
The bird that feeds on knowledge, the world is his domain.*

The resources of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne have sustained those living within its embrace since time immemorial, and its importance continues today in environmental, cultural, social, recreational and economic terms.

It is therefore essential that we all work together to ensure that the future of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne is not only protected but is enhanced. Ngāti Whare’s vision for Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne is not simply focused on the next year or the next 25 years. Rather, Ngāti Whare is looking to the next thousand years, and the release of this plan is an important part of that long-term vision.

This conservation management plan is a statutory document that will guide the future management of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park. It establishes detailed objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources with the Park, acknowledging the role

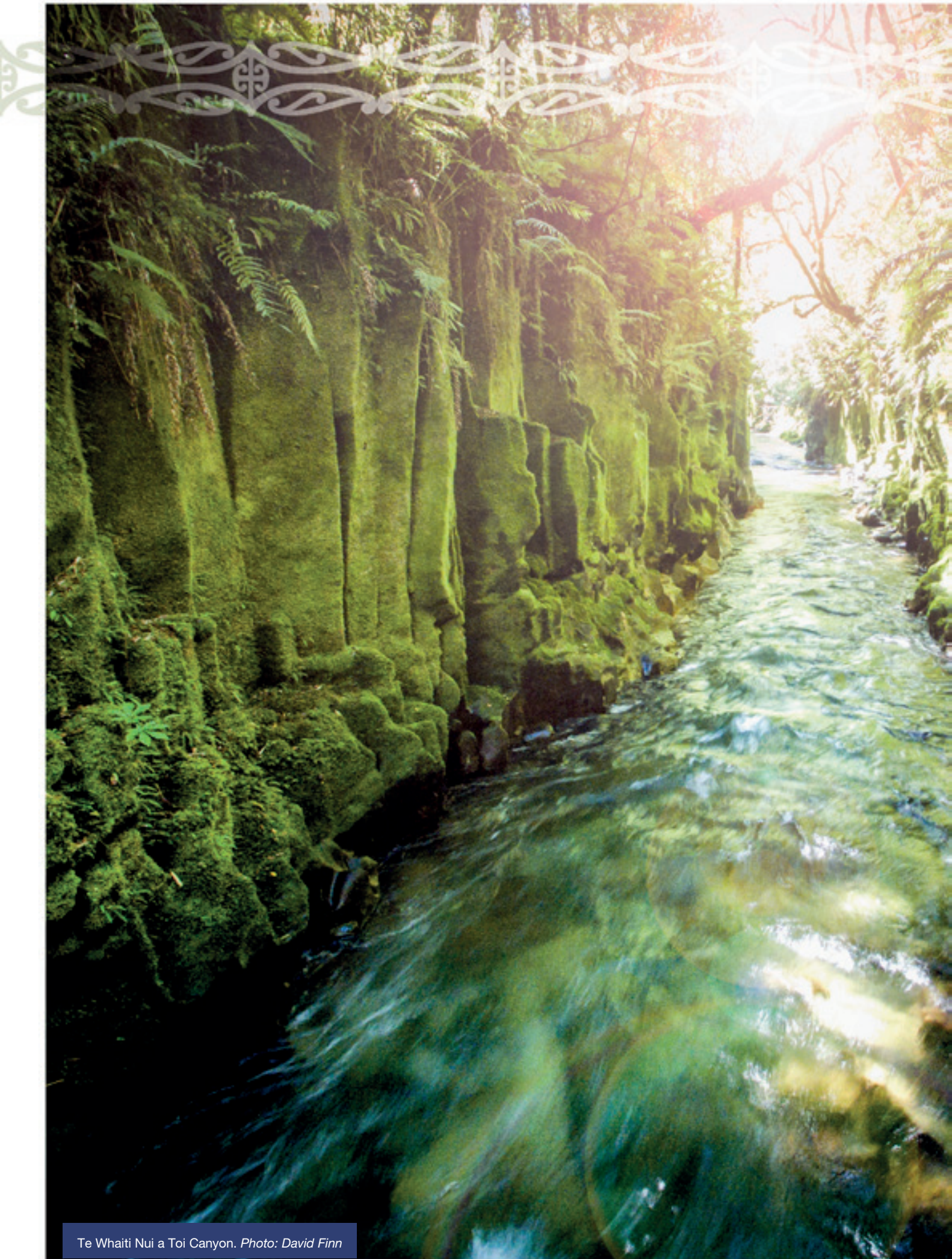
of tangata whenua, the local community and other key stakeholders and guided by the key principles contained within Ngāti Whare’s Treaty settlement legislation. The Plan, which will be reviewed every 10 years as required, represents a shared vision for the future of this place as reflected in the moemoeā (vision statement) at the beginning of the Plan.

It therefore gives us great pleasure, on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare, the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation, to introduce this inaugural conservation management plan for the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park. It is hoped that this management plan will assist and guide all who visit or interact with Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne, and help to ensure that its health and wellbeing is protected for the sustainable use and enjoyment of generations to come.

Bronco Carson
Trustee
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare

Lou Sanson
Director-General
Department of Conservation

Ken Raureti
Chair
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board



Te Whaiti Nui a Toi Canyon. Photo: David Finn



Moemoeā Vision

The korowai of Whirinaki Te-Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park embraces Ngāti Whare iwi and is woven through kaitiakitanga or guardianship.

The threads are the Park's biodiversity, historic, cultural and spiritual taonga.

From nurturing the ngahere also come recreational, social and economic opportunities for all people.

Ma te ngaruru o Whirinaki

*As Whirinaki flourishes,
opportunities abound*

*Kāore he wāhi i tua atu i a
Aotearoa, hei wāhi noho i te ao*

*New Zealand is the greatest
living space on Earth*



Ko Wharepakau tao tao kite Kapua.



Co-governance

For generations, the Whirinaki valley and Te Whāiti Nui-a-Toi area has been important in the lives of Māori, and more latterly Europeans. For Ngāti Whare, this area including Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park (the Park) has played an important role in sustaining their people physically and spiritually. As kaitiaki, Ngāti Whare traditionally carried the responsibility of ensuring the health and wellbeing of the ngahere (forest).

Extensive clear-felling of the indigenous forests of the Park and replanting in exotic pines from the late 1950s through to the early 1980s resulted not only in the loss of towering podocarps but also affected the ecosystems and species the forest supported. Although some parts of the Park were already protected, conservation groups actively campaigned in the 1970s to stop further felling, sparking one of the country's most significant conservation battles and resulting in formal legal protection of the remaining forest. The Park was declared a Forest Park in 1984 and then a Conservation Park in 1993 – a treasure to be protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

Although no felling of podocarps has occurred for some time, concern over damage to the forest and ongoing threats that hindered the regeneration of the forest gave rise to a call by Ngāti Whare for a greater role in the management of the Park. This call was responded to in Treaty settlement negotiations and the redress package. The Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 acknowledges the significance of the Park to Ngāti Whare as kaitiaki of the Park and provides for co-governance of it by the Trustees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare (Ngāti Whare) and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, to be achieved through the development and joint approval of this Management Plan. The co-governance partnership is also given effect through a Conservation Accord which sets out how the Minister of Conservation, Department of Conservation (Department) and Ngāti Whare will work together. The relationship principles from the Accord are contained in Appendix 1.

The Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park will continue to be managed as a Conservation Park by the Department on behalf of the people of New Zealand.



Rapids on the Whirinaki River.



Part 1

**Te tīmatanga
kōrero**

Introduction

1 Purpose

This Plan guides the Department in its management of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park and forms part of the cultural redress provided to Ngāti Whare through the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 and associated settlement instruments.¹

The Plan identifies the values of the Park, establishes its strategic direction (vision and outcome), and sets out the management objectives, policies and actions to achieve this.

The Plan has multiple uses:

- As an information source for the public, it sets out how the Department will manage the Park
- It provides direction for the Department in day-to-day work and long-term business planning
- It provides direction for decision-makers considering proposals from businesses and others who require authorisation to undertake activities within the Park
- It acts as a framework for the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and New Zealand Conservation Authority to monitor the performance of the Department.

2 Park location and classification

The 65,000-hectare Park is located south-east of Rotorua between the Kaingaroa plateau and Te Urewera. It includes five areas recently added via the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 (NWCSA) and an area known as Te Whāiti which previously formed part of Te Urewera National Park but was transferred to the Park under the Te Urewera Act 2014. The Park boundaries, including the recently added areas, are identified on the location map that follows.

The Park traverses a number of local authority boundaries including the Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils and the Taupo, Whakatane and Wairoa Districts (refer location map).

The Park is classified as a conservation park under section 19 of the Conservation Act 1987.

In addition to its Conservation Park classification, there are nine specially protected areas within the Park that have additional protection overlays. These areas are Otupaka Ecological Area, Oriuwaka Ecological Area, Tuwatawata Ecological Area, Te Kohu Ecological Area, Tauranga Basin Ecological Area, Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon Specially Protected Area, Tūwatawata Specially Protected Area, Te Whāiti and Whirinaki Forest Sanctuary. These areas have been identified because of their special natural, historical or cultural heritage values (including sites of cultural, historical and spiritual significance to Ngāti Whare), and are described in Appendix 3 and shown on Map 1.

3 Plan development

The Plan was prepared by the Department in consultation with the Trustees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, in accordance with the Conservation Act 1987 and the NWCSA.

Other iwi and/or hapū with traditional associations with the Park, the community, and concessionaires were consulted and contributed to the Plan's development.

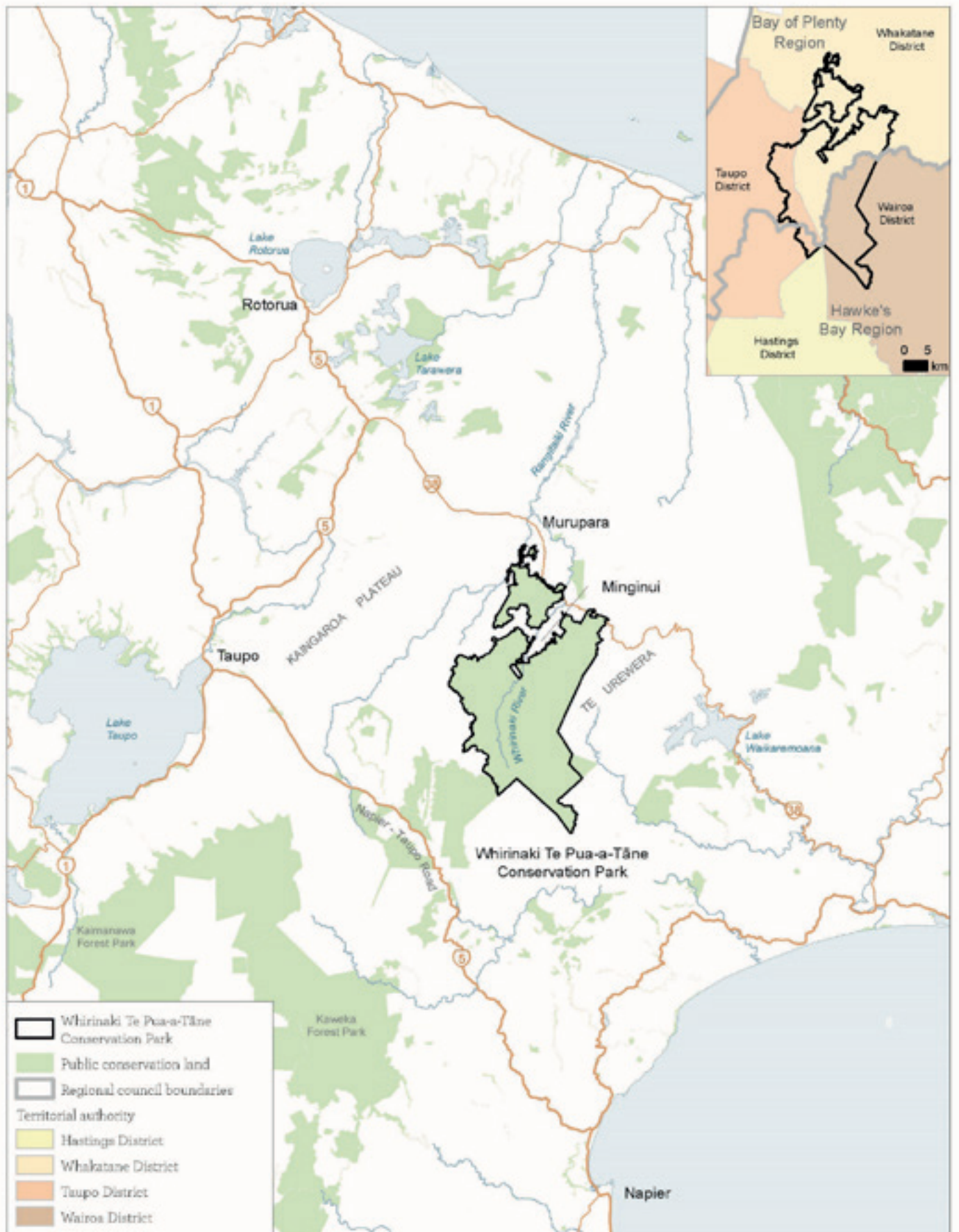
The Minister of Conservation and New Zealand Conservation Authority provided comments from the perspective of national public interest prior to the Plan being approved by the Trustees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.

4 Relationship to other documents

This Plan is part of a suite of documents that provides the planning framework for all public conservation lands and waters in New Zealand. Key legislation and policy documents are identified in Figure 1.

¹ A summary of the Ngāti Whare Settlement is contained in Appendix 2.





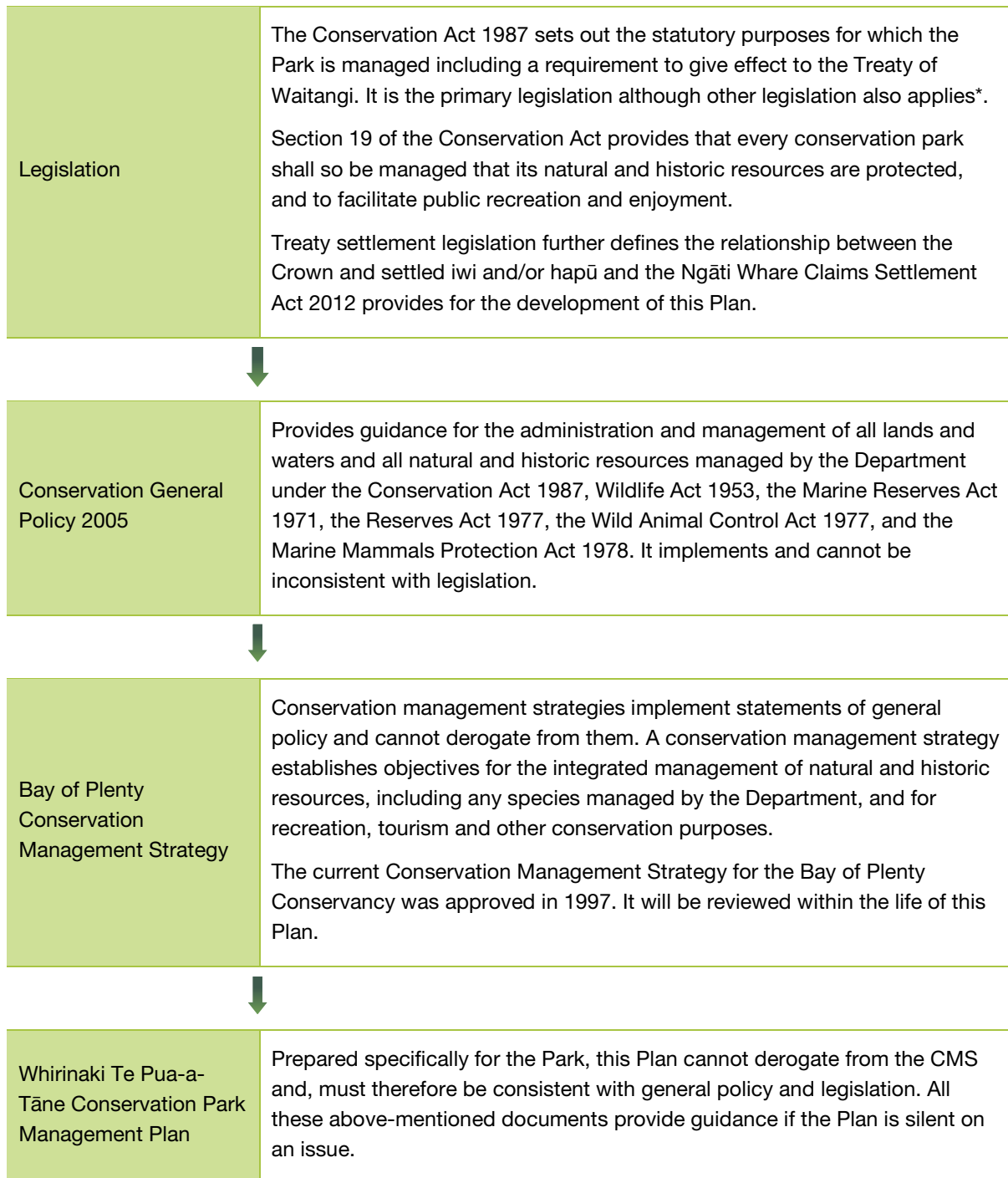
Location of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park





Upper Te Hoe Hut. Photo: David Finn

Figure 1: Key legislation and policy influencing this Plan



* Other relevant legislation includes: Wildlife Act 1953; Protected Objects Act 1975; Wild Animal Control Act 1977; Crown Minerals Act 1991; Electricity Act 1992; Walking Access Act 2008; Freedom Camping Act 2011; Game Animal Council Act 2013; Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014; and Te Urewera Act 2014.

Activities undertaken in the Park also need to comply with regional and district plans prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991, unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to section 4(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

5 Plan term and effect

This Plan will have effect for 10 years, or until formally amended or reviewed in full or in part (see Section 40). The term may be extended with ministerial approval after consultation with Ngāti Whare and the Conservation Board.

Once approved, the official version of this Plan is held on the Department’s website. Corrections to errors and other amendments that do not affect policy intent or the public interest can be made without public consultation. Formal amendment or partial review processes may be conducted; although these are likely to be rare. For practical reasons the Department will be unable to ensure all hard copy versions reflect such updates.

6 Statutory responsibilities

Many organisations have statutory responsibilities in relation to the Park including:

- Department of Conservation
- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board
- New Zealand Conservation Authority
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Hawkes Bay Regional Council
- Whakatane District Council
- Taupo District Council
- Wairoa District Council
- Rangitāiki River Forum
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Eastern Fish and Game Council
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
- New Zealand Rural Fire Authority
- New Zealand Game Animal Council
- OSPRI New Zealand.

Their roles and responsibilities are set out in Appendix 4.



Forest of giants.

7 Structure of this Plan

This Plan is divided into seven parts as follows:

Part 1 Te tīmatanga kōrero Introduction (this Part)	Describes the foundations and context for managing the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Park.
Part 2 Ngā painga me ngā whakarooputanga tukuiho Traditional associations and use	Describes the traditional associations and use that Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū have with the Park.
Part 3 Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne The Park	Describes the features, values and management issues for the Park.
Part 4 Te anga roopuwhakahaere Management framework	Describes the framework (vision, outcome and principles) adopted in this Plan to ensure integrated management of the Park.
Part 5 Te whenua whakahaere Park management	Describes the management direction (objectives and policies) to achieve the vision and outcome for the Park.
Part 6 Kupu whakataki whakahaere Authorisations	Provides additional guidance for decision-making on proposals to access and use the Park for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The policies need to be read in conjunction with the outcome, objectives and policies in Part 5.
Part 7 Kaiwhakahaere Administration	Contains information on implementing, monitoring, reporting and reviewing this Plan. This part includes specific actions (milestones) to measure progress towards achieving the outcome, objectives and policies in this Plan.

Material to support Parts 1 to 7 above is contained in the glossary, appendices and maps at the back of this Plan.



Kererū/New Zealand pigeon.



Part 2

**Ngā painga
me ngā
whakarooputanga
tukuiho**

**Traditional
associations
and use**

8 Ngāti Whare

Ko Tuwatawata te maunga

Ko Whirinaki te awa

Ko Wharepakau te tangata

Ko Ngāti Whare te iwi

Ko au ko te Whirinaki, ko te Whirinaki ko au

Ngāti Whare are the descendants of Toi Te Huatahi. Ngāti Whare take their name from their most prominent ancestor, Wharepakau-Tao-Tao-Ki-Te-Kapua (Wharepakau) of the ancient Tini-o-Toi, who settled around the Bay of Plenty. After a series of heke, Wharepakau and his whānau migrated to the Rangitāiki and Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi area. Together Wharepakau and his nephew Tangiharuru fought and defeated Te Marangaranga, the original occupants of the land. When the fighting ceased, Wharepakau and his whānau occupied the lands along the Whirinaki River with Te Marangaranga and are acknowledged as ahika. From that time the descendants of Wharepakau and Te Marangaranga adopted the name ‘Ngāti Whare’ in recognition of their common ancestor².

The traditional rohe of Ngāti Whare runs through south-west Te Urewera and parts of the Kaingaroa region, including the area known as Te Whāiti-nui-a-Toi and the Whirinaki valley. Ngāti Whare have maintained their occupation of those lands from the time of Wharepakau, 16 generations ago, through to the present. And over time the hapū of Ngāti Whare established many papa kāinga throughout their rohe.

The Park is of enormous cultural and spiritual value to Ngāti Whare, containing numerous wāhi tapu and other sites of significance as well as being the habitat of numerous prized species of trees, plants, birds and rongoa.

Over many generations, Ngāti Whare have developed tikanga which embody their respect for the Park and all life and resources within it. The Park has always had an important role in sustaining their people physically and

spiritually – reinforcing their identity and culture, connection and continuity between generations.

The significance of the Park is reflected in the following Ngāti Whare whakataukī:

Hapainga mai i te kokako	Elevated by the Kokako
Kaoka - Koaka	that sings and chants
Whakangungua te huia	and enforces the Huia
Tui Tui Tuia	Binding, connecting
Tuia te manu	all the birds to
Ki te Pua a Tāne	the forest of Tāne
Whirinaki Whirinaki	to Whirinaki
Hui e e	Gathered
Taiki e e	as One

Ngāti Whare are the kaitiaki of the Park with a distinct relationship to its whenua, ngahere, awa, rongoa and other taonga.

Within the Park the following areas are of importance to Ngāti Whare as wāhi tapu:

- **Tāne Mahuta** – The Park is significant as a physical representation of Te Mana o Tāne, god of the forest and of man. The Park is te Wao Nui-ā-Tāne, in the traditional sense of the word: a kainga for numerous species of trees, plants and animals.
- **Whirinaki River and Te Whāiti-nui-a-Toi Canyon** – The Whirinaki River originates from the Great Forest of Tāne, which is reflected in the name given to the Park by Ngāti Whare – ‘Whirinaki-a-Tāne’.

The various streams and tributaries symbolise the tears of Tūwatawata and Moerangi (both sacred mountains) crying for their children, who are living on the other side of the Whirinaki River. The Whirinaki River flows north joining the Rangitāiki River near Murupara, and was the route by which the eponymous ancestor

² Sections 6(2)–(3) Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012.

of Ngāti Whare, Wharepakau, travelled to the Whirinaki area.

To Ngāti Whare, the Whirinaki River is a single indivisible entity that includes its waters, banks, bed (and all minerals under it) and its streams, waterways, tributaries, fisheries, vegetation, floodplains, wetlands, springs, water column, airspace and substratum as well as its metaphysical being with its own mauri.

The river flows through Te Whāiti-nui-a-Toi Canyon, one of the most sacred sites to Ngāti Whare – the dwelling place of Hineruarangi, kaitiaki (guardian) of Ngāti Whare.

- **Arohaki Lagoon** – The lagoon is known as the place where all the water birds congregate and has traditionally been a carefully managed mahinga manu at certain times of the year.
- **Mangawiri basin** – Originally a rich source of food and resources, this area is also a deeply spiritual area, being the place most often frequented by the roaming Waewaekau, one of the spiritual guardians or kaitiaki of the wider area. In ancient times when Ngāti Whare ancestors walked over the land they left the tūrehu (fairy folk) to look after the place. The Waewaekau grew from these long associations and wherever its footprints went it took kaitiaki over the land and still forms part of Ngāti Whare today. Some Ngāti Whare refuse to go into this area because of the presence of the Waewaekau.

The NWCSA acknowledges the significance of Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon and Tūwatawata to Ngāti Whare and the generosity of Ngāti Whare in foregoing the return of these areas as part of the settlement of the historical claims. Both areas are identified as specially protected areas to recognise and protect the historical, cultural and spiritual significance of these areas to Ngāti Whare and to enable their management as part of the Park in accordance with conservation values and the tikanga and values of Ngāti Whare.

The NWCSA also identifies four wāhi tapu sites that have been returned to Ngāti Whare (subject to reserve status), two of which, Mangamate Falls and Te Takenga-a-Wharepakau, are surrounded by the Park. There are also four pā sites that have been returned to the joint ownership of Ngāti Whare and Ngāti Manawa and deemed Māori reservations under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. They are no longer part of the Park.

Forestry land adjacent to the Park was also returned to Ngāti Whare and is managed by the Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust who will undertake podocarp regeneration. The Trust proposes to use locally sourced propagation material (including seeds and seedlings) from the Park.

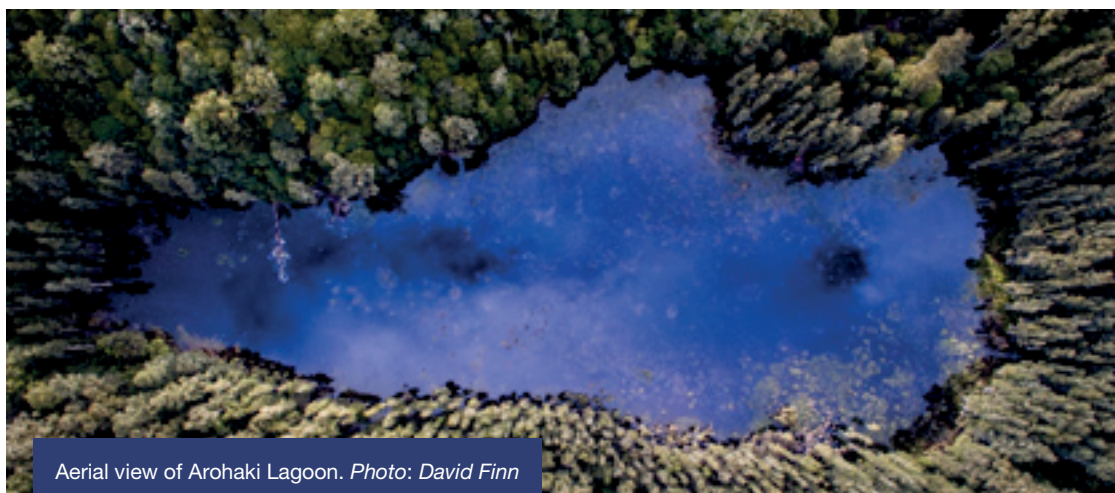
The Park provides habitat for numerous flora and fauna species. As Ngāti Whare have such a long history with the forest and waters of the Park, all species within the area hold some value to them. Loss of a species can have deep spiritual impacts, while the introduction of a species can have significant effects on the kaitiakitanga of the area and other species and must be closely managed to ensure balance.

Traditionally the Park and rivers were considered to be pātaka kai – places for Ngāti Whare to hunt and gather food resources. The water, fisheries and other natural resources of the Whirinaki River and its tributaries contain a number of important awaawa mahinga kai (water resources) sites where kōkopu (native trout), kōura (freshwater crayfish), tuna (eels), whio (blue duck) and pārerā (native grey duck) were customarily caught.

Ngāti Whare oral tradition also records that the blossoming of the forest was an indicator of the seasonal calendar.

Ngāti Whare has always acknowledged that with their use of the Park comes a responsibility to ensure the protection and maintenance of the resources. This is demonstrated in the following Ngāti Whare whakatauki which is about the seasonal bird-hunting cycle they used to follow:

He whenua pua, ko te puawai o te kai. He whenua puehu, ka kore tātau e kaha ki te tiaki i wēnei whenua, ana ka puehu.



The land which is frequented by birds, this refers to the abundance of the food resources. The land which turns to dust, if we are not careful in conserving our land, the result will be that it will turn to dust.

The significance of the Park, its history, values and special places of customary interest for Ngāti Whare have been expressed in their Statement of Association which forms part of the Deed of Settlement³ and from which the above information has largely been drawn.

Ngāti Whare's vision for the future is centred on the following five fundamental principles:

- He Tapu te Whirinaki – the sacredness of the Whirinaki
- Kia Mau te Manamotuhake a Wharepakau – political development
- Kia Mau te Mana o Wharepakau – cultural development
- Manaaki te Katoa – economic development
- Awhi Ngā Uri o Wharepakau – social development.⁴

Ngāti Whare has developed an iwi management plan which adheres to these principles and outlines how they want resources managed and their culture respected. The iwi management plan is a

living document which is updated annually and available at www.ngatiwhare.iwi.nz.

Because of Ngāti Whare's traditional relationship with the Park and the redress provided through treaty settlement, Ngāti Whare will be seeking opportunities to achieve this vision through the Park where it is consistent with conservation objectives and legislation. While Ngāti Whare aspirations for use of the Park have evolved, and will continue to do so, at the time of writing this Plan key aspirations centred around:

- Ensuring the Park environment is protected and enhanced for future generations
- Departmental engagement over issues that affect the interests of Ngāti Whare, including the development of work programmes and education, the promotion of recreation and other opportunities within the Park, and interpretation and story-telling relating to Ngāti Whare values and associations
- Identifying and providing opportunities for Ngāti Whare to be actively involved as kaitiaki of the Park
 - The development of ecotourism opportunities⁵

³ Ngāti Whare Statement of Association Whirinaki Conservation Park.

⁴ Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord.

⁵ Some of these are discussed in the 2012 Tourism Resource Consultants report prepared for Ngāti Whare

Holdings Limited: *Whirinaki – Te Pua-a-Tāne: Scoping of ecotourism opportunities for Ngāti Whare.*

- Ngāti Whare being actively involved in increasing Park users' awareness of values and sites of significance to Ngāti Whare
- Ensuring that the cultural and historical significance of the Park is understood and respected by those who use the Park
- Promoting educational opportunities
- The ability to take plants, rongoa, animals and materials, including kererū and dead standing trees for cultural purposes
- The taking of seeds and seedlings to support the propagation required to develop Ngāti Whare's Podocarp Regeneration Project
- Involvement in the assessment of concession applications

9 Other iwi and/or hapū

9.1 Ngāti Manawa

The Ngāti Manawa rohe is a vast geographical area bounded by the Ikawhenua Range in the east, the Taupo/Napier highway to the south, the western edge of the Kaingaroa plains and the southern edge of Rerewhakaaitu to the north. It encompasses the bed and waters of the Rangitāiki River, Ngāti Manawa's tipuna awa, and its tributaries, including the Whaeo and Whirinaki rivers.

The Whirinaki River was a source of food for Ngāti Manawa. Whānau and hapū groups had special resource uses and occupied and cared for places along it such as pā tuna, mahinga tuna, tauranga iki and fishing stands.

To protect these rights and to enable others to recognise them, pou were placed in the river and sometimes a garment belonging to a specific person was attached to it. Pou rāhui were imposed to protect a resource and area and, in particular, signified a mark of respect if there was a drowning.

Ngāti Manawa and Ngāti Whare often lived in unity at a number of pā and undertook their

tikanga and kawa as kaitiaki. The special nature of their relationship, that of tuakana (Ngāti Whare being the uncle) and teina (Ngāti Manawa being the nephew) allowed them to share kaitiakitanga over both water and land.⁶

9.2 Ngāi Tūhoe

For Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Urewera has been the papakainga, or home, occupied by Tūhoe for time immemorial. The remote communities of Waikaremoana, Ruatāhuna, Rūātoki and Waimana are considered the four corners of Te Urewera.

Ngāi Tūhoe and Ngāti Whare have close whakapapa connections. The eastern side of the Park also touches Te Urewera, heading towards Waikaremoana. Extending along the Tarapounamu Ridge is a historical corridor connecting Ngāti Whare and Ngāi Tūhoe.

9.3 Ngāti Pāhauwera

Ngāti Pāhauwera is a confederation of hapū centred on Mohaka in Hawkes Bay. This confederation aspires to have a supportive, healthy, vibrant, prosperous and united base. Ngāti Pāhauwera rohe encompasses an area in the south-eastern corner of the Park covering approximately 140 hectares of forest. The area known as the Heruiwi 4E Block is bounded by the Te Hoe River in the north-east and the ridge line to the south-west.

9.4 Ngāti Hineuru

Ngāti Hineuru's area of interest includes the southern part of the Park encompassing approximately 1390 hectares. Within Ngāti Hineuru's northern-most boundary is the Te Hoe river in the Heruiwi area, and this is where their ancestor, Hineuru left her two sons to occupy the land at Heruiwi.

Ngāti Hineuru also has overlapping interests in the Kaingaroa and Whirinaki blocks and regularly hunted and cultivated in the Heruiwi area.

⁶ Drawn from the Ngāti Manawa Statement of Association – Whirinaki River contained within the Ngāti Manawa Deed of Settlement.



Whirinaki Sanctuary Track.



Part 3

**Whirinaki Te
Pua-a-Tāne
The Park**

10 Natural environment

The Park is one of the largest, substantially unmodified forests not threatened by population growth in the Bay of Plenty. The ecosystems within the Park include lowland podocarp forest; northern rātā forest; beech and podocarp mixed forest; beech forest consisting of red and silver beech; frost flats at Tahau and Waione; and the ephemeral wetland of Arohaki Lagoon. The forest has a continuous altitudinal sequence moving from the lowland podocarp up to red and silver beech forest.

The Park contains two ecosystem management units (refer Map 2) - Northern Whirinaki immediately south of Minginui; and Southern Whirinaki covering the central part of the Park, and part of a third - Maungataniwha. Of the two units, the Northern Whirinaki unit has been identified as a higher Departmental priority. It also contains a number of specially protected areas that have been gazetted as ecological areas (refer Appendix 3 and Map 1).

The forest is especially valued for its high density of mixed podocarp trees which include rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), tōtara, kahikatea, mataī and miro, with an understory composed of māhoe, kāmahī, kōtukutuku/fuchsia, patē, coprosma and ground ferns. The northern rātā podocarp forest on the Minginui Faces is one of the North Island's best examples. The forest is also home to a number of threatened plants, including the Declining native mistletoe (*Peraxilla* sp), Nationally Critical stalked adder tongue (*Ophioglossum petiolatum*), Nationally Vulnerable kōhūhū (*Pittosporum turneri*), and Declining native verbena (*Teucrium parvifolium*).⁷

The Arohaki Lagoon contains the Nationally Vulnerable water brome (*Amphibromus fluitans*).

The Waione and Tahau frost flats are dominated by monoao (*Dracophyllum subulatum*) and kānuka shrublands and hosts the Nationally Vulnerable parasitic plant pua

o te reinga/woodrose (*Dactylanthus taylorii*). These frost flats are also significant sites for other threatened plant species and are at risk from pest plants due to their low stature allowing high light levels and their close proximity to the exotic forestry located to the west. They are where most of the intensive weed control occurs within the Park with a focus on heather and introduced conifers. The frost flats are a notable feature of the central North Island, with only Pureora Forest Park having a similar ecotone with a rapid transition from podocarp forest to frost flat communities.

The Park forms the upper part of the Whirinaki River catchment. Owing to the dominance of indigenous forest, the river is regarded as having good water quality (in terms of levels of nutrients, bacteria and clarity) and ecological health is regarded as being 'excellent' and very similar to what was predicted in a natural state⁸. Associated ecosystems – river margins and flood plains – are also functioning in a natural manner. Downstream barriers such as dams are affecting tuna/eel and freshwater fish migration, and introduced trout have affected natural freshwater fish populations.

Habitats within the Park support high numbers of indigenous fauna, including Threatened and At Risk species (refer Appendix 5). The Nationally Endangered kārearea/New Zealand falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) is found throughout the Park. There is a population of the Nationally Vulnerable North Island brown kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*) east of the Whirinaki River; and one of the densest North Island populations of the Nationally Vulnerable North Island kākā (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*) that breeds in the Tauranga basin. The mixed podocarp forest of the Park provides important habitat for kākāriki/yellow-crowned parakeet (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*) and kererū/New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) and while the kererū is not currently

⁷ Under the New Zealand Threat Classification System, Department of Conservation.

⁸ Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki: Pathways of the Rangitāiki (February 2015), Rangitāiki River Forum.



Juvenile North Island brown kiwi.

threatened, its population would decline if pest control was not sustained.

Despite being classified as Nationally Vulnerable, whio/ blue duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*) are spread throughout the Park with their numbers increasing due to stoat trapping on the Whirinaki River. This is a result of a successful pest management partnership with Genesis Energy, who support a national recovery programme for whio/blue duck.

Large populations of the Nationally Vulnerable North Island long-tailed bat/pekapeka (*Chalinolobus tuberculata*) and At Risk – Declining central lesser short-tailed bat (*Mystacina tuberculata*), are found throughout the forest, roosting in cavities of ancient podocarp and red beech trees.

North Island kōkako (*Callaeas wilsoni*) sourced from Te Urewera were reintroduced to the Park in 2009. Many of the released birds did not stay in the Park. A very small population remains but breeding is occurring.

There are a number of skinks and geckos found within the Park, including the Declining Auckland green gecko (*Naultinus elegans*). The Whirinaki skink (*Oligosoma Whirinaki*), was identified in 2003, however it has not yet been taxonomically described as no specimens have been collected for scientific analysis. It is currently ranked as ‘Data Deficient’. There is little information about the



Short-tailed bat colony. Photo: Sarah Wills

numbers and distribution of reptiles within the Park and no native frog populations.

The Whirinaki River and its tributaries also support a number of freshwater species, including the Declining tuna/long-fin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachia*), piriipiripōhatu/torrent fish (*Cheimarrichthys fosteri*) and migratory kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*); as well as the Not Threatened tuna/short-fin eel (*Anguilla australis*); and kōura/ freshwater crayfish (*Paranephrops* sp). It is also suspected that the banded kōkopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*) and a non-migratory dwarf galaxiid (*Galaxias* aff. *divergens*) may be present, though none have been found in recent surveys. All major waters within the Park contain both rainbow (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), with the larger waterways of the Whirinaki and Wheao rivers supporting particularly strong populations. Nationally it has been shown that where there are large populations of exotic fish, native fish populations are prone to decline.

The Park provides habitat for a number of gamebirds including the nationally critical pārerā/grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and the mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), the latter having large populations around Arohaki Lagoon. Introduced peihana/pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) and koera/Californian quail (*Callipepla californica*) are found throughout the area.

The integrity of ecosystems and populations within the Park are threatened by a number of activities, pests, and wild animals. The most notable of these are as follows.

- Increasing populations of red deer in more remote areas of the Park and seasonal fluctuations in pig populations as a result of changes in availability of food sources. Red deer eat palatable flowering shrubs and hardwoods which birds rely on for food and the browsing affects forest structure and composition. Pigs create significant disturbance to the forest floor.
- Widespread impacts of possums that eat species including Northern rātā and mistletoe and also prey directly on birds and invertebrates.
- High populations of rats, stoats, ferrets and weasels. These mammals prey on birds at all stages of their lifecycle (eggs, juveniles and adults) and threaten bird populations, especially those that are ground (e.g. whio) or hole nesters (e.g. kākā).
- Occasional incidence of feral cats. These are primarily a threat to birds and reptiles.
- Illegal take of kererū.
- Increasing incidence of wasps.
- Introduction and spread of invasive pest plant species, most notably wilding pines along the western boundary, climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), scottish heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*). These species out-compete and displace native plants and inhibit regeneration.
- Uncontrolled and stray dogs which pose a threat to birds and other species, particularly the ground-dwelling North Island brown kiwi.
- The presence of occasional sika and rusa deer on the western side of the Park although there is no evidence to indicate that a resident population has established.

In addition, other potential threats include:

- Invasive pest plant species such as didymo.

- Introduction of additional pest animals. Currently goats, rosellas and wallabies are not known to be present in the Park. However they have been confirmed to be present in areas close enough to the Park to pose a potential threat. The regional pest management strategy requires agency co-operation to prevent the establishment of sika deer in the Bay of Plenty.
- Climate change. This is likely to place increased pressures upon the existing ecosystems and alter the long-term structure and composition of the forests. Pest invertebrate pests are likely to become more prevalent, as temperatures increase and pest species get brought in to the area by visitors and/or surrounding land use.

Since 2001, Park management has emphasised a holistic and integrated approach. The main emphasis of this has been to protect and restore the biodiversity of the Park. The initial focus was on developing an understanding of the state of the ecosystems and species (including threats) within an area known as the Whirinaki Ecological Management Zone (WEMZ) – an area of the Park that contains a representative range of ecosystems together with most visitor activity.

Attention then shifted to active management of threats within the WEMZ area. The success of the WEMZ programme has resulted in this integrated management approach being applied through the entire Park, in conjunction with Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū and others. Threat management programmes targeting pest and wild animals and pest plants are implemented within the Park.

As a land manager, the Department is legally required to meet its obligations under the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan including those pest plants and animals identified for control in Appendix 2 to that plan. The Department also implements control programmes for other species to address effects on conservation values and Park visitors.

Programmes targeting pest plants focus on those that have the potential to significantly alter the structure of open habitats such as the river beds and frost flats. Priority pest plants

for control are wilding pines (*Pinus* sp) controlled primarily through aerial spraying, Scottish heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), and buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), which are controlled primarily through ground control such as spraying. Biological control agents are also present. Targeted control of rats, stoats, ferrets and weasels using ground-based methods is undertaken primarily to protect bird species. In addition, community groups and concessionaires actively contribute to ground control, administering stoat trap lines, and checking and re-setting traps, while out guiding within the Park.

Pigs and red deer are not specifically targeted by the Department. Recreational hunting of these species is undertaken as is some active culling of red deer by commercial Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO), the level of culling being dependant on the commercial viability of game venison. Targeted aerial pest control is also occasionally undertaken within the Park, primarily to reduce possum populations. This method of pest control has proven effective for the Park with species such as North Island brown kiwi, whio, kākā and pekapeka/bats increasing in numbers in the targeted areas after aerial operations.

While iwi and/or hapū (see for example, Ngāti Whare Iwi Management Plan, 2011),⁹ recognise that aerial operations may currently be the most effective means of reducing pest numbers in the more remote, inaccessible areas of the Park, they would welcome the consideration of other options. The Department works with Ngāti Whare to identify a suitable balance of control mechanisms.

A number of locals, community groups and others complement Departmental pest management initiatives through a variety of activities.

A wide range of natural conditions and processes occurring on the Park also help sustain and fulfil life. Collectively these

benefits are known as ecosystem services, of which there are five categories.

- Provisioning, such as the production of food and water
- Regulating, such as the control of climate and disease
- Supporting, such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination
- Cultural, such as spiritual and recreational benefits
- Preserving, which includes guarding against uncertainty through the maintenance of diversity.

The Park provides ecosystem services to the adjoining forests of Waipunga and Te Urewera, as a source of native species. It will also provide a seed source for the assisted revegetation programme to be undertaken by Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust. The Park contains the highest number of red and scarlet mistletoe locally, and given appropriate protection these plants may provide a seed source to Te Urewera. Birds from the Park can seasonally migrate to warmer climates during the winter months, e.g. banded kākā from the Park have been found as far away as Gisborne, and there may be potential to transfer birds or contribute eggs to support the recovery of bird populations elsewhere if Whirinaki populations can support this.

The management of ecosystem services occurs through the integrated approach of managing natural resources, including terrestrial and freshwater species, habitats and ecosystems, as well as threat management, both inside and outside the Park. As such, there are no specific provisions for the management of ecosystem services in this Plan, but collectively the provisions of the Plan will enable this to occur.

⁹ Ngāti Whare Iwi Management Plan, 19 March 2011. Unpublished report by Ngāti Whare.

11 Significant geological features, landscapes and landforms

The Park is located in a basin between the central volcanic plateau and mountain axis of the North Island. It contains elements of volcanic and non-volcanic landforms. The northern part of the Park, west of the Whirinaki River, is relatively low country rising from 360 m to 730 m. It contains river flats and tree-covered rolling hills and gullies filled with layers of pumice. These are a marked contrast to the steep rugged greywacke country in the south which attains 1365 m at Maungataniwha.

The heavily forested nature of most of the Park provides few panoramic views, but the largely unmodified landscape is highly valued for its intrinsic values.

The Park has been identified as an Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape in the Whakatane District Plan, which contains provisions to protect and preserve the aesthetic, intrinsic and cultural values associated with the landscape. The District Plan allows for some activities to be carried out as permitted activities if they are provided for under conservation management strategies, conservation management plans and iwi management plans.

The area of the Park within the Taupo District is identified as a Significant Natural Area, with the majority of the area also identified as an Outstanding Natural Landscape in the Taupo District Plan. The District Plan allows for some activities to be undertaken as permitted activities where they are able to meet specific standards, others require resource consents prior to being undertaken. Ultimately the objectives, policies and rules in the District Plan seek to protect and preserve the aesthetic, intrinsic, cultural and visual values associated with the landscape.

12 Historic heritage

Recent, historic heritage in the Park is predominantly linked with the milling of indigenous forests. Timber milling in the Whirinaki area first began at Te Whāiti in 1928, when Crown and Māori land was logged for tōtara fencing materials. By the 1930s, the demand for timber resulted in three timber mills operating at Minginui. Fast-growing exotic forestry was also being planted where the slower-growing natives had been logged to service ongoing demand. In 1975 the three mills amalgamated.

Between 1978 and 1979, public controversy erupted over the use of indigenous forests nationally and conservation groups actively campaigned to stop the harvesting of native trees in the Park. Whirinaki became a Forest Park in 1984 and shortly thereafter the government ended the logging of native trees within it. The Park continued to be managed by New Zealand Forest Service until 1987 when the Department of Conservation was established. It was declared a Conservation Park in 1993 (*NZ Gazette*, 1984, p. 129).

There has been no comprehensive study carried out of the 20th century forestry industry within the Park or early conservation movement activities. Potentially there are sites of historic value that have not been recorded and are therefore not currently recognised for management or protection.

Taupiri Lookout (shown on Map 3) is one of the last fire lookouts from the Forest Service era. A heritage assessment of the Lookout was undertaken in 2016.¹⁰ The Department actively manages this remnant of fast disappearing forestry history.

An extensive archaeological site survey programme was undertaken in 1978 resulting in a number of sites associated with pre-1900 human activity being recorded in New Zealand Archaeological records. These sites are protected under section 42 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

¹⁰ Heritage Assessment: Taupiri Fire Lookout - Whirinaki Te Pua a Tane Conservation Park (Feb 2016), Ritchie, N, Department of Conservation.

Within the Park, pre-1900 sites are predominately associated with use and occupation by tangata whenua. More information on these values is found in Part 2.

The main threats to historical and cultural values of the park include: loss of purpose, degradation caused by natural processes (e.g. flooding, fire, erosion, decay), use, loss of information and management actions.

13 Recreational use

The Park offers visitors an experience that is different to other areas in close proximity such as Te Urewera and the wider Bay of Plenty.

Visitor use of the Park is generally low and relatively static with track counter data (2008–2013) generally showing no more than 3000 visitors per annum even at the more popular sites.

The Park is recognised for its walking and backcountry tramping tracks. The Department provides a range of different types of tracks to cater for people of all levels of experience and with different time constraints. Map 3 identifies public access and recreational facilities. The Whirinaki Waterfall Loop and tracks near the Whirinaki Recreation Camp are popular day walks while the three-day Whirinaki Track (River Road–Central Whirinaki Hut– Mangamate Hut) and longer Te Hoe Track provide tramping opportunities that access the more remote areas of the Park.

Mountain biking was introduced to the Park in 2006 and is provided at two locations on a shared-use basis with other activities such as walking and tramping. The Moerangi Track goes from Okahu Road end, past Skips Hut (Whangatawhia), Rogers Hut (Te Wairoa) and Moerangi Hut to the River Road car park. A shorter loop track, the Whirinaki Mountain Bike Track (comprising a number of linked tracks), is located off Fort Road. There is some support for providing additional opportunities for mountain biking within the Park.

Horse riding is a popular recreational activity within the Whirinaki valley and is known to occur in the northern part of the Park. Little is known about current levels of use or demand. Nationally horse use has been shown to give rise to adverse effects such as, spreading pest



Mountain biking on Moerangi Track.
Photo: Greg Moorcroft

plants, exacerbating erosion and compromising tracks and roads if not designed for that use. Any future provision for horse riding in the Park needs to consider these effects.

The use of electric power-assisted pedal-cycles (e-bikes) is an emerging activity nationally although there is debate around this activity in some settings.

Four-wheel driving and motorcycling occurs in the harvested forestry areas within a 5,200 hectare area of the Mangawiri basin. Access to this area is from Mangawiri Access Road.

Recreational hunting of red deer and pigs is popular throughout the Park and while scientific evidence indicates that recreational hunting plays a very minor role in animal control it is a valued recreational activity. Hunting requires a permit and occurs year-round, but there are seasonal peaks associated with the red deer mating season or roar in the autumn and vegetation growth during spring. Dogs also need a permit, and are required to be Avian Aversion Certified to protect ground-dwelling and ground-nesting birds such as the North Island brown kiwi.

Trout fishing (brown and rainbow) is popular on the Whirinaki River with an estimated 2000 angler visits per annum (2007–08 NIWA Anglers Survey) although the proportion of these anglers fishing within the Park is unknown. The main access points within the Park¹¹ are Mangamate, River Road and the Whirinaki Track, and anglers often stay overnight at campsites in these locations.

There are some gamebirds within the Park (Californian quail, ringneck pheasant, paradise ducks, pūkeko, mallard and grey ducks) but populations are very small and consequently game bird hunting activity is minimal.

Aircraft use in the Park is low and is primarily restricted to the use of helicopters. There are no aerodromes or airstrips suitable for landing by fixed-wing aircraft. The Park has a history of helicopter use for both commercial venison recovery and to provide access for recreational hunting. Helicopters are occasionally used to provide access for fishing and other recreational pursuits.

There are eight huts located throughout the Park with varying capacity. The largest, Central Whirinaki Hut, accommodates 24 people. Although Rogers Hut (Te Wairoa) is located within Te Urewera, Ngai Tūhoe have confirmed that they are happy for Ngāti Whare to act as kaitaki for this hut so that its upkeep and maintenance remains part of the Park. Campsites are also provided near each hut and there are vehicle-accessible campsites at the Recreation Camp, Mid Okahu, Okahu Road end and Sanctuary Road which are popular during summer months. They are also popular as day use areas.

There is a campsite on the Mangamate Falls Recreation Reserve which has been vested in the Trustees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare. It is no longer part of the Park.

Vehicle access to the Park can sometimes be constrained. Park roads such as Okahu, River and Fort roads require considerable maintenance to enable two-wheel drive vehicle access, and access in the west of the Park is

affected by forestry operations, particularly road closures during harvesting.

The Department works with interest groups to develop and enhance recreation opportunities in the Park. For example, the NZ Deerstalkers Association is active in maintaining five of the Park's nine huts and 4WD clubs maintain a number of roads and are developing the network of 4WD tracks within the Mangawiri basin.

Although no visitor satisfaction surveys have been undertaken for the Park as a whole, feedback received by the Department regarding visitor experiences has been generally positive. Some suggestions have been made on matters such as improving information/interpretation, vehicle security and facility maintenance.

Despite the range of different user groups, there is little evidence of conflicts between them, including those where activities include the sharing of tracks or facilities. There is capacity to increase recreational use – particularly by encouraging family groups, less experienced trampers, independent travellers and those new to the outdoors.

Some activities, if not carried out responsibly, can damage natural, historic or cultural values where they result in fires, the depositing of rubbish or animal carcasses, vegetation/seedling removal, the introduction of pest plants or animals, and threats to ground-dwelling and ground-nesting birds such as kiwi from uncontrolled dogs. Some behaviours such as theft, vandalism, poor hut etiquette, driving vehicles in unauthorised areas and the presence of dogs in huts can also affect the enjoyment of other Park users.

14 Educational, commercial and other uses

Local schools¹² and other groups visit the Park to learn about its natural and historic values and features. Although much of this is undertaken through day trips, many school groups use the Whirinaki Recreation Camp

¹¹ Rangitaiki River Fishery, Fish & Game New Zealand brochure.

¹² There are approximately 60 primary and intermediate schools and 16 colleges within 1½ hours drive of the Park.



Environmental campaigner David Bellamy at Whirinaki Recreation camp. Photo: DOC

near Mangamate. Scientific research is often undertaken within the Park.

Locals also use the Park as their pātaka kai or ‘food basket’, providing sustenance to their families.

A limited number of commercial activities occur in the Park. All people organising/undertaking these or new activities are required to obtain a concession to operate.

A small number of guiding companies operate in the Park including day- and multi-day walks, and mountain bike trips. Recreational hunting and fishing trips are also offered and these activities are supported by several shuttle services operating within and around the Park.

Commercial hunting by permit is also undertaken when wild animal numbers are high, although recreational hunting is prioritised.

Other authorised commercial activities include a telecommunication radio repeater site near Taupiri Lookout. A second radio repeater site is located at Mapouriki in the Okahu valley. The Park is occasionally used for commercial filming and photography

activities. Filming and photography has tended to occur on a one-off basis and be related to the promotion of the natural environment and recreational use of the Park, as well as commercial advertising. They have varied in scale from television features through to documentaries and magazine features.

The Park is used from time to time by the New Zealand Defence Force for training activities. Historically this activity has occurred predominately in the Waione Flats area. It is managed under permit, consistent with the 1990 Defence Training Agreement.

Although there is no recorded mining of minerals in the Park and only limited historical prospecting and exploration, the Park may have some level of mineral prospectivity. The Park has historically been subject to some quarrying activity for low-value minerals.

A recent activity in the Park is the establishment of beehives. There is an increasing body of research that confirms that bees may adversely affect indigenous ecosystems.¹³ It is also important that their presence does not detract from the enjoyment and safety of Park visitors. Further commercial opportunities may be sought during the life of this Plan. Ngāti Whare in particular has recognised the social and economic benefits that could be realised through the development of sustainable recreation, tourism and other opportunities in the Park.

Educational, commercial and other uses can also result in the same adverse effects identified for recreation uses (see Section 13).

¹³ Beard, C. 2015: Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) on public conservation lands: a risk analysis. Department of Conservation, Wellington.



Koru fern.



Part 4

**Te anga
roopuwhaka-
haere**

**Management
framework**

Figure 2: Integrated management framework for the Park.





Woodstove warms Mangamate Hut.

This part of the Plan describes the framework adopted to ensure the integrated management of the Park, set out in Figure 2.

Moemoeā – Vision

The vision was developed by a joint working party of Ngāti Whare and the Department and reflects many elements raised by the community in consultation.

A ‘korowai’ is a finely woven decorated cloak made from plant textiles and decorated with prized taonga. The making of a korowai was underpinned by the whanaungatanga, tikanga, values and cultural practices of weavers and their whānau, hapū and iwi. They were made of locally sourced materials and thus while korowai may be made of similar materials, each is unique when completed. While korowai traditionally provided a mantle of protection from the elements, they also speak of a person’s identity, leadership, skill and respect. They are a symbol of great value to Māori people and worn with much pride.

The use of the korowai in this Plan represents how co-governance by Ngāti Whare and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, based on Māori tikanga and values (or principles) can be woven through (or underpin) the management of taonga and Park resources to both protect these resources and provide opportunities for all people.

Principles

The principles of kaitiakitanga, whanaungatanga, tuakana-teina, he tangata and mauri, based on mātauranga maori (Māori traditional knowledge and cultural values) underpin all aspects of Park management.

Kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga is an active principle of protection and conservation of the mauri of Rangi, Papa and their children. Mauri exists as an active living force within the land, forest, waters, plants and animals of the Park. Kaitiakitanga is therefore the protection and conservation of this living force within the various elements of the Park.

Ngāti Whare, as kaitaki of the Park, protects the Park – as does the Department. People visiting the Park also act to protect the land, forest, waterways and resources of the Park and ensure that the Park is left in a better state for future generations.

Whanaungatanga

Whakapapa is an understanding of all things as connected and interdependent, as part of an all encompassing family. The land, forest, waters, plants, animals, tangata whenua and visitors to the Park are therefore a single whānau (family). Whanaungatanga is the expression of this kinship where all things live and interact as whānau.

Management of the Park will aim to acknowledge, understand and respect the connection between the people of the land, the land itself and the living creatures of the land.

Tuakana-Teina

The tuakana-teina principle reflects a relational model based on a positive and supportive relationship between an older and younger sibling. The model recognises the differences between those involved as complementary, with each individual, group or organisation acting responsibly and supportively. The tuakana-teina model provides guidance and direction in creating and maintaining relationships between Ngāti Whare, the Board, the Department, and other iwi and hapū, providing a platform for the relationships involved in the governance and management of the Park.

While the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act provides a co-governance role to Ngāti Whare through the development of this Plan, the traditional associations of other iwi and/or hapū will be acknowledged and protected. The Department and Bay of Plenty Conservation Board will look to Ngāti Whare to provide advice on cultural matters and will in turn offer their experience and support to Ngāti Whāre.

He tangata

The principle of 'he tangata' (the people) recognises that people are an essential part of the whakapapa of the Park. In relation to the lands, rivers, animals, plants and waterways of the Park, tangata are the Tēina, and it is our Tuākana (the Park and all it encompasses) that provides us with social, cultural and spiritual connections, vitality and enjoyment.

Management of the Park will aim to facilitate public use and enjoyment while protecting Park resources and values. It will also provide a foundation that fosters community engagement and participation and opportunities for all people.

Mauri

Mauri is the elemental living force that vitalises and binds all things. It exists in all things when they are active and is witnessed in the majesty of the Park's trees, the songs of birds, and the sustenance of its waters.

Management of the Park will aim to maintain the spiritual, cultural and physical wellbeing of the Park.

Outcome 2026

The outcome describes what the Park will look like in 10 years time if the objectives and policies set out in Parts 5 and 6 are applied.

These objectives and policies give effect to the vision and principles and provide clear management direction on key issues identified in Parts 5 and 6. These issues are:

- *Valuing the Park* - Local people and conservationists have for many years recognised that the Park is a special place. Beyond these groups however, the Park is little known and there is an opportunity to increase awareness of the Park. This includes extending the Park's use as an 'outside classroom' for people to learn about its natural, historical and cultural values and recreation and other opportunities. Raised awareness could in turn result in increased support for the Park and conservation initiatives and programmes carried out within it.
- *Recreational use and enjoyment* - The Park has traditionally been the preserve of backcountry users, however the popularity of mountain bike tracks in the Park and changing use of people's leisure time shows Park use may alter further over the life of this Plan. As a Conservation Park, a wide range of uses can occur, provided Park values are also protected. There has been little evidence of conflicts between different uses or damage to natural, historical or cultural values; meaning there is capacity to increase visitation and to provide a wider range of opportunities, provided this is done in a sensitive manner.

- *Recognising cultural, social, economic and other benefits* – While many people enjoy recreational use of the Park, individuals, groups and communities derive a wide range of other benefits from the Park and seek to see these recognised and provided for in Park management. Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū seek within the Park and to partner with the Department to achieve cultural, social and economic aspirations for their people. Similarly, local communities seek opportunities to develop employment opportunities based on Park resources. Individuals and groups are also interested in the learning opportunities derived from the Park and in contributing to conservation, such as through volunteering.
- *Control of pest plants and animals, and wild animals* – Extensive clear-felling of the indigenous forests of the Park and adjoining areas and the replanting of these areas in exotic pines or pasture exacerbated the introduction of pest plants and animals and wild animals. This has upset the natural balance of ecosystems. Considerable progress has been made by the Department working in partnership with others to control these threats and significant conservation gains are evident. Ongoing control of pest plants and animals and wild animals is critical to further enhance Park values.



Rimu tower above the River Road car park.



Part 5

**Te whenua
whakahaere**

**Park
management**

15 Introduction

The objectives and policies contained in Part 5 provide guidance to all people and organisations undertaking activities on public conservation lands and waters covered by this Plan. Part 5 also outlines some objectives and policies for Departmental advocacy relating to the wider Whirinaki environment.

16 Treaty of Waitangi partnerships

16.1 Objectives

- 16.1.1 The role of Ngāti Whare as kaitiaki of the Park is recognised and sustained.
- 16.1.2 Treaty partnerships with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū are:
- maintained and strengthened to enhance conservation and recognise tino rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga; and
 - based on mutual good faith, active engagement, transparency throughout decision making processes, cooperation and respect.
- 16.1.3 Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū can access traditional materials and indigenous species for customary use from within the Park in a manner consistent with kaitiakitanga, the relevant legislation, regulations, general policies, and the Park's conservation park status.
- 16.1.4 The Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012, Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012, Tūhoe Claims Settlement Act 2014, Ngāti Pāhauwera Treaty Claims Settlement Act 2012 and any new Treaty of Waitangi settlement obligations relevant to the Park are implemented in a way that is consistent with the Department's statutory role.

16.2 Policies

Giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi

- 16.2.1 Actively consult and work with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū regarding management and administration of the Park.
- 16.2.2 Ensure that the culturally significant sites identified in the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 and particularly Tūwatawata and Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon are managed so as to recognise and protect their cultural, historical and spiritual significance to Ngāti Whare.
- 16.2.3 Work with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū to enable and protect their access to wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and traditional routes used for collecting mahinga kai and other materials.
- 16.2.4 Work with Ngāti Whare to establish protocols to address tree removal by the Department for developing a facility or for risk mitigation.
- 16.2.5 Work with Ngāti Whare to:
- identify suitable areas within the Park for regeneration activities of the Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust; and
 - identify any assistance and advice the Department may provide in relation to the activities of the Trust including the collection and propagation of seeds and seedlings.
- 16.2.6 Promote authenticity in the use of Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū stories, terms and images by the Department, concessionaires and community groups involved in conservation projects and activities within the Park.
- 16.2.7 Require concessionaires to engage with and seek approval of Ngāti Whare before using cultural information, consistent with Clause 23.5 of the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord.



DOC and Ngāti Whare staff at the Crown Apology. Photo: DOC

16.2.8 Work with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū to identify business opportunities that are consistent with the natural, historical and cultural heritage values of the Park and the outcome, objectives and policies in this Plan.

16.2.9 Provide for Ngāti Manawa to erect and maintain 13 pou rāhui within the Park consistent with section 57 of the Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012.

Customary use

16.2.10 Work with Ngāti Whare to:

- a) develop and agree on a process to enable members to access and use cultural materials for cultural purposes¹⁴ where it is consistent with conservation objectives and relevant legislation;
- b) identify the conditions under which other iwi and/or hapū may be authorised to access and use cultural materials; and
- c) develop procedures for monitoring levels of use of cultural materials, consistent with section 19 of the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord.

Concessions

16.2.11 Develop a plan in consultation with Ngāti Whare consistent with clauses 23.1, 23.2 and 23.3 of the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord to identify:

- a) categories of concessions and statutory authorisations that may impact on the cultural, spiritual and historical values of Ngāti Whare, and
- b) the level of input of Ngāti Whare into assessing, processing and granting applications under (a).

16.2.12 Apply the interim process for engagement with Ngāti Whare over concessions and statutory authorisations set out in Clause 23.4 of the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord, until such time as the plan referred to under Policy 16.1.11 is prepared.

Explanation and reasons

The Department is required to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (by section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 and the Conservation General Policy 2005). It is also required to give effect to Treaty settlements

¹⁴ 'Cultural materials' and 'cultural purposes' are defined in the Glossary.

which impose specific responsibilities on the Department.

A range of iwi and/or hapū have interests in the Park and the table on p. 45 presents a summary of the Treaty settlement landscape at the time of writing this Plan.

The Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 provides Ngāti Whare with a co-governance role in relation to the Park through the preparation and joint approval of this Plan. This role is underpinned by a number of relationship principles contained in section 3 of the Ngāti Whare Accord. Objectives 16.1.1 and 16.1.2 and Policies 16.2.2, 16.2.5, 16.2.10 and 16.2.11 in particular directly address matters included in the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord and other settlement mechanisms.

Actions to support the activities of the Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust (Policy 16.2.5) derive from section 9 of the Conservation Accord. Agreements to be established around customary use (Policy 12.2.10) allow Ngāti Whare to express their mana over the Park and derive from the requirements of section 19 of the Conservation Accord. Similarly section 23 of the Accord provides for Ngāti Whare involvement in concessions, permits and other statutory authorisations (Policies 16.2.11 and 16.2.12).

The forests of the Park are of particular importance to Ngāti Whare. The direction in Policy 16.2.4 will ensure that tree removal undertaken by the Department does not unduly compromise these values.

Other iwi and/or hapū also have associations with the Park and the Department is committed to implementing those settlements identified in Objective 16.1.4 together with any new settlements. Policy 16.2.9 which provides for Ngāti Manawa to erect and maintain 13 pou rāhui in the Park is specifically derived from the Ngāti Manawa settlement.

In addition to the specific requirements under settlement legislation, section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 identifies a number of general duties for the Department. Enduring and effective partnerships with iwi and/or hapū help to achieve enhanced conservation

of natural, historic and cultural values. Meaningful and early engagement through consultation on issues that affect their interests in the Park are important in forming and maintaining these partnerships. Objective 16.1.2 and Policies 16.2.1, 16.2.3 and 16.2.6 in particular reflect this approach.

17 Community awareness, engagement and participation

17.1 Objectives

- 17.1.1 The community's awareness of, understanding and respect for the Park's natural, historic and cultural values and the wider environment is enhanced, and, and adverse impacts on Park values are reduced.
- 17.1.2 There is increased awareness of recreation opportunities available in the Park and increased use of the Park.
- 17.1.3 The community is involved in the preparation, implementation and review of this Plan.

17.2 Policies

- 17.2.1 Give priority to education, promotion and interpretation programmes that:
 - a) contribute to the community's understanding and appreciation of the natural, historical and cultural values of the Park and the role of Ngāti Whare as kaitiaki;
 - b) promote the Park especially to families as a place to enjoy outdoor recreation in a native forest setting;
 - c) increase people's outdoor recreation knowledge and confidence;
 - d) educate visitors about threats to Park values, responsible behaviour and wise stewardship of the Park; and

Continued on page 40

Table 1: Summary of the Treaty settlements landscape

Ngāti Whare	<p>The Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2102 was passed on 5 April 2012 to acknowledge and settle the historic claims of Ngāti Whare, and to give effect to certain provisions of the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Whare dated 8 December 2009.</p> <p>The Park was previously known as Whirinaki Forest Park and/or Whirinaki Conservation Park. The NWCSA provided for an official name change to one of significance to Ngāti Whare, being Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park. The new name was gazetted on 10 May 2012.</p> <p>A Conservation Accord was signed by the Minister of Conservation and the Trustees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare on 12 February 2013. It sets out a framework that enables the Minister, the Director-General and the Department and Ngāti Whare to establish constructive working relationships, and provides for Ngāti Whare to have meaningful input into relevant policy, planning and decision-making processes relating to the Park.</p>
Ngāti Manawa	<p>The Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012 (NMCSA) was passed on 12 April 2012 to acknowledge and settle the historic claims of Ngāti Manawa, and to give effect to certain provisions of the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Manawa dated 12 December 2009.</p>
Ngāi Tūhoe	<p>The Tūhoe Claims Settlement Act 2014 was passed on 27 July 2014 to acknowledge and settle the historic claims of Tūhoe, and to give effect to certain provisions of the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Tūhoe dated 4 June 2013.</p> <p>A significant aspect to the Tūhoe settlement concerns Te Urewera (previously national park) lands adjacent to the Park. This settlement was empowered by the Te Urewera Act 2014 passed on 27 July 2014. It provided for a block of 594 hectares known as 'Te Whāiti' to cease to be national park, to be declared conservation area, and included within and form part of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park. However the settlement legislation provided that Te Whāiti continues to be protected as if it were part of a national park.</p>
Ngāti Pāhauwera	<p>The Ngāti Pāhauwera Treaty Claims Settlement Act 2012 was passed on 5 April 2012 to acknowledge and settle the historic claims of Ngāti Pāhauwera, and to give effect to certain provisions of the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Pāhauwera dated 17 December 2010.</p> <p>Under Ngāti Pāhauwera's settlement a relationship redress instrument known as the Co-Management Charter was signed between the Minister and the Department and Ngāti Pāhauwera.</p>
Ngāti Hineuru	<p>The Hineuru Claims Settlement Act 2016 was passed on 4 July 2016 to acknowledge and settle the historic claims of Ngāti Hineuru, and to give effect to certain provisions of the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Hineuru dated 2 April 2015.</p> <p>The Ngāti Hineuru settlement provides for a partnership agreement known as Te Kawenata to be entered into between the Minister and the Department and Ngāti Hineuru. The area covered by Te Kawenata includes part of the Park.</p>

- e) encourage people and businesses undertaking activities in the Park to adhere to activity-specific minimum impact codes (care codes) notified on the Department's website and other voluntary minimum impact codes developed in relation to the Park.
- 17.2.2 Provide opportunities for Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū and the community to get involved and work with the Department on activities that support the outcome, objectives and policies in this Plan, particularly in relation to:
- a) conservation programmes, such as the enhancement of freshwater fisheries and fish habitats;
 - b) Park management (such as hut, track and road maintenance);
 - c) pest management/control;
 - d) research, where benefits to the Park can be demonstrated;
 - e) Park promotion; and
 - f) the development and implementation of activity-specific minimum impact codes (care codes).
- 17.2.3 Consult with Ngāti Whare regarding:
- a) the use of information about Ngāti Whare values for new interpretation material, signs and visitor publications;
 - b) the current names of tracks and huts and any proposed future names; and
 - c) any proposed signage or plaques to be erected or placed in the Park.
- 17.2.4 Maintain and develop partnerships with organisations that work with young people to develop bush skills, hunting and tramping etiquette and self-reliance.
- 17.2.5 Provide opportunities for public input and consult with the community on substantive management issues.
- 17.2.6 Work with aviation controllers and aircraft operators to manage flight paths to avoid adverse effects on the Park and develop voluntary codes of conduct to reflect this approach.

- 17.2.7 Work collaboratively with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Hawkes Bay Regional Council to monitor and manage the potential for wallabies and goats to become established in the Park.

Explanation and reasons

The Department manages the Park on behalf of all New Zealanders. In undertaking this task the Department recognises that many people and groups have an interest in how the Park is managed. These interests are wide and varied and reflect the motivations of different people and groups. For example:

- People living and working on or near the Park or the wider Bay of Plenty area may have strong connections and interest in how the Park is managed on a day-to-day basis. They are often active as Park volunteers, develop and run conservation programmes, visit as a learning experience (e.g. curriculum-based programmes), have a vested interest in how the Park is managed owing to the economic benefits it provides to them either directly (e.g. as concessionaires or contractors) or in terms of the wider economic benefits it brings in terms of drawing visitors into the local area. They also benefit from the ecosystem services derived from the Park.
- Individuals and recreation and conservation groups from further afield may be interested in recreation and enjoyment of the Park (in which case they will want to access information), or may wish to simply know that the Park is there and its values are being conserved. They may want to make a contribution through skills (such as contributing to the preparation of this Plan, track and hut maintenance), advocacy, sponsorship or in other ways.

- Guiding concessionaires and other tourism-related groups such as regional tourism organisations have a vested economic interest in the opportunities that the Park provides for their businesses or regional economies. They are also interested in how the Park is promoted as a place to visit and enjoy. Many concessionaires in Whirinaki have also ‘given back’ to the management of the Park through activities such as maintenance of trap lines.

The Department aims to increase people’s understanding and awareness of the Park and its values and make it easy for people to get involved with the recreation, conservation and educational opportunities it offers.

Past and present involvement by individuals and groups has played a major role in shaping the Park as it is today and it is important that these relationships are acknowledged and maintained. However, it is also important to explore new opportunities to raise awareness and involvement in the future as these activities can create benefits for the community and the Park itself as well as assisting the Department in delivering conservation outcomes.

Many people consider opportunities for extending the Park’s use as an ‘outside classroom’ to be important. School and other groups come to the Park to learn about its natural and historical values and this approach can be extended, particularly to provide greater understanding of iwi and hapū associations with the Park. In addition, while visitor pressures are not high, many of the values of the Park are susceptible to the impacts of human activities and education can provide an opportunity to create sense of kaitiakitanga, care or stewardship to assist in managing visitor impacts.

Policy 17.2.3 reflects a commitment contained in the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord (sections 5.4(c)(d) and 25.3).

Regional councils have a regulatory role in relation to the management of pests such as goats and wallabies on private land outside the Park, however there may be opportunities

for the Department to work collaboratively with the councils over this issue (Policy 17.2.7).

18 Integrated management

18.1 Objectives

- 18.1.1 Park promotion is integrated with promotion and marketing undertaken by others.
- 18.1.2 The adverse effects of:
- a) Park management on adjoining landowners; and
 - b) the activities of adjoining landowners on Park values
- are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 18.1.3 Conservation outcomes are integrated between the Park, Te Urewera and areas adjoining the Park that have been returned to iwi and hapū through Treaty of Waitangi settlements.
- 18.1.4 Conservation outcomes are integrated between the Park and adjoining public conservation lands and waters.



Karakia for weka at Murumurunga Marae. Photo: Bob Cyca

18.2 Policies

- 18.2.1 Work with Ngāti Whare, regional tourism organisations and concessionaires to promote, market and showcase opportunities available in the Park.
- 18.2.2 Develop and maintain effective working relationships with adjoining landowners and occupiers and statutory agencies through communication and

cooperation on matters of mutual interest, such as:

- a) pest plants and animals and wild animals;
- b) maintaining and improving habitat connectivity and quality of waterways within the Park;
- c) the protection of indigenous tuna/eel populations and their habitats;
- d) the protection of freshwater fisheries, freshwater fish habitats and fish passage; and
- e) preventing unauthorised livestock entering the Park.

18.2.3 Be a good neighbour, openly sharing information, plans and proposals, and work cooperatively to resolve issues that cross shared boundaries.

18.2.4 Work with Ngāti Whare, Ngāti Manawa, the Te Urewera Board and Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust to integrate conservation outcomes for the Park and for the lands they manage.

18.2.5 Work with the Rangitāiki River Forum to ensure that Park management supports the protection and enhancement of the environmental, cultural and spiritual health of the Rangitāiki River and its resources.

Explanation and reasons

While the rest of the Plan contains objectives and policies that describe how the Department intends to integrate the management of natural and historical resources, recreation and other activities within Whirinaki, activities undertaken by other statutory agencies or outside of Park boundaries can also influence or affect the Park or Departmental activities.

Working with others such as regional tourism organisations to promote the Park (Objective

18.1.1, Policy 18.2.1) will help to bring more people to the Park (Outcome, Part 4).

The purposes of the Te Urewera Board, comprising Tūhoe and Crown representatives, is to act on behalf of, and in the name of Te Urewera and to provide governance to Te Urewera which adjoins Whirinaki to the east. In working with the Board, the Department can explore opportunities to integrate conservation outcomes across these two areas.

Directly adjoining the Park to the west, are large forestry blocks. The commercial forestry is owned by the Central North Island Forests Land Collective and managed by Timberlands. Other forestry land returned to Ngāti Whare is managed by Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust and Ngāti Whare proposes to regenerate this land using locally sourced propagation material (including seeds and seedlings) from the Park. The Park forms part of the catchment of the Rangitāiki River and while most activities undertaken in the Park do not have significant adverse effects, the Department should work with the Rangitāiki River Forum members to support their objectives.

19 Ecosystems and species

19.1 Objectives

19.1.1 The ecosystems and species are managed in a holistic and integrated manner to maintain and restore the Park's biodiversity.

19.1.2 Threatened species are conserved to ensure their continued persistence.¹⁵

19.1.3 Species traditionally used by Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū for cultural purposes are identified and protected.

19.1.4 New pest plants and vertebrate animal pests and wild animals are prevented from becoming established in the Park.

¹⁵ Persistence is achieved where there is a 95% probability of that species surviving over the next 50 years or three generations of that species (whichever is longer).

19.2 Policies

Ecosystems

19.2.1 Give priority to protecting the following ecosystems and areas (as shown on Map 2) from threats:

- a) Minginui core area;
- b) Arohaki Lagoon;
- c) rivers and their margins;
- d) Minginui faces; and
- e) frost flats.

Species

19.2.2 Prioritise the protection of, and manage threats to, threatened species including but not limited to those identified below:

- a) whio/blue duck;
- b) North Island brown kiwi;
- c) North Island kākā;
- d) short-tailed bat;
- e) pekapeka/long-tailed bat;
- f) New Zealand falcon; and
- g) dactylanthus (wood rose).

19.2.3 Work in partnership with Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū and the community to protect locally valued natural heritage, including but not limited to those identified below:

- a) kererū;
- b) pirita/scarlet mistletoe;
- c) pirita/yellow mistletoe;
- d) pirirangi/red mistletoe;
- e) *Isolepis fluitans*;
- f) water brome;
- g) northern rātā;
- h) North Island kōkako.

19.2.4 Work with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū to identify the range and location of species traditionally used for cultural purposes such as rongoa, mahinga kai, weaving and dyes for moko and fabrics.

Threats

19.2.5 Monitor pest plants and animals and wild animals and eradicate or contain new species before they become established.

19.2.6 Provide information to the public about how they can minimise the introduction and spread of pest plants and animals and wild animals

19.2.7 Work with the community to raise awareness of the threats that dogs pose to conservation values and the need for kiwi aversion training for all dogs entering the Park.

19.2.8 Carry out ground-based animal pest control only within the area shown on Map 2.

19.2.9 May undertake the aerial application of pesticides in areas not identified in Policy 19.2.8 where animal pests cannot be effectively controlled by other methods.

Explanation and reasons

In Te Ao Māori, the Māori world, everything in the natural world – such as people, birds, fish and trees – is interconnected and in balance. To retain this balance, a holistic management approach is required. In conservation legislation and policy, this approach is generally referred to as integrated management and this is the over-arching approach adopted by Objective 19.1.1.

Integrated management requires ecosystems, species and threats to be managed in complementary ways to achieve both national and local priorities.

Ecosystems

While the Department undertakes conservation management over the entire Park, more active management directed at maintaining and restoring the Park's biodiversity is undertaken in those areas of the Park containing threatened species and the margins of the main rivers, as these areas are more susceptible to change. These areas are identified in Policy 19.2.1 and Map 2.

Minginui core area – The forest consists of dense lowland podocarp forest, much of which

is contained within specially protected areas identified in Appendix 3. The area also sustains a large kākā breeding area as well as providing habitat for all common forest species.

Arohaki Lagoon – The lagoon is surrounded by a dense kahikatea stand and also contains a number of rare plants.

Rivers and their margins – This area includes the Whirinaki River and Mangakahika and Moerangi streams. The high water quality and ecological health of these rivers mean they support a diverse range of freshwater species including tuna/eel, which is of significance to Ngāti Whare, and the whio/blue duck.

Minginui faces – The forest on the faces starts with dense podocarp forest rising into a dense northern rātā forest. This forest sustains both long- and short-tailed bats, kiwi and mistletoe. It is part of the Tuwatawata Ecological Area.

Frost flats – the Waione and Tahau frost flats are relatively unmodified short stature shrublands dominated by monoao on well-drained, infertile volcanic soils. These sites are subject to cold air ponding that can produce frosts year-round. Surrounding trees increase along a height gradient that culminates in tall podocarp forest.

Species

At a national level the Department has identified a number of threatened species as priorities for protection (refer Objective 19.1.2). Of these species, those identified in Policy 19.2.2 contain populations likely to have a high probability of surviving over the next 50 years or three generations. Priority will be given to supporting these populations, particularly managing threats to them (refer Policy 19.2.2).

It is recognised that some species which are not nationally important are valued at a local level and initiatives are undertaken in partnership with others to protect these species (Policy 19.2.3).

Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū have traditionally used species for cultural purposes, and treaty settlements provide for the use of species under certain conditions. Information about the species and the

protection of such species represents a local priority (Policy 19.2.4).

Threats

While the management of threats to priority ecosystems and species is an integral part of managing these areas and species (see above), there are a number of other complementary approaches.

Objective 19.1.4 supported by Policy 19.2.5 is directed at preventing new threats from becoming established in the Park, for example, the didymo monitoring and education programme which is supported by the Department.

Educating the community and involving them in pest control and other conservation programmes is supported by Policies 19.2.6 and 19.2.7. However, these methods alone will not reduce the levels of threats posed by pests and wild animals to that where a balanced, fully functioning ecosystem can be sustained. For this reason the Department and others undertake pest control operations. A local approach has been developed which adopts a mixture of ground and aerial based methods, recognises cultural and recreational aspirations and achieves suitable levels of control. This approach is reflected in Policies 19.2.8 and 19.2.9, including specifically identifying one area (refer Map 2) where only ground-based control is undertaken.

20 Geological features, landforms and landscapes

20.1 Objectives

20.1.1 The natural landscapes of the Park are protected and remain as close as possible to their natural state, free from adverse effects of human-induced activities.

20.1.2 The geological features and landforms of the Park are protected to preserve their intrinsic scenic qualities and scientific values.

20.2 Policies

- 20.2.1 Avoid undertaking vegetation clearance, earthworks or locating buildings and structures on ridgelines and other prominent landforms and features.
- 20.2.2 Protect the natural and scenic values of the Park’s landscapes from potential adverse effects.
- 20.2.3 Avoid or minimise adverse effects arising from buildings and structures through careful consideration of scale, location, orientation, design and material and colour.

Explanation and reasons

Landscapes reflect not only geological features and landforms but also the perceptions and values that people hold about a particular place.

While the entire Park is identified as an outstanding natural feature and landscape within the Whakatane District Plan (refer Section 11), there are two geological and landform features within the Park (Tūwatawata and Te Whāiti-Nui a Toi Canyon) of particular significance to Ngāti Whāre and provisions relating to the protection of these are identified in Section 16.

The objectives and policies in this section recognise that the entire landscape contributes to the character of the Park. While the Park may not be subject to development pressure, it is vulnerable to change, and measures should be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

21 Historic heritage

21.1 Objectives

- 21.1.1 The location, value, significance and condition of historical and cultural heritage in the Park is understood.
- 21.1.2 Records of the location, value, significance and condition of historical and cultural heritage are up to date.
- 21.1.3 Taupiri Lookout continues to be maintained to a high standard.

- 21.1.4 Enduring relationships with Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū and the community increase understanding, and active management of places of historical or cultural interest.

21.2 Policies

- 21.2.1 Focus active historic heritage management actions on Taupiri Lookout having regard to conservation plans, national and international best practice and the ICOMOS New Zealand charter.
- 21.2.2 Engage with Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū, the community and interest groups to prepare and implement remedial and maintenance programmes for Taupiri Lookout.
- 21.2.3 Work with Ngāti Whare and the community to identify and record sites associated with the historical forestry industry and conservation activism.
- 21.2.4 Consult with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū on the protection and management of any known wāhi tapu sites or associated wāhi taonga.
- 21.2.5 Support the collection and retelling of local stories and oral histories.
- 21.2.6 Undertake an archaeological assessment and consult with Ngāti Whare when planning any work that may have the potential to affect an archaeological site and determine whether an Authority is required from Heritage New Zealand.

Explanation and reasons

The historical and cultural values of the Park need to be protected and managed so that future generations are connected to and understand these values. The collective understanding, skill and active support for all historical and cultural sites in the Park can be increased by building and strengthening relationships with Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū, communities, businesses and other organisations. These relationships can also help to identify and avoid threats to this heritage.



Similarly, providing interpretation enables visitors to identify with historic forestry and conservation movement sites and their stories.

The ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value (ICOMOS New Zealand Charter 2010),

is a set of guidelines on cultural heritage conservation, produced by ICOMOS New Zealand. The Charter is widely used in the New Zealand heritage sector and forms a recognised benchmark for conservation standards and practice. It is used by central government ministries and departments, by local bodies in district plans and heritage management, and by practitioners as guiding principles.

Works such as earthworks, track development and/or upgrading, landscaping and installing underground services have the potential to affect archaeological sites. Policy 21.2.6 requires archaeological assessments and consultation to occur with Ngāti Whare when planning such works. Where assessments show that archaeological sites may be affected, an Authority must be obtained from Heritage New Zealand pursuant to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

22 Access

22.1 Objective

22.1.1 Access to the Park facilitates public use and enjoyment of the Park while protecting natural, historical and cultural values.

22.2 Policies

- 22.2.1 Allow public use of the Park at all times, except where restrictions on access to the Park in full or part are necessary for reasons of public safety or emergency, or to:
- a) protect natural, historical or cultural heritage values;
 - b) control biosecurity risks;
 - c) enable Park operations, (including tree felling, the control or eradication of pest animals using aerial bait operations, track and hut maintenance and the mitigation of natural hazards), to occur in an effective and efficient manner. Closures of this nature should avoid, where possible, periods of known high visitor use;
 - d) allow an event or activity to occur under concession where the concession conditions provide for public access to be restricted; and

- e) allow New Zealand Defence Force training activities.
- 22.2.2 Notify the public as early as possible where and when access to the Park is restricted in full or part in accordance with Policy 22.2.1, using the Department’s website and on-site signage.
- 22.2.3 Maintain practical public access to a two-wheel drive vehicle standard through the Park to Okahu, Fort and River road ends.
- 22.2.4 Advocate to and work with Kaingaroa Timberlands to achieve practical public access to a two-wheel drive vehicle standard across forestry land to Sanctuary and Plateau road ends, consistent with the public access and easement provisions of the Central North Island Forests Collective Deed of Settlement and Crown Forestry Licence.
- 22.2.5 Continue to provide access and a visitor experience which meets the reasonable needs of people with impaired or limited mobility.

Explanation and reasons

Under section 19(1) of the Conservation Act 1987, conservation parks are managed for a dual purpose of protecting natural and historic resources and facilitating public access and enjoyment. Most of the time the public have free and full access to the Park, however there are some circumstances where access restrictions (either permanent or temporary) are necessary to protect resources or for reasons of public safety or emergency (as set out in Policy 22.2.1). Section 13 of the Act enables the Minister of Conservation to close or restrict access to conservation areas in full or in part.

Where temporary restrictions are proposed, notices are given as early as possible (Policy 22.2.2). In some circumstances restrictions may occur at short notice due to natural events or unforeseen circumstances.

The provision of practical public access suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles to the Park has been difficult to achieve, particularly along the western boundary of the Park.

Policies 22.2.3 and 22.2.4 identify the priority entry points where the maintenance of two-wheel drive access is sought to support public use and enjoyment. The Department is responsible for maintaining access through the Park to Okahu, Fort and River road ends (Policy 22.2.3), but access to the more remote entry points of the Sanctuary and Plateau road ends is across land managed by Timberlands. The Department can only advocate on behalf of the public for suitable access to be maintained on these latter two roads consistent with legal requirements (Policy 22.2.4).

Unfettered access cannot be provided over the entire Park for people with impaired or limited mobility, but roads, vehicle accessible campgrounds and day use areas and the specifically constructed H Tree Track can allow them to experience part of the Park. Enabling these experiences is not only required by national policy and legislation but also supports the family focus sought in the Outcome in Part Four and in Policy 22.2.5.

23 Recreational opportunities and use

23.1 Objective

- 23.1.1 A range of quality opportunities in the Park facilitate public recreation and enjoyment while ensuring the protection of natural, historical or cultural values.

23.2 Policies

- 23.2.1 Manage a range of recreational opportunities, including those provided by concessionaires, in accordance with the rural, front country, backcountry and remote visitor management zones identified on Map 4 and described in Appendix 6.
- 23.2.2 Increase recreational use of parts of the Park that are resilient to increased numbers of visitors by:
 - a) maintaining and promoting the Whirinaki River Track (gateway destination) identified on Map 4 and Table 2; and

- b) building partnerships with others to plan for, maintain and/or better develop the Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations identified in Table 2.
- 23.2.3 Support and/or undertake demand and feasibility analyses (including costs/benefits) of future recreation proposals for the Park in collaboration with Ngāti Whare, other iwi and/or hapū, the community and interest groups.
- 23.2.4 Monitor the quality of visitor experiences and the effects of recreation activity on natural, historical and cultural values in the Park.
- 23.2.5 Work with recreation groups including but not limited to 4WD, hunting, mountain biking and tramping groups to:
- a) promote responsible use of the Park;
 - b) minimise conflicts between user groups; and
 - c) encourage stewardship of the Park.
- 23.2.6 Work with the New Zealand Police, Ngāti Whare, local community and recreation and other groups to address safety and security within the Park.

Explanation and reasons

The Department uses a variety of mechanisms derived from national policy approaches applied in an integrated and holistic way at Park level. This ensures visitor opportunities are provided and promoted consistent with the types of experience sought by different users and Park values. It also recognises that the Park cannot be all things to all people – conflicts between activities may occur and emphasising activities in one place over another can enhance visitor enjoyment.

There are two main recreation mechanisms applied – visitor management zones and destination management.

Visitor management zones use the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum,¹⁶ to identify (in a

spatial sense) a range of recreation opportunities along a continuum, from urban to wilderness, and describe the characteristics (prescriptions) within each zone (refer Appendix 6). The zoning and prescriptions guide Departmental decision-making, including the provision of facilities and assessment of concession applications to ensure opportunities provided meet visitor expectations in terms of both the nature and quality of experiences.

There are four visitor management zones within the Park – rural, front country, backcountry and remote.

Within visitor management zones, specific destinations are identified using destination management tools. The intent of destination management is to identify and provide quality visitor experiences in places where people want to recreate. It can lead to increased recreational use on public conservation lands and waters by using a coordinated approach to managing the elements that make up a destination – its attractions, values, people, infrastructure, access, and how the place is promoted. These are tailored to deliver a pre-determined quality based on the needs of one or more primary target groups.

There are three destination categories in the Park: Gateway, Local Treasure and Backcountry. Gateway – ‘family friendly’ regional destinations easily accessible from nearby population centres that introduce people to the outdoors and offer more than one activity, for example picnicking, camping, short walks, longer walks, easy tramping, mountain biking or historic appreciation. Gateways cater for a variety of users. They connect people with conservation, and provide opportunities for outdoor education and learning about conservation. The only Gateway destination identified in the Park is the Whirinaki River Track, which extends from River Road car park to the Mid Whirinaki Hut. As noted in Section 13, this area experiences the highest visitor numbers and is used frequently by education, family and other groups.

¹⁶ Taylor, P.C. (Ed.). 1993: The New Zealand recreation opportunity spectrum: guidelines for users. Department of Conservation and the Hillary Commission, Wellington.

Local treasures – managed to grow community connection with and use of places of importance to the local community.

Backcountry – provide for more challenging adventures for users, including popular walks and tramps, within the body of large-scale natural settings.

Policy 23.2.2 signals that the Department’s focus on development and promotion of recreational opportunities in the Park is on the Whirinaki River Track. Maintenance or promotion initiatives may be undertaken at other locations also, either by the Department or through working with partners. Recreation opportunities, including facility development not provided for in this Plan, may necessitate a review of the Plan (refer Section 40).

Departmental activities are identified and prioritised in operational plans and strategies including business plans.

Demand and feasibility (including cost/benefit) analyses (refer Policy 23.2.3) ensure planning for and provision of recreation facilities is informed by a thorough understanding of the scale and nature of visitor and community needs and preferences, the effects on Park values and the implications for management.

People’s recreational preferences change over time so the Department needs to monitor the quality of visitor experiences to understand and respond to what people want. The Department also needs to ensure the natural, historical and cultural values, which form an important component of the settings in which people recreate, are not compromised. Any conflicts between different recreational users and between recreation and other users, also need to be identified and managed. Thus, monitoring of visitor experiences and the effects of recreation activity (Policy 23.2.4) is important.

Policy 23.2.5 identifies particular areas over which the Department will liaise with user groups in order to assist people in obtaining quality experiences when visiting the Park.

Issues relating to the safety and security of people, vehicles and personal property can deter people from visiting the Park.

Collaborative efforts by the Department, New Zealand Police, Ngāti Whare, the local community and others (Policy 23.2.6) can assist in addressing concerns.

Table 2: Destinations in the Park

Destination category	Destination
Gateway	Whirinaki River Track
Local treasure	Okahu Road
	Mid Okahu campsite
	Cocksfoot Road
	Main/South Road
	Old Te Whaiti Road (Minginui to Skid 15 turnoff)
	Waiatiu Falls Track
	Arohaki Lagoon
	Old Fort Road Loop walk
	Sanctuary picnic area/ loop track
	Whirinaki Recreation Camp
Backcountry	Taupiri Lookout picnic area
	Okurapoto Road Mountain Bike Network
	Rogers to Whangatawhia Track
	Whangatawhia to Okahu Track
	Waione Road
	Plateau – Upper Whirinaki Track
	Plateau Access
	Plateau Road
	Mangawiri Access Road
	Mangamate Stream Track
	Mangawiri Access 4WD Road
	Plateau Road to Mid Whirinaki Track
	Caves to Upper Whirinaki Hut Junction Track
	87/88 Loop 4WD roads
	Hydro Access Road
Pukahunui Track (road to Upper Whirinaki Track junction)	



The distinctive bark pattern of rimu.



 Part 6

**Kupu
whakataki
whakahaere
Authorisations**

24 Introduction

Authorisation is a collective term used to refer to all approvals required to carry out an activity in the Park.

The most common authorisation is a concession (including leases, licences and easements) under part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987, but permits may also be required under other sections of the Conservation Act 1987 and a variety of other Acts such as the Wildlife Act 1953, Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Authorisations may be either commercial or non-commercial in nature and may be for recreational or non-recreational activities.

The policies in Part 6 provide the primary guidance to decision makers on applications for authorisations. They should be read in conjunction with the outcome, objectives and policies in Parts 4 and 5. The policies do not restate policy direction established at regional or national levels by the Conservation General Policy 2005 or the operative conservation management strategy and Part 6 needs to be read in conjunction with these other documents.

Where the provisions in Part 6 of this Plan are more specific than provisions in Conservation General Policy 2005, the operative conservation management strategy or provisions elsewhere in this Plan, or where there is any ambiguity between provisions, the more specific provisions in Part 6 apply. If there is not a specific policy section relating to an activity, that activity should be assessed against the general policies in Section 25.1.

The words 'will', 'should' and 'may' have specific meanings when used in policies as defined in section 1 of the Conservation General Policy 2005.

25 General

25.1 Policies

Please note that the general policies in this section apply to all applications for authorisations.

- 25.1.1 Will process applications for authorisations in accordance with relevant legislation, the provisions of the Conservation General Policy 2005, the operative conservation management strategy and this Plan.
- 25.1.2 Should not grant authorisations that are inconsistent with the:
- purpose for which the land is held (Section 2 and Appendix 3);
 - Park outcome (Part 4);
 - objectives and policies in Part 5; and
 - applicable visitor management zones shown on Map 4 and described in Appendix 6.
- 25.1.3 Should give effect to any plan, process or procedures developed in consultation with Ngāti Whare in accordance with Policies 16.2.11 and 16.2.12 when processing applications for authorisations.
- 25.1.4 Should apply the following criteria, in addition to any activity-specific criteria, when assessing the effects of proposed activities:
- effects on:
 - natural, historical and cultural values;
 - the activities and enjoyment of other Park users including conflicts between activities; and
 - Park infrastructure;
 - any measures that can reasonably and practically be undertaken to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of the activity including separating that activity from others in terms of time and space; and
 - any access restrictions (permanent or temporary) that may be in place as provided for by Policy 22.2.1.

25.1.5 May require monitoring to be undertaken as a condition of use on any authorised activity in order to manage the effects of activities on the Park and other park users.

Explanation and reasons

Conservation legislation requires consideration of the applicable legislation, Conservation General Policy, the operative conservation management strategy and this Plan when processing applications for authorisations. Policies 25.1.1 and 25.1.2 reiterate these requirements.

Other mechanisms, including legislation, regulations, regional and district plans may also need to be complied with by persons undertaking these activities. Although these mechanisms may be the responsibility of other

agencies, they should be considered during the assessment process.

The Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord provides for a plan and interim approach for Ngāti Whare input into the assessment and processing of applications. Policy 25.1.3 identifies these mechanisms to ensure they are given effect to.

Although the provisions of conservation legislation may vary, most require assessment of the effects of proposed activity on conservation values in one form or another. Policy 25.1.4 identifies the general matters to be considered when assessing the effects of proposed activities. They do not limit the matters that may be considered and Sections 26 to 36 include additional activity-specific assessment criteria.

26 Aircraft

26.1 Policies

26.1.1 Should grant concessions for aircraft landings¹⁷ in the Park only at the sites identified in Table 3 below and shown on Map 6.

Table 3: Aircraft landing sites

Site	Location	
	Easting	Northing
Bull Ring	1927253.17	5694894.84
Camp Creek	1929469.76	5691322.92
Central Te Hoe Hut	1926819.00	5691261.62
Central Whirinaki Hut	1917339.41	5702327.54
Collins Camp	1928153.71	5702522.19
Dark Room Creek	1926589.43	5688488.07
Fridge On The Ridge	1919916.57	5692610.15
Gecko Clearing	1916211.90	5708012.97
Half way Moerangi Rogers	1925834.40	5703740.97
Mangahata A	1927612.26	5707413.26
Mangahata B	1926526.99	5706502.80

¹⁷ This includes landings, take-offs and hovering.

Site	Location	
Mangakahika Hut	1927615.14	5697930.80
Mangamate Hut	1920581.54	5703891.03
Minginui Stream	1926033.06	5710747.95
Moerangi Hut	1923637.94	5704619.97
Moerangi Saddle	1923335.31	5707290.43
Okahu Road Pad	1932363.13	5714410.81
Old Mangamate Hut site	1921269.55	5706054.62
Plateau Road end	1915882.10	5696654.05
Pukahunui	1917200.84	5691824.30
Rogers Hut (Te Wairoa)	1929326.98	5703831.04
Scruff's Clearing	1913349.16	5706969.97
Skips Hut (Whangatawhia)	1930409.83	5707373.39
Upper Te Hoe Hut	1922886.59	5694426.26
Upper Te Hoe Trap	1922843.95	5696156.16
Upper Whirinaki Hut	1918925.75	5697621.04
Vern's Camp	1919977.22	5707656.94

- 26.1.2 Should grant concessions for occasional aircraft landings at sites not identified in Table 3 only for:
- wild animal control activities;
 - the construction, operation and/or maintenance of equipment or utilities authorised by the Minister; or
 - to support research and collection activities authorised by the Minister;
 - where access cannot be reasonably provided either by vehicles or using one of the sites identified in Table 3 and the activity is consistent with the policies in Section 25.1.

- 26.1.3 May grant concessions for the following activities not provided for in Policies 26.1.1 and 26.1.2 where associated with sporting events or filming activities:
- the use of remotely piloted aircraft
 - low-level flying (i.e. hovering) but no actual landing on the ground noting that drones are covered by Policies 26.1.1, 26.1.2 and 16.1.3

subject to:

- consistency with policies in Section 25.1; and
- consistency with policies in Section 35.

- 26.1.4 May, in addition to Policy 22.2.1, discontinue the use of any landing site listed in Table 3 if the site cannot be maintained in a manner which provides for the safe take off and landing of aircraft.

Explanation and reasons

Under section 17ZF of the Conservation Act 1987 all aircraft, regardless of whether they are used for commercial or private recreation purposes, require a concession to land on, take off from, or hover above (collectively referred to as landings) any public conservation lands and waters that is not a certified aerodrome other than for: search and rescue, Departmental management purposes, emergency situations, maritime navigational-aid management, land survey work, aircraft operated by the New Zealand Defence Force

or the Civil Aviation Authority, or any mining activity authorised under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.¹⁸

The term ‘aircraft’ includes both powered and non-powered aircraft such as aeroplanes, helicopters, balloons, gliders, hang-gliders, microlights and remotely piloted systems (drones).

An authorisation to land an aircraft does not cover any other activities, such as vegetation removal or earthworks associated with maintaining a designated airstrip or landing site.

The aircraft management framework for the Park uses the orange zone, which is part of the Department’s national framework (of four aircraft access zones) for managing the effects of aircraft use. Within this framework the orange zone is:

Orange Zone

Areas where there are complex issues to be managed, which require the use of limits and/or other criteria to guide whether concessions for aircraft landings may be granted. This zone may apply:

- in situations involving limited opportunities, areas of intensive aircraft activity or where a precautionary approach is required;
- where there are historical or legal reasons for an approach that does not fit within the other three zones;
- to provide for a specific recreational activity (e.g. heli-fishing, ground-based hunting);
- to only allow specific types of aircraft (e.g. non-powered aircraft);
- where there are variations in seasonal use; and
- where landings do not fit within the circumstances described in the other three zones.

The sites identified in Table 3 are where there is sufficient open space for helicopters to land without directly conflicting with recreational opportunities provided in the area. There are no sites suitable for the landing of fixed wing aircraft. Given the number and geographical spread of these sites, landings at other areas are restricted to specific activities, on an occasional basis (Policy 26.1.2 and 26.1.3). The management of wild animal control activities is also covered in Section 32.

27 Animals (See Section 32 for hunting policies)

27.1 Policies

Dogs

27.1.1 Should allow dogs to be taken into the Park only where:

- a) the dog is being taken into the Park by a member of the Police, an officer or employee of the Department, a Customs Officer, or a search and rescue person in the course of his or her official duties;
- b) the dog is a certified disability assist dog; or
- c) a permit has been granted.

27.1.2 May grant a permit to take a dog into the Park subject to:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25.1;
- b) measures being taken to ensure the dog(s) is under control at all times. This may include limiting the number of dogs accompanying each person/handler;
- c) the dog(s) being certified by an approved avian aversion trainer; and
- d) the dog not going into or under public buildings including huts to avoid adverse effects on other visitors.

¹⁸ The effects of aircraft use are assessed in accordance with sections 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Horses

27.1.3 Should grant authorisations for the use of horses only at the following locations (as shown on Map 5):

- a) 87/88 Loop 4WD Roads;
- b) Cocksfoot Road;
- c) Hydro Access Road;
- d) Okahu Road;
- e) Okurapoto Road;
- f) Main South Road (Otupaaka section);
- g) Kopuatoto 4WD Road;
- h) Mangawiri Access 4WD Road;
- i) Mangawiri Access Road;
- j) Old Te Whaiti Road;
- k) Plateau Road;
- l) Sanctuary Road;
- m) Waione 4WD Road; and
- n) Motorised Recreation Area - all formed roads and tracks.

27.1.4 Should consider (but not be limited to) the following criteria when assessing applications for authorisations to use horses under Policy 27.1.3:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25.1;
- b) the number of horses and riders in any group and capacity of the track, route or road to accommodate the level of use, having regard to track conditions and potential conflicts with other visitors;
- c) the capacity of carparking areas to accommodate vehicles used to transport horses and riders;
- d) the effectiveness of measures proposed to avoid or mitigate the:
 - (i) introduction or spread of pest plant species; and
 - (ii) acceleration of erosion or other damage to the area.

Other animals

27.1.5 Should not permit any animals, other than dogs and horses in accordance with Policies 27.1.1 to 27.1.4 to be taken into the

Park unless in accordance with a grazing or farming concession or management agreement.

Explanation and reasons

Under section 39(1)(ca) of the Conservation Act 1987 it is an offence for any person to knowingly cause or allow any cattle, sheep, horse or other animal of any kind whatever to enter any conservation park without the authority of the Minister or Director-General.

Dogs

There are limited circumstances where permits may not be required to take a dog into the Park (refer Policy 27.1.1(a) and (b)) - in all other cases a permit is required. The criteria in Policy 27.1.2 are to be applied in addition to the general policies in Section 25.1. These criteria recognise the vulnerability of ground-dwelling or ground-nesting birds in the Park, such as kiwi and whio, to predation or disturbance from dogs and the potential for dogs to adversely affect the enjoyment of other Park visitors when they are not under control at all times.

Horses

The locations listed in Policy 27.1.3 have been identified as suitable for use by horses. But there is still a need to protect natural and historic values and manage conflicts with other Park visitors. High levels of horse use may result in adverse effects and the criteria listed in Policy 27.1.4 ensure these effects are assessed on a case-by-case basis before approvals for horse use are given.

28 Beehives

28.1 Policies

28.1.1 May grant concessions for the placement of beehives in the Park subject to:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25.1;
- b) the proposed location being suitable by:

- (i) avoiding conflicts with other users, including requiring a buffer between beehive sites and facilities and structures used by Departmental staff and public;
- (ii) placing beehives only in areas of natural clearance where vegetation clearance is not required; and
- (iii) a suitable buffer exists between beehive concessionaires;
- c) placement being achieved without the use of aircraft; and
- d) access to any proposed beehive location being from existing park roads.

Explanation and reasons

A concession is required for the placement of beehives within the Park. An apiarist may also need other approvals such as a licence from the Ministry for Primary Industries.

The presence of beehives has the potential to adversely affect the enjoyment of other users of the Park so the location of beehives needs to be carefully considered, particularly avoiding areas of high public visitation or sites such as aircraft landing sites and huts where people congregate. There is a range of known potential adverse effects on sensitive ecosystems however there is a lack of certainty over the extent of these effects on ecosystems (including the effects of introduced bees on native pollinators and their food resources) within the Park. Therefore the assessment of applications to authorise the placement of beehives must carefully consider the effects on the Park's ecological values.

29 Commercial eeling

29.1 Policies

29.1.1 Should not allow commercial eeling on land or water within the Park to ensure the preservation of tuna/eels.

Explanation and reasons

While the Ministry of Primary Industries manages commercial eeling under the Fisheries Act 1996 (and a number of associated regulations), commercial eel fishers also require a concession from the Department to undertake an activity (trade, business or occupation) in the Park, including to take tuna/ eels from waters whose beds are within the Park. Tuna/ eels (*Anguilla dieffenbachia*) are classified as Declining,¹⁹ with factors such as habitat modification and overfishing contributing to population loss.

For Ngāti Whare, tuna are considered a taonga and have traditionally been served as kai for rangitira (leaders) at gatherings – 'te kai o te rangitira'. For generations Ngāti Whare have fished the Whirinaki River and its tributaries for tuna using traditional methods. However they have chosen not to take tuna in terms of their commercial eel quota to protect their taonga and ensure tuna are available to future generations for cultural purposes.

The commercial taking of tūna/ is considered inconsistent with the Park purpose to protect natural resources nor does it recognise the importance of tūna to Ngāti Whare. Policy 29.1.1 does not apply to the take of tūna/ eels for customary purposes or recreational eeling. Customary take is addressed in Section 16, the operative CMS and Conservation General Policy. Recreational eelers can take eels without the need for a permit provided it is in accordance with the Fisheries Act 1983 and the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013.

¹⁹ Goodman, J.M; Dunn, N.R; Ravenscroft, P.J; Allibone, R.M; Boubee, J.A.T; David, B.O; Griffiths, M; Ling, N;

Hitchmough R.A, and Rolfe J.R. 2014: Conservation status of New Zealand freshwater fish, 2013. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series 7*. Department of Conservation.

30 Grazing and farming

30.1 Policies

30.1.1 Should authorise grazing or farming activities only within the area at 38°38'21.3795"S, 176°43'11.8127"E identified on Map 3 in accordance with the following criteria:

- a) measures are taken to effectively contain stock within the area and prevent them accessing the Whirinaki River;
- b) public access is retained;
- c) measures are taken to control and contain the spread of weeds; and
- d) an adequate stock water supply is established and maintained.

Explanation and reasons

There is one small area (approximately 4.66 hectares) at 38°38'21.3795"S, 176°43'11.8127"E and shown on Map 3 which has been grazed in the past and may be suitable for grazing or farming activities.

Grazing may provide opportunities to support recreational use of the Park, assist in controlling weeds and assist in managing fire risk. However a stock water supply needs to be arranged by the grazier/farmer as the past practice of stock obtaining water directly from the Whirinaki River can create erosion, other damage, and degradation of water quality.

31 Guiding

31.1 Policies

31.1.1 Should grant authorisations for guiding activities in the Park subject to the following criteria being met:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25.1;
- b) any conflicts with other recreation or tourism users and guiding activity are avoided (e.g. separated in time and space), remedied or mitigated;



Tramping to Central Whirinaki Hut.

- c) adverse effects from guiding activities on conservation values, including sites of significance to Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū are avoided, remedied or mitigated;
- d) vehicle use for guiding activity complies with Policies 36.1.1 to 36.1.5 (motorised vehicles, mountain bikes and electric power-assisted cycles); and
- e) horse use for guiding activity complies with Policies 27.1.3 to 27.1.5.

31.1.2 Should encourage guiding concessionaires to raise the conservation awareness of their clients and to seek guidance from Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū when providing cultural interpretation information to their clients.

Explanation and reasons

Guiding concessionaires can add value to visitors' experiences by providing information about the natural, historic and cultural values of the Park, and opportunities to visit places they may not otherwise easily access.

Guiding concessions may also enhance conservation understanding. However, concessions providing these opportunities must themselves be compatible with the protection of the Park's natural, historic and cultural values and the needs of other visitors.

Therefore assessment of proposed guiding activities focuses on the avoidance, remediation or mitigation of potential adverse effects. Where guiding activity encompasses other associated activities such as vehicle use (e.g. mountain biking and four-wheel and quadbike driving), fishing, hunting or horse riding, assessment needs to be made in terms of other relevant policies in Part 6. The provision of interpretative material regarding the Park's rich heritage is encouraged, particularly information relating to cultural heritage, in consultation with Ngāti Whare and other iwi and/or hapū associated with the locality of the activity.

32 Hunting

32.1 Policies

Gamebird hunting

32.1.1 Should not authorise game bird hunting within the Park unless it is necessary or desirable for management purposes.

Recreational hunting

32.1.2 May grant permits for recreational hunting of deer and pigs subject to the following criteria being met:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25.1;
- b) permits are obtained where necessary for aircraft use, dogs and vehicle use as set out in Sections 26, 27 and 36;
- c) firearm use is restricted to centre fire rifles of calibre .222 Remington or larger or crossbows and bows;
- d) firearms are not discharged within 500 m of huts, tracks, campsites, roadends or any public place;
- e) firearms are not discharged in a manner that endangers property or endangers, frightens or annoys members of the public; and
- f) hunting does not:

- (i) occur during the hours of darkness (30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise;
- (ii) involve the use of spotlights, torches, vehicle headlights or any other artificial light source; and
- (iii) involve use of night vision equipment, infrared or heat detecting devices.

Wild animal control

32.1.3 Should assess authorisation applications under the Wild Animals Control Act 1977 for:

- (i) deer and pig carcass recovery;
- (ii) live deer capture; and
- (iii) aerially assisted trophy hunting against the following criteria:
 - a) adverse effects on recreational uses, including (but not limited to) frequency, timing and location of the activity; and
 - b) its contribution to concerted action to control wild animals (to achieve the purposes of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977) can be demonstrated.

Explanation and reasons

Gamebird hunting

In addition to obtaining gamebird licences from Fish & Game NZ, access permits must also be obtained from the Department where gamebird hunting is proposed to occur on public conservation lands and waters.

As long as gamebird populations remain low, the ecological benefits derived from hunting will not outweigh the potential risks to native fauna and to Park users. Should populations increase, control via hunting could be desirable.

Recreational hunting

Recreational hunting is a popular recreational activity in the Park. The criteria in Policy 32.1.2 seek to ensure it is carried out in a manner that supports the direction contained within this Plan.

Wild animal control (commercial)

Wild animals are defined in the Glossary and include introduced animals managed to achieve the purpose of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977. Wild animals present in the Park include deer and pigs. Goats are not currently present.

The Minister of Conservation has responsibility for the granting of concessions for commercial wild animal recovery operations.

This Plan is one of several mechanisms the Minister must consider when making a decision on applications for commercial wild animal recovery activities.

Aircraft use associated with wild animal control activities is not restricted to identified landing sites (see Policy 32.1.3).

33 Mining

33.1 Policy

33.1.1 Should not enter into access arrangements to undertake mining within the Park.

Explanation and reasons

The prospecting, exploration for, and mining of Crown-owned mineral deposits is managed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in accordance with the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Under section 61 of that Act, the Minister of Conservation has an approval role for access arrangements for all public conservation lands and waters.

Prospecting, exploration or mining within the heavily forested environment of the Park would likely necessitate vegetation removal, earthworks and other activities such as helicopter and vehicle use. These activities have the potential to adversely affect the forest ecosystem, threatened species within it (refer Appendix 5), waterways, spiritual and cultural values of significance to Ngāti Whare and public use. Given this, prospecting, exploration and mining are considered to be incompatible with the protection of Park values (refer Part 3 and section 19

Conservation Act 1987). Furthermore no access arrangements are allowable for land in schedule 4 of the Act. Schedule 4 covers Whirinaki Forest Sanctuary.

This section of the Plan does not apply to sand and gravel extraction (see Section 34).

34 Sand and gravel extraction

34.1 Policy

34.1.1 Should not allow sand and/or gravel extraction from the Park.

Explanation and reasons

Sand and gravel extraction from riverbeds is managed and allocated by regional councils under the Resource Management Act 1991. However, any person seeking approval to undertake this activity in the Park also requires authorisation from the Department.

Sand and gravel deposits may occur throughout the Park. Access to these sites would likely need earthworks and/or vegetation removal and this could adversely affect forest ecosystems, indigenous species and landscape values. Sand and gravel extraction within riverbeds could significantly affect water quality, fish spawning, and threatened species such as whio, and affect not only the Whirinaki River but the entire Rangitāiki River system. Given this, sand and gravel extraction are considered to be activities that are incompatible with Park values (Part 3) and the Outcome (Part 4).

35 Sporting and other events

35.1 Policies

35.1.1 May authorise organised sporting and other events in the Park subject to the following criteria being met:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25;
- b) any adverse effects on existing recreational opportunities being avoided, remedied or mitigated;

- c) any adverse effects on park infrastructure such as toilets, carparking and tracks and roads being avoided, remedied or mitigated;
- d) activities do not occur within habitats important for the conservation of threatened and other at risk flora and fauna;
- e) aircraft landings only occur at sites identified in Table 3 and
- f) the requirements of policies for associated activities (such as the use of aircraft, animals and vehicles) are met.

35.1.2 May authorise organised sporting and other events that do not meet the prescriptions for visitor management zones (see Appendix 6 and Map 4), based on its merits, subject to an assessment of:

- a) consistency with policies in Section 25;
- b) the adverse effects and the extent to which it is possible to avoid, remedy or mitigate those effects;
- c) the cumulative effects on the values at the site(s); and
- d) the need for public notification or consultation with the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.

35.1.3 Should require opportunities for conservation advocacy and interpretation, including cultural values in consultation with iwi and/or hapū.

Explanation and reasons

Concessions are required for organised events (of a sporting nature or otherwise) and are assessed in accordance with policies in Section 25, and authorisation policies for specific associated activities (such as vehicles, animals and structures). An organised event may be advertised as open to the general public and/or may require temporary exclusive use of an area for the duration of the event. Examples of organised events include competitive sporting events, musical or theatrical performances, fundraisers or sponsored activities.

The opportunity to organise and participate in events is part of the range of recreational opportunities offered within the Park. Consideration of applications for any such events is likely to focus on whether effects can be managed consistent with the Outcome for the Park (see Part 4).

Current knowledge about the adverse effects of sporting events indicates ground and vegetation damage tends to be minimal when confined to tracks designed and well-maintained for the activity or to open bare-gravel/rock riverbeds in dry conditions, and not on steep slopes. These ideal conditions are seldom available for a whole event on every occasion. Avoidance and remedial measures may be required, including event route change, postponement or cancellation. Adverse effects on wildlife and other users are variable, again depending on the activities undertaken, location, size and timing of the event.

In managing organised events, the goal is to avoid or minimise damage to indigenous plants and wildlife, historic and cultural values, facilities (e.g. tracks) and conflict with other users of the Park. Monitoring events is one mechanism the Department uses to help understand the effects of an event. Monitoring also ensures compliance with concession conditions and identifies where additional mechanisms may be required to address identified effects, where an event has a periodic recurrence.

Examples of other mechanisms used to address any adverse effects include:

- informing neighbours and potential visitors to the site that the activity is to occur or is occurring;
- avoiding peak visitation times; and
- avoiding or protecting sites with high natural, historical or cultural values.

Organised events present an opportunity to educate participants about conservation values, such as through pre-event information and briefings.

36 Vehicles

36.1 Policies

- 36.1.1 Should allow motorised vehicles and electric power-assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes) only on the roads (including designated parking areas) and tracks identified in Table 4 and shown on Map 5.
- 36.1.2 May in addition to Policy 22.2.1 restrict motorised vehicle and electric power-assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes) access at any time in the following situations:
- there is a fire risk;
 - adverse effects on conservation resources are evident;
 - priorities change for the provision of the formed road or designated vehicular route; or
 - damage to the structure of the road is evident or likely.
- 36.1.3 Should allow mountain biking only:
- on the tracks and roads or other areas identified in Table 4 and shown on Map 5; or
 - as provided for by an organised sporting or other event authorised under Policies 35.1.1 and 35.1.2.
- 36.1.4 Should not allow guided or non-independent vehicle use (motorised vehicles, electric power-assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes) and mountain bikes) outside of the locations listed in Table 4 and shown on Map 5, except as provided for by an organised sporting or other event authorised under Policies 35.1.1 and 35.1.2.
- 36.1.5 May allow motorised vehicles in the Park for the construction, operation and/or maintenance of authorised utilities, grazing and farming operations and restoration activities.

mountain bikes and electric power-assisted pedal-cycles (e-bikes).

Four-wheel driving and mountain biking are popular activities in the Park. However vehicle use can have adverse effects on conservation values (such as fragile ecosystems, historic and cultural sites, and flora and fauna), the enjoyment of other people, and Park infrastructure.

The policies in Section 36 provide for these activities while minimising the potential adverse effects. Vehicle use has been restricted to areas suitable for that use, having regard to natural values and the ability of areas to withstand projected use (this relates in part to the standard of the road, track or route). Consideration has also been giving to ensuring the Park provides a suitable mix of quality recreation opportunities. Vehicles are being restricted from entering some areas so as to achieve spatial separation from other activities – walking and horse-riding in particular. In addition, different types of vehicles are separated in some instances to enhance different users' experiences.

Where vehicle use occurs on a walking track identified in Schedule 1 of the Conservation (Whirinaki Conservation Park: Vehicles) Regulations 2011, a notice must be published authorising the activity (refer Section 39 Compliance and enforcement) and a permit obtained.

Explanation and reasons

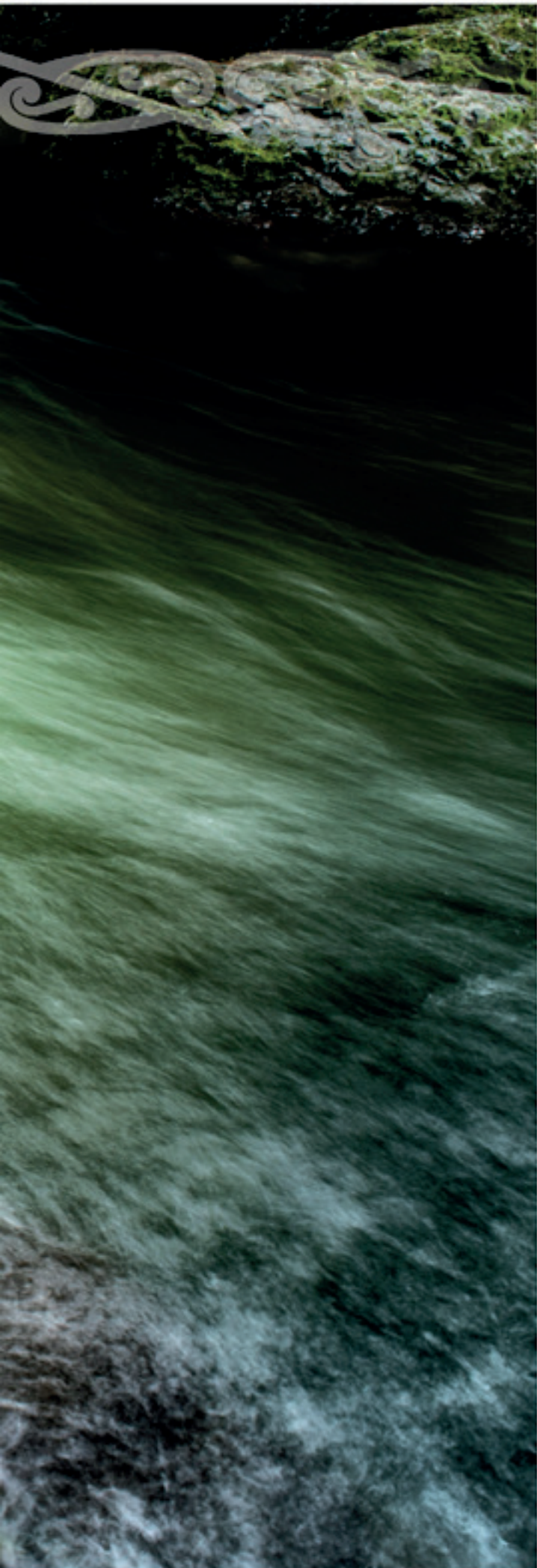
The definition of 'vehicle' is wide ranging (refer Glossary) and includes both motorised and non-motorised land vehicles, such as cars, 4-wheel drives, motorcycles, quad bikes,

Table 4: Vehicle access

Location	Vehicle type allowed
<p>Formed and maintained Park roads</p> <p>87/88 Loop 4WD Road, Cocksfoot Road, Hydro Access Road, Okahu Road, Okurapoto Road, Main South Road (Otupaaka section), Kopuatoto 4WD Road, Mangamate Road, Mangawiri Access Road, Mangawiri Access Road, Old Fort Road, Old Te Whāiti Road, Plateau Road, Old Plateau Hut Road, Sanctuary Road, Waione 4WD Road.</p>	<p>All motorised vehicles</p> <p>E-bikes</p> <p>Mountain bikes</p>
<p>All formed roads and tracks within the motorised recreation area shown on Map 6.</p>	<p>All motorised vehicles</p> <p>E-bikes</p> <p>Mountain bikes</p>
<p>Moerangi to River Road Track</p> <p>Starting at the Okahu Road car park, past Skips (Whangatawhia), Rogers (Te Wairoa) and Moerangi huts to River Road car park.</p>	<p>Mountain bike</p>
<p>Whirinaki Mountain Bike Track</p> <p>Fort Road comprising Kereru Road, 104 Track, Okurapoto Road, Tangitu Track and Glow Worm Road.</p>	<p>Mountain bike</p>



Whirinaki River.



Part 7

**Kaiwhakahaere
Administration**



Minister Christopher Finlayson at the opening of the Minginui Nursery.

37 Implementation, monitoring and reporting

37.1 Objective

37.1.1 The outcome, objectives and policies in this Plan are implemented and progress is monitored.

37.2 Policies

37.2.1 Use the outcome, objectives and policies in this Plan to guide the Department’s business planning processes.

37.2.2 Adopt the specific actions (milestones) in Table 5 to measure progress in achieving the outcome, objectives and policies in this Plan.

37.2.3 Present annual reports to the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and Ngāti Whare on the implementation of this Plan. These reports may include:

- a) an evaluation of the extent to which the desired outcome, objectives and policies of this Plan have been implemented or achieved;

- b) an analysis of the reasons for delays or failures in implementation or achievement;
- c) the nature and level of compliance/non-compliance with the provisions of this Plan and the reasons for any variation;
- d) an analysis of concession and statutory approval activity and activity monitoring; and
- e) recommendations for improving the management of the Park.

37.2.4 Work with Ngāti Whare to:

- a) Identify and/or develop specific projects and priorities for consideration by the Department in its annual business planning processes, consistent with Clause 16 of the Conservation Accord;
- b) identify opportunities for the use of mātauranga Māori in park management activities, particularly monitoring and interpretation; and
- c) identify opportunities to work together in the development and implementation of research and monitoring programmes.

Table 5: Milestones

MILESTONE	ANNUAL	YEAR 1	2-4 YEARS	5-7 YEARS	8-10 YEARS	RELATED PROVISIONS
Protocols for tree removal developed			X			16.2.4
Agreement reached on assistance to Te Pua o Whirinaki Regeneration Trust			X			16.2.5
Cultural materials process developed with Ngāti Whare		X				16.2.9
Concessions plan developed with Ngāti Whare		X				16.2.12
Strategy is in place to promote, market and showcase Park opportunities			X			18.1.1 18.2.1 Section 23
Identification of cultural materials used by Ngāti Whare		X				19.1.3
Established measures to protect cultural materials identified in (6)			X			19.1.3
Current pest programmes are reviewed and a strategy/programme for sustainable pest control within the Park is developed			X			19.2.8 19.2.9
The community and other agencies are involved in the implementation of sustainable pest control programme				X	X	Section 19 19.2.9
Reporting to Conservation Board	X					37.2.3
Reporting to Ngāti Whare	X					37.2.3
Meeting with Ngāti Whare over business planning	X					37.2.4

Explanation and reasons

This Plan is implemented through:

- the Department’s business planning processes, where decisions are made about priorities and resourcing for Departmental activities;
- decisions made on concessions and other authorisations;
- working with others; and
- advocacy for conservation outcomes.

One of the functions of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is to advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority and Director-General on the implementation of conservation management plans. The Department reports regularly to the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board on the implementation of the Plan, and the Conservation Board in turn, reports annually to the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Reporting to Ngāti Whare recognises their co-governance role and is consistent with the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord.

This section provides a framework by which the Department and Bay of Plenty Conservation Board may review progress in achieving the desired outcomes and objectives of this Plan.

Plan implementation is undertaken in liaison with Ngāti Whare in recognition of the co-governance role Ngāti Whare, to give effect to the implementation and communication components of the Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord (particularly section 5) and to reflect the business planning processes set out in section 16 of the Accord. The way in which this is done may evolve over time (Policy 37.2.4).

The Department has a Statement of Intent²⁰ which is revised yearly and contains a vision, intermediate outcomes, goals and priorities. The Statement of Intent informs the Department’s annual business planning, which

directs resources towards achieving the visions and outcomes and should be read in conjunction with this Plan. Where there is inconsistency between the Statement of Intent and this Plan, the provisions of the Plan prevail.

38 Activity monitoring

38.1 Objective

38.1.1 Management of the Park is continually improved in response to the findings of research, monitoring and evaluation.

38.2 Policies

38.2.1 Monitor the effects (including cumulative effects) of recreational and other activities (both independent and subject to authorisation) on the achievement of the Park outcomes, natural, historic and cultural values and other users.

38.2.2 Focus (but not restrict) monitoring under Policy 38.2.1 to the use of:

- a) motorised vehicles;
- b) mountain bikes;
- c) electric power-assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes);
- d) aircraft;
- e) horses; and
- f) beehives

38.2.3 Apply any restrictions or conditions for continued access where necessary, if monitoring (undertaken in accordance with Policy 38.2.1) shows adverse effects are occurring.

Explanation and reasons

Monitoring the effects of recreation and other activities on park values and other users is important in determining whether the desired outcome for the Park is being achieved. Where

²⁰ Department of Conservation 2016, Statement of Intent 2016–2020, available at www.doc.govt.nz.

monitoring shows adverse effects are occurring, the Department may, during the life of this Plan, implement restrictions on access (see Section 22) or through the decision-making process for authorisations. Where these approaches are not sufficient in managing adverse effects, then information gained from monitoring will contribute to any future review of this Plan (Section 40).



Pou mark the entrance to Te Whaiti.

39 Compliance and enforcement

39.1 Objective

39.1.1 Compliance and enforcement are undertaken where necessary to support the implementation of this Plan.

39.2 Policies

39.2.1 Carry out compliance and enforcement activities in the Park in accordance with the Conservation Act 1987 and any other relevant acts and/or regulations.

39.2.2 Apply the Conservation (Whirinaki Conservation Park: Vehicles) Regulations 2011.

39.2.3 Identify through the Department's website and through the use of signs and provision of information where people are allowed to take horses and vehicles

(including mountain bikes, four-wheel drives, e-bikes and motorcycles) within the Park.

39.2.4 Should remove unauthorised structures, facilities and buildings from the Park.

39.2.5 Work with the local community to promote understanding and compliance with Plan and statutory requirements regarding horses in the Park.

Explanation and reasons

This Plan guides the Department's management of the Park. However the Plan does not in itself regulate the actions of the public. The Conservation Act 1987 and other relevant acts identify a range of activities the public cannot undertake without a permit, concession or other authorisation. It is an offence to undertake these activities without prior approval. Many (but not all) of these activities are identified in Part 5 of the Plan. Offences are first discouraged by raising awareness of what can and can't be done in the Park (see Section 17), but where offences do occur, compliance can be pursued using legal means.

The Conservation (Whirinaki Conservation Park: Vehicles) Regulations 2011 (refer www.legislation.govt.nz) make it an offence to drive a vehicle on identified walking tracks²¹ unless a notice has been published or a permit issued which authorises the driving of a vehicle on one or more of these tracks. A notice was issued on 20 June 2011 authorising the riding of bicycles on the Moerangi Track. The Regulations provide for this notice to be amended or altered at any time.

The removal of unauthorised structures (Policy 39.2.4) is consistent with Conservation General Policy and legislation.

²¹ Whirinaki Recreation Camp Short Walks, H Tree Track, Forest Sanctuary Loop Track, Waiti Falls Track,

Arohaki Lagoon Track, Moerangi Track, Whirinaki River Track, Mangamate Track and Te Hoe Track.

40 Plan review

40.1 Objective

40.1.1 This Plan is kept up to date, in accordance with sections 32 and 33 of the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012.

40.2 Policies

- 40.2.1 Should review this Plan as a whole no later than 10 years from the date of approval.
- 40.2.2 Should confine amendments or partial reviews of the Plan to those:
- a) necessitated by increased knowledge about the Park or a change in its circumstances; or
 - b) initiated by the Minister, having declined an application for a concession under section 17W(4) of the Conservation Act 1987.
- 40.2.3 Will consult and obtain agreement of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and Ngāti Whare to any proposed amendments or partial reviews undertaken in accordance with Policy 40.2.2 before any other pre-notification or public consultation is undertaken.
- 40.2.4 Will follow the statutory amendment or review process to enable new or increased recreation opportunities and facilities not provided for within this Plan.

Explanation and reasons

The Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 (section 32(3)) requires this Plan to be reviewed in full no later than 10 years after its approval, although there is provision for the Minister of Conservation (after consultation with Ngāti Whare and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board) to extend this period.

Within the term of the Plan, parts of it may become outdated or provide inadequate information. Ngāti Whare or the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board may request the Director-General to initiate a review of this Plan. In addition reviews and amendments may be initiated by the Director-General after consultation with Ngāti Whare and the Bay of

Plenty Conservation Board. Amendments and review processes are usually public processes, as set out in the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act (see sections 23–25). But exceptions are provided where an amendment does not materially affect the objectives or policies in the plan or public interest in the area concerned. Corrections to errors and other amendments that do not affect policy intent or the public interest (i.e. technical changes) may be made by the Department without reference to either the Board or Ngāti Whare.

The provisions in the Plan may need to be amended in the future to respond to changing or possible escalation of adverse effects of activities undertaken within the Park.



Papakupu Glossary

Falls on the Waterfall Loop Track.

Definitions shown in black italic text are contained in the Conservation General Policy 2005 and are not replicated here.

Activity

Includes a trade, business, or occupation (Conservation Act 1987, section 2).

Aircraft

Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air otherwise than by the reactions of the air against the surface of the earth (Civil Aviation Act 1990).

This includes, but is not limited to the following types of aircraft: powered and non-powered; recreational and commercial; fixed-wing and rotary-wing; manned and remotely piloted aircraft systems; and any other aircraft that may become regulated by Civil Aviation Rules from time to time.

Aircraft, non-powered

Any machine not driven by a powered device that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air, otherwise than by the reactions of the air against the surface of the earth. This is an inclusive definition that includes non-powered gliders, non-powered hang gliders, parachutes, balloons and any other non-powered aircraft that may become regulated by Civil Aviation Rules from time to time.

Aircraft, remotely piloted

An unmanned aircraft that is piloted from a remote station and:

- a) includes a radio-controlled model aircraft, but
- b) does not include a control line model aircraft or a free flight model aircraft:

Or as regulated by Civil Aviation Rules from time to time.

Animal

Archaeological site

Means, subject to section 42(3) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014,—

- a) any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that—

- (i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where the wreck occurred before 1900; and
 - (ii) provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand; and
- b) includes a site for which a declaration is made under section 43(1)

(Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, section 6).

At risk (species)

Taxa that do not meet the criteria for any of the 'Threatened' species categories, but are declining (though buffered by a large total population size and/or a slow decline rate), biologically scarce, recovering from a previously threatened status, or survive only in relictual populations (NZ Threat Classification System Manual 2008, page 22).

Authorisation

Authorised

Approved in a statutory process.

Backcountry destination

Destination that provides for more challenging adventures for visitors, including popular walks and tramps, within the body of large scale natural settings.

Biodiversity

Biosecurity

Building

Commercial hunting

Hunting undertaken by professional hunters for their livelihood and intended to maximise the take or kill of animals. It does not include guided recreational hunting, transportation of recreational hunters, or other means of assistance for recreational hunting for which a consideration is paid (General Policy for National Parks 2005).

Community

Any individual or group (whether statutory or non-statutory, formal or informal, commercial or non-commercial) having an interest in a particular conservation issue.

Concession

Concessionaire

A person granted a concession by the Minister of Conservation for a lease, licence, permit or easement.

Conservation

Conservation board

Conservation legislation

A term that applies collectively to the statutes administered by the Department, including the Conservation Act 1987 (and the legislation listed at Schedule 1 of that Act), the Reserves Act 1977, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971 and the National Parks Act 1980.

Conservation management

Means any activity that is carried out by the Minister or the Director-General (and their contractors and authorised agents) in the exercise of his or her functions, duties, or powers under the Conservation legislation.

Conservation management plan
Conservation management strategy
Consultation

Crown

Means Her Majesty the Queen in right of New Zealand and includes, where appropriate, the Ministers and Departments of the Crown that are involved in, or bound by the terms of the Deed of Settlement to participate in, any respect of the redress under the Deed of Settlement (Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord).

Cultural

Societal values with an emphasis on New Zealand/European history and Māori tikanga that are handed down through the generations (General Policy for National Parks 2005).

Cultural materials

Includes flora materials, aquatic plants, fungi, ferns, fern allies, algae, mosses, gymnosperms, angiosperms and materials derived from animals (including fish and birds) for which the Department is responsible in relation to the Accord Area and which are important to Ngāti Whare in maintaining and expressing its cultural values and practices (Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord, section 19).

Cultural purposes

Includes the harvesting of flora and fauna for customary, educational and research purposes by Ngāti Whare (Ngāti Whare Conservation Accord, section 19).

Cumulative effect
Customary use

Data Deficient

Where population information about a taxon is so lacking that an assessment of threat ranking is not possible.

Department, the

The Department of Conservation.

Destination management

A programme aimed at increasing the number of people enjoying public conservation lands and waters. It focuses the Department on five key areas for success: understanding what people want; delivering quality experiences; optimising resources; working with others; and improving marketing and promotion. Destinations are a geographic area and/or group of facilities that are the focus of a single typical visitor trip, and are categorised into Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure, and Backcountry destinations. Destination Management is the coordinated management of all the elements that make up a destination including its values, attractions, people, infrastructure, access and how the destination is marketed.

Director-General

The Director-General of Conservation.

Disability assist dog

A dog certified by one of the following organisations as being a dog trained to assist (or as being a dog in training to assist) a person with a disability:

- a) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand;
- b) Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust;
- c) New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust;
- d) Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind;
- e) Assistance Dogs New Zealand;
- f) Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust;
- g) an organisation specified in an Order in Council made under section 78D

(Dog Control Act 1996, section 2).

Ecosystem

Ecosystem management unit

An ecosystem unit identified through the Department's natural heritage prioritising processes as being one of the most effective places to work to ensure that a nationally representative range of ecosystems is conserved to a healthy functioning state.

Ecosystem services

Effect

Electric power-assisted pedal cycle (e-bike)

A pedal cycle to which is attached one or more auxiliary electric propulsion motors having a combined maximum power output not exceeding 300 watts.

Emergency (for an aircraft)

A situation where a concession is not required in accordance with section 17ZF of the Conservation Act 1987 only as a result of: a mechanical or structural or operational defect in the aircraft or its equipment; or



weather conditions or other causes not under the control of the pilot in command.

Encampment

Eradicate

Facilities

Facilities erected on public conservation lands and waters by the Department or others that enable people to enjoy a range of recreational opportunities including (but not limited to): visitor and information centres, camping areas, tracks and walkways, bridges, backcountry huts, roads, car-parking areas, toilets, picnic areas, signs, interpretation panels, and viewing platforms (based on Conservation General Policy 2005).

Fish

Includes all species of finfish and shellfish, at any stage of their life history, whether living or dead (Fisheries Act 1996).

Fish and Game Council

Fishery

Freshwater fish

Game animal (for the purposes of the Game Animal Council Act 2013 only – see also

Wild Animal

- a) means—
 - I. any deer;
 - II. any pig that is living in a wild state and is not being herded or handled as a domestic animal or kept within an effective fence or enclosure for farming purposes; and
- b) includes the whole or any part of the carcass of the animal

(based on Game Animal Council Act 2013, section 4).

Game bird

The wildlife declared to be game specified in the First Schedule to the Wildlife Act 1953. As at the date of the adoption of this CMP, all game species are birds, viz: black swan (*Cygnus atratus*), chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) kuruwheangi/Australasian shoveler (*Anas rhynchotis*), pārerera/grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*), mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), pūtangitangi/paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*), grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), red-legged partridge (*Alectoris rufa rufa*), peihana/pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), pūkeko (*Poryphio poryphio melanotus*), Bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*), brown quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*), and koera/Californian quail (*Callipepla californica*).

Gateway destination

A destination that helps to introduce New Zealanders to the outdoors and allows them to learn about conservation. These destinations may provide for a

diverse range of activities and include many traditional camping and tramping destinations.

Habitat

Historic and cultural heritage

Historic place

Historic resource

Hover

An aircraft flight at a constant height and position over a surface.

Icon destination

A high-profile, popular destination that underpins national and international tourism, and provides memorable visitor experiences in New Zealand.

Indigenous species

Integrated management, integrated conservation management

Interpretation

Conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of natural, historical or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media in a way that stimulates interest, increased understanding and support for conservation.

Intrinsic value

Kainga

Home, address, residence, village (Te Aka Online Māori Dictionary).

Kaitiaki

Kaitiakitanga

Kotahitanga

Unity, togetherness, solidarity, collective action (Te Aka Online Māori Dictionary).

Livestock

Any ass, cattle or other browsing animal (not being a deer or goat or a marine mammal, fish or shellfish), horse, mule, sheep, or swine, of whatever age or sex and whether or not neutered; and includes any animal, of whatever age or sex and whether or not neutered, of a class declared to be livestock for the purposes of this Act by the Governor-General by Order in Council (Conservation Act 1987, section 2).

Local Treasure destination

Locally important vehicle-accessible location that provides recreation opportunities for, and grows connections with, nearby communities.

Mana

Manaakitanga

Hospitality, kindness, generosity, support – the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others (Te Aka Online Māori Dictionary).

Mātauranga Māori

Mauri



Milestones

Specific actions that are measurable steps towards achieving an objective or outcome statement.

Mining

Motor vehicle (includes motorised vehicle)

Means

- a) a vehicle drawn or propelled by mechanical power; and
- b) includes a trailer; but
- c) does not include:
 - I. A vehicle running on rails; or
 - II. Repealed;
 - III. A trailer (other than a trailer designed solely for the carriage of goods) that is designed and used exclusively as part of the armament of the New Zealand Defence Force; or
 - IV. A trailer running on 1 wheel and designed exclusively as a speed measuring device or for testing the wear of vehicle tyres; or
 - V. A vehicle designed for amusement purposes and used exclusively within a place of recreation, amusement, or entertainment to which the public does not have access with motor vehicles; or
 - VI. A pedestrian-controlled machine; or
 - VII. A vehicle that the Agency has declared under section 168A is not a motor vehicle; or
 - VIII. A mobility device

(Land Transport Act 1998: section 2).

Note 1: Any motor vehicle (which includes trail and quad bikes) taken onto public conservation lands and waters must be registered and/or licensed where it is required to be registered and/or licensed under the Land Transport Act 1998

Note 2: For the purposes of this Plan, a motor vehicle does not include any electric power-assisted pedal cycle.

Mountain bike

A colloquial term for non-motorised or non-powered bicycle that can be used off formed roads.

Natural

Natural character

Natural resources

Natural state

Ngahere

Bush, forest (Te Aka Online Māori Dictionary).

Non-powered aircraft see Aircraft, non-powered

A colloquial term for a non-motorised or non-powered bicycle that can be used off formed roads.

Outcome

Park infrastructure

General infrastructure located on the Park to support environmental management of and access to Park.

Includes:

- entry gates
- track marking bollards
- traffic management infrastructure such as bollards and chains
- non-boundary post and rail fences
- farm fencing or similar fencing
- foot bridges and/or boardwalks
- culverts
- subsoil drainage
- minor storm water management devices e.g. rain gardens
- roads, tracks and car parks.

*Participation**Partnership*

Pātaka kai

Pantry, food storage (Te Aka Online Māori Dictionary).

*Personal mobility device**Pest*

Pou rāhui

Rāhui post – a post marking a temporary prohibition (Te Aka Online Māori Dictionary).

*Preservation**Private accommodation**Protected areas**Protection**Public conservation lands and waters*

Regulations (for conservation parks)

A regulation made by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, under section 48 of the Conservation Act 1987.

*Restoration**Road*

Roar period

The primary recreational deer hunting period, from 20 March to April 30 (inclusive).

Rohe

Rongoa

Natural remedy, traditional treatment, medicine.

*Site**Species*

Structure

Any building, equipment, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land; and includes any raft (Resource Management Act 1991, section 2).

Tangata whenua

Taonga

Threat status

New Zealand species ranked under the NZ Threat Classification System 2008 as either Extinct, Data Deficient, Threatened, At Risk, Non-resident Native, Not Threatened or Introduced and Naturalised.

Threatened (species)

Includes all species categorised as Threatened (Nationally Critical, Nationally Endangered or Nationally Vulnerable) and At Risk (Declining, Recovering, Relict or Nationally Uncommon) under the New Zealand Threat Classification System 2008.

Tikanga

Utilities

Vehicle

A contrivance equipped with wheels, tracks, or revolving runners on which it moves or is moved. Includes a hovercraft, a skateboard, in-line skates, and roller skates; but does not include:

- I. A perambulator or pushchair:
- II. A shopping or sporting trundler not propelled by mechanical power:
- III. A wheelbarrow or hand-trolley:
- IV. A pedestrian-controlled lawnmower:
- V. A pedestrian-controlled agricultural machine not propelled by mechanical power:
- VI. An article of furniture:
- VII. A wheelchair not propelled by mechanical power:
- VIII. Any other contrivance specified by the rules not to be a vehicle for the purposes of this definition:
- IX. Any rail vehicle.

(based on Land Transport Act 1998, section 2).

Visitor

For the purpose of this Plan, visitors are people using areas and facilities managed by the Department. They include adults and children from both New Zealand and overseas, and they may either arrange their own visit or use the services of a concessionaire.

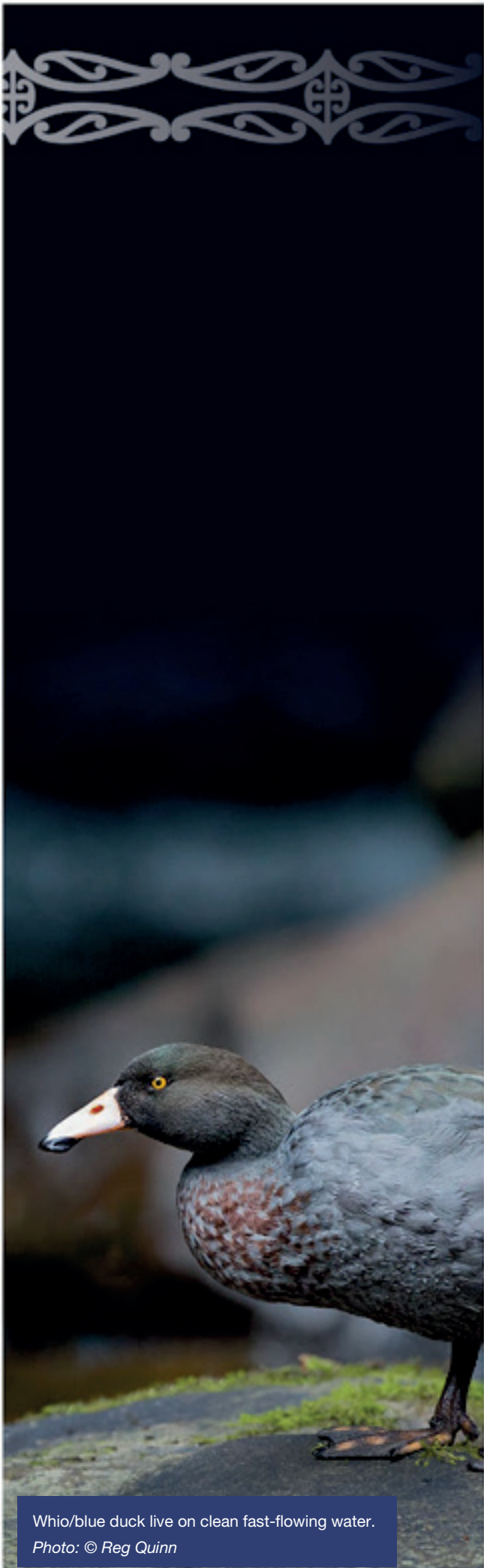
Wāhi tapu

Wetlands

Whanau

Wild animal (see also Game Animal)

Wildlife



Tāpiritanga Appendices

Whio/blue duck live on clean fast-flowing water.

Photo: © Reg Quinn

Appendix 1

Relationship principles

NGĀTI WHARE DEED OF SETTLEMENT: SCHEDULE

3. RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES

3.1. Ngāti Whare, the Minister and the Director-General agree that the following principles will guide their relationship, the implementation of this Accord and the exercise of their respective roles and functions under this Accord:

- (a) a spirit of co-operation and good faith;
- (b) early engagement from all levels within the Department, including the Minister and the Director-General on issues that affect the interests of Ngāti Whare;
- (c) commitment to the highest level of good faith engagement as indicated in this Accord and consistent with the principles of co-management as expressed in the settlement;
- (d) operating a 'no surprises' approach;
- (e) acknowledgement that the relationship is evolving, not prescribed;
- (f) respect for the independence of the parties and their individual mandates, roles and responsibilities within the Accord Area;
- (g) ensuring the relationship is consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles;
- (h) commitment to establishing and maintaining a positive, cooperative and enduring relationship;
- (i) commitment to the conservation ethic of the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources (including indigenous biodiversity) for the purpose of:
 - (i) maintaining their intrinsic values (including historical, cultural and spiritual values);
 - (ii) maintaining their responsible use (including cultural use);
 - (iii) providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public; and
 - (iv) safeguarding the interests of future generations; and

NGĀTI WHARE DEED OF SETTLEMENT: SCHEDULE

- (j) commitment to the principle of conservation as reflected in:
 - (i) the obligations and duties under conservation legislation of for the Minister and the Director-General; and
 - (ii) the tikanga of mana, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga and the exercise of mana whakahaere for Ngāti Whare.

Appendix 2

Summary of Ngāti Whare Settlement



Deed of

Deed of Settlement
between the Crown and
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare

Settlement

General Background

Ngāti Whare are a central North Island iwi whose rohe (territory) is based around Te Whaiti, Minginui and the Whirinaki Conservation Park. The area in which Ngāti Whare claim interests for Treaty settlement purposes covers approximately 192,000 hectares. Ngāti Whare have 3,400 registered members.

The historical grievances of Ngāti Whare relate primarily to the Crown's actions during the 1860s wars, restrictions on land use and land alienation, the Urewera District Native Reserves Act 1896, Crown corporatisation, cessation of indigenous forest logging and the return of Minginui without providing Ngāti Whare with sufficient resources.

An account of the historical background agreed between the Crown and Ngāti Whare is included in the Deed of Settlement, along with acknowledgments of Crown breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and a Crown Apology for those breaches.

The Crown recognised the mandate of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare (Te Rūnanga) to negotiate a settlement on behalf of Ngāti Whare to settle their historical Treaty claims on 18 November 2003. The Crown signed Terms of Negotiation with Te Rūnanga on 7 May 2004. On 25 June 2008 Ngāti Whare signed the Central North Island Forests Iwi Collective Deed of Settlement, which records the agreement of the Central North Island Forests Iwi Collective and the Crown to settle the historical CNI Forests Land claims.

On 19 June 2009, the Crown and Ngāti Whare signed an Agreement in Principle and a Deed of Settlement based on this agreement was initialled on 22 October 2009. The Deed of Settlement was then ratified by the members of Ngāti Whare and signed on 8 December 2009.

The Deed of Settlement will be implemented following the passage of settlement legislation.

Te Rūnanga is led by James Carlson (Chair). The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Hon Christopher Finlayson, represented the Crown in high-level negotiations with Ngāti Whare.

Summary of the Historical Background to the Claims by Ngāti Whare

Ngāti Whare did not sign the Treaty of Waitangi. In the two decades after 1840 the Crown did not establish a relationship with Ngāti Whare from which Ngāti Whare felt a meaningful duty of allegiance to the Crown could be derived. Ngāti Whare did not sell any land at this time. In 1864 Ngāti Whare fought at the battle of Orakau, helping their whanaunga resist the Crown's invasion of the Waikato.

From 1868, war was brought to Te Urewera as the Crown sought to apprehend Te Kooti. Ngāti Whare chose to support Te Kooti, seeing him as a prophet and identifying with the injustice of his situation.

In pursuit of Te Kooti, a Crown force made a surprise attack on the Ngāti Whare pā, Te Harema, in May 1869. Te Kooti was not there nor were most of the Ngāti Whare fighting force. Five or six Ngāti Whare men were killed. Some were shot as they resisted the attackers, while others were killed as they retreated from the pā "hindered with their women and children". Some of the men shot were elderly. According to Ngāti Whare oral tradition, women were raped in the attack and as a consequence some committed suicide. As many as 50 women and children were taken prisoner. Te Harema pā was destroyed along with all other kainga, cultivations and provisions in the valley.

Between April and May 1870 the remainder of Ngāti Whare voluntarily surrendered to the Crown. They joined the prisoners taken at Te Harema and were placed under the control of Crown allies at Te Pātere. Ngāti Whare returned home between 1872 and 1874.

In the late 1870s the Native Land Court began to investigate title to lands in which Ngāti Whare had interests. Ngāti Whare maintained opposition to the Court and did not actively participate in hearings or contest title investigations. This non-participation resulted in Ngāti Whare interests not being fully recognised. Land sales, often to the Crown, followed the hearings. The alienation of these lands left Ngāti Whare eager to retain ownership of their remaining lands.

Parliament enacted the Urewera District Native Reserve Act 1896 to give effect to agreements made between the Crown and Ngāti Whare and other Urewera Māori. The 1896 Act provided for an alternative to a Native Land Court determination of ownership of customary lands in a 656,000 acre reserve that included the remaining lands of Ngāti Whare. Decisions for the use of land would be made collectively and according to Māori custom. Ngāti Whare believed this system would protect their lands from sale, particularly the timber-rich Te Whaiti series blocks.

The Crown subsequently amended the 1896 Act and undermined the system of self-government it provided. In May 1915 the Crown decided to purchase the Te Whaiti block knowing that purchasing individual shares was illegal under the 1896 Act. The Crown's decision to purchase prevented Ngāti Whare from entering into timber leases with private parties or otherwise using their land. Ngāti Whare also disagreed with the Crown's valuation of the land and timber for the purchase. By 1923 Crown purchasing had left Ngāti Whare virtually landless.

From the late 1940s the Crown, through the New Zealand Forest Service, built and ran Minginui Village. This had a positive impact on the social and health conditions of Ngāti Whare.

In 1984 the Whirinaki Conservation Park was established and, shortly thereafter, the Crown stopped felling indigenous timber. Combined with the restructuring of the New Zealand Forest Service in 1986, this resulted in high unemployment rates for Minginui Village, a significant decline in services and an increase in poverty. Such problems were compounded by the return of Minginui Village to Ngāti Whare without adequate resources or support in 1989.

Settlement

Summary of the Ngāti Whare Settlement

Overview

The Ngāti Whare Settlement is the final settlement of all Ngāti Whare's historical claims resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992 and includes:

- An agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgements, which form the basis for a Crown Apology to Ngāti Whare;
- Cultural redress; and
- Financial and commercial redress already provided through the Central North Island Forests Land Collective Settlement 2008.

The benefits of the settlement will be available to all members of Ngāti Whare, wherever they live.

Crown Apology

The Crown apologises to Ngāti Whare for past dealings that breached the Crown's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. These include:

- the Crown's actions during and after its 1869 attack on Te Harema pā which had a destructive effect on the mana, social structure and well-being of Ngāti Whare;
- the Crown's failure to consider the impact of Ngāti Whare's non-participation in the Native Land Court processes on them and failure to act to remedy the prejudicial effects on Ngāti Whare;
- the Crown's implementations of the Urewera District Native Reserve Act 1896 which undermined the Crown's relationship with Ngāti Whare; and
- the Crown's failure to ensure that Ngāti Whare retained sufficient land for their present and future needs.

Cultural Redress

1. This redress provides for recognition of the traditional, historical, cultural and spiritual association of Ngāti Whare with places and sites owned by the Crown within their area of interest. This allows Ngāti Whare and the Crown to protect and enhance the conservation values associated with these sites. In summary, the package includes:

1(A) WHIRINAKI CONSERVATION PARK RELATED REDRESS

- The provision of a joint governance role for Ngāti Whare and the East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservation Board through the development and joint approval of a Conservation Management Plan for the Whirinaki Conservation Park
- The designation of two sites of special significance as Specially Protected Areas under the Conservation Act 1987 and, with the agreement of Ngāti Whare and the Minister of Conservation, the ability to place restrictions on activities within those sites. The two sites are:
 - Tūwatawata, a principal maunga (mountain) of Ngāti Whare, and
 - Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon, the home of a Ngāti Whare kaitiaki (guardian)
- The initiation by the Director General of Conservation of a process to assign a new name for the Whirinaki Conservation Park; and
- The inclusion of five conservation areas within the Whirinaki Conservation Park.

1(B) PROJECT WHIRINAKI REGENERATION TRUST

- The gifting of up to 640 hectares (the "Regeneration Land") within an area of land subject to the Whirinaki Crown forest license and the establishment of a joint Crown/Ngāti Whare Trust to manage a regeneration project and receive the Regeneration Land and Crown funds of \$1 million.

The regeneration project aims to regenerate back to indigenous forest an area of land that is subject to the Whirinaki Crown forest license which also bisects the Whirinaki Conservation Park. The regeneration project seeks to restore and enhance both the Whirinaki Conservation Park and the mana of Ngāti Whare as kaitiaki (guardians) of the Whirinaki Conservation Park while also providing benefits and enjoyment for all New Zealanders.

1(C) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

- The vesting of seven sites:
 - Pārerama;
 - Waimurupōhā;
 - Tauranga-o-Reti;
 - Te Teko;
 - the Mangamate Falls Site;
 - Mangamate Kāinga; and
 - Te Takanga a Wharepakau.

These sites total approximately 36.2 hectares and are of cultural and spiritual significance to Ngāti Whare. These sites will be vested in Ngāti Whare subject to, where appropriate, protection of conservation values, ongoing public access and reserve status.

- The return of five wāhi tapu sites currently administered by Land Information New Zealand:
 - Te Pukemohoa Kāinga;
 - Manutahi pā;
 - Otutakahaio;
 - Wēkama Kāinga; and
 - Otahi Kāinga.

These sites total 10,2952 hectares.

- The joint vesting of four sites in Ngāti Whare and Ngāti Manawa:
 - Te Tāpiri pā;
 - Okārea pā;
 - Te Rake pā; and
 - Hinamōki pā.

These sites total approximately 13 hectares and are of cultural and spiritual significance to both Ngāti Whare and Ngāti Manawa.

1(D) OTHER SITE SPECIFIC REDRESS

PLACE NAMES

The Whirinaki Conservation Park will be assigned a new name by the Director General of Conservation. Two other place names will also be altered to correct misspellings:

- Te Taupiri to Te Tāpiri; and
- Arahaki Lagoon to Arohaki Lagoon.

These changes will be made in consultation with the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa and in accordance with the functions and practices of that Board.

Q&A

Questions and Answers

1. What is the total cost to the Crown?

The total cost to the Crown of the redress outlined in the Deed of Settlement includes the Crown contribution to the Regeneration Trust, funding to assist in the restoration of a historically significant building and the cost of the cultural redress properties to be returned to Ngāti Whāre.

The total value of the settlement is \$15.7 million, comprising:

- redress already provided in the 2008 CNI Settlement; and
- \$1.976 million in cultural redress giftings.

2. Is there any private land involved?

No. No private properties are included in the settlement, including those with section 27B memorials under the State-Owned Enterprise Act. Once this and any other settlements in the region are completed, the memorials will be removed from all titles.

3. Are the public's rights affected?

Generally, no. However, one site totalling approximately 5 hectares will be returned to Ngāti Whāre without provision for continued public access. Public access to all other sites and the Whirinaki Conservation Park will be unaffected.

4. What are Statutory Acknowledgments and Deeds of Recognition?

Statutory Acknowledgments acknowledge areas or sites with which claimant groups have a special relationship, and will be recognised in any proceedings under the Resource Management Act and the Historic Places Act. This provision aims to avoid past problems with land development for roading and other purposes when areas of significance to Māori, such as burial grounds, were simply cleared or excavated without either permission or consultation. Statutory Acknowledgments are not a property right, nor are they exclusive.

Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the administering Crown body (the Minister of Conservation) and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with a site as stated in a Statutory Acknowledgment and specify the nature of their input into the management of the site.

5. Are any place names changed?

Three place name alterations are specified in the Deed of Settlement, including two alterations to correct misspelling and the assignment by the Director-General of Conservation of a new name for the Whirinaki Conservation Park.

6. Are any National Parks affected by the Settlement?

A Statutory Acknowledgment and a Deed of Recognition will be provided to Ngāti Whāre over an area of Te Urewera National Park in the eastern boundary of their Area of Interest.

However, this redress is non-exclusive and does not limit other iwi from receiving similar redress, nor does it affect public access to Te Urewera National Park.

7. How does this relate to the Central North Island Forests settlement?

The CNI Settlement provides for Ngāti Whāre to receive a share of the accumulated Crown forest licence rentals associated with the Licensed Crown forest lands and future rental income from that land. This Deed of Settlement includes the comprehensive settlement for their remaining claims. Their quantum includes approximately 4.8% of the value of the land in CNI Settlement.

8. Does the settlement create any special rights for Ngāti Whāre?

The settlement enables Ngāti Whāre to have a high-level governance role within the Whirinaki Conservation Park whilst maintaining Crown ownership. This recognises the significance of the Whirinaki Conservation Park to both Ngāti Whāre and the country through the provision of a joint governance role for Ngāti Whāre and the East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservation Board in the development and joint approval of a Conservation Management Plan for the Whirinaki Conservation Park.

Provisions in relation to conservation, such as Statutory Acknowledgments, give practical effect to existing provisions of both the Resource Management Act and the Conservation Act that provide for Māori participation in conservation and planning matters.

9. Does Ngāti Whāre have the right to come back and make further claims about the behaviour of the Crown in the 19th and 20th centuries?

No. Both parties agree that the Deed of Settlement is fair in the circumstances and will be a final settlement for all the historical (pre-1992) claims of Ngāti Whāre. The settlement legislation, once passed, will prevent Ngāti Whāre from re-litigating the claim before the Tribunal or the courts.

The settlement package will still allow Ngāti Whāre or members of Ngāti Whāre to pursue claims against the Crown for acts or omissions after 21 September 1992, including claims based on the continued existence of aboriginal title or customary rights. The Crown also retains the right to dispute such claims or the existence of such title rights.

10. Who benefits from the settlement?

All members of Ngāti Whāre, wherever they live.

Appendix 3

Specially protected areas

Part 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for additional protection or preservation requirements to be conferred on conservation areas. These areas are referred to as ‘specially protected areas’. The additional protection provided to Te Whāiti is not technically derived from Part 4. For the purposes of this Plan Te Whāiti is included in this appendix since the effect of the Te Urewera Act 2014 is to confer additional protection, albeit through a different mechanism.

Area	Purpose
Oriuwaka Ecological Area	Protecting and preserving a cross-section of modified and unmodified forest and shrubland types at low altitudes. <i>NZ Gazette</i> , 1983, p. 2029.
Otupaka Ecological Area	Protection, maintenance and management of trees and other plants, and for the protection of the natural environment and native wildlife, and for scientific purposes, especially ecological purposes. <i>NZ Gazette</i> , 1985, p. 180.
Tauranga Basin Ecological Area	Protecting and preserving the tōtara-mataī-kahikatea community of the Tauranga Basin. <i>NZ Gazette</i> , 1983, p. 2029.
Te Kohu Ecological Area	Protecting and preserving the regionally unique sequence of podocarp and beech forest types and their ecotones which are part of the podocarp-dominated Whirinaki ecosystem. <i>NZ Gazette</i> , 1983, p. 2029.
Te Whāiti	Section 127 of Te Urewera Act 2014 provided for this area to become part of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park and to be managed under the Conservation Act 1987. However, Te Whāiti continues to be protected as if it were part of a national park. The status of Te Whāiti cannot be revoked except by Act of Parliament.
Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon Specially Protected Area	Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon is deemed to be a specially protected area under section 18 of the Conservation Act 1987 for the purposes of— recognising and protecting the cultural, historical and spiritual significance of Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon to the iwi of Ngāti Whare; and

	<p>enabling the management of Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon as part of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park in accordance with conservation values of the iwi of Ngāti Whare; and</p> <p>acknowledging the contribution of the iwi of Ngāti Whare to the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park and more generally to conservation and all New Zealand in forging the return of that part of the Whirinaki River comprising Te Whāiti-Nui-a-Toi Canyon, including its banks, bed, riparian lands, and waters, as part of the settlement of the historical claims.</p> <p>Section 37, Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012</p>
Tūwatawata Ecological Area	<p>Protection, maintenance, and management of trees and other plants, and for the protection of the natural environment and native wildlife, and for scientific purposes, especially ecological purposes.</p> <p><i>NZ Gazette</i>, 1984, p. 18</p>
Tūwatawata Specially Protected Area	<p>Tūwatawata is deemed to be a specially protected area under section 18 of the Conservation Act 1987 for the purposes of—</p> <p>recognising and protecting the cultural, historical and spiritual significance of Tūwatawata to the iwi of Ngāti Whare; and</p> <p>enabling the management of Tūwatawata as part of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park in accordance with conservation values of the iwi of Ngāti Whare; and</p> <p>acknowledging the contribution of the iwi of Ngāti Whare to the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park and more generally to conservation and all New Zealand in forgoing the return of Tūwatawata as part of the settlement of the historical claims.</p> <p>Section 38, Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012</p>
Whirinaki Forest Sanctuary	<p>Set aside to preserve for scientific purposes an intact example of the original (podocarp-hardwood) forest of Whirinaki Basin.</p> <p><i>NZ Gazette</i>, 1971, p. 793</p>



Appendix 4

Agencies with statutory responsibilities

Department of Conservation

The Department is responsible for preparing this Plan in consultation with Ngāti Whare, the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and others.

The Department is also responsible for implementing this Plan and the day-to-day management of the Park. More specifically, its responsibilities include:

- biodiversity management
- management of historic heritage and values, including their identification and protection
- recreation management, including the provision of public information and provision and maintenance of assets and facilities
- processing applications to authorise activities that are not allowed as of right and monitoring the effects of these activities
- pest plant control
- pest and wild animal control
- fire control, and
- administration of all legislative requirements that pertain to the Department.

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's functions include:

- developing this Plan in consultation with the Department and Ngāti Whare
- jointly approving this Plan in conjunction with Ngāti Whare
- monitoring the implementation of this Plan the preparation, review (but not approval) and monitoring of the conservation management strategy for the area.

New Zealand Conservation Authority

The general functions of the Authority are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987. In relation to this Plan, the Authority's functions include commenting on the draft Plan on matters relating to the national public interest and reviewing and reporting to the Minister or the Director-General on the Department's administration of the Plan.

Local government

Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils

These councils have statutory responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 for the control of certain activities within the Park. This includes any discharge onto land and into water, the damming and diversion of water, activities in the beds of rivers including gravel extraction and land disturbance. The regional councils are also responsible for preparing regional pest management strategies which identify the pest management roles and responsibilities of the councils as well as landowners and occupiers.

Taupo, Whakatane and Wairoa District Councils

These district councils administer districts which include parts of the Park. Within the Park the councils manage roading, the effects of land use and development, and activities on the surface of waterways.

Rangitāiki River Forum

As set out in the Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012 and the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012, the purpose of the Forum is the protection and enhancement of the environmental, cultural, and spiritual health and wellbeing of the Rangitāiki River and its resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Forum is a joint

committee of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Whakatane District Council. It comprises representatives of the iwi of the Rangitāiki River: presently Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare, Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Tūwharetoa (BOP). There is provision for other iwi with recognised interests in the Rangitāiki catchment to join the Forum in the future.

The Forum has prepared a document – Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki: Pathways of the Rangitāiki (February 2015) to assist decision-makers and others with an interest in the Rangitāiki River and its catchment to identify issues and advance collective strategies and actions in relation to the present and future health of the Rangitāiki River.

Ministry for Primary Industries

The Ministry for Primary Industries manages commercial eeling under the Fisheries Act 1996, the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 and other associated regulations.

Eastern Fish and Game Council

Regional Fish and Game Councils are public entities with statutory responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987 and the Wildlife Act 1953 for the management of sports fish and game birds in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters. The Eastern Fish and Game Council exercises these responsibilities with respect to the Park in accordance with the operative Eastern Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan (2014). This strategic plan has effect for 10 years unless reviewed prior.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is an autonomous Crown entity with a leading national role in promoting the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. Its principle functions include: the listing of historic places/sites, advocating for the protection of sites, issuing of archaeological authorities to destroy or modify archaeological sites, advocacy for the

conservation of historic resources, education, and management of historic properties. Although the Park has no listed historic places/sites, there are a number of identified archaeological sites.

New Zealand Rural Fire Authority

The Pūmācēlands Rural Fire Authority is legally responsible for fire management within the Park. In addition to responding to rural fire incidents, activities undertaken by the Authority includes training, increasing public awareness of fire risk, and assisting communities to recover from the effects of fire. The Authority is governed by a Board comprised of representatives from forestry companies and rural fire stakeholders, including the Department.

Game Animal Council

The Game Animal Council is a statutory body established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013. Key functions of the Council include advising and making recommendations to the Minister of Conservation on hunting issues, providing information and education to the sector, promoting safety initiatives, conducting game animal research, and undertaking management functions for designated herds of special interest. At the time of writing this Plan there were no herds of special interest within the Park.

OSPRI New Zealand

OSPRI New Zealand's primary role is to manage the implementation of the National Pest Management Plan for bovine tuberculosis (TB) control, with the aim of eradicating the disease from New Zealand. The Department works closely with OSPRI to coordinate any aerial TB control operations within the Park, which specifically target predators such as possums and mustelids.



Appendix 5

Threatened and at risk indigenous flora and fauna

Several thousand indigenous species are present in the Park. This Appendix lists a selection of these, i.e. vascular plants, vertebrate animals and other fauna of note that are currently classified as Threatened or

At Risk in accordance with the NZ Threat Classification System Manual 2008 and taxa status lists 2008 to 2011. Its contents may be amended or reviewed during the life of this Plan.

Table A5.1. Fauna (birds).

Threatened Species		
Threat status*	Common name	Scientific name
Nationally Critical	Grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Nationally Endangered		
Nationally Vulnerable	North Island brown kiwi	<i>Apteryx mantelli</i>
	Whio, blue duck	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>
	North Island kākā	<i>Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis</i>
At risk species		
Threat status	Common name	Scientific name
Declining	North Island rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris granti</i>
Recovering	North Island kōkako	<i>Callaeas wilsoni</i>
Relict		
Naturally Uncommon		

Table A5.2. Fauna (vertebrates).

Threatened Species		
Threat status*	Common name	Scientific name
Nationally Critical		
Nationally Endangered		
Nationally Vulnerable	Pekapeka/North Island long-tailed bat	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i> "North Island"
	New Zealand falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i> "Bush"
At risk species		
Threat status	Common name	Scientific name
Declining	Pekapeka/Central lesser short-tailed bat	<i>Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia</i>
	Auckland green gecko	<i>Naultinus elegans</i>
	Wellington green gecko	<i>Naultinus punctatus</i>
	Ornate skink	<i>Oligosoma ornatum</i>
Recovering		
Relict		
Naturally Uncommon		

Table A5.3. Fauna (invertebrates).

Threatened Species		
Threat status*	Common name	Scientific name
Nationally Critical	Kākā head louse	<i>Forficuloeus meinertzhageni</i>
Nationally Endangered		
Nationally Vulnerable	Bird louse (North Island brown kiwi)	<i>Apterygon mirum</i>
	Bird louse (kōkako)	<i>Brucelis</i> sp.
	Kōkako head louse	<i>Heteromenopon (Keamenopon) kea</i>
	Bird louse (kākā, kea and kākāpō) Kōkako head louse	<i>Philopterus novaeseelandiae</i>
At risk species		
Threat status	Common name	Scientific name
Declining		
Recovering		
Relict	Forest ringlet butterfly	<i>Dodonidia helmsii</i>
Naturally Uncommon	Bird louse (kākā and kea)	<i>Neopsittaconirmus kea</i>

Table A5.4. Flora (vascular plants).

Threatened Species		
Threat status*	Common name	Scientific name
Nationally Critical	Stalked adder's tongue	<i>Ophioglossum petiolatum</i>
	Small-flowered creeping hypericum	<i>Hypericum minutiflorum</i>
Nationally Endangered	Sneeze weed	<i>Centipeda minima</i>
Nationally Vulnerable	Wetland sedge	<i>Isolepis fluitans</i>
	Pua o te renga/woodrose	<i>Dactylanthus taylorii</i>
	Water brome	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>
	Wetland sedge	<i>Isolepis fluitans</i>
	Turner's kohuhu	<i>Pittosporum turneri</i>
	Orchid	<i>Spiranthes novae-zealandiae</i>
At risk species		
Threat status	Common name	Scientific name
Declining	Divaricating shrub	<i>Melicytus flexuosus</i>
	Red mistletoe	<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i>
	White mistletoe; tupeia; piritia	<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>
	Scarlet mistletoe	<i>Peraxilla colensoi</i>
	Yellow mistletoe	<i>Alepis flavida</i>
	North Island hypsela	<i>Lobelia carens</i>
	Swamp leek orchid	<i>Prasophyllum hectorii</i>
	Poroporo	<i>Solanum aviculare</i>
	Divaricating shrub	<i>Teucrium parvifolium</i>
Recovering		
Relict		
Naturally Uncommon	Parsley fern	<i>Botruchium australe</i>
	Spotted leaf orchid	<i>Drymoanthus flavus</i>
	Small-leaved pratia	<i>Lobelia perpusilla</i>
	Forget-me-not	<i>Moysotis venosa</i> Colenso
	Floating bog rush	<i>Schoenus fluitans</i>
	Fennel leaved pondweed	<i>Stuckenia (Potamogeton) pectinata</i>
	Filmy fern	<i>Trichomanes colensoi</i>

Table A5.5. Flora (Bryophyte)

Threatened Species		
Threat status*	Common name	Scientific name
Nationally Critical	Liverwort	<i>Cephaloziella invis</i>
	Liverwort	<i>Isopaches pumicicola</i>
Nationally Endangered		
Nationally Vulnerable		
At risk species		
Threat status	Common name	Scientific name
Declining		
Recovering		
Relict		
Naturally Uncommon	Liverwort	<i>Cephaloziella subspinosa</i>
	Liverwort	<i>Schistochila pellucida</i>
	Moss	<i>Zygodon rufescens</i>

* Threat status may change over time.

Prescriptions for visitor management zones

Setting	Rural	Front country	Backcountry— accessible and walk-in	Remote
General description	Remnant native forest, wetlands, marine reserves and historic or cultural sites in areas dominated by farmland and plantation forest	Where the majority of visitation occurs; typically small areas, scattered within or on the periphery of large relatively natural areas Includes the vicinity of main 'scenic' roads passing through public conservation lands and waters Often focused on a particular attraction	Large-scale natural settings generally accessed first through front country Includes popular walks and tramps set within large-scale natural settings and/or that access other settings	Catchments beyond the backcountry zone, forming the wild lands in the interior of large protected areas, with basic low-use tracks, marked routes and huts in some places
Accessibility	Typically via sealed and unsealed roads, and in some cases by boat Enabled for people of most ages or abilities	Readily accessible areas, usually via sealed roads, or scheduled ferry or air services Mostly by car, but also tour buses and guided parties to some sites Enabled for people of most ages and abilities	People will have travelled some distance to reach these settings 'Backcountry accessible' focuses on unsealed roads, four-wheel drive roads, navigable waters and aircraft landing sites Motorised ground access generally restricted to roads and designated routes 'Backcountry walk-in' is focused beyond the influence of motorised access	Typically 5 or more hours travel on foot from front country Access supported by air or water craft in some areas

Appendix 6 Prescriptions for visitor management zones

Setting	Rural	Front country	Backcountry— accessible and walk-in	Remote
Predominant visitor groups ²²	Short-stop travellers, day visitors and over-nighters	Predominantly short-stop travellers, day visitors and over-nighters Other visitors in transition to backcountry and remote settings	Predominantly ‘backcountry comfort seekers’ and ‘backcountry adventurers’	Backcountry adventurers and ‘remoteness seekers’
Predominant destination categories	Icon, Gateway and Local Treasure	Icon, Gateway and Local Treasure	Predominantly Icon, Gateway and Backcountry	Predominantly Backcountry
Facility setting	Short walks, campsites and picnic areas, for a range of ages and abilities High degree of control via direction and information signs, and barriers	Good-quality facilities, services and easy access Sometimes the origin for tramping tracks and routes, with signs and information to make this transition clear High degree of control via information and direction signs, and barriers	A range of facility standards, including any designated vehicle routes, and popular walks and tramping tracks Evidence of control limited to essential directional signs and barriers on Great Walks, and where there are significant hazards	Basic huts, bridges, low-use tracks and marked routes Evidence of control is limited to essential signs
Desired visitor experience and interactions	Varying from activities with large groups, time with small groups/families, some time away from other groups and, in some cases solitude		Generally some time away from other groups and, in some cases, solitude Occasional encounters with organised groups Generally accepting of occasional intrusion of noise	Reasonable expectation of isolation from sights, sounds and activities of other people Interaction with few other groups Considerable self-reliance on backcountry skills

²² Visitor groups relate to the Department’s Visitor Strategy 1996.

Appendix 6 Prescriptions for visitor management zones

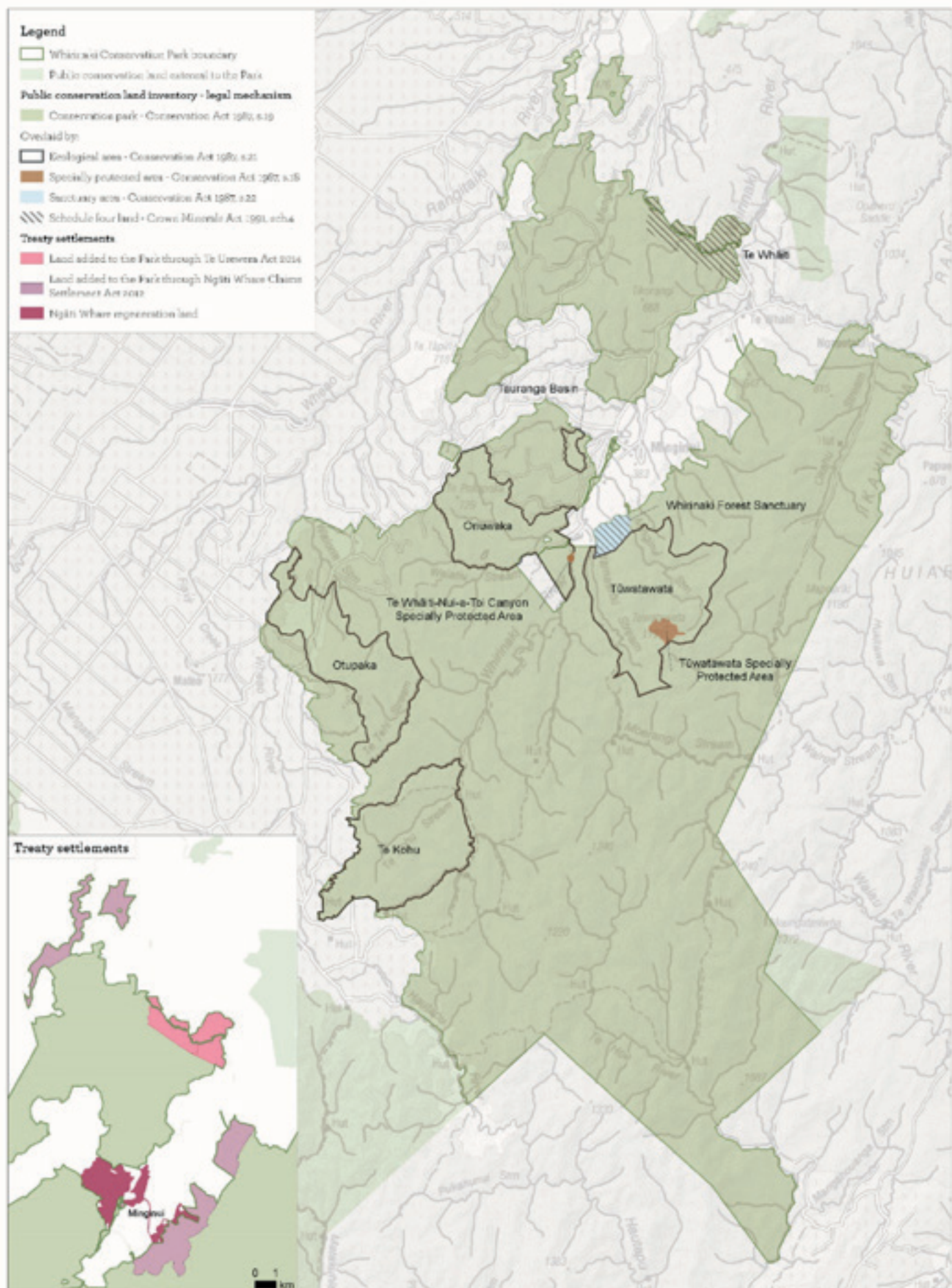
Setting	Rural	Front country	Backcountry— accessible and walk-in	Remote
Preferred maximum party size	50 Conforming concessions schedule—15	15 50 for periodic tour bus parties Conforming concessions schedule—15	15	8
Typical visitor interaction levels	20 or fewer people seen per hour	30 or fewer people seen per visit duration	15 or fewer other people seen per day for 'backcountry adventurer' tracks or routes 40 or fewer people seen per day for 'backcountry 'comfort seeker' tracks or routes	One other party seen per day
Concessions operations	Concessionaire activity may be permitted in all these visitor management zones, subject to conditions to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, including compliance with criteria within this table; the outcome, objectives and policies in the Plan apply Concessionaire client activities should not be advantaged or disadvantaged compared with those for non-concessionaire visitors, unless there is a reason specified in the Plan for adopting a different management approach			
Concessions effects management	Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects	Avoid or mitigate adverse effects	Avoid adverse effects	
Aircraft management	Aircraft access for visitor use purposes should not be approved other than in accordance with the outcome, objectives and policies in the Plan. Policies 26.1.1 and 26.1.2 specifically relate to aircraft use			



Moerangi mountain bike exit at the River Road car park. Photo: Greg Moorcroft



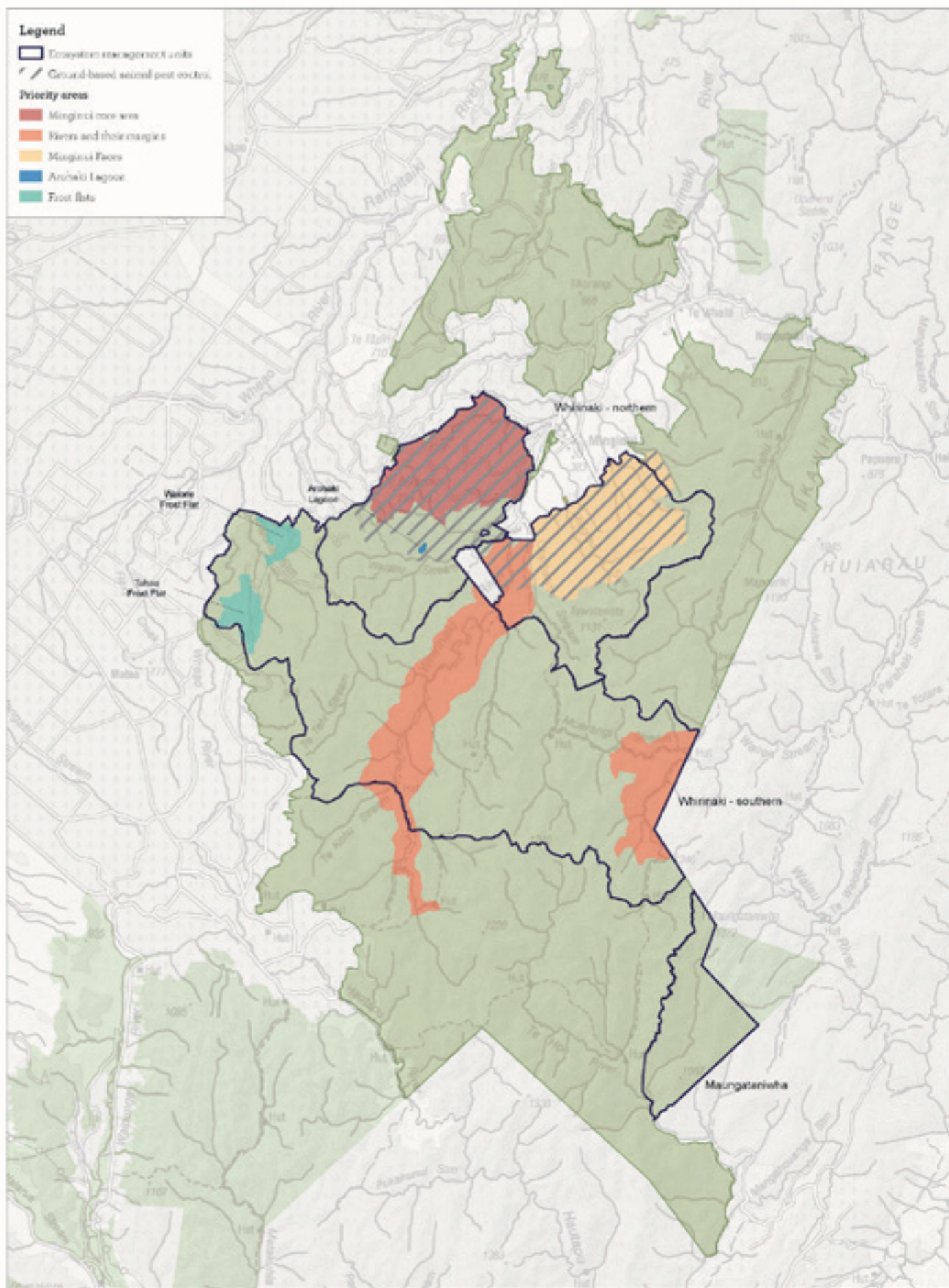
Maps



Map 1 Land inventory

Conservation Management Plan
Whitakeri Te Pua a Tāne Conservation Park



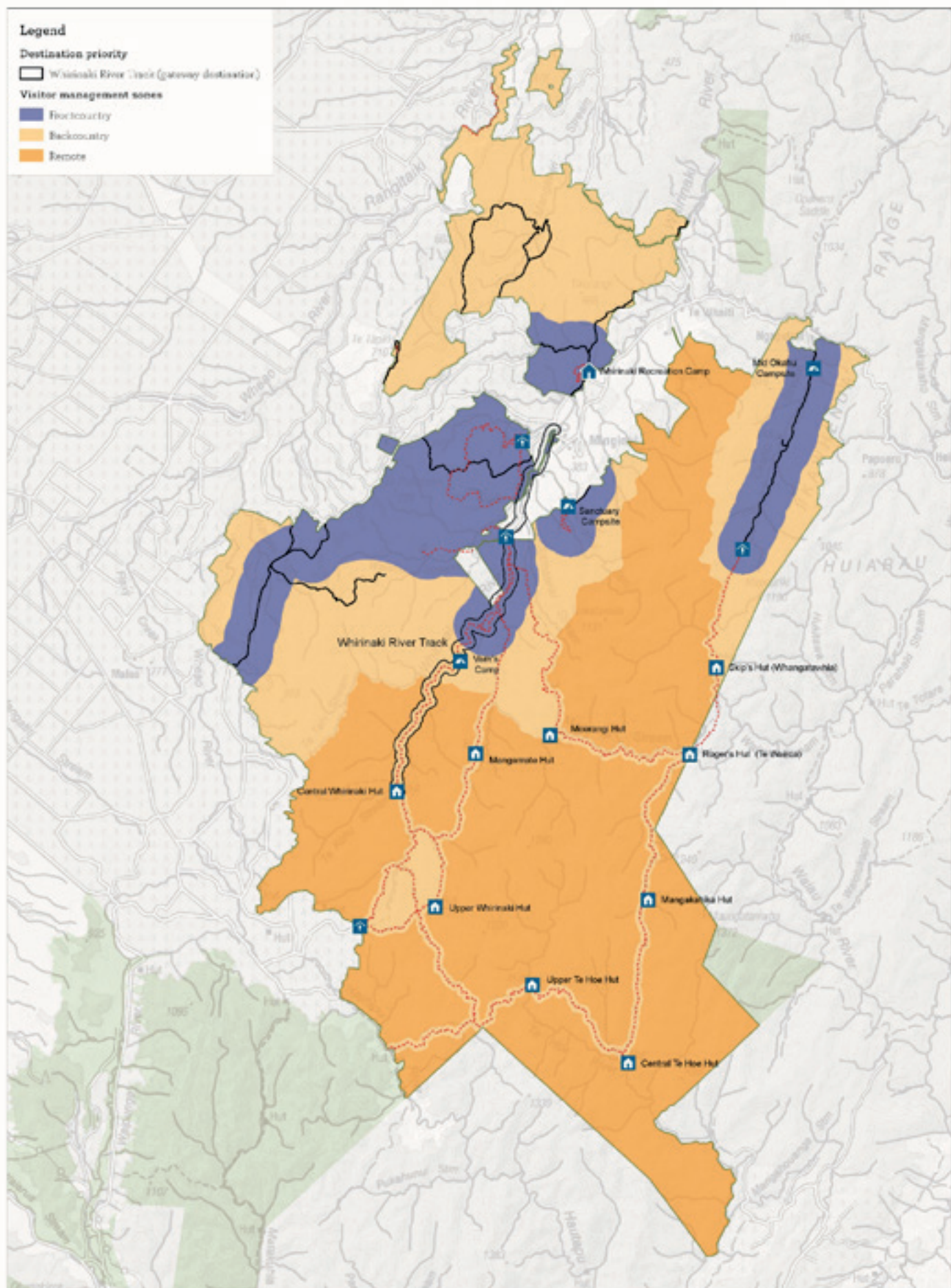


Map 2 Priority ecosystems and areas

Conservation Management Plan
Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 km

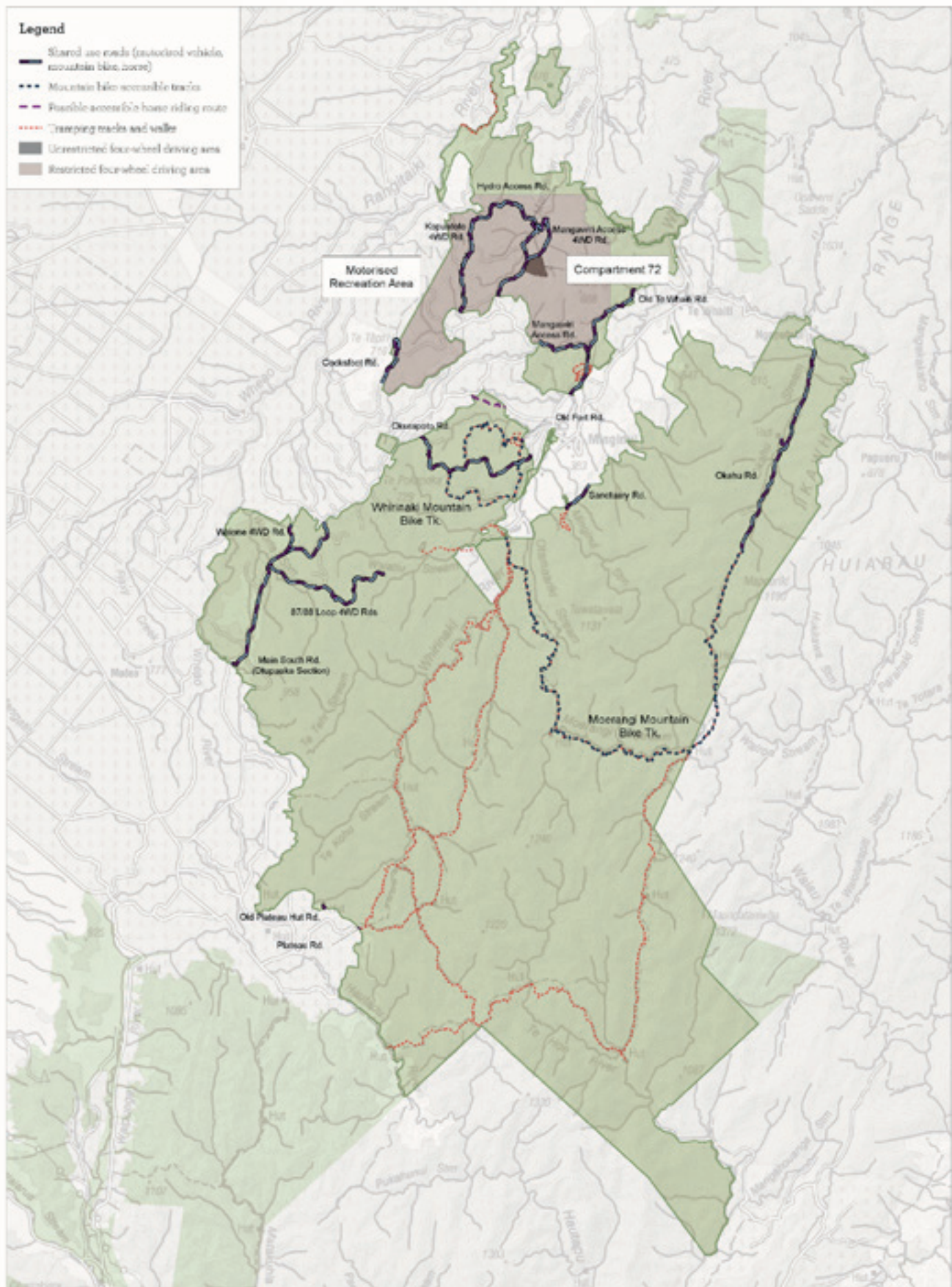




Map 4 Visitor management zones and destination management framework sites

Conservation Management Plan
Whirinaki Te Pua o Te Aro Conservation Park





Map 5 Mountain bike, motorised vehicle and horse access

Conservation Management Plan
Whirinaki Te Pua-e-Tāne Conservation Park



