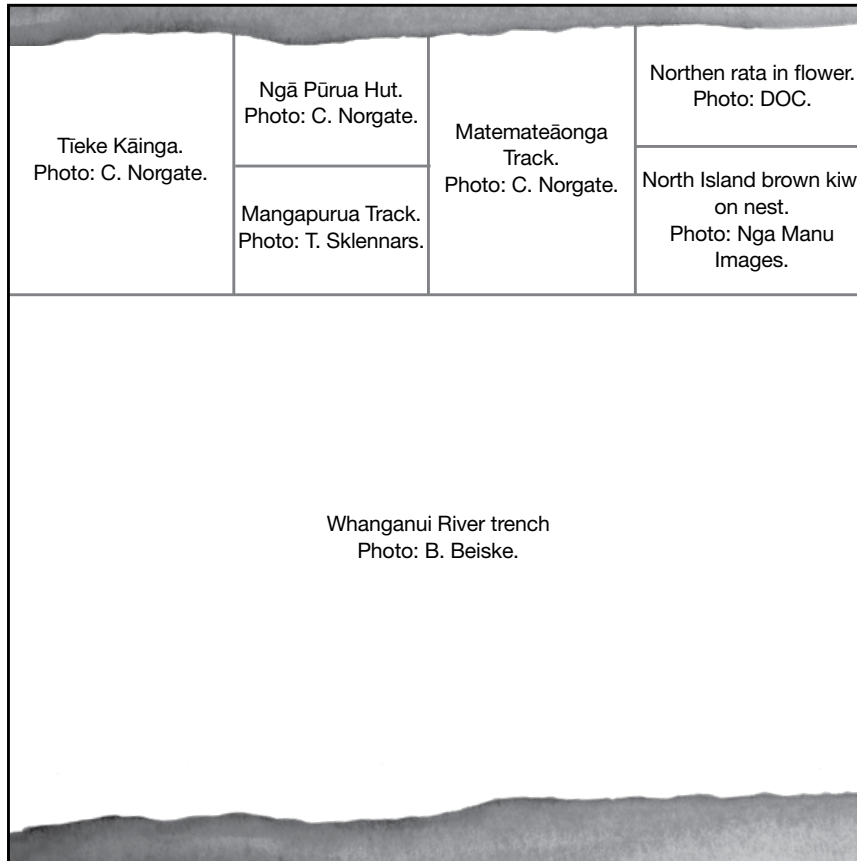


# Whanganui National Park Management Plan

2012 - 2022



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# Preface

## *Kupu whakataki*

This Management Plan for Whanganui National Park has been prepared in accordance with sections 46 and 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. This statutory document implements the Conservancy's Conservation Management Strategy and provides for the management of Whanganui National Park in accordance with the Act and General Policy for National Parks.

The Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy of the Department of Conservation has prepared this Management Plan in consultation with representatives from tāngata whenua, the public, the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and other interested groups and individuals.

The plan highlights key features of Whanganui National Park that make it an iconic place for New Zealand. These include:

- its cultural values as a landscape of pā, kāinga and urupā connected to the Whanganui River;
- its importance for indigenous biodiversity as a large area of lowland forest home to kiwi, whio (blue duck) and many other native species;
- its role in helping to provide ecosystem services that benefit the health of the Whanganui River;
- the historic importance of sites such as the failed settlements of the Mangapurua Valley; and
- its importance as a place for New Zealanders and overseas visitors to experience kayaking, mountain biking or tramping through a special part of New Zealand.

It is the Department's vision that the Whanganui National Park will be recognised for its unique history, and New Zealanders and visitors take pride in its natural, iconic cultural landscape and recreational values. The Park's forests and rivers provide the country's largest natural sanctuary for thriving populations of kiwi, whio (blue duck) and other previously threatened species.

It is the Department's goal that the Park becomes a flagship for successful collaborative conservation management in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Whanganui National Park also makes an important contribution to the regional economy through tourism, employment and contract opportunities.

The Plan is effective for up to 10 years from the date of approval, but a review may occur at any time due to increased knowledge or changes in circumstances, including changes in General Policy.

Achievement of the plan's long-term outcomes and objectives will be determined by the availability of resources and the level of community support. The plan does not establish a promised level of funding. Nonetheless, the stated objectives and outcomes are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding and support.

This Plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 9 August 2012.



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# Part I: Introduction

## *Whakamōhiotanga*



Fern. Photo: R. Henderson.



# 1 Overview

## *Hei whakamāramatanga*

The Whanganui National Park ('the Park') lies at the heart of a vast area of native lowland forest and includes a significant part of the Whanganui River catchment, although the main stem of the river and its tributaries are not included in the Park. The river and associated land have a unique combination of attributes including significant cultural, spiritual and recreational values.

The Park was established within a complex, living cultural landscape of pā, kāinga, urupā and other landscape elements connected to the Whanganui River and its main tributaries, which remain a vital part of the living culture of Whanganui Iwi. The Park landscape also tells the story of early contact between Māori and European settlers, the 'river boat era' of tourism and trade and the ultimately doomed attempts of the settlers to farm its rugged hills.

The extensive forests of the Park are at the heart of a vast area of intact native forest, the second largest on the North Island. They hold the largest remaining kiwi population on the North Island, along with significant populations of other rare and threatened native fauna and flora species. The rivers that flow into the Whanganui are also an internationally important stronghold for whio (blue duck *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*). The whole forest provides essential ecosystem services for the wider region. These services include helping to maintain water quality in the Whanganui and associated rivers, regulating flood events and erosion and storing large amounts of carbon.

The Park provides spiritual sustenance through its many sacred sites and naturalness, and recreational values based on its scenic landscapes and opportunities for their enjoyment. It generates economic value to local communities through tourism and local employment.

This unique combination of attributes makes the Park one of the nation's most special places, worthy of national park status.

The Park is administered by the Department of Conservation ('the Department') and comprises a main 'core' area, with smaller outliers to the north and south, covering a total area of 74,231 hectares (refer to Maps 1 and 3). In administering the Park the Department has a key relationship with tāngata whenua, although issues around the establishment and management of the Park remain unresolved for Whanganui Iwi.

Given that the Park is remote from major settlements and road corridors, the general awareness of the extent of the Park and its values is relatively low amongst most New Zealanders. In addition, much of the publicity about the Park since its inception has focussed on controversial issues. A central theme of this plan is to promote the Park's natural, cultural and historic values, and present it as one of the country's iconic cultural landscapes both to New Zealanders and international visitors.

**Note:** Some introductory sections are translated into te reo Māori, where possible reflecting Whanganui mita. The Māori text aims under each heading to capture the intent of the English version, rather than provide a word-for-word translation.

## 1.1 The management plan context

The purpose of a Management Plan is to provide for the management of the Park in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980, Conservation Management Strategies and the General Policy for National Parks. The plan will guide the work of the Department in the Park from 2012-2022.

As a guide for the next 10 years, the plan seeks to give clear directions for park management while remaining flexible enough to allow for changing circumstances within this time. The Park has been created to protect its valuable natural features in perpetuity. These features can be looked on as resources that are scarce and irreplaceable. As development proceeds elsewhere, they will become even more scarce and more valuable and will come under greater pressure.

The purpose of this plan is to provide for the management of these scarce resources so that their intrinsic values can be retained, while at the same time, allowing for public access. Underlying all decisions must be the need to preserve the Park as far as possible in its natural state.

Section 45(5) of the National Parks Act requires that a management plan be prepared for a national park within 2 years of the formation of that park. This is the second plan for the Park. The process for the preparation of a management plan is set out in section 47 of the Act, and the process followed for this plan is summarised as follows:

1. An initial notice is published asking for suggestions and comments (28 June 2003);
2. A draft management plan is prepared in consultation with the Conservation Board;
3. The draft management plan is released for public submission for at least 2 months (15 July 2006 until 29 September 2006);
4. Those wishing to be heard in support of their submissions appear before representatives of the Department and the Conservation Board (7 and 8 November 2006);
5. The draft plan is revised in light of submissions;
6. The Conservation Board considers the revised draft and the summary of submissions and may make further amendments (July 2007);
7. Further consultation with tāngata whenua (2007 – 2011);
8. When satisfied the Board recommends the revised draft to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval (18 November 2011);
9. The NZCA considers the amended draft and refers the draft to the Minister of Conservation for comment (13 June 2012); and
10. When satisfied, the NZCA approves the management plan (09 August 2012).

The Whanganui National Park was gazetted on 6 December 1986 and officially opened February 1987. The first management plan was approved in March 1989.



## 1.2 How to use this plan

### *Te whakamahi i tēnei kaupapa*

Policies are contained in broad categories that reflect the Park's different management areas. Every assessment of an activity undertaken either for management purposes or by a park user or concessionaire will be measured by an analysis against the long-term outcomes, objectives and policies throughout the plan.

Any introductory statements other than long-term outcomes provide the background to the objectives and policies.

Where legislation provides no discretion for decision-making, policies state that a particular action or actions 'will' be undertaken.

Where the term 'should' is used, it is anticipated that only in exceptional circumstances will a decision differ from that expressed in the policies.

While it is essential to acknowledge the discretionary nature of decision-making, this plan and its provisions are designed to give as much certainty as possible to management practice. If there are exceptional circumstances, the decision must be made by the conservator or another person higher in the delegation chain to the conservator. Policies specifically intended to allow flexibility in decision-making state that a particular action or actions 'may' be undertaken.

This plan remains the primary document against which decisions are made in relation to the Park but it cannot be used in isolation from other planning instruments that affect the Park. The National Parks Act 1980, the *General Policy for National Parks 2005*, national habitat and species policy statements and the *Wanganui Conservation Management Strategy* all influence decision-making processes. Funding decisions and priorities also need to take into account the Department's Statement of Intent and a range of strategic documents relating to biodiversity, recreation, community relations and advocacy.

**Note:** The Minister's decision-making powers are in most cases delegated to departmental employees. When that is the case, that employee acts as the Minister's delegate. The Director-General's decision-making powers are also delegated in most cases. A delegate may, if he or she thinks the decision calls for the exercise of any of the powers, functions or duties at a higher level because of the nature of the issues involved, refer that matter to a higher level of authority for consideration and/or decision. A delegation does not preclude the Minister or Director-General from making the decision if he or she wishes to.

## 1.3 New Zealand parks context

### *Ngā papa rēhia o Aotearoa*

The Park is part of a chain of protected areas stretching the length of New Zealand. It is an internationally significant and unique landscape in its own right. It is also a valuable link in the chain of habitats over the length of New Zealand, which provide for this country's indigenous biodiversity.

One of the 14 national parks shown on *Map 1: New Zealand National Parks*, Whanganui National Park provides a variety of visitor experiences for thousands of people each year.

Tāngata whenua have a unique relationship with the Park, derived from tikanga and embracing mana whenua and whakapapa. Management of the Park will recognise and support this relationship.

Map 1: New Zealand National Parks



## 1.4 Whanganui National Park

### 1.4.1 Vision

New Zealanders and visitors recognise, appreciate and care for the special values of the Whanganui National Park. They understand and embrace its unique history, and take pride in its international recognition as a living and iconic cultural landscape, which provides an unparalleled visitation experience.

The Park's forests and rivers provide the country's largest natural sanctuary for thriving populations of kiwi, whio (blue duck) and other previously threatened species.

Tāngata whenua values and tikanga are reflected in the way the Park is managed and presented. The Park is a flagship for successful collaborative conservation management in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

### 1.4.2 Long-term outcomes

The Department will seek to turn this vision for the Park into reality with its partners during the lifetime of this plan and beyond it. The following long-term outcomes will act as benchmarks for assessing progress, provide context for the individual objectives and policies in the remainder of the plan and overall guidance on day-to-day park management.

#### *The cultural landscape*

The special relationship between Whanganui Iwi and the Park and the association of both with the Whanganui River, is acknowledged through the management of the Park as a living cultural landscape.

The management of the Park is informed by, consistent with and reflects its unique cultural heritage.

The Department seeks to understand what the Whanganui Iwi aspiration for a 'Māori National Park' means as a concept. In doing so the Department seeks to identify common values that will inform and strengthen collaborative management.

#### *Natural values*

The landscape of the Park provides an enormous mainland sanctuary for the largest population of kiwi on the North Island and the most productive population of whio (blue duck) in New Zealand. The forest is restored and maintained through pest management across the whole park.

The mouri (essential life force) of the Whanganui River and the oranga (well-being) of its people are enhanced by the Park's healthy ecosystems.

By virtue of its scale and the quality of its indigenous forests the Park makes a major contribution to the well-being of the whole region by acting as a huge carbon sink, a natural flood and erosion control mechanism and a major contributor to water quality.

#### *Historic and archaeological sites and landscapes*

The historic fabric of the Park is recognised as being of national significance. Its stories and the physical signs in the landscape are well researched and represented in the range of significant sites that are protected and sensitively managed. Such sites represent:

- the continuous and ongoing connections between Whanganui Iwi and the lands and waters of the Park;
- the strong imagery and associations with the 'riverboat era'; and
- the ill-fated soldiers' settlements, including those associated with the Bridge to Nowhere and the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Valleys.

### ***Visitors' experiences***

Visitors to the Park understand, appreciate and respect the values of the places in the Park that they are visiting. Both visitors and those guiding them are aware of and respect appropriate tikanga as part of their experience of the Park.

The Park provides authentic and high quality experiences for visitors based on its unique characteristics. In particular:

- the Whanganui Journey provides a unique and enriching scenic and cultural experience through the heart of the Park, based on intimate contact with its timeless cultural and scenic landscape;
- the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track provides an iconic journey for trampers and mountain bikers through the setting of the failed soldiers' settlement along the original road line; and
- remote forested areas of the Park provide trampers and hunters with opportunities to explore and experience natural values, free from the sights and sounds of modern civilisation.

### **1.4.3 Strategic issues**

Strategic issues in the following paragraphs have been identified and have a key influence in determining the long-term outcomes sought for the Park and the objectives and policies that will guide its management.

#### ***Managing the Park collaboratively with Whanganui Iwi and tāngata whenua***

The Whanganui River, its tributaries and lands are fundamental to the identity and well-being of Whanganui Iwi. A key issue is to continue to build a collaborative relationship and inclusive style of management for the Park between the Department, Whanganui Iwi and tāngata whenua. Fundamental to this is the identification of common values and principles that can form the basis for collaborative management.

#### ***Recognition and management of the Park's cultural values and heritage***

There is an outstanding opportunity to improve recognition of the Park's iconic cultural landscape and historic heritage, whilst ensuring that cultural values and historic fabric are protected and respected.

#### ***Management of the Park's indigenous biodiversity***

A key issue is how best to manage the Park for both the taonga and threatened species that inhabit it, such as kiwi and whio (blue duck) and also for the services that healthy, extensive forests provide for New Zealanders, such as carbon storage, maintenance of water quality and flood alleviation.

#### ***Management to foster recreation***

The key issue is to determine the right mix of recreational opportunities across the Park and the facilities needed to support and interpret them including developing the Park's iconic recreation opportunities such as the Whanganui Journey, whilst managing visitor impacts within the context of the Park's outstanding cultural values, historic heritage, biodiversity and changing patterns of visitor use. This will require an adaptive approach to management as performance measurement indicates the effectiveness (or otherwise) of plan initiatives. The capacity to maintain sites, tracks and facilities, especially in increasingly extreme weather is a secondary key issue.

### ***Management as a tourist destination***

There is significant room to work with iwi, local communities, businesses and Regional and District Councils to develop the potential of the Park as a premier destination for New Zealanders, and overseas visitors who wish to experience a unique blend of cultural, biodiversity and heritage values in one of the country's relatively remote iconic places.

## **1.5 Legislative context**

### ***Ngā ture whaimana***

The Park must be managed in accordance with legal requirements, in particular the National Parks Act 1980 and Conservation Act 1987 and the obligations that flow from them.

#### **1.5.1 The National Parks Act 1980**

New Zealand's National Parks are established under the National Parks Act 1980 ('the Act').

Section 4 (1) the Act states that:

*“the provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest”.*

And in addition, under section 4(2):

- “(a) They shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state:*
- (b) Except where the [New Zealand Conservation] Authority otherwise determines, the native plants and animals of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved and the introduced plants and animals shall as far as possible be exterminated:*
- (c) Sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest shall as far as possible be preserved:*
- (d) Their value as soil, water and forest conservation areas shall be maintained:*
- (e) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the imposition of such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the native plants and animals or for the welfare in general of the parks, the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the parks, so that they may receive in full measure the inspiration, enjoyment, recreation, and other benefits that may be derived from mountains, forests, sounds, seacoasts, lakes, rivers, and other natural features.”*

Under section 43 of the Act, national parks are also to be administered and managed:

*“in such a manner as to secure to the public the fullest proper use and enjoyment of the parks consistent with the preservation of their natural and historic features and the protection and well-being of their native plants and animals.”*

Section 49 of the Act enables the Minister to grant concessions in respect of activities within the Park.

The Act further sets out specific requirements and restrictions on a range of activities in national parks and the functions of the Minister of Conservation (the Minister), the Department and the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board in the management of the Park. It also specifies the process required to prepare and review management plans for national parks, which should be done at least every 10 years. Final approval of a management plan rests with the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority).

National Park Management Plans are to provide for park management in accordance with the Act, the New Zealand Conservation Authority's General Policy on National Parks (referred to as 'General Policy' or GPNP throughout this plan) and the relevant Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy ('the CMS'). Reference is made to these documents in this plan, but for a full description of all policies applying to national parks, readers should consult them directly.

### 1.5.2 Treaty of Waitangi

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Guidance from case law (which is still evolving) is that this should occur to the extent that the provisions of section 4 are not inconsistent with the requirements of the National Parks Act (including the principles and purposes for management of national parks as noted in 1.5.1 above).

In addition to these general requirements, under section 30 (2) of the National Parks Act, specific provisions have been made for the Whanganui National Park. The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board:

*"..having jurisdiction in respect of the Whanganui National Park shall, in carrying out its functions,-*

- (a) have regard to the spiritual, historical and cultural significance of the Whanganui River to the Whanganui Iwi; and*
- (b) Seek and have regard to the advice of the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board on any matter that involves the spiritual, historical and cultural significance of the Park to the Whanganui Iwi."*

One member of the Board is to be appointed on the recommendation of the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board.

These statutory provisions acknowledge and give special recognition to the importance of involving the Whanganui Iwi and Whanganui River Māori Trust Board in the management of the Park. They also leave open the possibility for the Board and the Department to work with tāngata whenua in other ways as appropriate to the circumstances.

### 1.5.3 General Policy for National Parks

The General Policy for National Parks (1983) was prepared by the National Parks and Reserves Authority as a guide for the interpretation and exercise of discretions contained in the National Parks Act 1980 and is directed at achieving the broad objectives of that Act. From time to time the NZCA may approve additional statements of general policy or may review general policies.

The General Policy for National Parks (1983) was reviewed by the NZCA and a new General Policy for National Parks was approved in 2005. This management plan must be in accordance with the General Policy for National Parks.

General Policy (2005) requires that a management plan identifies the outcomes planned for places within the national park, consistent with the values of these places. Outcomes describe what a place will be like at the end of the life of this plan. Places are particular areas identified in this plan (e.g. The Whanganui (River) Journey at section 6.3) for the purposes of integrated management.

The General Policy (2005) enabled mountain biking to occur in national parks under certain conditions (refer to section 6.5 Matemateāonga Track and section 6.6 Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track).



#### 1.5.4 **The Conservation Act 1987**

This Act brought about the establishment of the Department of Conservation and directs the administration and management of all land and resources under the Department's control.

##### ***Conservation Management Strategy***

Under section 17 of the Conservation Act, each conservancy must prepare a 10 year CMS. This applies to all land administered by the Department in that conservancy. The Wanganui Conservancy CMS was approved in April 1997. In 2010 the Wanganui and Tongariro/Taupō Conservancies were formally merged and the preparation of a CMS to cover both regions is due to begin at the beginning of 2014.

The purpose of a CMS is:

*“to implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species, managed by the Department under the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, the National Parks Act 1980, the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990, Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 or the Conservation Act 1987, or any of them, and for recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes” (Conservation Act 1987, section 17D(1)).*

The CMS is an overarching document which sets the general direction for the management of all land administered by the Department, including this national park. This management plan comes under the CMS and must be in accordance with policies contained within the CMS that covers the Whanganui area. In turn the CMS must be in accordance with the General Policy (2005) for policies covering the Park.

#### 1.5.5 **The Conservation Amendment Act 1996**

This Act came into effect on 1 July 1996 and covers new provisions regarding concessions (leases, licences, permits and easements) on land administered by the Department. It requires applicants for concessions to identify all possible effects of their proposed activity and suggest ways in which adverse effects may be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Also refer to section 1.5.1 which refers to S49 of the National Parks Act 1980.

#### 1.5.6 **The Resource Management Act 1991**

The purpose of this Act is:

*“to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources by managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while–*

- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating, any adverse effects of activities on the environment.” (section 5, Resource Management Act 1991).”*

The Resource Management Act is implemented by local government through district and regional plans and statements prepared by councils. The activities of the Department are bound by the provisions of the Regional Policy Statement, District Plans and Regional Plans and the Department must apply for resource consents for activities as required under those Plans.

However, section 4 of the Act allows for a limited exemption for the Department where a land use activity is in accordance with a management plan or a CMS and where it does not have significant adverse effects outside the boundary of the Park. Section 74(2)(b)(i) of the Act states that:

*“a territorial authority shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts”.*

When preparing their plans and policies, councils therefore have to consider the conservation management strategies for Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy and when it is approved, this management plan. The relevant councils have been consulted during the preparation of this plan.

#### **1.5.7 Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board**

The functions of the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board are set out in section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 and in the National Parks and Reserves Acts. The boards focus on planning and strategic direction, rather than the day-to-day operation of the Department’s work.

A major responsibility for each board is overseeing management planning for its region. Conservation Management Plans and Strategies are prepared by the Board and Department in consultation with interested parties. Once a Conservation Management Plan or Strategy has been approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority, boards advise on their implementation.

Please refer to section 1.5.2 Treaty of Waitangi regarding the Board’s statutory relationship with the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board.

## 2 Relationships with tāngata whenua

### *Towards a partnership in Park Management*

This section of the plan identifies management objectives and policies that recognise the Department's relationship with tāngata whenua, and goes some way to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

### 2.1 Long-term outcome

Tangata whenua and the Department have a relationship based on collaboration, mutual good faith and respect, and work together to preserve the values of the national park.

### 2.2 Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi (the Treaty) is the basis of the relationship between the Crown and iwi. The Department is required by legislation to give effect to the Principles of the Treaty, which for the purpose of this management plan are taken to be as follows:

Kāwanatanga	The principle of government
Tino rangatiratanga	The principle of traditional iwi authority
Exclusive and undisturbed possession	The principle of exclusive and undisturbed possession
Ōritetanga	The principle of equality
Kaitiakitanga	The principle of guardianship
Whakawhanaungatanga	The principle of partnership
Tautiaki ngangahau	The principle of active protection
He here kia mōhio	The principle of informed decision-making
Whakatika i te mea hē	The principle of redress.

The principles of the Treaty and their application are evolving and need to be interpreted according to both local and national circumstances.



Tieke Kāinga. Photo: C. Norgate.

## 2.3 Significance of the Park to Whanganui Iwi

*Ngā tikanga me ngā kōrero o te wao nui a Tāne me tōna tūturutanga, mai i neherā ki te ao marama, ki te ao tūroa e hāngai ana ki te Papa Rēhia ki te Iwi o Whanganui nui tonu.*

For the purposes of this plan, tāngata whenua describes the iwi, hapū and whānau whose rohe includes the Whanganui Catchment (referred to in this plan collectively as Whanganui Iwi) and other iwi and hapū that have mana whenua status at least in part from land or waters within the Park. This includes those iwi of Taranaki whose rohe includes parts of the Park: Ngā Rauru Kiitahi and Ngāti Maru. The term ‘tāngata whenua’ in this plan applies to all of these iwi, hapū and whānau as appropriate to the situation.

The Park is unique in that it has historically been perhaps the most densely settled of New Zealand national parks. At the time the Park was gazetted it was being utilised in many ways by tāngata whenua and many sites of special significance were included in the Park. Through history and continuing into the future, the lands and waters of the Park are of immense political, cultural, spiritual and physical significance to Whanganui Iwi and to the other iwi whose rohe includes parts of the Park.

Although the main channel of the Whanganui River is not part of the Park, the Park and the river are intimately connected. This is of great significance when considering the management of the Park.

When Māori speak of the “Whanganui River” they may be referring to more than just the main river channel, but to the whole river system, the associated cliffs, hills, river flats, lakes, swamps and tributaries: everything that serves to show its character and form. It is rare that Māori will examine the component parts of a thing without first looking to the ahua, or the shape and appearance of the whole:

*“the mana, wairua, or mouri of the river should not be seen as separate from all the things that relate to the river; the tributaries, the land catchment area, or the silt once deposited on what is now dry land.” (Whanganui River Waitangi Tribunal Report 1999).*

Whanganui Iwi consider it is important therefore, when considering management of the Park, to recognise that all water falling as rain and flowing within the Whanganui catchment is part of the Awa (the Whanganui River). From the Whanganui Iwi perspective the land and the water and the natural processes that connect them cannot be separated, hence their interests in the Whanganui catchment as a whole. It is also recognised that the Awa is a life force for all iwi up and down the river and is not confined to those whose rohe includes land within the Park.

### 2.3.1 Significance through time

The relationship of Whanganui Iwi to the Whanganui River and to the ancestral lands of its catchment can be traced from time immemorial through whakapapa atua and whakapapa tupuna (divine and human genealogy). The significance of this relationship is of such importance that it is difficult to adequately express in words. The insight provided by sayings and quotations provides some context for the importance of the whenua in the Park to tāngata whenua. The ancient and binding relationship to river, lands and sea is perhaps best exemplified in the tribal axiom:

*I rere mai te Awa Nui  
Mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa  
Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au.*

The Great River flows  
From the Mountains to the Sea  
I am the River, and the River is me.

The natural elements alluded to in this proverb: the mountains, river, lands and sea; are departments of the *Atua* estate: *Ranginui* (the sky), and *Papatūānuku* (the earth), *Rūaumoko* (deity of geological features), *Tāne* (the deity of forest life and of man) and *Tangaroa* (the deity of sea and sea life).

In Whanganui lore these are the primary deities from whom the first humans descended. These ancient human ancestors of the Whanganui Iwi inhabited both spiritual and physical realms, frequently returning to the form their primordial ancestors took as birds, fish, trees, insects and all manner of animate and inanimate objects. They remain today as the *kaitiaki* (spiritual guardians) of the mountains, the waterways and forests, and are the mediums through which Whanganui Iwi interact with the natural environment to ensure the care, use, protection and conservation of water and of native flora and fauna.

### 2.3.2 Continuing significance and use

From the earliest times the Whanganui River and its tributaries have acted as an artery for Māori travelling to and from the central North Island and inhabiting its forests and fertile river terraces. Tracks and settlements were also established through what is now the Park, some of which continue to be in public use (e.g. the Matemateāonga Track) whilst others are known only to local *tāngata whenua*. *Kāinga* and *pā* sites, *urupā* and other *wāhi tapu* sites are distributed throughout the Park. Some, such as *Tieke Kāinga* continue as working *marae*.

The significance of *te Awa* to its people is expressed in the words of *kaumatua* *Matiu Mareikura*:

*“Our people go to the river to cleanse themselves, they go to the river to pray, and they go to the river to wash. They go to the river because everything leads back to the river. And the river, in return, suffices all our needs. Without the river we really would be nothing because of all the resources that it gives back to us, the history that has gone on in the past with our people who have lived on the banks and used it as a motorway, used it as the only thoroughfare. We have been taught to treasure the river for what it is, and what it has been given to us for. For we are its caretakers, we have been given the job of taking care of the river. And we care for it jealously, which is why we argue about the things that go on today.”* (Matiu Mareikura, quoted in Whanganui River Waitangi Tribunal Report 1999).

For Whanganui Iwi the river and the lands that surround it are therefore more than a place of spectacular natural beauty. The river, together with its catchment, is a doctor, a priest, a larder, a highway, a moat to protect the cliff-top *pā* and with its steep gorges, a shelter from winds and storms.

Each Whanganui River *hapū* (sub tribe) has a local *ripo*, a rapid or whirl pool within which *Kaitiaki* dwell. These *ripo* interconnect to form *Te Awa Tupua*, an unbroken river of spiritual connection from the mountain to the sea. For Māori, these unbroken relationships are essential for the care and protection of the Whanganui River, lands and resources as they link the peoples of the Whanganui River to a common conservation ethos expressed in tribal *wānanga* (teachings) and *tikanga* (custom and practice).

The following quotation from the 1999 Waitangi Tribunal Report clearly illustrates the interrelationship between human, natural and spiritual elements:

*“The Whanganui River has significance for the Māori people of this region beyond its use as a commercial resource or product. It holds the spiritual elements and tribal cultural bondage of our Māori people together, that can be described within the terms and practical observances of *ihi*, *tapu* and *mana*. For our people *ihi*, *tapu* and *mana* go together. Each one is dependant upon the others. An interference or breach of one affects the rest. Any interference with nature, including the river, breaks the law of *tapu*, breaks the *ihi* or sacred affinity of our Māori people with the river, and reduces the *mana* and soul of the river.”* (Hikaia Amohia, quoted in Whanganui River Waitangi Tribunal Report 1999).

The significance of the land and waters of the Park to tāngata whenua is such that the relationship between them has profound implications for the way the distinctive values of the Park are understood, presented and managed. The cultural values of the Park are inextricably linked to the Park's ecological, scenic and historic values, which are a part of its 'intrinsic worth' and 'distinctive quality'.

## 2.4 Issues relating to the Treaty and the Whanganui National Park

The Whanganui River and its scenic backdrop was also an early focus for the New Zealand tourism industry and for the movement of goods and people during the 'riverboat era' (the first four decades of the 1900's). These episodes in the history of the Park have also been a source of conflict, particularly where development pressures have led to degradation of, or reduced access to, the ancestral lands and resources of Whanganui Iwi.

It was within this context that the establishment of the Park was accompanied by considerable debate and dispute regarding the form that it should take. In particular the debate concerned the location of its boundaries and whether it should be established as a 'Māori National Park', with a management structure reflecting the close cultural and spiritual associations between Whanganui Iwi, the Whanganui River and the geographical area over which the Park was to be established. The outcome of that process was that the main stem and tributaries of the Whanganui River were excluded from the Park, and specific provisions were made for Whanganui Iwi in section 30 of the National Parks Act, as noted in section 1.5.2 above.

The establishment of the Park was, and remains, controversial for Whanganui Iwi. Issues raised by the iwi at the time the Park was created were in relation to park management and governance and remain relevant today. A key concern raised by the iwi at the time was an expressed desire to see the establishment of a Whanganui Māori National Park. Indeed these issues have been central to the Whanganui District Inquiry held through the Waitangi Tribunal.

The Waitangi Tribunal has conducted inquiries into possible breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi in the Whanganui Region. The inquiry into the Whanganui River was detailed in the 1999 report (WAI 167). Settlement of iwi claims in respect of the river has not yet occurred.

The Whanganui District Inquiry began hearing evidence in 2008 and concluded hearing evidence in 2009. It deals with potential breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi relating to land and cultural matters in the Whanganui Catchment. The history of the establishment of the Park and its management have been significant themes in the inquiry. The Department acknowledges these issues and notes the ongoing Treaty of Waitangi claims settlement process, which may impact on this plan.



The Pou whenua at Tieke Kāinga. Photo: C. Norgate.

This plan can only address management issues affecting the Park in a way that is consistent with the existing legislation. The legislation the Department administers mostly places responsibility for decision-making with the Minister or Director-General. There are some exceptions to this, including for reserves vested in other bodies under the Reserves Act and the ability to delegate outside of departmental staff under that Act.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DOC cannot bring about changes that would require new laws to be passed, such as on matters relating to ownership or formal powers to manage the Whanganui National Park. The plan can, however, address the ways in which the Crown, through the Department of Conservation, will give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.



*“DOC [the Department] is, however, committed to practical ways whereby tāngata whenua can be involved in the decision-making process. Thus DOC considers that building strong relationships with tāngata whenua is fundamental to understanding their interests and involving them in decision-making.”* (Doris Johnston, quoted in Whanganui River Waitangi Tribunal Report, dated 27 April 2009).

## **2.5 Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi *Ngā mahi tikanga pūmau ki te Tiriti o Waitangi***

The Department seeks to work collaboratively with the tāngata whenua to achieve the outcomes and objectives of this plan. The Department, along with the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, acknowledges Whanganui Iwi’s aspiration for a ‘Māori National Park’.

In order to strengthen the ability of the Department and tāngata whenua to work collaboratively, the Department is committed to understanding common values and principles for the Park. These common interests will provide a strong foundation for working together to ensure that the values are protected, the health of the Park is enhanced and that in turn the well-being of the Whanganui River is enhanced by activities in the Park.

The Department recognises that the Park’s distinctive combination of values and its association with the Whanganui River provides the opportunity to work in partnership with Whanganui Iwi to provide a unique visitor experience. This will bring benefits to conservation, local communities and the wider tourism industry, whilst helping to give practical effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and promoting widespread recognition of these values by New Zealanders and international visitors.

### **2.5.1 Māori National Park concept**

In seeking to understand the ‘Māori National Park’ concept, its full management implications would need to be understood jointly by tāngata whenua and the Department. However, it is possible that not all aspects of the concept may be able to be furthered within current legislation and policy.

Whanganui Iwi have a strong and increasing influence on the way the Park is managed. The Department and tāngata whenua have established the mechanisms necessary for this to occur at different levels of management in and around the Park. They are already working closely together on specific projects such as Kia Whārite, Mangapāpapa, Te Amo Taiao, the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail Ngā Ara Tūhono, whio (blue duck) recovery and Tīeke Kāinga.

The Department and Whanganui Iwi recognise the importance of their relationship and have developed a draft partnership agreement that forms the basis for a forum for engagement over park management matters. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tamahaki Incorporated Society establishes an effective working relationship between the two parties in relation to the area of land identified by Tamahaki in its Wai 555 Waitangi Tribunal claim. A second MoU between the Department and Te Whānau o Tīeke covers the relationship between these parties, ownership of assets and operations in the area of Tīeke Kāinga. A third MoU establishes an effective working relationship with Te Ahikaa o Tamakana in relation to the area identified by Tamakana in its Wai 954 claim to the Waitangi Tribunal. In the meantime, the Department is committed to continuing to strengthen engagement with tāngata whenua as the foundation of a collaborative approach to management.

A small area in the southwest of the Park is within the rohe of Ngā Rauru Kīitahi. The Ngā Rauru Kīitahi Claims Settlement Act 2005 provided for the Minister of Conservation to issue a protocol regarding interaction between the Department and Ngā Rauru Kīitahi. A summary of the protocol is attached as Appendix 2.

It will also be important to ensure that the wider community is consulted on matters that may affect their interests and that the management of the Park continues to be undertaken for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, and is consistent with the legislation. These matters are discussed specifically in sections 1 and 3, but are also provided for in the objectives and policies throughout the plan.

### 2.5.2 Objectives

1. To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
2. To recognise and sustain the role of tāngata whenua as Kaitiaki o ngā taonga of the Park.
3. For tāngata whenua and the Department to work in a spirit of partnership and collaborative management to promote the well-being of the Park to achieve the outcomes and objectives for the Park identified in this management plan, including recognition of the Park as an iconic cultural landscape.
4. To fully participate in the implementation of any future Treaty of Waitangi Settlement that affects the Park.
5. To identify common values and principles that can inform the management of the Park.

### 2.5.3 Policies

- a. The Department will develop a joint forum with Whanganui Iwi to consider strategic and operational issues relating to the management of the Park.
- b. The Department will seek to ensure that it has a proper understanding of the Park's cultural values and will demonstrate sensitivity to those values in the management of the Park.
- c. The Department will seek to work collaboratively with tāngata whenua to promote the importance of the Park's cultural values to visitors and the wider community, including reflecting these values in descriptions of the Park.
- d. The Department will honour and give effect to existing MoU's and protocols, and will seek to develop new agreements with tāngata whenua where these may assist in progressing relationships and partnerships in park management.

### 2.5.4 Explanation

These objectives and policies are designed to go some way towards achieving the long-term outcomes sought for the Park. Objectives and policies aimed at ensuring tāngata whenua involvement in specific aspects of park management are also incorporated into the rest of the plan. These set out requirements for the Department to inform or consult with tāngata whenua on particular matters, but also provide for more active participation in management, including:

- co-operation in promoting public appreciation and understanding of culturally important values and sites in the Park;
- co-operation in establishing and managing areas for threatened indigenous species (section 4.2);
- customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species (section 4.8);
- policy on disclosure of information about sensitive sites (section 5); and
- protection and active management of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga sites (section 5.2.1).

## 3 Working with the community *Ngā mahi hononga ki ngā iwi whānui*

### 3.1 Long-term outcome

Co-operative relationships between the Department, tāngata whenua and the wider community enhance the preservation of the natural and historic heritage of the Park, and recognise its contribution to the mana of its tāngata whenua.

The Department is responsible for managing Park on behalf of the people of New Zealand. The conservation task is large and dependent on the support and understanding of all New Zealanders. The Department's interactions with people through conservation work helps build this support and understanding and extends the capacity for conservation in the Park.



Checking stoat traps with Orautoha School. Photo: C. Norgate.

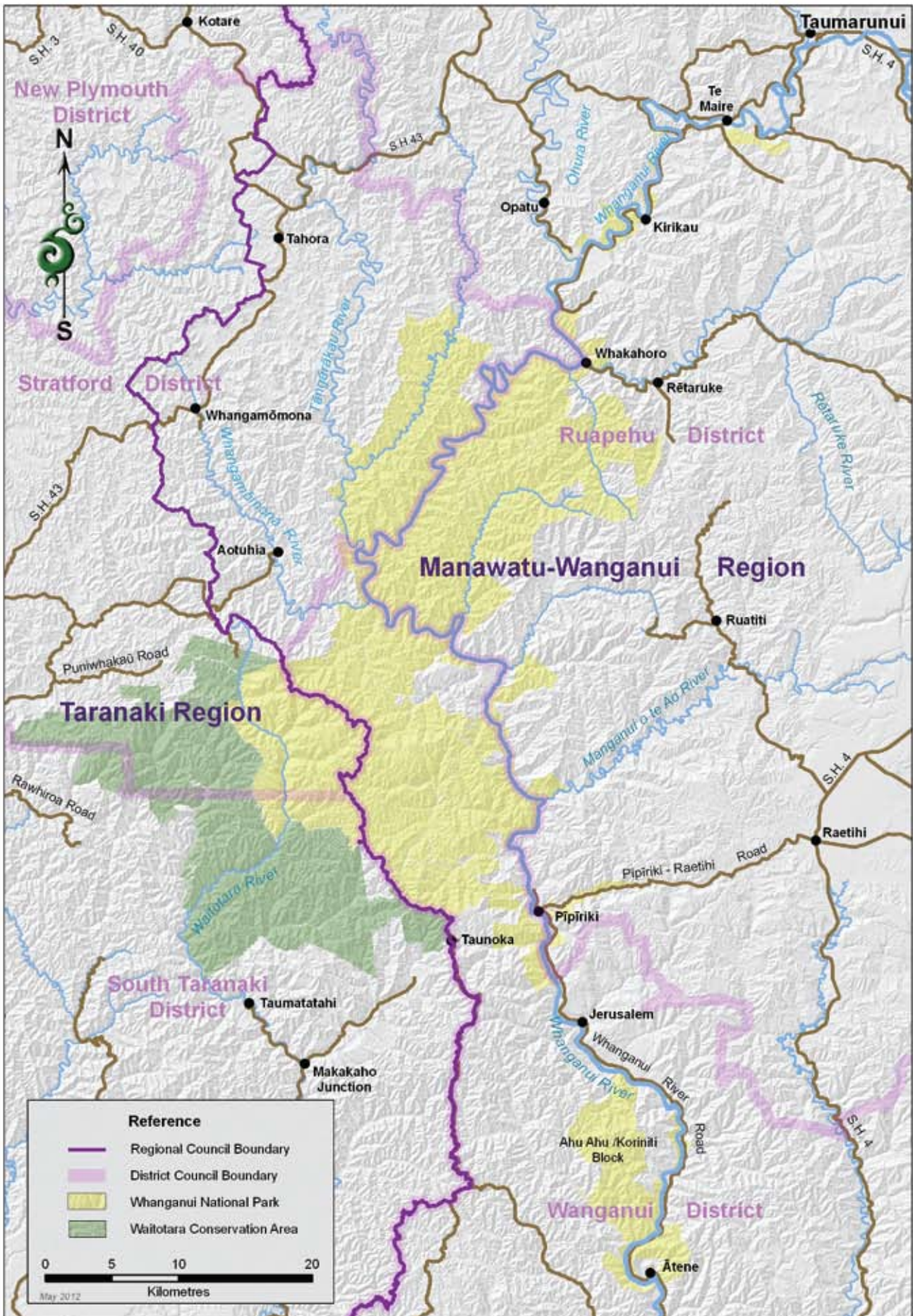
### 3.2 Key Issues

#### 3.2.1 Key stakeholders

In addition to tāngata whenua (whose Treaty relationship is outlined in section 2), many individuals and agencies have an interest in the management of the Park. The main organisations, groups, and individuals with the greatest interest are described in the following paragraphs.



Map 2: Administrative boundaries





### ***Statutory agencies***

A number of statutory agencies have a role in management of the Park, or engage in activities that may impact upon it.

The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board is appointed to provide input on behalf of the community on matters relevant to the Department. As noted in the introduction, the Board performs an important statutory role in the preparation and implementation of this plan.

Other relevant organisations include Regional and District Councils, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Fire Service, Ministry of Transport (Civil Aviation Authority), Transit New Zealand, the Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils and New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Administrative boundaries are shown on Map 2.

### ***Community groups, charitable organisations or individuals***

Community groups, charitable organisations and individuals who are interested in the Park generally include: conservation organisations, such as the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and Central North Island Blue Duck Trust; local historical societies; recreation user groups such as tramping and hunting clubs; tourism development groups; and those with a general interest in the well-being of the Park, in particular the Friends of the Whanganui River and volunteers.

Individuals with a specific interest includes individual visitors, volunteers, and the general public as well as private landowners adjoining the Park, concessionaires who operate commercial activities within the Park and other tourism operators, such as accommodation providers and jet boat operators.

People also volunteer their time, skills and resources to undertake a variety of practical roles in the Park, ranging from hut warden duties to restoration tasks and fundraising. As well as the direct conservation benefits of such activities, these are very effective ways for people to gain a greater understanding of national park management.

The Department engages with communities on Park matters at all levels, from national policy matters down to local site-specific operations.

### ***Schools and other educational institutions***



Volunteers at Mangapurua.

Reaching young people with a conservation message is a vital part of the Department's work and to this end the Department provides teaching resources and opportunities for 'hands-on' projects, some of which are linked to the Park. Conversely, research work and specialist advice from universities and research institutions helps to improve the Department's understanding of particular park values. The Park also provides distinctive opportunities for addressing research questions relevant to the wider New Zealand interest.

### 3.2.2 Opportunities for public input

Opportunities for public input are provided through a range of statutory processes: for example, certain concession applications; animal pest control operations; and the preparation of plans such as this one.

However, community interest in the Park and its management tends to be much wider than the formal opportunities provided by statute. It is therefore important that relationships are fostered that have mutually beneficial outcomes. The way these relationships work will vary according to time, place and purpose. It can include informing, consulting or involving communities in the Department's work, or supporting them in theirs. Specific opportunities and processes are mentioned in this plan and others will evolve during the plan period.

The General Policy identifies a range of mechanisms through which the Department can encourage public participation in national parks. These include:

- information, education and events to promote participation;
- consultation, both informal and through statutory processes;
- relationships and partnerships through joint initiatives and projects;
- technical advice from the Department to community groups; and
- opportunities for volunteers to assist with practical work and fundraising.

### 3.2.3 Objective

1. To maintain public support and develop effective relationships and co-operation between the Department and the wider community in the achievement of the outcomes sought for the Park.

### 3.2.4 Policy

- a. The Department will encourage community support and foster community participation in management of the Park by:
  - keeping key interest groups and the wider community informed about issues relating to the Park;
  - providing technical information and advice on specific issues of interest;
  - consulting interested parties and the wider community on key issues relating to park management; and
  - developing relationships and partnerships with groups, individuals and organisations with an interest in the Park on matters of mutual concern and on projects that help to achieve park management objectives.

## Part II: Conservation policy



Yellow-crowned kākāriki. Photo: T. Toucan.





## 4 Preservation of indigenous species, habitats, ecosystems and natural features *Te tiaki te manaaki i te Wao Nui a Tāne me tōna tūturutanga tuku iho*

### 4.1 Geology, landform and landscape *Ngā āhua whenua*

#### 4.1.1 Long-term outcome

The Whanganui National Park landscape is preserved as closely as possible to its natural state.

#### 4.1.2 Description

##### *Geology*

The geomorphology of the Park results from the geological uplift of early seafloor sediments formed during the Tertiary period. The oldest of these sediments are geologically quite young – about 30 million years old. The age of the sediments underlying the landscape decreases progressively towards the coastline at Whanganui. The area only finally thrust itself clear of the sea about 1 million years ago, as is evident from the numerous fossils seen in the elevated sediments of the river valley (Smale, 1995). This process, together with the major lowering of sea levels during the last ice age (between 80,000 and 15,000 years ago) has created the steep, sharp ridges of fairly uniform height and deeply entrenched dendritic (tree-like) drainage pattern, which are a key characteristic of the Park's topography.

A journey down the Whanganui River is also a journey through geological history, as this sequence of sedimentary strata is progressively revealed as the river cuts through it on the way to the sea.

The only hard rocks are the occasional limestone beds and calcareous concretions within the more sandy beds, which occur throughout the area. The difference in hardness and permeability of the sediment controls the rate of erosion, which in turn affects slope stability. In some places caves have formed in the limestone beds. Examples of such caves can be seen near the 'Drop Scene' on the Whanganui River, north of Pipiriki.

Volcanism has also influenced the landform of the Park. Ash showers from the Taupō eruption 1850 years ago, and later from Taranaki and Tongariro, mantled much of the area with a fine layer of ash. The Whanganui River and its tributaries have carried pumice alluvium and deposited it on many river terraces.

##### *General landscape*

Nearly half of the Park is less than 300 metres above sea level, but higher points such as Mount Humphries reach over 700 metres. The Matemateāonga Range forms a dominant topographic feature northwest of Pipiriki. The vegetation cover of mostly unmodified forest has developed across a landform, which has eroded over 20,000 years since the last ice age. Its sheer expanse is visually impressive and the relatively uniform ridge heights give the opportunity to experience uninterrupted panoramic views of extensive tracts of primary lowland forest, stretching from Mount Taranaki in the west to Ruapehu in the east.

The gorge scenery produced by the water courses cutting down through the soft underlying sediments is often spectacular.

### ***Northern section***

South of Taumarunui to Rētaruke, the Whanganui River is deeply entrenched into its original valley floor with occasional narrow terraces. Between Taumarunui and Maraekōwhai the northern outliers of the Park form part of a wider landscape that is a mosaic of pastoral hill country with remnant and revegetating native vegetation and introduced trees. Willows are noticeable on the immediate river margins. Roads follow the river in this part of the Park. These cultural modifications contribute to a different landscape setting, which offers different experiences from the wilder, more natural sections to the south.

### ***Central ‘core’ section***

The central section or core of the Park is highly valued for the maturity, continuity and intactness of its landscape, with the natural landscape expressing the underlying geology across large tracts of primary lowland forest. The natural landscape is predominant and the sense of remoteness and isolation is profound.

The Whanganui River flows in an almost unbroken narrow winding gorge in this section of the Park, giving fine examples of entrenched meanders. This landscape provides a sense of enclosure and intimacy, as well as isolation, for those travelling this section of the river.

However, the history of human occupation, particularly along the main river valleys, also provides a rich thread of historical markers and associations that is interwoven through this fabric. Physical signs include the remnant earthworks of numerous pā and kāinga, old landings and groves of introduced trees, notably Lombardy poplars. Plantations of pine and bare hillsides give an occasional reminder that pastoral farming dominates beyond the Park and in enclaves within it. Old road formations, reverting native bush and the remains of old house sites also provide a cultural dimension to its particular sense of place. These are poignant reminders of brief attempts to harness nature during the ‘soldier’s settlement era’ and the signs of the enduring relationship between tāngata whenua and their tūpuna throughout the Park and along the river corridor in particular. These features (and reminders) carry strong values for New Zealanders and are of great interest to visitors.

Many minor tributaries meet the Whanganui and other main rivers as hanging valleys, producing both small and larger spectacular waterfalls, such as Waterfall Creek in the Mangapurua Valley.

### ***Southern section***



Whanganui National Park from Ātene Skyline Walk. Photo: A. Dijkstraaf.

South of Pīpīriki, steep gorges alternate with more open areas and wider terraces. Here the Park again forms part of the mosaic of natural, cultural and pastoral landscape that makes up the lower Whanganui. The Ātene Block provides a wild and natural backdrop, a strong reminder of the lowland New Zealand landscape as it was before human settlement. Winding round the hill Puketapu, the old bed of the Whanganui River is clearly visible as a ‘cut off meander’ (the Ātene Oxbow), which is one of the best examples in New Zealand, and is included in the Geological Society of New Zealand’s Geopreservation Inventory.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Note: Much of the above Landscape sections has been reproduced from Smale, 1995.

#### 4.1.3 Management considerations

These landscape values are at the core of the Park's identity and are integral to its natural ecosystems. They also provide the scenic values that attract people to the Park. National park status provides strong safeguards against wholesale changes through major development or land use changes. General Policy 4.5 (b) states that activities that diminish the quality of scenic, geological (including geothermal), soil and landform features and other abiotic diversity within national parks should be avoided. This includes the cumulative effects of smaller scale activities.

Since its establishment, the Park has not been subject to any large scale effects arising from new human activities or uses. However potentially significant landscape changes could result from developments such as new large scale forestry, dams, accommodation facilities or major road cuttings within or adjacent to the Park.

The main aim during the plan period will be to continue to keep the Park in as natural a state as possible, whilst seeking to manage the impacts of past human uses on the landscape, notably the introduction of exotic plants and animals and the effects of past vegetation clearance.

#### 4.1.4 Objectives

1. To retain the Park in its natural state, free, as far as practicable from the effects of negative human-induced activities.
2. To preserve and restore the natural features and scenic qualities of the Park for their intrinsic, scientific and educational values, and for the experience of nature and 'natural quiet' that they provide.
3. To advocate for the preservation of landscape, geological features and landforms in areas adjacent to the Park, features of which contribute to the Park's natural or recreational values.

#### 4.1.5 Policies

- a. Preservation of the natural and scenic qualities of the Park landscape and its 'natural quiet' will be the primary consideration in all decisions by the Department and in its recommendations on decisions to be made by the Minister with respect to any activities that have potential to affect its values.
- b. The Department will also advocate for the preservation and restoration of these values from the potential adverse effects of other activities, arising outside the Park, through a combination of advocacy, seeking appropriate additions to the Park, and formal submissions under the Resource Management Act 1991 and other relevant legislation.

## 4.2 Terrestrial ecosystems

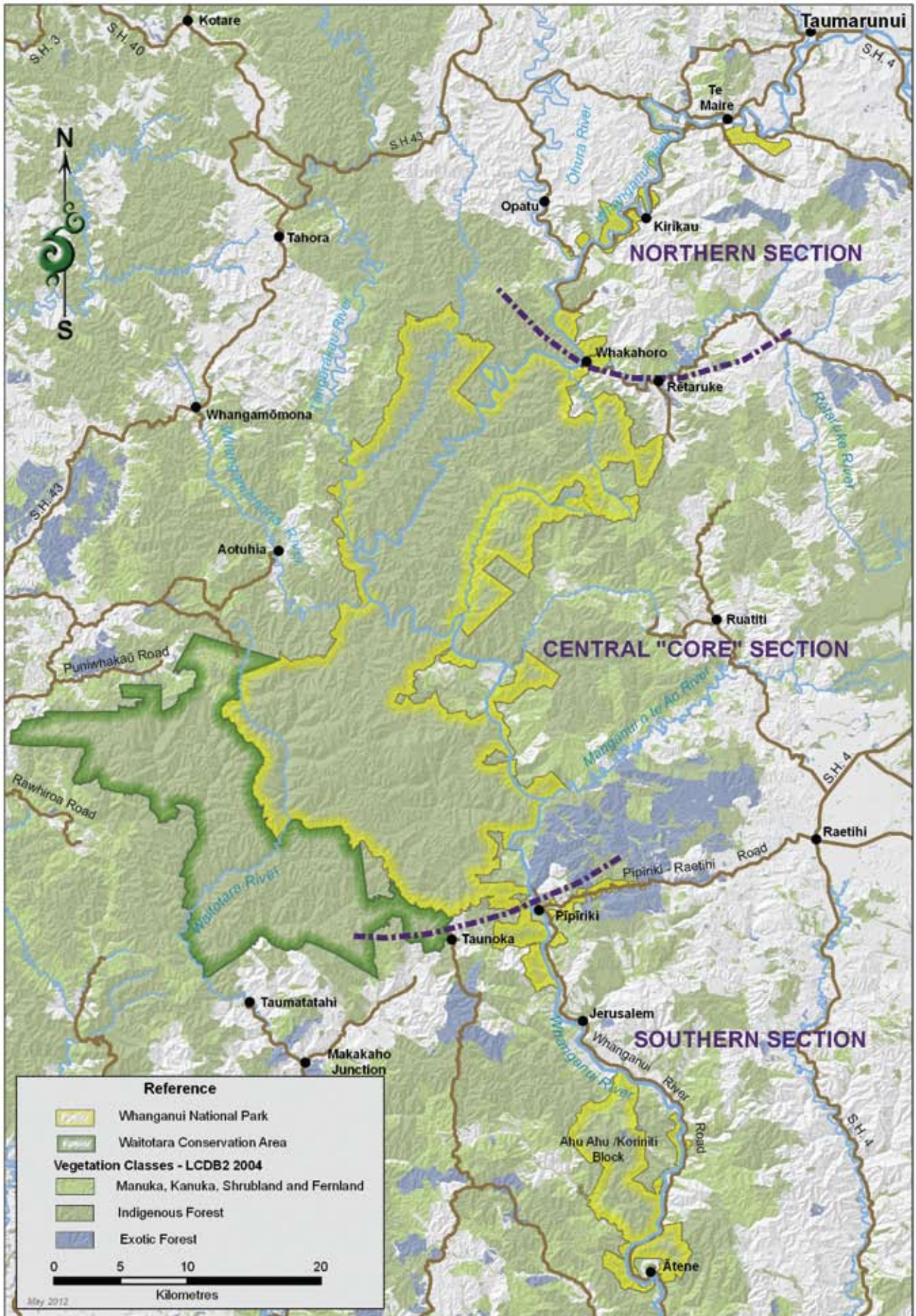
### *Ngā kai o te Puku a Tāne*

#### 4.2.1 Long-term outcome

The Park's forest ecosystem is healthy, able to sustain and renew itself in perpetuity, and contributes to the hōhonutanga of the Whanganui River. It contains, as far as possible, all indigenous species that were present pre-European occupation, including a thriving kiwi population. The flowering of the northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*) is a common sight throughout the Park.



Map 3: Vegetation types - Whanganui National Park and surrounding area



#### 4.2.2 Ecosystem values: Tāngata whenua perspective *Ngā tikanga o Te Wao Nui a Tāne*

The forests of Tāne were the haven of bird and bat species (also created by Tāne). Some were thought to have been brought from the heavens in the period when the world was newly formed, while others were thought to have been brought from the underworld. Examples of the latter included kākāpo (*Strigops habroptilus*), pekapeka (*Mystacina, Chalinolobus*) (bat) and yellow crowned kākāriki (*Cyanoramphus auriceps auriceps*).

In the trees and plants of the Park, tāngata whenua recognise life forms that are senior in status to human beings because they were created first. Certain rituals are therefore observed by tāngata whenua prior to the collection of plant materials, including acknowledgment of their mouri.

Mouri pervades all living and non-living things and maintains the correct balance between natural resources. If mouri is disturbed, all things suffer. By protecting the mouri of a resource, whānau, hapū and katoa can expect to receive a sustained use of that resource.

In this regard the forests of the Park are important in a variety of ways. They act as a filter for the Awa and are part of a cyclical process of water purification (by passage through trees) and clarification (by slowing down rates of soil erosion). In this way they enhance the mana of the Whanganui River and its people.

#### 4.2.3 Native ecosystems

The primary ecological importance of the Park lies in the scale and continuity of its vegetation cover, and in particular its potential to support large populations of native animals that rely on unbroken tracts of forest for their viability. In addition to forming part of one of the largest tracts of lowland indigenous forest on the North Island, the Park also provides a forest sequence stretching from the central plateau of the North Island to within 40 kms of the Tasman Sea (refer to Maps 1 and 3). The Park sits at relatively low altitude compared with other New Zealand national parks and this gives rise to a unique pattern of plant and animal communities. It is also typical of North Island low altitude forests, which are now relatively depleted elsewhere.

The extensive nature of the Park's forests means that the management of ecosystems occurs at a landscape scale. This primarily requires the control of introduced animals. Management also benefits from partnerships with other organisations and authorities managing parts of the same ecosystems where they adjoin the Park.

The Park's ecosystems are critical to the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River and its catchment. Healthy forests are key drivers of healthy waterways. The Park's ecosystems also provide the backdrop to the iconic Whanganui Journey experience and are vital to maintaining the Park's cultural values.

The Department has developed the Natural Heritage Management System (see section 4.3.5 Research, monitoring and inventory work) to assist the identification of priority ecosystems and species for management. Whilst this system continues to be refined, a significant proportion of the Park's ecosystems are likely to be management priorities.

#### 4.2.4 Objectives

1. Management of activities in the Park should avoid adverse effects on and, where possible, enhance the quality of ecosystem services, in particular the health of the Whanganui River.
2. Managing the extent of the Park's landscape in regard to ecosystems should occur with the cooperation of neighbours.



#### 4.2.5 Policies

- a. To advocate for the preservation and restoration of native ecosystems that neighbour the Park, through a combination of advocacy and submissions under the Resource Management Act 1991 and other relevant legislation, in order to contribute to ecosystem health inside the Park and the health of the Whanganui catchment.
- b. To protect the ecosystems in the national park through the active management of key threats.
- c. To protect ecosystems in the park in order to contribute to ecosystem services and in particular the health and well-being of the Whanganui River including the quality of the water.

#### 4.2.6 Core area

The large core area of the Park has a reasonably uniform forest type, mostly a mixture of podocarp and broadleaved trees, with beech forest on steep ridge sites. Within the Park there are also subtle and interesting variations. Baxter (1991) lists five vegetation types of special interest in the Park:

- Silver beech forests (*Nothofagus menziesii*) - (Rētāruke area);
- Northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*) - Kāmahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) forests - (Matamateāonga Range);
- Tāwheowheo (*Quintinia serrata*) - Tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) forests;
- Hard beech (*Nothofagus truncate*), Tāwheowheo, Black beech (*Nothofagus solandri*) forests - (Rētāruke area); and
- Lowland terrace forest remnants - (Whanganui River basin).

Northern rātā is present as an emergent species throughout the Park and the sight of rātā in bloom is one of the most distinctive features of the Park. Even when not flowering it is still an important structural element. The local abundance of black beech on ridgelines, especially to the east, is another characteristic feature of the Park, while the western boundary of the Park almost matches the western boundary of black beech distribution, another unique feature.

The forest provides a number of important ecosystem services and functions, including flood control, water purification and carbon cycling, and is able to support ecological processes which rely on large geographical areas that cannot be readily sustained or reproduced in fragmented landscapes.

#### 4.2.7 Outlying areas

The outlying areas located to the north and south are linked to the core block by the Whanganui River and consist of stands of native vegetation that is representative of that formerly dominant in their locality. These differ in relation to their altitudes and distance from the sea. Inland towards Taumarunui, podocarp species, especially totara (*Podocarpus totara*) become more dominant. The Te Maire block is a good example of this dense podocarp forest type. In contrast, downstream of the main block, species that favour temperate conditions, such as nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), titoki (*Alectyron excelsa*) and even ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) are more common.

The Te Maire block is considered particularly significant as a remnant of the typical podocarp forest of the Taumarunui area, which survived the large scale milling operations of the early 1900s.

#### 4.2.8 Threatened and other notable plants and plant communities

Nationally threatened plant species known or likely to be found in the Park are identified in Appendix 3, together with known threats and management requirements. There are other threatened species that have not been recorded, but are likely to occur.

Species with their southern distributional limits in the North Island in the Park include *Pseudopanax laetus* (classed as a species in gradual decline); Tree club moss (*Lycopodium deuterodensum*) and totorowhiti (*Dracophyllum strictum*). Tāwheowheo and tānekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) are also at their southernmost limit within the Park (Baxter, 1991).

Scattered through the extensive podocarp-broadleaf forest of the Park there are distinctive enclaves of other vegetation communities. These range from the dry beech ridges (as mentioned in section 4.2.6 Core Area), which support several species not often seen elsewhere in the Park such as Bush snowberry (*Gaultheria antipoda*) and sungold (*Helichrysum lanceolatum*), to wetlands (refer to section 4.7 Freshwater ecosystems). Steep and inaccessible papa faces support a suite of highly vulnerable species, including *Pseudopanax laetus*, kotukutuku (*Fuchsia excorticata*) and *Brachyglottis turneri*, which have been virtually eradicated by herbivores in other areas.

#### 4.2.9 Native fauna

The continuous and extensive area of forest within the Park supports a wide range of native fauna. Nationally threatened species occurring in the Park are listed in Appendix 3. Past biodiversity is indicated in place names such as Tīeke (saddleback *Philesturnus rufusater*) and family names reflecting species that are now locally or nationally extinct. The Park performs the following important biodiversity functions:

##### *Habitat for threatened fauna*

The Park provides habitat for sub-populations of a number of threatened bird and bat species and habitat for future population growth should recovery plans elsewhere prove successful.

The central North Island remains a national stronghold for whio (blue duck), with local populations found along some of the rivers and streams within or adjacent to the Park.

Small populations of North Island kākā (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*) are present in the mature forest areas of the Matemateāonga Range and possibly the Heao Catchment, but the population has declined to the threshold of local extinction.



Long tailed bat. Photo: L. J. Kendrick.

The Park is also known to have provided habitat for the kōkako (*Callaeas cinerea*) at least until recent decades, but this bird is now likely to be extinct from the Park. Also facing extinction nationally, the yellow-crowned kākārīki is thought to still be present in the Park, but in critically low numbers.

The North Island long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus subsp.*) is known to occur in the Whanganui River corridor, with a colony recorded near Pīpīriki.



North Island brown kiwi. Photo: Nga Manu Images.

The Park supports the largest population of the genetically distinct western race of the North Island brown kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*). Kiwi are present throughout the Park but are in serious decline nationally and without intervention are moving towards extinction in the Park.

Kiwi populations are unlikely to be viable in habitat smaller than about 10,000 ha (Basse and McLennan, 2003) and thus the Park potentially has a key long-term role in the survival of the North Island brown kiwi.

The central short-tailed bat (*Mystacina tuberculata*) occurs within the Park. Numbers within the Park are not known but evidence suggests that the subspecies specific to the central North Island is stable or in gradual decline, but not currently under threat.

Other threatened species present in the Park include koekoea (long-tailed cuckoo *Eudynamys taitensis*), kārearea (New Zealand falcon *Falco novaeseelandiae*) and rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*).

#### ***As a reservoir for more common, but declining species***

The Park holds significant populations of other more common forest bird species, most of which are in long-term decline nationally, for example fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), tomtit (*Petroica macrocephala*), morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) and North Island robin (*Petroica longipes*). Rifleman and flocks of whiteheads (*Mohoua albicilla*) are also a feature of the Matemateāonga Range (Ogle, 1980).

An abundance of nectar and berry-producing vegetation provides food for many other native birds such as bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*), tūī (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*) and kererū (New Zealand wood pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).

Wet scrubby areas do not cover a large part of the Park, but do support populations of North Island fernbirds (*Bowdleria punctata vealeae*).

Black shag (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) are seen regularly along the Whanganui and other rivers, despite their sparse population nationally. The Whanganui and its tributaries also provide habitat for more common species, such as the little shag (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*), white faced heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) and paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*).

Little is known of the status of the reptilian or amphibious inhabitants of the Park, but both skinks and geckoes are known to be present.

Little research has been carried out on the abundance and distribution of invertebrates in the Park. One species of the nationally threatened giant land snail, *Powelliphanta* 'Waitōtara' has been recorded (as a shell, on a single occasion) to the west of the Park.

## **4.3 Preservation and recovery of threatened native species:**

### **4.3.1 Long-term outcome**

The Park provides a sanctuary for populations of threatened native species including the largest population of kiwi in the North Island. Habitats for threatened native species (plants and animals) will be protected and maintained through active pest management and partnerships such as the Kia Whārite Project.



#### 4.3.2 Management considerations

Population models suggest that the decline in North Island kiwi could be halted by cutting predation rates on young kiwi (principally by mustelids) by about a third (McLennan et al., 1996). A range of other species including whio (blue duck) and possibly kākā and kākāriki could also benefit from the control of mustelids. However it may be some years before resources for controlling mustelids over areas the size of the Park become available.

In addition to habitat restoration initiatives for the Park as a whole and national recovery programmes for individual threatened species, the Department has since 2008, been a partner in the Kia Whārite project. This project is a partnership between Horizons Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, iwi and landowners, and is centred on the Whanganui National Park and adjacent private and iwi land west of Raetihi.

The project area covers 180,000 hectares and includes the middle section of the Whanganui River and approximately 60,000 hectares of Whanganui National Park (33% of the Park) and associated conservation land on either side of it (refer to Figure 1: Kia Whārite Project).

Kia Whārite seeks to take an integrated approach to managing biodiversity in a significant part of the Whanganui catchment. It encompasses pest control across land tenures with the aim of restoring forest health, protecting the health of the river and enhancing the populations of threatened species. The project involves integrating pest control operations to target multiple pests (i.e. possums, stoats, rats and goats) and to integrate the work of the Department, Horizons Regional Council, iwi and landowners so that pest control operations have the maximum benefit to indigenous species and habitats.

Key species targets for the Kia Whārite project include:

- growing the kiwi population in the area of Whanganui National Park subject to integrated pest control by 10% every 3 years; and
- protecting a minimum of 50 pairs of whio (blue duck) along a minimum 50 kilometres of the Manganui o te Ao and Rētaruke Rivers through pest control.

#### 4.3.3 Whio (blue duck) initiatives

The conservation strategy for whio (blue duck) for the central North Island (Etheridge and Peet, 2004) includes surveys of the status of blue duck populations on the Ōmaru, Rētaruke and Heao Rivers within the Park and investigation of potential for population dispersal (including translocations) to these and other rivers. Proposals for the Rētaruke have already been incorporated into the Kia Whārite project.

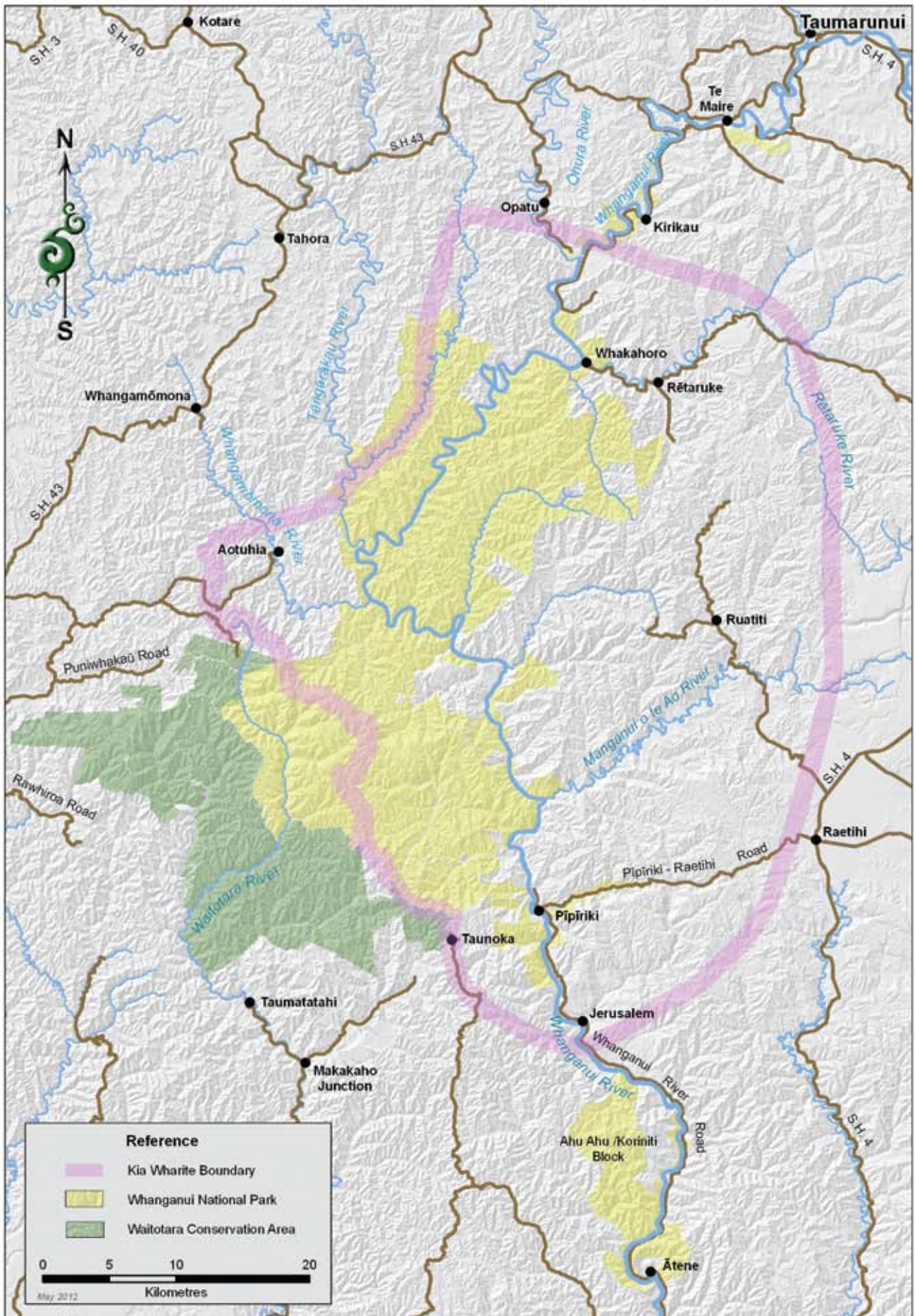


Whio on the Manganui o te Ao River. Photo: A. Reith.

#### 4.3.4 Use of new control strategies and techniques

With its large and extensive kiwi population, the Park has potential to benefit from trial programmes for new strategies and techniques to preserve kiwi across wide areas. The Department will encourage the use of the Park for experiments, field trials and implementation of techniques for animal pest management (particularly mustelid and rat control) over large areas. It will also continue to advocate for the inclusion of Whanganui National Park in kiwi conservation programmes and explore opportunities for additional funding from sources within and outside the Department.

Figure 1: Kia Whārite project





#### 4.3.5 Research, monitoring and inventory work

Departmental resources for research, monitoring and inventory work have in the past been very limited. Priority will continue to be given to work that helps contribute to the effectiveness of management programmes identified in this plan and in national threatened species recovery plans. Most other research will be dependent upon resources from outside the Department.

To help manage natural heritage the Department is building a set of national tools and standards, collectively called the Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS). It is part of the Department's ongoing programme to improve the way New Zealand's natural heritage is managed on land and water. The NHMS tools are designed to help set clearer goals, select conservation priorities and monitor and report on the effectiveness of its work. They will also allow the Department, with help from other biodiversity managers, to consistently monitor and report on the condition of, and trends in New Zealand's biodiversity (Department of Conservation, May 2012). It is noted that while there are currently no NHMS species priorities identified within the Park (May 2012), there are ecosystem priorities (as noted at section 4.2 Terrestrial ecosystems).

#### 4.3.6 Objectives

1. To facilitate and assist the recovery of threatened plant and animal species, in particular the North Island brown kiwi, whio (blue duck), kākā and other indigenous species with significant or critically threatened populations in the Park and adjacent areas.
2. To ensure that the Park continues to act as a reservoir for more commonly occurring indigenous plant and animal species.

#### 4.3.7 Policies

- a. The Department will preserve indigenous plants and animals as far as possible in their natural state and seek to arrest and reverse the decline in health and diversity of the Park's natural ecosystems.
- b. The Department will take all practicable measures to protect threatened indigenous plants and animals and their habitats, accepting that within the context of national species recovery programmes it may not currently be a priority for some threatened species to receive resources towards their recovery.
- c. The Department will support the recovery of whio (blue duck) populations in and adjacent to the Park, including survey work and management programmes for river systems (Ōmaru, Rētaruke and Heao) in the Park where whio (blue duck) populations have been recorded in the past.
- d. As resources permit, the Department will seek to extend its knowledge of indigenous plant and animal species occurring within the Park. Initial priority will be given to supporting national initiatives and threatened species recovery plans and encouraging research through universities and other research groups and science providers.

## 4.4 Impacts of introduced animals and pathogens *Ngā ariātanga o ngā momo kararehe kōkahu*

### 4.4.1 Long-term outcome

Introduced animals and pathogens have been controlled in order to protect and enhance threatened native plants and animals and their habitats.

### 4.4.2 Management Considerations

Introduced animals are collectively the greatest threat to the Park's forest ecosystem. The Park has large populations of introduced mammals and all are regarded as conservation pests.

Introduced animals have had a serious detrimental effect on the Park. This has occurred through grazing on native plants, predation on eggs, chicks and small adult native birds, competition for food or breeding sites, disruption of plant-animal mutualisms (such as pollination and seed dispersal) and disturbance and degradation of habitat (for a general review of impacts see Royal Society of New Zealand, 2001). As a result the structure, dynamics and biodiversity of plant and animal communities has been altered, and in some respects this will be difficult or impossible to reverse.

### 4.4.3 Possums

The dominant broadleaved canopy species in the Park (kāmahi and tawa) are susceptible to possum damage. The possum's dietary preferences for fuchsia, native mistletoes and northern rātā have also led to the serious decline of these and other palatable species throughout the Park. Their varied diet has also threatened to imminently collapse the forest canopy in parts of the Park. Possums also eat eggs, nestlings or adults of native bird species such as kiwi, kererū, fantail and kōkako, along with geckoes, skinks, wētā and other reptiles and invertebrates, such as native land snails.

### 4.4.4 Goats

Goats are present in the Park in large numbers. They devour the shrub layer and ground cover of the forest, especially the seedling and saplings of broadleaved canopy trees. This reduces or prevents the recruitment of these species into the canopy to replace older trees, which will eventually result in alterations to the composition of the canopy or even canopy collapse (Wilson and Hawcroft, 2002).

### 4.4.5 Deer

Both red and fallow deer are present in the Park and the adjoining Waitōtara Conservation Area, but in low numbers. An expansion of deer populations would significantly increase the cost of achieving forest understorey recovery because of the greater difficulty of achieving control of deer as opposed to goats.

### 4.4.6 Mustelids (stoats, weasels and ferrets)

Mustelids, stoats in particular, are one of the most damaging predators in the Park and have been strongly linked to the demise of a number of native bird species (King et al., 2001). In the Park stoats are the single most serious threat to the survival of both kiwi and whio (blue duck.)

Stoat numbers can be reduced and maintained at low levels in relatively small areas of lowland forest by ground control methods (Basse et al., 1999) but these techniques are labour and cost intensive. For these reasons stoat control has not been introduced on a large scale in the Park. The survival of kiwi on the mainland will be largely dependent on either development of new technology for controlling stoats (Basse et al., 1999) or substantially increased resources to implement existing methods on a much greater scale and intensity (such as more frequent use of aerial 1080 control programmes).

#### 4.4.7 Rats and mice



Rat taking fantail chick from nest. Photo: Nga Manu Images.

Rats are also a key problem. They prey directly on birds at the egg and chick stage, and are implicated in the local extinction of kōkako and the decline of kererū and North Island robin. They are also, along with mice, major predators of lizards and invertebrates. Rats also compete with the small passerine birds, reptiles and invertebrates for food such as seeds and small invertebrates.

Mice are a significant food source for stoats, rats and feral cats, with the subsequent risk of prey-switching to native species when mouse populations crash.

Along with mustelids, rat numbers and to a certain extent mice, will be reduced after aerial 1080 possum control. However, their populations will recover within a year. Specific control programmes targeted at rats and mice have not been carried out in the Park.

Where stoats are controlled in isolation there may be increases in populations of rodents, on which they also prey. Effective monitoring and integrated control programmes may therefore be needed.

#### 4.4.8 Feral dogs and cats

Free-roaming dogs (including 'lost' hunting dogs) and feral cats are found throughout the Park. Unless trained to avoid native birds, dogs can have a devastating effect on ground-nesting bird species and their impacts on adult kiwi have been documented elsewhere. Cats can wipe out local populations of birds, including adult kiwi, reptiles, amphibians and larger invertebrates.

No specific operations have been undertaken to date to control dogs or feral cat populations in the Park but they are likely to be reduced after possum control operations.

#### 4.4.9 Pigs

Feral pigs are present throughout the Park and adjoining Conservation Areas and are a food source for local people. Feral pigs are known to root up, trample and browse young trees, shrubs and herbs, and prey on indigenous invertebrates, (McIlroy, 2001) thus damaging habitats and feeding areas for kiwi and other indigenous species. They also interfere with the regeneration of species such as tawa by eating seed-bearing fruits. Pigs also damage track surfaces and render them more susceptible to water-logging and further erosion. They can also disrupt mustelid control operations through removal of eggs from traps.

Pigs can also disturb wāhi tapu sites, which is a source of concern to tāngata whenua, due to both the physical damage caused to sites and the risk of human consumption of spiritually contaminated animals.

The Department has not undertaken widespread pig control or monitoring in or around the Park. Pigs are rarely affected by 1080 as they are able to vomit up ingested poison from scavenged possum carcasses and avoid eating the stomach sacs of poisoned possums. Their numbers may increase after 1080 drops due to the increase in available food and temporary cessation of hunting.

#### 4.4.10 Pathogens and diseases

The spread of pathogens and diseases from imported and migratory species is a growing concern nationally. This may occur either directly or via intermediate 'vectors'. There have been long-standing concerns for example that avian malaria, influenza or other diseases may spread to indigenous species, such as kiwi. Specific problems could occur with the translocation or release of infected species into the Park.

Spread of disease to humans via infected pigs, goats or deer could also be an issue, together with the risk of introduced animals in the Park acting as vectors for TB or other diseases that may affect livestock on neighbouring farms.

Apart from the local pest control and surveillance programmes and participation in national biosecurity initiatives, there are no known pathogen and disease threats identified specifically for the Park. Should a biosecurity pathogen or disease occur in the Park or surrounding waterways such as didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*), the Department will evoke the specified response plan to protect the Park's and its tributaries. The Department will need to maintain vigilance and take action if new threats emerge during the plan period.

#### 4.4.11 Objectives

1. To eradicate if practicable, or otherwise control, the effects of introduced animals on Park values.
2. To preserve indigenous species within the Park from the effects of introduced pathogens, predators and conservation pests.

#### 4.4.12 Policies

- a. The Department will carry out periodic possum control operations to manage possum populations at levels that enable regeneration of characteristic forest canopy species. Subject to available resources, the Department will seek to implement this programme across the whole of the national park.
- b. The Department will seek to reduce goat numbers within existing control areas noted in this plan (based on the Whanganui River corridor, the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Valleys and adjacent to the Matemateāonga Track) to levels that enable regeneration of understorey and sub-canopy vegetation, and to progressively expand these areas towards coverage of the whole park as resources become available.
- c. The Department will seek to work co-operatively with owners of land adjoining the Park to muster and remove feral goats (along with cattle and sheep from the Park) and may apply other measures (e.g. compulsory action under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977) if this approach is not successful.
- d. The Department may eradicate or control any deer populations and prevent of any new populations from establishing in the future.
- e. The Department will continue to support the Kia Whārite integrated pest control project (including control of mustelids, rats and feral dogs and cats) as a means of protecting and supporting the recovery of North Island brown kiwi, whio (blue duck) and other threatened species that occur in the Park, or have potential to re-establish within it. Coverage will be expanded as resources permit.
- f. The Department will implement relevant national biosecurity measures to minimise threats from pathogens and diseases that may affect indigenous species in the Park. Local initiatives will also be undertaken as and when necessary, including active surveillance, strict adherence to standard operating procedures, education and awareness-raising amongst private animal breeders and neighbouring landowners.

For further policies regarding the Department's priorities for management of introduced animals and plants refer to section 4.6.

## 4.5 Impacts of introduced plants

### *Ngā ariātanga o ngā momo rākau me ngā momo otaota*

#### 4.5.1 Long-term outcome

The Park's natural, cultural and historic values have been enhanced through the active management of introduced plants.

#### 4.5.2 Background

Introduced plants may threaten indigenous species through competition for light and nutrients, and if invasive, may affect the characteristics of entire ecosystems. In these situations they are regarded as pest plants. Conversely, there may also be limited situations where introduced species perform a useful function, for example as a 'nurse crop' for regenerating native tree species on land formerly cleared for pasture or by providing food for native birds and insects.

Plant pests are not generally a threat to the intact forest of the Park, but can be a problem where a break in canopy vegetation occurs, such as along some rivers, old road lines and tracks, and areas cleared for farming in the past or disturbed by slips. It is generally much more efficient to prevent new plant pests from becoming established rather than waiting for them to become a serious issue before tackling them.

#### 4.5.3 Management considerations

Over the past decade, initiatives for control of pest plants in the Park have focussed on treatment programmes for the Whanganui River corridor and in the Mangapurua Valley. Both areas have been subject to invasion by a variety of species, including Japanese walnut (*Juglans ailantifolia*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). The Whanganui River has also suffered from the long-term spread of willows from river management works. Aquatic plant pests can also spread into the Park on the hulls of boats and on vehicle tyres.

The Mangapurua Valley has been subject to a long-term control programme to limit the spread of invasive plant pests such as buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), acacia species and wilding pines from abandoned house sites and this needs to continue. It is also acknowledged that some of the original introduced vegetation (from the post World War II soldier settlement era) is of historic importance (refer to section 5 Historic and cultural heritage). The continuing spread of Japanese honeysuckle on higher fertility abandoned farmland is a concern due to its detrimental effect on the landscape and possible interference with processes of natural succession.

Some land around the edge of the Park, particularly where the forest canopy is open or where adjacent land is of limited value for pastoral farming, is also a concern because of vulnerability to plant pest invasion. In these circumstances cooperation between the Department and neighbouring landowners is required to manage plant pests on both sides of the Park boundary, with support from Horizons or Taranaki Regional Council where appropriate.

#### 4.5.4 Priorities for biosecurity and pest management

The priorities for park biosecurity and pest management with respect to introduced plants will involve:

##### *Targeting newly establishing plant pests as and when the need arises*

This will focus on the main routes for plant pest establishment, namely camp and hut sites (where plant pests are brought in with boots, tents and packs) and routes with vehicular access (where plant pests can be carried on boat hulls, hooves or vehicle tyres);

### ***Control programmes for the margins of the Whanganui and other main rivers***

Plant pests may also be carried into the Park and downstream via water courses. The current control programme focussing on Japanese walnut, Japanese honeysuckle and silver wattle will be continued, and if necessary extended.

Use of willows for temporary bank stabilisation work is continuing on neighbouring private land, but presents a long-term risk if they are not replaced by native species. Other options involving the use of native species or other approaches to hazard avoidance and management will be considered, and in the meantime, the spread of willows will be prevented by progressive removal or replacement with natives or non-invasive introduced species; and

### ***Control of plant pests in the Mangapurua and other sites or areas of previous clearance and settlement***

This programme will be continued and integrated with plans to preserve the natural and landscape values and historic heritage of the valley and to control animal pests (covered elsewhere in the plan). This will include clearer identification of those introduced plants that are to be retained for their historic importance, and development of a clearer strategy for management of Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*).

Elsewhere the Department will attempt to control the spread of plant pests in the Park and meet any requirements under the Regional Councils' Plant Pest Management Strategies.

#### **4.5.5 Objective**

1. To eradicate if practicable, or otherwise control the effects of introduced plants on national park values, except where such plants have an important historic association with a particular site (as described elsewhere in this plan), and do not pose significant invasion risk or have clearly identified conservation benefits.

#### **4.5.6 Policies**

- a. Priority for plant pest management will be given to:
  - targeting newly established plant pests as and when the need arises. The Department will monitor all hut, campsites and routes with vehicular access at least annually and eradicate invasive plant pests that pose a threat;
  - control programmes for the margins of the Whanganui and other main rivers (including removal of willows);
  - control of plant pests in the Mangapurua and other sites or areas of previous clearance and settlement, subject to policies for management of plants of historic importance (refer to section 5.5 Specific sites associated with European settlement); and
  - co-operation with owners of land around the edge of the Park, particularly where the forest canopy is open or otherwise vulnerable to invasion by plant pests.
- b. Where appropriate, the Department will integrate its work with Taranaki and Horizons Regional Councils' Pest Plant Management Strategies and will promote the development of closer working relationships with these councils.



- c. The Department will consult with tāngata whenua on priorities for pest plant management in order to take account of their particular interests and concerns and to discuss the potential for joint projects.
- d. The Department will support, encourage or instigate research on the effects of Himalayan honeysuckle on succession processes in the Mangapurua Valley and adapt local control strategies in the light of the findings.
- e. The Department will monitor the effectiveness of plant pest management programmes. Monitoring may include (but is not limited to):
  - the effectiveness of control methods;
  - impacts on restoration objectives;
  - detrimental impacts on non-target species (including indigenous plants); and
  - making recommendations for improvements/learning's for future pest plant management programmes.
- f. The Department will encourage the development and use of new, more effective strategies and techniques for plant pest control over large areas and their implementation in the Park.

## 4.6 Priorities for management of introduced animals and plants

### 4.6.1 Long-term outcome

The Park's natural, cultural and historic values have been enhanced through the active management of introduced conservation and pest animals and plants.

### 4.6.2 Background

In accordance with General Policy 4.3(d) priority in the management of introduced pest animals and plants will be given to:

- preventing introduced plants and animals becoming established, including illegal and inadvertent transfers;
- eradicating new incursions of plants and animals where practicable;
- eradicating, where practicable, and containing and reducing the range of established introduced plants and animals; and
- controlling widespread introduced species where necessary to maintain the general welfare of the Park's indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems, or to maintain scenic and landform values.

The most serious conservation pest species are already established in the Park, so the focus is therefore likely to be on the latter two of these priorities.

Achievement of all the outcomes sought for the Park is, however, highly dependent upon adequate resources, knowledge and technology being available. It is unlikely that the required resources will be available in full during the next 10 years. In the meantime, objectives and actions will need to be prioritised and flexible enough to allow for changing circumstances. These could include improved pest control techniques or a significant change in available resources.

### 4.6.3 Park-wide canopy restoration

General maintenance and recovery of the forest canopy through possum control will remain the first priority, since without a healthy canopy the values and long-term viability of the forest ecosystem as a whole will be drastically reduced. Continuing monitoring and research will also be needed to optimise the cost-effectiveness of treatment regimes.

Sustained possum control in the Park and adjacent Waitōtara Conservation Area began in 1995. Blocks are being treated with aerial 1080 approximately every seven years to periodically knock down possum population growth and numbers. Positive results have been achieved and this programme will be continued. For more information refer to the Parliamentary Commissioner Report, Wright (2011).

#### 4.6.4 Restoration of shrub and understorey layers

Increasing emphasis will be placed on restoration of the shrub and understorey layer through goat control and prevention of any escalation in deer numbers. This will be given the next highest priority.

In 2009 targeted goat control using ground hunters was carried out over approximately 20,000 hectares in three parts of the Park - the Whanganui River corridor, the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Valleys and adjacent to the Matemateāonga Track. The control area has expanded in recent years, including a new 9,000 hectare treatment area to the north of the Matemateāonga Track.

The intention is to expand the control area by a further 4,000 hectares in conjunction with the Kia Whārite project (refer to section 4.3 Preservation and recovery of threatened native species). This project also includes the creation of substantial goat management zone on private land adjacent to the Park boundary, which should also act as a buffer against re-invasion into the Park. Even with these changes, the goat control programme will not be sufficient to address the effects of goat browsing on the Park as a whole and significant additional resources would be needed to bring about park-wide control.

Management of feral deer in and around the Park took place under the South Taranaki Feral Deer Plan for the period 2004 - 2009, prepared jointly by the Department and the Animal Health Board. Since then management of deer continues in conjunction with Animal Health Board efforts to keep the Park free of invasion of deer from Taranaki.

#### 4.6.5 Objective

1. To stem the decline of the Park's forest canopy, sub-canopy and understorey vegetation and over the longer term to restore the values, characteristics and ecological processes lost or impaired through the impact of introduced animals.

#### 4.6.6 Policies

- a. The Department will encourage the development and use of new more effective strategies and techniques for animal pest control (including stoats and rats) over large areas and their implementation in the Park.
- b. Where appropriate, the Department will integrate its pest management work with Taranaki and Horizons Regional Councils' Animal Pest Management Strategies and will promote closer working relationships with these councils.
- c. The Department will consult with tāngata whenua and affected communities, including adjacent landowners and known recreational groups, during the planning of animal pest control operations that may affect their interests.
- d. The Department will continue to monitor the impact of introduced animals on the Park's terrestrial ecosystem and the effectiveness of control programmes on ecological values and will adapt the programmes as necessary to achieve the most effective and efficient result in accordance with appropriate safety standards.

## 4.7 Freshwater ecosystems *Ngā ora wai Māori*

### 4.7.1 Long-term outcome

The Park contributes to the maintenance of water and soil values of all river catchments in the Park, including the Whanganui River as a whole and to the mana of the Whanganui River.

### 4.7.2 Description of ecological values

The Whanganui River and its tributaries form a tree-like (dendritic) pattern, which has developed through dissection of the soft marine sediments. As a result, the beds of main rivers and streams in the catchment naturally tend to be silty. This has been further accentuated by land management practices in upper catchments. These two factors have had a significant effect on the types of plant and animal communities living within the main Whanganui River system.

In contrast, smaller streams and water courses flowing solely within the Park exist in a similar substrate but have remained largely untouched by human influence. They retain their natural values and 'pollution sensitive' invertebrate fauna such as mayflies, stoneflies and caddis flies which are abundant.

Non-diadromous (non-migratory) native fish species that are widespread in the streams of the Park include Cran's bully (*Gobiomorphus basalis*) and upland bully (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*). Migratory fish are less abundant due to the distance from the sea, but the Park supports a wide range of species, including kōaro (*Galaxiia brevipinnis*) and longfin (*Anguilla dieffenbachia*) and shortfin eels (*Anguilla australis*). Lamprey (*Geotria australis*), short-jawed kōkopu (*Galaxias postvectis*), torrentfish (*Cheimarrichthys fosteri*) and common smelt (*Retropinna retropinna*) are also found, but in smaller numbers.

The waters flowing through the Park contain important sources of mahinga kai, especially tuna (longfin eel), freshwater mussels (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and lamprey (*Petromyzontidae*). Policies on customary use are considered in section 4.8.

Waterfalls on a number of streams act as a natural constraint and influence on the distribution of native species. The freshwater environment of the Park is otherwise relatively homogeneous and there is insufficient local information available at the detail required to distinguish between different types of freshwater fisheries in the Park.

There are no lakes or wetlands of significant size within the Park; however, wetlands present include poorly drained valley floors, perched lakes trapped by subsidence and spring-fed systems. They are variously dominated by flax, mānuka, bulrush, tall sedges or rushes, and provide habitat for many wetland plants that are not found elsewhere, including the fern *Hypolepis distans*.

### 4.7.3 Management considerations for freshwater ecosystems

#### *Responsibilities*

Whilst the Whanganui River and its main tributaries are not part of the Park, the Department has specific responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987 for the preservation, so far as is practicable, of all indigenous freshwater fisheries and the protection of recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats.

The significance of the Whanganui River to Whanganui Iwi is recognised through the statutory requirement for the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board to have regard to the spiritual, cultural and historic significance of the Whanganui River to the Whanganui Iwi when carrying out its functions.

Legal responsibility under the Resource Management Act 1991 for sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems as a whole rests with Horizons and Taranaki Regional Councils.

The Taranaki Regional Fish and Game Council, along with the Auckland-Waikato Fish and Game Council are responsible for the management of introduced sports fish (trout) in the Whanganui River catchment.

### ***Quality of freshwater habitat***

Because of the soft mudstone (papa) and steep nature of the surrounding country, clearance of land for farming in the upper Whanganui River and its tributaries has led to significant erosion. This particularly applies to the Ōhura, Whangamōmona and Tāngārākau Rivers. Although these rivers are not part of the Park their high sediment loads have an impact on it; for example, through the effects on fish migrating up river into park waters, the effects of their murky appearance on the wider river landscapes, and deposition of silt at times of flood.

The Tongariro Power Development has also had an effect on upper river flows and downstream habitat values. The quality of the Whanganui River and its tributaries has also deteriorated due to effluent from sewage discharges and run-off of animal manures and nutrients from up-stream farms.

A report by NIWA on water quality in the Whanganui River published in 1995 concluded that “[its] degraded condition is unsatisfactory in a river with major tourist and conservation values, which is the focus of a national park” (1995, p. 9).

Horizons Regional Council has recognised the need to address these issues and in 1997 introduced a long-term strategy for the Whanganui Catchment and it was updated in 2003 (Sitarz et al., 2003). This included a range of conservation measures on farm land, accompanied by improved water quality standards and monitoring. The strategy, along with the Action Plan arising from it, is currently being implemented. If successful, this should lead to improvements in water and river bed quality for water courses flowing into the Park. The Department will continue to advocate for improved habitat quality and reductions in risks to the health and enjoyment of river users.

Threats to water quality arising from activities within the Park are relatively minor in comparison, and mainly come from recreation and tourism activities. Visitors are permitted to camp only at designated sites along the Whanganui River. The use of sealed vault toilets at campsites, with disposal outside of the Park has also removed the risk of pollution from human waste.

Use of toxins for animal pest management requires rigorous assessment of impact on river systems. The principle toxin in use, 1080, bio-degrades rapidly in water and routine conditions of use seek to ensure that none is placed directly in the Whanganui River and major tributaries (Wright, 2011).

### ***Recreational and commercial fishing***

The Park is not used on any significant scale for angling for introduced sports fish. Although there are brown (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) trout present in the Whanganui River and some of its tributaries, they are not found in high numbers. Better trout fishing waters in the Whanganui catchment are found outside the Park boundaries.

The General Policy requires that freshwater species, habitats and ecosystems within national parks should be managed to preserve as far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries and habitats and to protect recreational freshwater fish habitats. However the management plan should also identify waters from which the eradication and control of introduced species, including sports fish, will be a priority for the preservation of indigenous freshwater fish and aquatic life.

### *Introduced plants and animals*



Koi carp. Photo: N. Bott.

Results of departmental pest fish surveillance and other research suggests that threats to indigenous freshwater plants and animals from introduced species (including trout and aquatic plant pests) are not on a scale that warrants immediate action within the Park. However, there have been unconfirmed sightings of koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in the catchment and catfish are also thought to be present in the lower reaches of the Whanganui River. A more active monitoring and eradication programme may be necessary if the presence of these species further upstream where the river flows through the Park is confirmed.

The introduction and spread of trout in the Whanganui River over the past century may have influenced native fish populations, particularly galaxiids. Removal of introduced trout from some of the streams in the Park is proposed as a possible ecological restoration measure. This would not have a significant impact on the regional trout fishery, but would enable some of the natural values of the Park's aquatic ecosystem to be restored and reduce competition over food sources for native fish species and whio (blue duck).

Biosecurity risks also arise from the passage of watercraft along the river. Potential for the spread of invasive plant pests such as hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) via boat hulls is a concern and requires continuing vigilance. The Whanganui catchment is at risk from invasion by didymo, particularly via its rocky and fast-flowing tributaries. The Department has a surveillance programme in place and is also a participant in multi-agency working groups that have been established to manage the risks associated with the spread of didymo.

#### 4.7.4 Objectives

1. To preserve the conservation values of freshwater ecosystems within the Park, including native fish and their habitats.
2. To allow recreational sports fishing where compatible with objective 1 above.
3. To advocate for and contribute to improvements to water quality and the restoration of ecosystem values of rivers flowing through the Park via improved management practices and concessions management.

#### 4.7.5 Policies

- a. When planning and carrying out its park-management functions, the Department will avoid adverse impacts on freshwater ecosystem values and will seek to ensure that the cultural and spiritual values of the Whanganui River are appropriately respected.
- b. The Department will advocate for improvements in water quality and habitat in the Whanganui and other rivers running through the Park and will oppose activities that have an adverse effect on ecosystem values. This includes activities downstream that may interfere with or harm fish migrating into and through the Park, and activities upstream that may have adverse effects downstream, such as water abstractions, vegetation clearance or discharges into rivers.

- c. The Department will encourage the development and use of new more effective strategies and techniques for freshwater quality and habitats over large areas and their implementation in the Park.
- d. The Department will recommend that consent to fish for or take native fish species occurring in the Park should be granted only by the Minister for Park management purposes or in accordance with policies on customary use.
- e. A concession to guide recreational fishing parties should be granted only where other recreational fishing interests are not jeopardised and criteria for concessions are met.
- f. The Department will monitor pest fish and aquatic plant pest threats in the Whanganui catchment, and work with regional councils, tāngata whenua and other relevant agencies, particularly Biosecurity New Zealand to minimise threats to indigenous species.
- g. The Department will through advocacy and education, seek to reduce the risk of aquatic plant pests being spread within the Whanganui catchment and into the Park, in particular their spread via recreational water craft and other equipment and clothing.
- h. The Department will in consultation with Taranaki Fish and Game Council, tāngata whenua, regional councils and fishing interests seek the establishment of trout-free freshwater habitats within or flowing through the Park. This policy may be pursued either directly or through advocacy (where waters are not part of the Park). Priority will be given to areas with significant potential for restoration of natural values (including blue duck habitat) that do not support significant trout fisheries, and which would form part of a multi-species ‘sanctuary’ area subject to a comprehensive pest control programme such as the Mangapurua Stream and the Heao Stream.
- i. The Department will not permit any concessions for commercial fishing of native species in Park water in order to uphold the Park’s ecological, freshwater and conservation values.

## 4.8 Customary use of forest and freshwater ecosystems by tāngata whenua

### *Ngā taonga kei roto i a Tāne me ngā wai Māori mō ngā tāngata whenua*

#### 4.8.1 Long-term outcome

Customary use of forest and freshwater ecosystems has been integral to the enhancement of cultural and traditional knowledge and consistent with natural, cultural and historic values of the Park.

#### 4.8.2 Tāngata whenua perspective

The forest and freshwater ecosystems of the Park have traditionally been seen by Māori as a living resource available for use, to which they and their well-being were intimately connected. The Park provided food, medicines, fishing nets, hīnaki and material for a variety of construction tasks from whare to waka. Certain areas were designated for their sacred trees, for berries, leaves or rongoā (medicinal plants) or for food gathering (for example pikopiko).

The customary use by tāngata whenua of the indigenous species and traditional materials found in the Park is considered by tāngata whenua essential to the maintenance of their

cultural and traditional knowledge. Customary use sustains the kaitiaki relationship between them and forest and freshwater ecosystems of the Park.

Current use of natural resources by Māori encompasses a wide spectrum, including:

- harvesting of plants for rongoā and kai;
- use of flaxes, tī, pīngao, kiekie, and feathers for weaving;
- use of dyes from muds and soils, tree bark and berries;
- use of large trees for whare and waka;
- use of oils from plant seeds; and
- making of taonga from bones, shells and wood.

Customary use by tāngata whenua changes in response to issues of scarcity, availability of other resources and cultural developments. General Policy 2(f) states that tāngata whenua involvement and participation in conservation in national parks will be encouraged and may be supported with information and technical advice. This includes involvement in the restoration of native species of cultural importance to them.

The National Parks Act requires the preservation of indigenous plants and animals within the Park. Under General Policy 2 (g) the customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where:

- there is an established tradition of such use;
- it is consistent with all relevant Acts, regulations, and the National Park Management Plan;
- the preservation of the species involved is not adversely affected;
- the effects of use on Park values are not significant; and
- tāngata whenua support the application.

While tāngata whenua may express the need for and identify the choice of materials for customary use at the local level, responsibility and accountability for decisions to enable use remain with the Minister of Conservation or Director-General as the case may be.

#### 4.8.3 Management considerations

Preservation of natural resources, particularly rare or threatened species is supported by both kaitiakitanga and governed by the legislation applicable to national parks. Customary use is governed by the latter.

Whilst many of the species traditionally taken by tāngata whenua have become extinct or declined to a point where further use is not feasible without further accelerating the threat of extinction, there are still opportunities for tāngata whenua to maintain and develop their relationship with taonga of the Park. Under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, the Department is required to interpret and administer the National Parks Act 1980 to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. However, where there is clearly an inconsistency between the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 and the principles of the Treaty, the provisions of the National Parks Act will prevail.

Species and materials used for customary purposes fall into the following categories, each of which may require a different type of management approach:

- **Killing or removal of plants or animals:** Under most circumstances this is likely to have a significant adverse effect on park values and may also affect the survival of the particular species. However, there may be circumstances where the taking of certain animals or plants would be acceptable; for example, where a plant is abundant or the species is capable of rapid regeneration;
- **Use of dead trees, plants or animals:** The issue is whether it is appropriate to make use of the plant or animal for customary purposes; for example, use of wood or feathers, or to take the approach that death and decay is part of the 'natural' cycle and there should be no human intervention; and

- **Use of plant material that could be taken in limited quantity without detriment to the survival of individual plants or their species:** In such instances the scale and appropriateness of the take would be the main issue.

Establishing processes for assessing and advising the Minister on applications will require clear procedures and protocols between tāngata whenua and the Department that recognise customary use while ensuring preservation. As effective relationships between the Department and tāngata whenua continue to evolve, systems for customary use will be developed and refined. Such systems will need to comply with both General Policy and kaitiakitanga.

#### 4.8.4 Objective

1. To enable the customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species by tāngata whenua on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the General Policy.

#### 4.8.5 Policies

- a. The customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species from within the Park may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, where it is not detrimental to Park values. Applications will be assessed on (but not limited to) whether:
  - alternative sources outside the Park are available;
  - an established tradition of the proposed use is proven;
  - the proposed use is consistent with all relevant legislation and this management plan;
  - the proposed use will not adversely affect the preservation of the species involved, nor any other indigenous species within the surrounding environment;
  - the effects of the proposed use on the Park values are not significant; and
  - tāngata whenua approval for the proposal is provided (note this may involve several iwi/hapu).
- b. The Department will work with tāngata whenua to develop protocols for their participation in the protection, management and use of traditional materials, without prejudice to Treaty rights and claims and in accordance with relevant legislation.
- c. The Department will acknowledge and respect the cultural values and protocols placed by tāngata whenua on the use of natural materials, including the use of rāhui and tapu by tāngata whenua to preserve the natural and cultural values of the Park where in accordance with legislation and the policies in this plan.
- d. The Department will:
  - share with tāngata whenua information that it holds on the conservation values of traditional materials; and
  - continue to encourage the establishment of research relationships and partnerships with tāngata whenua on species of cultural significance, including whio (blue duck) and kererū.
- e. Where appropriate, the Department will work with tāngata whenua to raise public awareness of, and encourage respect for, cultural values and protocols in relation to appropriate customary use.



# 5 Historic and cultural heritage

## *Ngā taonga tuku iho*

### 5.1 Long-term outcome

Historic and archaeological sites and features in the Park are protected, and knowledge and understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the Park and places within it is improved. The cultural relationship between tāngata whenua and the Park is recognised.

### 5.2 Key issues

#### *Ngā take tiro iho*

#### 5.2.1 Early human settlement

##### *Ngā tāngata o mua*

The navigability of the Whanganui River has been largely responsible for the long history of human activity in the Park. From the times of exploration and first settlement, at least 600 years ago, Māori used the river as a major access way. Settlements were established along the banks of the Whanganui River and other significant tributaries.

From these settlements Māori utilised a wide range of resources from both within the river valleys and the coast. Inland trails connected the Whanganui River Valley with Taranaki and the interior of the North Island and waka plied between the river valley and the lower North Island and upper South Island. Trade between these distant areas was an important part of life for the Whanganui Māori.

Superimposed on the seasonal ebb and flow of economic activities was a pattern of expansion and contraction in settlement caused by war or the threat of war. By the early 1850s, fortifications, particularly those with limited access to arable land, were no longer being actively used. There was considerable temporary movement of individuals and groups, for both economic and social reasons.

##### *Wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga*

Wāhi tapu (literally translated as ‘sacred place’) and wāhi taonga (‘treasured place’) are places, objects or landscape features with special spiritual, emotional or historic significance to a particular tāngata whenua (iwi, hapū or whānau). They may be specific sites, general locations or wider areas of special cultural and spiritual significance, such as ancestral mountains and rivers, and include:

- urupā, rua kōiwi (burial sites) and ana kōiwi (burial caves);
- sites associated with birth or death;
- sites associated with rituals, ceremonies or pilgrimage;
- places imbued with the mana of rangatira, tūpuna, iwi or hapū;
- places associated with kaitiaki;
- battle sites and other places where blood has been spilled;
- pā and kāinga sites (former and current);
- places associated with traditional or religious events or movements;
- places of temporary habitation, e.g. annual campsites;
- mahinga kai (food cultivation) sites;
- rongoā (medicinal plant) sites and sites with healing qualities; and
- natural geographical features of cultural and spiritual importance, for example, ancestral mountains and rivers/waterways.

A tapu placed on a site, a person or a resource has the effect of protecting its life-giving qualities. Mouri and tapu give tūpuna Māori a strong sense of continuity with nature and their history. This relationship forms the basis of the Māori value system.

Whilst they are important as sites of historic interest, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga should also be regarded as living resources. Traditional customs and practices may still be undertaken at these places.

All wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga embody interconnectedness between the spiritual and the material, and the past, present and future. The exercise of kaitiakitanga is dependent upon the ability of tāngata whenua to access wāhi tapu sites. For certain sites, particular restrictions or protocols may need to be observed in order to safeguard spiritual or historic values.

Knowledge of the precise location of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga is not necessary to ensure protection or for management purposes, providing tāngata whenua are consulted over any proposed activities. Non-disclosure of locations of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga is a protection mechanism that tāngata whenua often use to preserve the sanctity of a place.

### **5.2.2 Post-European settlement**

#### ***Ngā tāngata o mua o te taenga mai a tauīwi***

During the 1890s, considerable interest was shown in the scenic attractions along the Whanganui River. A river trust was established in 1891 to promote river navigation for tourists and settlers and to preserve scenic values. The attractions of the river became world famous and it is recorded that in 1905, 12,000 guests stayed at Pīpīriki House.

This period also saw the protection of the river's unique scenic qualities through reservation of various areas of land.

Adjacent to the river, in the midst of the present Park, surveyors spent the early 1900s marking routes for roads in advance of planned farming settlements. Some roads were partially formed (some old road lines now forming tramping tracks in the Park) but the country proved too inhospitable to allow successful development for farming.

The Mangapurua Valley was however settled, cleared for pasture and subsequently abandoned by rehabilitated soldier settlers - all between 1917 and 1942. Today homestead ruins, abandoned fence lines, grassed flats, old road lines, regenerating forest and the 'Bridge to Nowhere' all bear testimony to their efforts at settlement of this area. (Refer to the Te Ara website link in the glossary section under the author Beaglehole for further information).

## **5.3 Active preservation and management**

### ***Ngā rāhui me te kaitiakitanga***

#### **5.3.1 Key issues**

The long and varied history of human activity in the Park has not been fully reflected in either the Department's programme of active management or its interpretation work.

Sites actively managed by the Department or (through agreement) by other agencies that are located within, or associated with, the Park as at June 2012 are:

- Mangapurua Valley House Sites, Mangapurua Valley (National Park/Mangapurua Valley Scenic Reserve/Mangatawai Conservation Area/Road Reserve);
- 'Bridge to Nowhere', Mangapurua Valley (Mangapurua Valley Scenic Reserve);
- Kaukore Waterwheel and Water Race/Pīpīriki Flourmill, Pīpīriki (Pīpīriki Inc);
- Kawana Flourmill and Miller's Cottage, Matahiwi (Māori Reserve);

- Downes Hut, near Ātene (National Park);
- Whanganui River Road Culvert, near Ātene (Road Reserve); and
- Whakahoro School House (National Park).

Noteworthy gaps include prehistoric Māori sites, sites relating to cultures other than Māori or European and more recent settlement activity along the Whanganui River valley.

Marae-kōwhai is a historic reserve located outside the Park boundary and managed by the local hapū.

Formally managed historic sites of early Māori and European industry within the Whanganui River valley are restricted to the two flour mills situated outside the Park to the south of Pīpīriki.

Outside of the above management roles, the Department has entered into a partnership arrangement with Te Whānau o Tīeke to re-establish a kāinga at Tīeke, which is enabling traditional connections with this land to be restored for the benefit of both tāngata whenua and visitors. Proposals to re-establish tribal connections are also in process at Mangapāpapa, and there may be scope to develop further co-management initiatives elsewhere along the river corridor where compatible with national park purposes.

### 5.3.2 Objectives

#### General

1. To retain and improve knowledge and understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the Park and places within it.
2. To preserve archaeological and historic sites and features in the Park where compatible with the preservation of the Park.

#### Wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga

3. To recognise the cultural relationship between tāngata whenua and the Park, where this is in accordance with the requirements of the National Parks Act 1980.
4. To respect and avoid disturbance or damage to wāhi tapu or wāhi taonga and other sites in the Park that are significant to tāngata whenua.
5. To work with tāngata whenua to increase public and staff awareness of the cultural and historic importance of the Park and Whanganui River corridor to Whanganui Iwi and tāngata whenua whose rohe includes the Park.

#### Sites and features associated with abandoned European settlement

6. To preserve sites, structures and features associated with abandoned European settlements in the Park, in particular the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys, where this is consistent with the overall goal of preserving the values of the Park.

### 5.3.3 Policies

- a. The Department will through discussion with tāngata whenua, consider mutually acceptable arrangements for their active involvement in the protection of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga.
- b. The Department will consult tāngata whenua prior to carrying out any works or activities, or when processing applications for works or activities by others, which may have potential to damage or disturb known wāhi tapu sites or areas. In the event of such sites being accidentally discovered, the Department will follow the Te Tai Hauāuru – Wanganui Conservancy Accidental Discovery Protocol.

- c. The Department will continue to support kāinga at Tīeke and Mangapāpapa within the management framework set out by legislation and in this plan, and will consider any future development proposals on a similar basis.
- d. The Department will preserve and manage historic sites and features within the Park in accordance with the Historic Places Act 1993 and other government guidelines and policies for the management of historic resources.
- e. The Department will encourage increased understanding and appreciation by the wider community of sites of significance to tāngata whenua where this is in accordance with their wishes.
- f. The Department will review increasing the number of managed historic sites in the Park with the support of tāngata whenua and the community. This could include sites identified as a result of planned survey work or put forward for consideration by tāngata whenua or the wider community.
- g. In implementing the policies in this plan the Department will recognise the need to protect information that is sensitive to tāngata whenua.

## 5.4 Research and survey work *Ngā rangahau me ngā mahi kua kitea*

### 5.4.1 Long-term outcome

Research and survey work has provided important information about the cultural, historic and natural values of the Park enabling further protection and/or enhancement where required.

### 5.4.2 Key issues

#### *Wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga*

Giving publicity to the location of abandoned pā sites and encouraging public access to them is of major concern to Whanganui Iwi, in view of the possibility that they have been subsequently used as urupā. Not only are they wāhi tapu (and therefore subject to specific protocol regarding how and by whom they are visited), but disturbance or desecration of them would be highly offensive.

The Department acknowledges that tāngata whenua are the repository of knowledge about wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga, that the Department does not have automatic right to access that knowledge, and that any teaching or sharing of it is at the discretion of the tāngata whenua. The hōhonutanga of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga may be lost or diminished as a result of improper use of such information or by an activity that violates the tapu. Active consultation takes place with tāngata whenua on all new camp and hut site locations. Camp and hut sites along the Whanganui River have been moved away from wāhi tapu sites.

### 5.4.3 Other initiatives

During the past 50 years or so, little research has been undertaken into the histories and traditions of Whanganui Māori (compared to other similar, significant regions). Notable exceptions are Simon (1991), Young (1998), Clayworth (2004) and The Whanganui River Report 1999. An archaeological survey of the then-proposed Whanganui National Park was undertaken by the Department of Lands and Survey (Hellen and Olsen 1984). However the survey was limited to recording and mapping known archaeological and historic sites.

As a research source, public domain historic databases are limited to the:

- New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme - this contains records of 62 individual archaeological sites that are contained within or associated with Whanganui National Park (Appendix 6). The low number of recorded sites is unlikely to provide a true reflection of the distribution of archaeological sites within the Park in view of the historic importance of the river corridor; and
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) Register (Rārangi Taonga) - currently there are only 6 NZHPT registered sites (including proposed registrations) within or associated with the Park.

The Department is undertaking a long-term archaeological/historic survey of the Mangapurua Valley. The work is considered a top priority for survey within the Park. This survey may be extended to neighbouring valley systems if there is support from the community and resources are available.

The Department in association with iwi, property owners and other interested parties, will continue to identify and assess historic sites within the Wanganui District Council boundaries that are associated with southern parts of the Park. Sites that may be considered include Downes Hut, Ahuahu Valley settlement and pā and kāinga sites in the Ātene block.

#### 5.4.4 Objective

1. Research and survey work within the Park is enabled provided it is consistent with Park values.

#### 5.4.5 Policies

- a. The Department will investigate potential for collaborative research and recording work with tāngata whenua and NZ Historic Places Trust to help safeguard the historic record of settlement in the Park. Where tāngata whenua are prepared to disclose information, the Department will respect the confidentiality of information supplied and ensure that it does not carry out, promote or authorise activities that violate tapu. The Department will not pass this information onto a third party without the consent of tāngata whenua.
- b. The Department's will continue to prioritise research in the Mangapurua Valley and associated areas with a history of European settlement, with some low level coverage of the southern areas of the Park.

## 5.5 Specific sites associated with European settlement *Ngā wāhi nohoanga a tauīwi*

### 5.5.1 Long-term outcome

Within the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys the past history of interaction between people and the natural landscape is well researched and recorded. Significant and representative elements of the historic landscape are preserved, interpreted and presented to a high standard. The remainder of these valley landscapes are managed primarily for the regeneration of native vegetation and indigenous species protection.



### 5.5.2 Key issues

The Department recognises the special historic significance of the Mangapurua Valley, together with parts of the adjoining Kaiwhakauka Valley. Other sites and features associated with now-abandoned European settlement, such as landings, sites and tracks are scattered alongside the Whanganui River and throughout the Park.

### 5.5.3 Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys: management concerns

The historic interest of the valley is one aspect of its importance, which also includes its value as natural landscape and wildlife habitat, and as a means of enjoying the Park by way of the Mangapurua Track. An integrated approach is needed to address management issues for the whole valley. This is described in the following paragraphs:

#### ***Determining management objectives for the landscape as a whole, including natural and biodiversity values***

The extent to which ‘open’ areas in the valley (such as house sites, former paddocks, and public open spaces) are to be actively maintained rather than allowing or encouraging regeneration to native vegetation is an issue that needs further consideration. The primary principle under the Act is to maintain the Park in its natural state, but sites and objects of archaeological and historic interest are also to be preserved ‘as far as possible’. A sample of ‘key’ sites of importance to the history and character of the landscape needs to be retained, whilst allowing or facilitating the remainder to revert to native vegetation;

#### ***Appropriateness of reconstructing features such as buildings and fence lines***

‘Preservation’ of remnant features under the Act is not the same as reconstructing them, and the latter is not generally considered to be appropriate in the Park;

#### ***Retention of historically important introduced vegetation***

Policy has been to retain settler vegetation (from the pre and early 1900’s) such as pine trees around house sites for their historic importance, but treat self seeded wildings and other vegetation from settler vegetation as plant pests (in line with General Policy 4.3 (d)). Historically important plants need to be identified individually on a site-specific basis to preserve examples of settler plants or, if not possible, their progeny;

#### ***Preservation of the former road as a historic feature***

Whilst not formally part of the Park management of the former road in the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys (refer to section 6.6) as an historic feature is an integral part of the heritage of the whole Valley and will be promoted. Specific features such as original tōtara culverts have been destroyed by vehicles using the track in recent years. Repairs and replacement of engineering features such as culverts and bridges may be necessary, but should be carried out in a manner that respects the road’s historic importance;

#### ***Public health and safety priorities***

Unstable structures or vegetation may pose a significant risk to public health and safety. Felling of dangerous trees and either closing or carrying out remedial work to dangerous structures may need to take priority over preservation in some instances. Identification of trees for removal needs to be integrated with the identification of those for retention. The authorisation of the removal of native trees within the Park should be made by the Area Manager; and

### *Detailed management prescriptions*

Many of the above issues are site-specific and too detailed to consider in this plan. There would be benefit from the preparation of a detailed operational plan for the Mangapurua Valley itself (together with associated features in the Kaiwhakauka Valley). This would include site and feature-specific management prescriptions within the guidelines provided in the National Park Management Plan.

**Note:** issues relating to recreational use are covered in section 6 of this plan.

#### 5.5.4 Objective

1. The Department will manage the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys in order to preserve the historic values represented at these locations as far as practicable.

#### 5.5.5 Policies

- a. The Department will continue to maintain historic sites such as the 'Bridge to Nowhere', the Bettjeman's and Johnson's house sites in the Mangapurua Valley and other sites identified in the future through the Department's research programme.
- b. The Department will carry out a programme of research to identify further sites and features of importance associated with the settlement of the Mangapurua and nearby valleys.
- c. The Department will in consultation with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, tāngata whenua and other interested parties, prepare an operational plan that provides detailed direction for the management and interpretation of historic sites and features identified within the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys (including structures and vegetation).
- d. In its management of sites, structures and features associated with abandoned settlements in the Park, the Department's general approach will be to allow for the regeneration of previously dominant native vegetation, except where this is a threat to features of particular historic significance that have been identified and recorded by the Department in the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys and along the Whanganui River corridor.
- e. Active management of historic sites and features in the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys and elsewhere in the Park will be restricted generally to preservation and interpretation of identified remnant structures and features rather than restoration or reconstruction. Such features may include house sites, old fence lines and engineering works. It may also include selected open spaces and associated vegetation on river flats and public open spaces such as the former Mangapurua domain.
- f. The Department will aim to reinstate and maintain the Mangapurua track on the old road line and to preserve structures and features associated with the road as far as practicable. Where it is impractical to retain them, structures will be properly recorded in situ before removal.
- g. Introduced plants of historic importance through their association with specific sites of human occupation in the Park will be identified and managed until the end of their natural life, in consultation with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, providing that they pose no significant health and safety risks and are prevented from spreading. Priority will be given to removal of seeding trees and their seedlings.

## 6 Management of recreational opportunities *Ngā whakahaerenga o ngā āhua tākaro pūangi*

### 6.1 Long-term outcome

Most of the Park remains essentially remote, inaccessible and enjoyed for its ‘natural quiet’ and scenic beauty, free from harmful human impacts on its indigenous species. The Park as a whole is experienced and enjoyed by a variety of users travelling on foot into remote untracked bush for hunting and tramping on well-marked tracks and routes. Overnight campsites, accommodation and other facilities servicing the Park are of a high standard, sensitively sited and designed in keeping with the natural, cultural and historic values of the Park landscape. There are opportunities for short-stay recreational and educational visits from the urban areas near the Park.

### 6.2 Recreational settings: General *Mahi tākaro pūangi*

The Park provides a variety of opportunities for recreational enjoyment. The Whanganui Journey is recognised as one of New Zealand’s premier recreational experiences: the only ‘Great Walk’ based on canoeing a navigable river. Beyond the Whanganui River corridor, the Park provides extensive opportunities to experience peace and solitude in natural surroundings and to enjoy nature on its own terms. This characteristic of the Park is highly valued by hunters, cyclists and trampers, and allows natural processes to function with a low level of disturbance.

General Policy 8.1 (b) requires that opportunities for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the Park are provided and that they should be consistent with the outcomes planned for places. In planning and providing for them the Department will, under General Policy 8.1 (c):

- preserve national park values, including natural quiet, as far as possible;
- minimise adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on national park values;
- provide for a range of experiences to enable people with different capabilities, skills and interests to have the opportunity to benefit, use, enjoy, and gain inspiration from national parks; and
- maintain the distinctive character of recreation in New Zealand national parks, including the traditional New Zealand backcountry experience with its ethos of self-reliance.

Access on foot is generally permitted as of right. Activities involving other means of transport (including mountain biking or horse riding) are either prohibited or are permitted only under certain conditions or where allowed for in this management plan (refer to the sections 6.2 through to 6.19).

#### 6.2.1 Park-wide management concerns

Two broad types of inter-related issues relating to recreation planning and management have been taken into account in this plan as follows:

##### *Capacity issues*

These relate to the scale of recreational activities that the Park, and places within it, can accommodate without damage to park values or social impacts, such as excessive noise

or overcrowding, or conflict between different uses. Action may be required if demand exceeds capacity and conversely, if use of facilities is low relative to maintenance costs, consideration would need to be given to how costs and benefits can be brought into balance; and

### ***Quality of experience***

This includes the types of recreational opportunities and expectations that are appropriate for the Park and places within it, and the level and standard of facilities provided for them. Also, where two types of activities may not be compatible with each other, the plan provides an indication of which should take precedence.

The overall approach taken by the Department will be to provide for a range of experiences where these are in accordance with legislation and General Policy rather than automatically meeting all demands. The objectives and policies will reflect the outcomes sought for the Park as a whole and specific zones or places within it.

## **6.2.2 Recent trends**

A number of surveys of recreation on the Whanganui River have been carried out in recent decades (Cessford, 1995, 1998; Devlin et. al., 1980; Rundle, 2008). Information from these surveys, along with data collected by the Department for operational purposes, provides some indication of trends for park users on the Whanganui Journey.

The main trend on the Whanganui Journey since the initial plan was prepared has been a change from relative stability in overall visitor numbers to a steady increase, and a gradual shift from domestic to international visitors. In a 2007/08 survey of domestic and international visitors on the Whanganui Journey were, about even (43% of parties from New Zealand, 45% from overseas and 12% mixed (Department of Conservation, 2008)). Comparing this with the 1993/94 survey only 14% where international visitors. It is clear that the river is becoming an increasingly important destination for overseas tourists.

Despite the relatively mild climate all year round, most visits continue to occur between December and Easter. No surveys of visitors to other parts of the Park have been undertaken. It is likely however that numbers have remained fairly stable, with visitors to remoter parts of the Park still predominantly from the North Island, but with an increasing number of international visitors venturing along the Mangapurua and Matemateāonga Tracks.

In comparison with other national parks, the Whanganui National Park is not a well-established tour group destination, and with few easy road and river access points and limited accommodation for visitors, this is likely to continue. However development of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail Ngā Ara Tūhono (part of Ngā Haerenga the New Zealand Cycle Trail) in the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys is attracting more visitors to that part of the Park. Transport of cyclists from the Mangapurua Landing to Pīpīriki is likely to see an increase in jetboat traffic along this section of the river. It is also likely that during the plan period the Whanganui River will be at the forefront of efforts to attract more overseas visitors to the region. Improvements planned for the Whanganui River Road could also encourage more visitors to the Park via its southern entry points (Pīpīriki and Ātene).

Informal observations also suggest that the characteristics and demands of visitors are changing, with visitors tending to be less prepared for their visit (in terms of clothing and equipment) and expecting a higher level of comfort, privacy and servicing (expressed for example through less willingness to undertake voluntary duties such as sweeping and tidying huts). Per capita visitor expenditure is also increasing. These trends have long-term implications for the Department in terms of design, maintenance, service standards and costs and cost recovery, as well as making visitors aware of what to expect.

In summary, increased use of the Whanganui Journey by canoeists, the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Tracks by cyclists and day visits by people accessing the river and the Park via jetboat are likely to result in the Department working with tāngata whenua, territorial authorities and operators to manage the impacts of these activities on the values of the Park and the values associated with the Whanganui Journey.

### 6.2.3 Tourism forecasts

The Ministry of Economic Development (August 2010) forecasts that international visitors to the combined Whanganui/Ruapehu region, will grow by approximately 20% from 2009 to 2016. This is an increase from 236,000 to 284,000 visitor nights. Over the same time period domestic visitors are expected to decrease by 0.6%, from 733,000 to 729,000 visitor nights.

If these medium term forecasts are realised for Park then allowance needs to be made for this growth. There may also be other local influences on visitor numbers, such as the introduction of new activities like mountain-biking or successful marketing by regional tourism organisations or individual operators.

The greatest expected tourism growth is along the Whanganui Journey and the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Tracks. The latter tracks now form part of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail Ngā Ara Tūhono and Te Araroa, a long distance walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. These recent developments will give the Park a higher profile, nationally and internationally.

For management purposes the Park is divided into the following places and recreational experiences (refer to Map 4):

- the Whanganui Journey;
- backcountry (including the Matemateāonga, Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Tracks);
- remote experience; and
- front country/main public access points

### 6.2.4 Objective

1. To provide for a range of appropriate recreational activities in the Park, subject to the preservation of its natural state and preservation of its natural, cultural and historic values.

### 6.2.5 Policies

- a. The Department will monitor changes in visitor numbers to Whanganui National Park and the region through its own surveys and access to tourism data managed by other agencies in order to understand changing visitor trends and perceptions.
- b. Should the results of monitoring noted above in policy a. show adverse effects (such as conflict between recreational uses and effects on Park values) then the Department will implement mechanisms to minimise these (such as advocacy and education with specific recreational groups, signage, controlling concession use, reviewing use or changing the focus of operations/maintenance).
- c. As a result of monitoring, a review may limit some recreational activity.



## 6.3 The Whanganui Journey

### *Ngā rongō me ngā akoranga o Te Awa Tupua*



The remote Whanganui Journey experience. Photo: S. Dixon.

#### 6.3.1 Long-term outcome

The Whanganui River landscape provides a strong sense of remoteness, isolation, and dominance of the natural elements, particularly where the deeply entrenched middle section flows through the Park. These values, along with the profound cultural and historic associations between the Park and the Whanganui River, continue to be experienced and respected by all visitors, particularly by those undertaking the Whanganui Journey by waka, kayak or canoe. The impacts of noise and disturbance from motorised craft are carefully managed by the relevant authorities and tour operators. Management of the Park and Whanganui River by the various interested agencies is integrated wherever possible and support this shared vision.

#### 6.3.2 Background

The Whanganui Journey provides a unique opportunity for inexperienced canoeists to undertake a trip for up to 5 days through a spectacular scenic, historic and generally unspoilt landscape. Although kayaking is possible in the upper reaches of the river, for the purposes of this management plan consideration is limited to the 145 km 'Great Walk' section between Taumarunui and Pīpīriki. As noted previously, the Whanganui River itself is not included in the Park, but the Park provides the backdrop for most of this section, as well as overnight accommodation and the popular walk into the historic Bridge to Nowhere.

A substantial number of visitors also travel the river by jet boat, either on day visits from Pīpīriki, Taumarunui or Whakahoro to scenic locations, such as the Drop Scene and Bridge to Nowhere, or at the beginning or end of cycling/tramping trips along the Matemateāonga or Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Tracks. Day visits from Taumarunui (via canoe, jet boat or a combination of them) are thought to be increasing.

Two huts and a kāinga (Whakahoro/John Coull and Tīeke, respectively), along with eleven campsites are available for 'backcountry comfort seekers' enjoying overnight visits to the Park as part of the Whanganui River scenic experience.

An online ticket booking system (the National Visitor Booking System) which allows visitors to book either bunk space or tent sites along the Whanganui Journey is in place for the Whanganui Journey. Additional accommodation and other services such as transport and canoe hire are available through a number of private businesses on private land.

### 6.3.3 Capacity issues

According to the Department's monitoring system, visitor numbers on the Whanganui Journey have nearly doubled over the past decade, with approximately 10,000 people each year visiting the Bridge to Nowhere via the Mangapurua Landing. In the 2011 - 2012 summer season (October - April) nearly 5,500 people have been recorded as travelling the Whanganui Journey. Of these 46% of visitors did a two night trip between Whakahoro and Pipiriki.

The National Visitor Booking System, first used for the Whanganui Journey for the 2011-2012 summer season, will allow more accurate monitoring of numbers using the whole Whanganui Journey and also the numbers using individual huts and campsites.

The capacity of huts/kāinga and campsites servicing the Whanganui Journey is set out in Table 1. Numbers of people staying at huts and campsites are limited through the National Visitor Booking System because it identifies the number of bunks and tent sites available at any one site on the Whanganui Journey. No further bookings can be made once all bunks/sites have been booked. A small amount of capacity at each site is left on top of the booked capacity, to allow for safe use of sites during floods when visitors may have to alter their chosen overnight location. The table below does not include the privately run Bridge to Nowhere Lodge at Ramanui, which also provides campsites and serviced overnight accommodation.

Table 1: Whanganui Journey accommodation - visitor capacity

CAMPSITE/HUT	TENT SITES	VISITOR CAPACITY
Ōhinepane.	36	36
Poukaria.	12	20
Maharanui.	12	20
Whakahoro (campsite).	36	36
Whakahoro (bunkroom).	-	10
Ōhauora.	34	36
John Coull (campsite).	26	36
John Coull (hut).	-	24
Manga-wai-iti.	26	36
Mangapurua.	10	20
Tīeke (campsite).	28	36
Tīeke (kāinga).	-	20
Mangapapapa.	17	20
Ngāporo.	32	36

Overcrowding at hut and campsites has largely been addressed through the introduction of the National Visitor Booking System and the use of wardens at key sites. This has helped to maintain the quality of the visitor experience.

Further increases in demand may require a review of the location, quality and extent of facilities along the Whanganui Journey. Any review would require consultation with tāngata whenua, commercial operators and other interested parties. However it should be noted that very few of the existing camp or hut sites along the river have capacity for expansion and the nature of the terrain provides few possibilities for new overnight accommodation sites, even if development were acceptable in principle.

#### **6.3.4 Quality of experience**

Increased use of the Whanganui River by canoeists and jet boaters (that take visitors on day trips to the Bridge to Nowhere and transport cyclists) has the potential to impact on the quality of the Whanganui Journey visitor experience in terms of the feeling of remoteness and natural quiet. Conflict between different recreational users (e.g. canoeists and jet boaters) is most likely to arise in the section of river between the Mangapurua Landing and Pipiriki.

The Department is not the management authority for the river and cannot legally control the numbers or type of craft. Concessions are only required when tour operators guide clients in the Park but not when operators are just transporting visitors to view sites from the river or pick up/drop them off. Concessions are therefore not a suitable instrument for managing this issue in isolation. However the Department recognises that the majority of people using the river between Whakahoro and Pipiriki are doing so to access the Park and activities on the river can affect the overall visitor experience of those in the Park.

The Department has a web-based facility that enables visitors to provide feedback on the quality of their experience on the Whanganui Journey. Should feedback or surveys identify conflict between those travelling the Whanganui Journey and motorised craft, the Department will work with tāngata whenua, territorial authorities and operators to understand and manage this conflict.

Voluntary codes of conduct have been introduced for canoe/jet boat encounters by the Department, and are publicised to all river users. The Department would also wish to see collaboration between the interested agencies and authorities with the aim of developing a shared vision for conservation, recreation and tourism on the river. The Department would also like to see this group agree on limits of acceptable change and future management of river use within such limits. A proactive approach that integrates management of the Park and the river would be preferable to ad hoc planning and attempts to reverse pressures and impacts after they have arisen.

The Department notes that previous visitor feedback at huts and campsites had raised concerns about the quality of toilet facilities. Since the mid-1990s all Whanganui Journey campsites have been provided with containment vault toilets, with all sewage periodically removed from the sites. A programme to replace old wooden toilet cubicles with modern, fibreglass, easy to clean cubicles is underway (2012).

Maintenance of landing areas and access tracks to huts and campsites is a recurrent problem for the Department due to the sensitivity of river banks to erosion, with frequent 'freshes' precluding construction of permanent facilities at many sites. 'Hardening' of landing areas through the introduction of boulders or protection works is not generally considered to be either practicable or desirable due to their impacts on the natural landscape (also refer to section 7.9 Natural Hazards and emergencies).

### 6.3.5 Campsites along the Whanganui River



Campers at John Coull campsite on the Whanganui Journey.  
Photo: C. Norgate.

Overnight camping is generally permitted under the National Parks Act except where regulated by bylaws, which were introduced for Whanganui National Park in 1993. These bylaws restrict camping within 250 metres of the Whanganui River (between Taumarunui and Pīpīriki) to designated campsites and apply from 1 October to 30 April. Except in an emergency or with the permission of the Department, campsites may not be used for more than two successive nights during this period.

The bylaws were introduced to preserve the cultural and scenic values, for public health reasons and to avoid exclusive use or long-term occupation by individual people or groups.

These bylaws will be retained, but need to be extended to cover circumstances where groups (including commercially-guided groups) may seek exclusive or ‘guaranteed’ use of part or all of a site for a number of nights in succession by setting up tents and other structures for their members or clients in advance of their arrival. Although no single individual person would be occupying the site for more than two nights in succession, use of campsites by other legitimate users may be disadvantaged and an element of ‘exclusive use’ introduced. Changes to the bylaws will be sought to ensure that a ‘first-come-first-served’ system on a person-by-person basis will continue to operate, as is now happening under the new booking system.

### 6.3.6 River safety

Whilst the Department can provide advice to intending visitors, it has no legal jurisdiction or responsibility for the health and safety of river users. Because the Whanganui River is not in the Park, the Department has no legal powers to control or influence users’ decisions or actions.

The Whanganui Journey is considered suitable for inexperienced canoeists generally and there has only been one recorded fatality on the river which occurred in January 2012 (involving a swimming incident rather than canoeing). However, there is a concern that inexperienced visitors may hire equipment or enter the river during adverse weather or river conditions without being adequately informed about health and safety risks.

Safety on rivers is a responsibility of Maritime New Zealand, unless the relevant regional council exercises its own powers to make and enforce bylaws. Despite this the Department will endeavour to draw attention to visitor safety issues when opportunities arise (such as through its publications and website information) and advocate for adequate information to be provided to river users through the responsible agencies and through commercial operators who hire out equipment.

### 6.3.7 Objectives

1. To provide and maintain opportunities for visitors to experience the Whanganui Journey consistent with the long-term outcomes sought for the Park and the preservation of the natural, cultural and historic values of the Park.

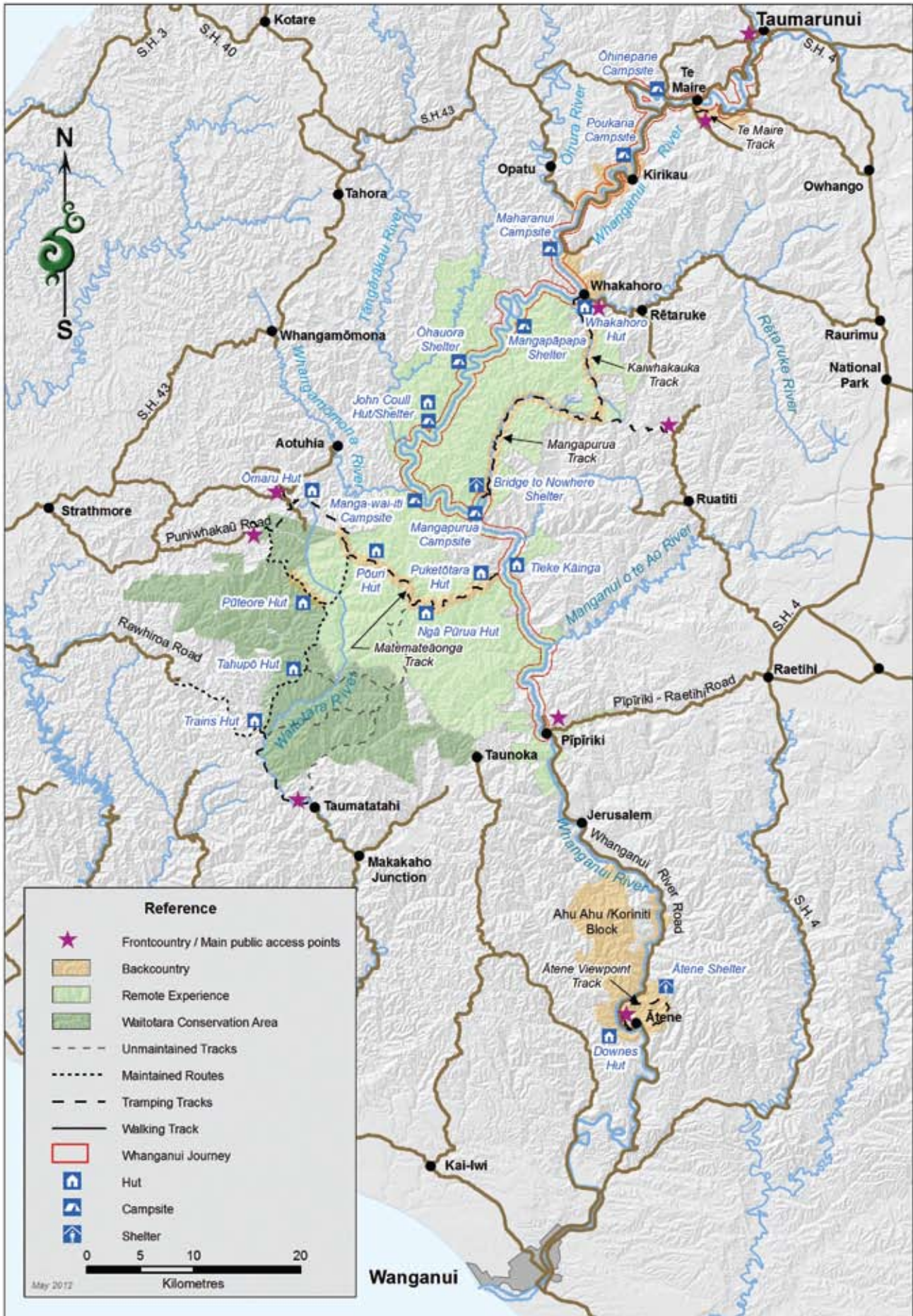
2. To advocate for the protection and enhancement of indigenous fauna and flora and habitats of these in and along the Whanganui River, where it passes adjacent to the Park, to be managed by the relevant agencies in accordance with objective 1.
3. To continuously review and update the Department's management activities in order to ensure that they do not impact adversely on the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River and its tributaries.
4. To promote a remote recreational experience along the Whanganui Journey.

### 6.3.8 Policies

- a. The Department will, through advocacy and discussion with other interested parties and authorities, seek agreement on future responses to growth or changes in recreation and tourism on the Whanganui River and in particular limits of acceptable change and future management of river use within such limits. Amendments to this plan may be required in the light of such discussions.
- b. The Department will advocate for the safe use and practice of motorised and non-motorised water craft by users on the Whanganui Journey.
- c. In partnership with other interested agencies, the Department will carry out a survey of recreational users of the river at least every 5 years in order to assess visitor characteristics, satisfaction with facilities and services and quality of experience, in order to understand issues as they arise. The results are expected to inform future management decisions (such as placing restrictions on concession group numbers, scheduling of jet boat drop offs and limiting or increasing use of tracks and facilities).
- d. The Department will seek feedback from visitors to the Whanganui Journey about the quality of their experience on its website.
- e. The Department will advocate for better guidelines, information and management systems so that intending river users are fully informed of river conditions and any associated risks, appropriate equipment, skill and fitness requirements before embarking on their journey, together with any other measures to minimise risks to river users.
- f. To manage crowding issues at hut and campsites, the Department will continue to manage the Whanganui Journey as part of the National Visitor Booking System and provide wardens at specific sites.
- g. The Department will maintain a buffer above the stated booking capacity at each hut and campsite to allow for emergency use during unusual or extreme weather events.
- h. The Department will monitor the use of huts and campsites in order to determine trends and assess, in consultation with tāngata whenua, concessionaires and user groups, what action is needed to prevent overcrowding.
- i. Should the results of monitoring as discussed in policy h. above, show the demand for hut and campsites has increased beyond existing capacity then the Department will, in consultation with tāngata whenua, territorial authorities and operators review the location, extent and quality of facilities along the Whanganui Journey.
- j. The Department will continue to support the use of bylaws to restrict occupancy of camping sites along the Whanganui River by individual persons to a maximum of two consecutive nights during busy periods of the year. Extensions to the bylaws will be sought in order to prevent exclusive occupancy by groups or organisations where this may restrict freedom of use on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.



Map 4: Recreational opportunities and zones





## 6.4 Backcountry areas: General *Ngā whenua kei uta*

### 6.4.1 Long-term outcome

Backcountry areas of the Park provide a range of opportunities for visitors to experience its remoteness and natural quiet, and for recreational activities that are consistent with the Park's natural, historic and cultural values.

### 6.4.2 Key issues

Within the Park, backcountry areas (Map 4) include the Matemateāonga Track corridor, the Ātene and Ahuahu/Koriniti blocks and other areas of the Park that allow people to experience the natural environment, generally free from signs of human influence. Such areas are reasonably accessible on foot or have well-formed tracks running through them. The Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys are classed in this category, but have additional objectives and policies applying to them due to their particular characteristics, recreational and historical values (refer to section 5 and 6.6), and the need for an integrated approach to their management.



View across Whanganui National Park.  
Photo: C. Norgate.

### 6.4.3 Objectives

1. To provide opportunities in backcountry areas of the Park for a variety of recreational experiences in natural settings that may be challenging, but can be accessed relatively easily on foot.
2. To encourage increased use of the Park's main tracks by trampers and hunters, within the limits set by hut and campsite capacity.

### 6.4.4 Policy

- a. Management of the backcountry will be geared primarily for backcountry adventurers travelling on foot, with key elements including:
  - catering for moderately or less experienced users who are prepared to experience a degree of risk and discomfort, and will be reasonably self-reliant;
  - providing facilities on a limited basis of small, basic huts and/or camping shelters with water supplies and well-marked routes or tracks; and
  - catering for limited reliance on mechanised access to or into the area (e.g. by air or water craft or via formed roads).
- b. Monitoring of the level of use of the main tramping tracks in the Park will continue to be undertaken by the Department. Additional surveys of park users may also be carried out where relevant for park management purposes.

## 6.5 Matemateāonga Track

### 6.5.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors are able to enjoy activities in the remote backcountry of the Matemateāonga Range and their activities are consistent with Park values. Departmental management ensures that the impact of these activities are minimised.

### 6.5.2 Management considerations

The Matemateāonga Track follows the main ridge of the Matemateāonga Range between Kohi Saddle and the Whanganui River, with much of it following an old benched track. It provides the easiest opportunity to encounter on foot the remote, unmodified and otherwise inaccessible interior of the Park, with the added attraction of a journey along the Whanganui River at the start or finish of the experience. The track has the advantages of easy grades, good track surface and 'year round' suitability.

#### *Capacity: tramping*

Despite its attractions, this track is relatively under-utilised, with approximately 1,000–1,500 visitors traversing it per annum. The Department would like to see more use made of this track and completed construction of a new hut at Ngā Pūrua in 2010. However a low level of public awareness and the logistics of returning to the start of the track to retrieve vehicles may be limiting factors.

The qualities of this tramping trip could be more widely promoted, for example to domestic visitors who are new to tramping (particularly families and small school groups). Other possibilities may also be investigated such as promoting this track along with the Mangapurua, as a link between Egmont and Tongariro National Parks. Greater pooling or sharing of vehicles could also be encouraged, perhaps through private operators, in order to minimise transport costs for individuals.



Matemateāonga Track. Photo: C. Norgate.

#### *Capacity: mountain biking*

The Matemateāonga Track is recognised as having potential for cross-country mountain biking. The General Policy establishes the potential to allow mountain bike use in national parks, where national park management plans identify the specific routes on which mountain bikers are permitted.

The use of the track by mountain bikes is not considered likely to lead to major track maintenance or safety issues and because it is not heavily used, the track has the capacity to accommodate trampers, hunters and mountain bikers without significant conflicts arising.

Non-motorised cycles and mountain bikes are permitted to use the Matemateāonga Track but no specific measures are proposed to be taken to upgrade the track for this purpose. In the case that environmental effects such as threats to user safety or track damage occur, the use of mountain bikes on this track will be reviewed, and may be prevented.

### 6.5.3 Objective

1. To manage visitor activities in a way that preserves park values, whilst allowing visitors to enjoy those values and access to the backcountry via the Matemateāonga Track.

### 6.5.4 Policies

- a. The Department will publicise and promote the Matemateāonga Track to school groups and small groups seeking relatively easy access to remote experience opportunities.
- b. The Matemateāonga Track will be maintained to 'backcountry adventurer' standard, provided that the cost per user warrants this. Cost per user is a significant element in prioritising track maintenance. Further upgrading of the track may be undertaken if justified by demand. Tāngata whenua will be consulted on the siting and design of any new facilities.
- c. Mountain bikes and other non-motorised cycles are permitted to be used on the Matemateāonga Track.
- d. The Department will monitor the Matemateāonga Track for effects from the use of non-motorised cycles and mountain bikes (such as conflict between users and the condition of the track). Should monitoring demonstrate adverse effects then the Department will implement mechanisms to minimise these (such as signage, controlling concession use, reviewing use or changing the focus of operations/maintenance).
- e. Conditions of continuing use (if any) will be reviewed after 3 years. Mountain biking may continue if the review demonstrates consistency with natural, historic and cultural values, as well as minimal impacts on other recreational users.
- f. Use of the Ōmaru Hut/Mount Humphries section of the Matemateāonga Track for day or overnight visits to the Park in particular will be encouraged. The Department will consider upgrading the track standard, if justified by increased demand for day and short-stay visits.

## 6.6 The Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track

### 6.6.1 Long-term outcome

Cyclists, trampers and recreational hunters are able to access the old Mangapurua Road and Kaiwhakauka Track. Any vehicular use is sympathetic with the preservation of natural and historic values and quiet enjoyment by other visitors.

### 6.6.2 Management considerations

The history of farming and settlement in the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys, the historical importance of both the former road and the 'Bridge to Nowhere', have given the linked tracks through these valleys their distinctive character. Except for limited sections where the route has been diverted, it follows the line of an old legal road. The history of use by motor vehicles serving the settlements in the valleys is atypical of this and other national parks, and has created complications for present-day management.

Within the Mangapurua Valley, much of the old road formation remains. However, only a limited section from the Mangapurua Trig to Slippery Creek is now on legal road administered



Map 5: Legal status of Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track



by the Ruapehu District Council (Map 5). The Bridge to Nowhere and the remainder of the old road line, together with a short section near the trig has been resumed and gazetted as scenic reserve. The track follows this scenic reserve for most of the Mangapurua Valley, except where it has unintentionally diverged or where there are unauthorised track diversions.

The section of track within the Kaiwhakauka Valley generally follows the legal road, but some sections of the old road formation have been obliterated by slips, making them passable on foot or cycle only. Following the upgrade of the track for cycle trail purposes, including the installation of new bridges, other sections of the track are now on national park land. The varying legal status of different parts of the track creates complications for its management.

Despite the fact that recreational facilities alongside the track, together with the natural and historical features that visitors come to enjoy are within the Park, the use of the track itself where it follows the scenic reserve or legal road cannot be regulated under this plan or through any powers under the National Parks Act. Use of these sections must be governed through other means, including the Conservation Act (through the CMS), the Reserves Act 1977 and the Local Government legislation (for the legal road).

In addition to its use as a tramping track, the Mangapurua Track is used by quad bikes to access the Mangapurua Valley, primarily for recreational hunting. This has included the creation of track diversions to bypass swing bridges, semi-permanent camps and other unauthorised structures such as ponga bridges across creeks. Track damage has in the past extended beyond the legal road and into the scenic reserve and adjacent Park. It is an offence under the Reserves Act to cause damage to a scenic reserve (which includes damage caused by motorised vehicles). Off-road use of motorised vehicles in national parks is also contrary to Policy 8.6 (f) of the General Policy unless specifically provided for in a national park management plan. The Department's position on unauthorised tracks and other works is explained (for the whole park) in section 6.15.

The policies in this plan will seek to prevent unauthorised vehicle use where the track diverges from the old road line and into the Park. The Department will ensure that management of the Mangapurua Valley Scenic Reserve and the old roads passing through this part of the Park, safeguards the values of the Park.

### ***Capacity: tramping***

Despite its easy grades, scenic qualities, historical associations and the 'icon' status of the Bridge to Nowhere, the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track is under-utilised for tramping, receiving similar visitor numbers to the Matemateāonga Track (see section 6.5). The tracks are part of Te Araroa the long distance walking trail that traverses the length of New Zealand so this may help to increase their profile. The intention, following the Department's 2004 Recreational Opportunities Review, is to maintain and manage the track to 'backcountry adventurer' standard, for tramping and camping, and to upgrade camping facilities. The track standards will be met and exceeded through upgrades for cyclists and it is hoped that these upgrades, along with improved camping facilities, will encourage greater use of the track (refer to the mountain biking section below). The 'camping only' facilities for trampers may need to be reviewed after these improvements are completed, should the level of use increase significantly and warrant the provision of other facilities.

### ***Use by motorised vehicles***

The Department recognises that there is a history of vehicle use since the time of the soldiers' settlement when the old road was opened and that pig and goat hunting are legitimate activities. However vehicle use can conflict with the enjoyment of the Park by other users. It causes damage to the track and increases track maintenance costs. It also causes damage to historical features including those associated with the old road, such as the original tōtara culverts. The creation of unauthorised track diversions impacts on the scenic qualities of the Park through erosion and visual scarring of the landscape.

The circumstances under which the Mangapurua Valley may be legitimately used for recreation by motorised vehicles needs to be clearly defined, in consultation with those who regularly use the track. The Department will endeavour to limit use to no further than Bartrum's Swing bridge. Use will be limited to 4WD quad bikes for recreational hunting purposes, because 4WD quad bikes cause less damage than 4WD vehicles and trail bikes. However this relies in the first instance on agreement being reached with the Ruapehu District Council on maintenance standards and methods for regulating the use of the track. Should agreement not be reached, the Department would have the option of closing off the short section of scenic reserve near Mangapurua Trig and allowing access for motorised vehicles only for management of the Park or adjacent land.

Recreational use of the track by other motorised vehicles (including trail bikes) does not occur on a significant scale, but could become established if management policies are not clearly defined and implemented.

### ***Mountain biking***

The Mangapurua Track has been identified by the New Zealand Mountain Biking Association (as the Bridge to Nowhere Track) as one of a 'shortlist' of tracks that provide access into national parks and have significant potential for mountain biking. The Kaiwhakauka and Mangapurua Tracks have been developed for mountain biking and are now part of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail Ngā Ara Tūhono. This had lead to significantly increased use with nearly 2,000 cyclists biking the trail during 2011/2012, the first year of full trail operation.

The General Policy for National Parks 2005 enables the use of formed roads in national parks by non-motorised vehicles, including mountain bikes under certain limited circumstances. They may only use routes (if any) which are specifically approved in national park management plans and only where:

- adverse effects on Park values can be minimised;
- the track standard is suitable; and
- the benefit, use and enjoyment of other people can be protected.

Use of the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Track is permitted for mountain bikes and other non-motorised vehicles along the old legal road, the scenic reserve and where this track diverges into the Park.

### ***Quality of experience***

A major part of the unique experience of this track is derived from its history, both visible and recorded. These values are described in the late Arthur Bate's book 'The Bridge to Nowhere'. On-site interpretation is dealt with in the Historic Sites and Interpretation sections of the plan, where it is recognised as a priority.

Improved camping and shelter facilities have been provided to support cycling and tramping opportunities within the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys. This has assisted in providing a higher standard of facilities and widened the track's appeal.

### ***Matemateāonga/Mangapurua Track linkage***

A linkage between these tracks via a bridge or aerial walkway has been proposed in the past. The Department will not actively pursue this initiative given the availability of other methods of transport, such as jet boat, to connect the track ends and the potential impact of such a structure on the natural qualities of the Park.



### 6.6.3 Objectives

1. Cyclists, trampers and hunters are able to access the backcountry of the Kaiwhakauka and Mangapurua Valleys, to experience their natural and historic values.
2. The Kaiwhakauka and Mangapurua Tracks are maintained as part of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail and the New Zealand Cycle Trail.
3. Quad bike use for hunting is limited to the section of the Mangapurua Track above Bartrum's Swing bridge.

### 6.6.4 Policies

- a. The Department will provide and maintain camping shelters/water catchers and toilets at convenient day tramping distances along the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track. Provision of additional accommodation or facilities by the Department may be considered in accordance with General Policy and the policies of this plan if warranted by increased demand. Tāngata whenua and the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board will be consulted on the siting of any new facilities.
- b. The Department may seek the addition into the Park of the whole of the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track and the road and scenic reserves through which it passes. This will include seeking advice and recommendations from the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and consulting with tāngata whenua, recreation groups, adjacent landowners and the wider community prior to any application to close the road. Refer to section 8 of this Plan for further information on Park additions.
- c. The Department will seek bylaws under relevant legislation to limit use of the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys by motorised vehicles to quad bikes only and only on the formed legal road no further than Bartrum's Swing-bridge. Allowance would be made for vehicular access for the Park and adjacent land management purposes.
- d. Recreational motorised vehicles, except those described above in policy c), are not compatible with national park purposes, therefore they are not provided for in this management plan.
- e. Mountain bikes and other non-motorised cycles are permitted to be used on the Mangapurua Track and the Kaiwhakauka Track.
- f. The Department will monitor the Mangapurua Track and the Kaiwhakauka Track for effects from the use of non-motorised cycles and mountain bikes (such as conflict between users and the condition of the track). Should monitoring demonstrate adverse effects then the Department will implement mechanisms to minimise these (such as signage, controlling concession use, reviewing use or changing the focus of operations/maintenance).
- g. Conditions of continuing use (if any) will be reviewed after 3 years. Mountain biking may continue if the review demonstrates consistency with natural, historic and cultural values, as well as minimal impacts on other recreational users.
- h. The Department will work with its partners in the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail, Whanganui Iwi, the Ruapehu District Council and Whanganui District Council, to promote use of the trail and maintain facilities.

## 6.7 Other backcountry areas

### 6.7.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors experience a quiet backcountry managed primarily for its natural values, with limited human intrusions and facilities appropriate to the backcountry zone.

### 6.7.2 Management considerations

With the exception of the Ātene Viewpoint Walk and Skyline Tracks, the Matemateāonga Track and the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track, there are no formal routes, tracks or other facilities in the backcountry areas of the Park. The Department does not propose to undertake any further upgrading or development during the plan period. However any proposals received from other agencies would be considered on their merits, against the legislation and the policies and objectives in this plan.

### 6.7.3 Objectives

- 1 The Department will continue to maintain the Ātene Viewpoint Walk and Skyline Tracks, Matemateāonga and Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Tracks as the only formal access routes and facilities in the backcountry of the Park.
2. Proposals to further develop tracks and access to the backcountry will be considered in line with the long-term outcomes sought for the Park.

### 6.7.4 Policies

- a. The Ātene Skyline Track will be maintained to tramping track standard.
- b. The Department may give consideration to proposals from other parties to develop and maintain tramping tracks in backcountry areas of the Park. Each case will be considered on its merits. Applications will be required (but will not be limited) to:
  - include a full assessment of effects (including effects on natural, cultural and historic values);
  - be compatible with the recreational outcomes sought, objectives and policies of this plan;
  - provide for use by the public; and
  - provide for departmental monitoring.

## 6.8 Remote experience areas

### *Ngā Haerenga ki ngā whenua kei uta*

### 6.8.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors will experience remote areas that are managed to be largely free of the sights and sounds of human influence.

### 6.8.2 Management considerations

Much of the Park, together with the adjoining conservation areas, forms a continuous tract of forest with opportunities for hunting and remote experience tramping. The network of tracks and huts was, in the main, originally provided for wild animal control purposes. Over the years the network has gradually reduced and huts have been removed as they reach the end of their useful life.

### *Capacity and quality of experience*

The level of track or route use in the remote experience areas of the Park and adjacent Waitōtara Conservation Area has been very low and maintenance costs high. In addition there have been access problems for recreational hunters where one of the routes crossed private land to the south of the Park. These concerns were considered during the 2004 Recreation Opportunities Review. The Department concluded that with limited resources, priority should be given to maintenance and upgrading of a less extensive network that would provide similar types of recreation opportunities, accessible from both Taranaki and Whanganui regions.

The Recreation Opportunities Review proposed to retain and maintain the Western Waitōtara Route and the huts on it (Trains/New Tahupō/Pūteore), together with a link to Puniwhakaū Road end. It also proposed to cease maintenance of other routes and facilities in the eastern part of this sector unless a legal agreement for their maintenance could be negotiated with community groups, such as tramping or hunting clubs. Such an agreement was not able to be secured and the Pokeka and Maungarau Huts were removed.

#### 6.8.3 Objective

1. To provide low impact recreational opportunities and the opportunity to experience the natural values of the Park away from the sights and sounds of human influence.

#### 6.8.4 Policies

- a. The less accessible parts of the Park will be managed as remote experience areas (as shown on Map 4).
- b. The Department will maintain a tramping route to 'route' standard (the Western Waitōtara Route), with appropriately spaced huts, linking Trains Hut (Kapara Conservation Area) to the Matemateāonga Track (Whanganui National Park), via Charley's Clearing and "the Letterboxes", with bridged stream crossings where necessary.
- c. The Department may consider proposals from user groups or other parties interested in marking and maintaining other tramping routes or facilities within the remote experience areas of the Park. Applications will be required (but will not be limited) to:
  - include a full assessment of effects (including effects on natural, cultural and historic values);
  - be compatible with the recreational outcomes sought, objectives and policies of this plan;
  - provide for use by the public; and
  - provide for departmental monitoring.
- d. Management of remote experience areas (refer to Map 4) will be geared primarily to the needs of remoteness seekers and backcountry adventurers, with key elements including:
  - a predominance towards self-reliance and an expectation of back-country skills and previous experience;
  - few encounters with other visitors (not more than one party per day) and generally small party sizes;
  - a limited and basic system of marked routes and huts or shelters; and
  - access on foot only.

## 6.9 Access from road ends/front country

### 6.9.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors are able to access the Park from road ends and then disperse into less busy areas.

### 6.9.2 Management considerations

The main body of the Park is not easily accessible from larger population centres and the most popular entry into the Park is via the Whanganui River rather than by road. In addition, the western areas of the Park are a considerable distance from road ends. There are only four points at which the Park is immediately accessible from formed roads and a further five access points across private land, Crown land or via paper roads that are regularly used (see Appendix 1). Public access across private land is at the discretion of the landowner.

Accesses from road ends most easily reached from the urban centres closest to the Park are as follows:

#### *Whanganui*

The Ātene block is less than an hour's drive from Whanganui and provides a four to six hour loop track (the Ātene Skyline) and a shorter walk to Ātene Viewpoint. Approximately 1500 visitors use at least part of this track each year. Access to the more extensive Āhuahu block and to Downes Hut to the west of the Whanganui River is via a river crossing. There are no tracks or marked routes within these latter backcountry areas;

#### *Taumarunui*

The Te Maire block includes a two-hour loop track and has been promoted for school visits. However, despite its location only 30 minutes drive south of Taumarunui, Te Maire is not highly used (on average less than 700 visitors per year). The relatively consistent use throughout the year suggests that most visitors are local residents;

#### *Stratford*

Improvements proposed for the western Waitōtara route (including a new swing bridge across the Ōmaru Stream) would enable a wider range of visitors to enjoy day or overnight visits to the north western sector of the Park via Stratford. However, parts of the track will remain difficult because of the topography. High construction and maintenance costs render it unlikely that a bridge will be constructed across the Ōmaru Stream (as previously proposed) in the foreseeable future unless additional resources become available and the associated former route from the Matemateāonga Track to Pūteore Hut can re-opened and maintained; and

#### *Raetihi/Pipiriki*

Proposed improvements to facilities and interpretation on the Mangapurua Track as part of cycle trail development will provide a more attractive opportunity for day or overnight visits via Pipiriki or Raetihi.

Other recreational opportunities at road ends could be considered in the future, particularly if the proposed additions to the Park proceed, and additional funding is made available. In the meantime, priority will be given to projects identified in the 2004 Recreation Opportunities Review.

### 6.9.3 Objective

1. To provide opportunities for visitors from the main population centres closest to the Park boundary (Whanganui, Taumarunui, Stratford and Raetihi) to enjoy access on foot into the Park for day or half-day visits.

## 6.9.4 Policies

- a. The Department will continue to maintain the Ātene Viewpoint Walk and Te Maire Loop Tracks to day visitor standard and Ātene Skyline Track to tramping track standard.
- b. A route will be maintained in the western sector of the Park (refer to Map 4 Recreational opportunities and zones), parts of which will provide opportunities for day or overnight visits from Taranaki. Sections most accessible from road ends may be upgraded to provide easier day-visit opportunities if justified by demand and available resources.
- c. The Department may consider linkages between the Park and other tracks and roads outside the Park, in conjunction with tāngata whenua, local councils and community groups, providing that they are compatible with legislation and the objectives and policies in this plan.
- d. Through discussions with tāngata whenua and landowners, the Department may seek formal agreements or other arrangements to secure legal access to the Park where this is necessary to safeguard or develop recreational opportunities.
- e. The Department may consider proposals from user groups or other parties interested in marking and maintaining other tramping tracks or facilities within the 'front country' areas of the Park. Applications will be required (but will not be limited) to:
  - include a full assessment of effects (including effects on natural, cultural and historic values);
  - be compatible with the recreational outcomes sought, objectives and policies of this plan;
  - provide for use by the public; and
  - provide for departmental monitoring.

## 6.10 Recreational activities: General

### *Ngā mahi tākaro pūangi*

The following sections provide guidance on the management of specific recreational activities within the Park. They should be considered in the context of the General Policy, including Policy 8.1 (c), to which reference is made at the beginning of section 6.2 Recreational settings: General.

## 6.11 Hunting

### *Ngā tākaro kimi kai*

#### 6.11.1 Long-term outcome

Hunters have opportunities to contribute to the control of introduced animals such as deer and pigs in the Park in a manner that is consistent with natural, cultural and recreational values of the Park. The effects of dogs on kiwi are avoided.

#### 6.11.2 Background

Hunting is a popular recreational activity in much of the Park and is generally encouraged by the Department as a valid form of recreation that, if effectively targeted, can help reduce the impact of introduced animals on the Park's ecosystem.

Uncontrolled hunting dogs can pose a risk to kiwi and other native fauna and a permit is required to take a dog into any national park. Current practice is to permit hunting dogs in the Park subject to information being provided on dog registration, numbers and intended hunting areas. Dog numbers are limited to two dogs per person or four dogs per party.

Limits are placed on hunting to minimise health and safety risks to others during periods when the Whanganui River and the main tracks are most popular for other visitors.

Restrictions apply from October to April (inclusive) along the Whanganui River corridor and between 20th December and 20th February and over Easter within 200 metres of the Matemateāonga and Mangapurua Tracks. They may also apply where deemed necessary for management purposes.

Dogs can be at serious risk through consumption of possum or rat carcasses after 1080 drops and the Department advises hunters against taking dogs into areas treated with 1080 for a cautionary period (for 3-6 months depending on weather conditions) after such operations (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Annual Report, 2011). Generally, only a small proportion of the Park is affected at any one time.

There is an increasing trend for hunters to access hunting areas by air or by quad bike or other vehicles rather than on foot. The latter is mainly an issue in the Mangapurua Valley and is considered elsewhere in the plan.

### 6.11.3 Management considerations

Generally recreational hunting is an acceptable activity in the Park and most hunters are sympathetic towards national park management policies. However, this plan does address a number of issues of concern to both hunters and the Department. These are covered in the following paragraphs.

Many hunters would like to see conservation benefits arising from their activities, but research suggests that, generally, this is achieved only as part of a targeted programme. Better ways of achieving joint recreational and conservation outcomes could be explored, such as the Department giving advice on its priorities (species/locations) and/or advance notice of areas of the Park where hunting effort is most likely to be beneficial.

Uncontrolled dogs are a serious threat to kiwi. Other than an outright ban on dogs, risks can be minimised by requiring that dogs entering sensitive areas be trained to be kiwi-averse and fitted with transponders in case they get lost, with a training scheme provided or supported by the Department. Such schemes have been introduced successfully elsewhere and could also include aversion training to preserve other threatened species such as blue duck.

### 6.11.4 Objectives

1. To encourage recreational hunting in the Park providing that the activity is compatible with the relevant legislation, public safety, the preservation of park values and other legitimate recreational activities.
2. To avoid risks to kiwi and other native fauna from uncontrolled hunting dogs.

### 6.11.5 Policies

- a. The Department will seek to develop closer liaison with hunting groups and organisations in order to encourage hunters to become 'kiwi guardians' and will:
  - provide information to hunters on the Department's priority areas and target species for control;



- develop local programmes to integrate recreational and departmental hunting activities for the benefit of conservation and national park management purposes; and
  - develop and implement avian (including kiwi) aversion training programmes for hunting dogs used in the Park.
- b. The Department will encourage recreational and commercial hunting in line with General Policy 4.3 (i), (j) and 8.4 (b) provided there are no adverse effects on natural, cultural or historic values within the Park.
- c. The Department will continue to allow (subject to a permit) the use of dogs for hunting purposes in the Park, on condition that:
- dogs are kept under the control of the permit holder and any harm or disturbance to other park users or to native fauna is avoided;
  - dogs are registered with the relevant local authority and dog registration numbers and intended hunting areas are entered on any permit that is issued;
  - hunters adhere to any restrictions on hunting areas and limits on numbers of dogs (two dogs per person or four dogs per party);
  - all dogs meet the requirements of any avian aversion scheme in place;
  - all dogs are tattooed; and
  - dogs are not a safety risk to other members of the public using the park.
- d. The Department may require the use of transponders or similar tracking devices on dogs used for hunting purposes in the Park.

## 6.12 Access by other animals (including pets) *Te putanga o ngā kararehe me ngā mōkai*

### 6.12.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors experience, and the Department manages, the Park's natural and cultural values free of the impacts of other animals (including pets).

### 6.12.2 Management consideration

This category includes domesticated dogs, cats, horses, livestock and other animals that do not naturally inhabit the Park (also refer to section 7.1 regarding concessions and 7.4 regarding Grazing/Farming considerations).

The introduction of animals (including pets) into the Park without consent from the Minister is an offence under the National Parks Act. Unless otherwise determined by the Authority, introduced animals are to be, as far as possible, exterminated. This is one of the Act's principle park management requirements (section 4(b)). Animals that escape or are released, may cause considerable damage by preying upon indigenous animals or browsing on vegetation.

Horses can impact on natural and historical values by introducing and spreading plant pests, damaging tracks or historic sites, trampling vegetation and degrading hut or campsite environments. For these reasons it is not considered appropriate to provide routes for recreational horse riding in the Park or permit horse riding on tracks used by trampers or cyclists.

Apart from the specific exceptions noted in policies 6.12.4 below, all domestic animals in the Park will be treated as pests and will be subject to the relevant management policies.

### 6.12.3 Objective

1. To avoid damage or disturbance to indigenous flora and fauna, tracks and cultural and historic sites introduced animals (including pets) are not allowed in the Park without a permit.

### 6.12.4 Policy

- a. It is generally inappropriate to allow domestic animals and livestock into the Park as they can cause significant damage to vegetation, riparian areas, introduce plant pest species, damage tracks and impact on public use. The introduction and use of domestic animals, pets, horses and other animals in the Park will be allowed only in the following circumstances:
  - the Director-General is satisfied that a dog is necessary for the activity proposed;
  - use of dogs for hunting purposes, for which a permit has been granted (subject to policies and conditions noted in section 6.11.5);
  - use of dogs where there is an exemption from permit requirements under the National Parks Act 1980 (including guide dogs, companion dogs and dogs used for special circumstances, such as search and rescue, police work);
  - use of dogs by current concessionaires for livestock management purposes, on the condition that dogs are kept under control at all times;
  - use of horses for access along agreed routes to private or Crown land for farming purposes by the relevant landowner, tenant or people employed by them, subject to conditions that minimise adverse effects on the Park;
  - grazing of animals on Park land under a concession or lease (see section 7.4); and
  - use of animals by, or authorised by, the Department for national park management purposes, including survey work and animal pest control.

## 6.13 Camping in the national park *Ngā hopuni i Roto i te papa rēhia*

### 6.13.1 Long-term outcome

Opportunities for camping are provided where consistent with the natural, historic and cultural values of the Park.

### 6.13.2 Management considerations

Freedom camping is permitted in the Park generally except where restricted through bylaws. Campsites are provided to encourage camping where there are facilities which reduce the adverse impacts of freedom camping such as human waste, rubbish disposal and damage to vegetation. There is also the risk of violating wāhi tapu sites.

Within the Mangapurua Valley, damage has also been caused by campsites being established on historical sites.

Bylaws relating to camping along the Whanganui River corridor are considered in sections 6.3.4 and 6.3.7.

### 6.13.3 Objective

1. To allow for freedom camping in the Park providing the activity does not detract from park values, cause cultural offence, create health risks or otherwise detract from the enjoyment of other visitors.

### 6.13.4 Policies

- a. Generally, overnight camping will be permitted throughout the Park (subject to bylaws for the Whanganui River corridor). However, visitors will be encouraged to camp near toilet facilities, avoid known historical or culturally sensitive sites and to leave sites as they found them. Additional bylaws will be sought if monitoring shows additional controls are required to meet the plan objectives.
- b. The Department will monitor camping for any adverse effects (such as impacts resulting from the activity on fauna and flora, and rubbish). Should monitoring show adverse effects the Department will implement mechanisms to minimise or avoid such effects (such as signage, controlling concession use or reviewing use).

## 6.14 Other accommodation and related facilities (including private huts and lodges)

### *Ētahi atu o ngā whare noho*

#### 6.14.1 Long-term outcome

Accommodation and related facilities are provided in the Park for visitor satisfaction where consistent with Park values.

#### 6.14.2 Management considerations

Accommodation and related facilities in the Park provided by the Department for the benefit and enjoyment of the public are considered in section 6.2.

A range of legislative provisions also enable other agencies or individuals to apply for approval to establish, extend or add to visitor accommodation and associated buildings and facilities in a national park. Such agencies could include iwi, tramping or hunting clubs, or commercial operators. Proposals may raise issues relating to environmental impacts, exclusivity of use and indirect management implications for the Department, such as maintenance of access tracks or monitoring of compliance with consents.

General Policy 9 sets out the range of considerations to be taken into account when determining applications. Policies 9 (d) and 9 (e) are replicated as policies in this plan.

Other buildings and facilities that are not related to accommodation need to be authorised by way of a concession (refer to section 6.14.3 Objectives and 6.14.4 Policies below and section 7 Other activities and uses). This includes buildings to accommodate concessionaires and their staff.

Sections 117 to 120 of the Building Act 2004 set out the requirements for access by people with disabilities.

### 6.14.3 Objectives

1. To allow for a range of accommodation, other buildings or facilities that:
  - provide for public access and enjoyment of the Park; or
  - facilitate national park management; and
  - are consistent with the long-term outcomes of this plan and national park purposes.
2. To avoid adverse effects on park values (including cultural values) and recreational outcomes sought for the Park that could arise from inappropriate development of accommodation and related facilities, and to minimise such effects where development is acceptable in principle.

### 6.14.4 Policies

- a. Any proposal or application to establish accommodation and related facilities, increase the scale or add to an existing structure or facility in the Park, should meet the following conditions:
  - the structures cannot reasonably be located outside the Park;
  - the proposal cannot reasonably be built elsewhere in the Park where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less; and
  - the applicant cannot reasonably use or share an existing structure or facility.
- b. All accommodation and related facilities in the Park should (unless otherwise provided for in an existing lease) be consistent with the long-term outcomes sought at places, as identified within this plan. Any proposal or application regarding replacements, additions and extensions and signage at accommodation and related facilities, should be assessed on (but not limited to) how the proposal:
  - minimises adverse effects on national park values;
  - minimises adverse effects on the existing benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access;
  - avoids proliferation of the built environment;
  - provides for appropriate use by disabled people and the public; and
  - is located, designed, constructed and maintained to:
    - preserve a sense of naturalness (including natural quiet);
    - where possible, be close to, and complement, existing accommodation and related facilities;
    - harmonise with the landscape (including appropriate scale, design and colour);
    - meet all legal requirements and standards;
    - minimise risks from natural hazards;
    - avoid adverse effects on natural surface and underground waters and all water bodies; and
    - be available for use by the public.

- c. The Department will seek the phasing out of any existing accommodation or related facilities, including temporary structures and encampments in the Mangapurua Valley, that have been constructed without authorisation under the National Parks Act 1980. The Department will, in the first instance, allow a reasonable period for agreement to be reached on timeframes for removal or other means of resolution in accordance with the Act. Failing such agreement, the Department will seek the immediate removal of structures.
- d. The Department will consult with tāngata whenua, Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and other potentially affected parties on any accommodation or related facilities (including replacements, additions and extensions) for public use.
- e. Any proposals for accommodation or facilities other than that provided by the Department for departmental or public use will require authorisation from the Minister.
- f. The Department should decline any applications for accommodation or related facilities (including encampments) that are intended for exclusive private use.
- g. Accommodation and related facilities may be monitored by the Department and concessionaires to inform future management decisions regarding their use and effects on:
  - the public's access; and
  - the public's benefit and enjoyment of national park values (including recreation, natural, social and cultural values).

## 6.15 **Unauthorised tracks and related structures** *Ngā ara me ngā hanganga koremana*

### 6.15.1 **Long-term outcome**

Visitors will experience the Park as far as possible in its natural state. Discovery of unauthorised tracks and structures results in their removal.

### 6.15.2 **Management considerations**

Sections 6.7 Other backcountry areas, 6.8 Remote experience and wilderness areas and 6.9 Access from road ends/front country set out the circumstances under which proposals for the establishment or maintenance of tramping routes or tracks within the Park should be considered. The creation of new tracks for vehicles for recreational use is not considered to be consistent with the outcomes sought for the Park or places within it. Where unauthorised track diversions and structures such as culverts and bridges have been established, notably in the Mangapurua Valley, they have created visual scars on the landscape that detract from the natural qualities of the Park and the enjoyment of other visitors. Such diversions should be stopped and facilities removed with sites restored or allowed to regenerate naturally.

### 6.15.3 **Objective**

1. To maintain the Park as far as possible in its natural state and to preserve the 'natural quiet' of remote and backcountry areas within it.

#### 6.15.4 Policy

- a. The Department will seek the removal of all works associated with unauthorised track diversions in the Park and the areas of concern will be restored to their natural state.

### 6.16 Waste *Aotaota*

#### 6.16.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors respect the Park's natural, cultural and historic values, disposing of litter and waste consistently with these values.

#### 6.16.2 Management considerations

Disposal of litter and other rubbish in the Park detracts from its natural character and can pollute the Park and adjoining rivers and watercourses. Collection and disposal by the Department is very costly and does not encourage people to take responsibility for their own rubbish. It is now a widely-accepted practice in natural areas for visitors and other users to carry out their own rubbish.

#### 6.16.3 Objective

1. To prevent rubbish and human waste causing adverse effects on park values.

#### 6.16.4 Policies

- a. The Department will continue to promote the “pack in pack out” principle in relation to rubbish generated by Park and Whanganui River users, through education and awareness-raising at huts, campsites and entry points, through conditions on contracts and concessions, by example (in the Department's own operations) and through other means as appropriate.
- b. Promote the reduction and impact of human waste in the Park through education (such as raising awareness at huts, campsites and entry points) and conditions on contracts and concessions.
- c. Monitor for adverse effects of the impact of waste on the Park and enable adaptive management approaches and adjust policies accordingly (for example should monitoring show a sustained increase in recreation use and therefore waste, further facilities may need to be provided to cater for the increase).

### 6.17 Motorised vehicles, aircraft and other forms of transport *Ngā waka e rite ana mō ia mahi*

#### 6.17.1 Long-term outcome

Visitor use and experience of motorised vehicles, aircraft and other forms of transport in the Park are consistent with the natural, cultural and historical values of the Park and opportunities to enjoy its ‘natural quiet’ are preserved.



### 6.17.2 Management considerations

General Policy 8.6 indicates that some types of vehicles and other forms of transport may be permitted at identified places in national parks, but only where specific allowance is made for them in park management plans, where consistent with the outcomes planned for a place and where adverse effects on Park values, including natural quiet, can be minimised.

The Act provides powers to make bylaws to prohibit vehicles and aircraft from entering the Park and under section 60 (2) failure to remove a vehicle from the Park when required to do so is an offence under the Act. General Policy 8.1(i) advocates for unformed legal roads within the National Parks to be closed and the land incorporated into the Park, except where they are essential as legal access to other lands.

In general, use of vehicles is not considered by the Department to be compatible with maintaining the Park in its natural state in accordance with the National Parks Act.

### 6.17.3 Motorised vehicles on land

General Policy 8.6 (f) requires that motorised vehicles should not be taken into or used in national parks, except on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use and on routes specifically approved for use by a specified type of motorised vehicle in a national park management plan. There are several unformed legal roads within the Park and for consistency of management it is desirable that some of these be added to the Park. These unformed legal roads are administered by the relevant district councils but the Department can request that they be stopped and added to the Park where they do not provide access to other properties.

Any new roads in national parks require consent from the Minister. The Department does not consider the creation of new formed roads within the Park to be compatible with the preservation of natural values and recreational outcomes identified in this plan. Issues specifically relating to the old Mangapurua Road are considered above in section 6.6 The Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Track.

### 6.17.4 Powered aircraft (including helicopters)



Helicopter at Puketōtara Hut. Photo: C. Norgate.

Opportunities to land aircraft (including helicopters) in the Park are generally limited to hut and campsites along with a small number of areas in the Park where the terrain and vegetation make landing possible. Landings at such sites are infrequent and restricted generally to occasional hunters and for park management activities. Maintaining a network of landing sites is important for search and rescue purposes.

A concession is required to land, take off or hover over any land in a national park. There are a small number of operators providing mainly for hunters. General demand for concessions to land in the Park is low.

Over-flying the Park at low altitudes for scenic flights or filming does not occur on a significant enough scale to be an immediate management concern. The frequency of scenic flights and consequent demand for landing sites along the Whanganui River corridor in particular may increase in the future, but there are no sites identified for this purpose within the Park (including hut and campsites). A significant increase in low flying aircraft would be an intrusion on the 'natural quiet' of the remoter sections of the river, and may reduce campsite capacity if landing areas were to be set aside for them at these sites.

### 6.17.5 Powered watercraft

There are no navigable water bodies accessible to powered water craft in the Park. Use of the Whanganui River and its main tributaries by jet boats and other powered craft is outside the scope of this plan. The Department's general advocacy approach is considered in sections 3 and 6.3. If use of the river increases during the plan period and overcrowding occurs at hut, camp or landing sites, the Department would seek to ensure that access to the Park and use for canoeists is not jeopardised by powered watercraft.

### 6.17.6 Objective

1. To preserve the natural and historical values of the Park and opportunities to enjoy its 'natural quiet' from the effects of powered vehicles and other forms of transport.

### 6.17.7 Policies

- a. Unless otherwise stated in this plan, powered vehicles and craft should only be allowed in the Park where required for national park management purposes or under a concession and where:
  - powered vehicle use is consistent with Park values; and
  - adverse effects on Park values, including natural quiet can be minimised.
- b. The Department will seek bylaws to prohibit entry by unauthorised vehicles and will seek the removal of vehicles driven into the Park unlawfully.
- c. The Department will not support the upgrading of existing formed roads or creation of new formed roads within the Park unless there are clear benefits for the management and preservation of the Park's values (including its 'natural quiet').
- d. The Department will consult with local authorities, tāngata whenua and potentially affected landowners, and where appropriate will seek the closure of unformed legal roads within the Park, except where they are essential as legal access to other lands. In the latter instance the Department will liaise with local authorities to ensure that any maintenance is undertaken to a standard and in a manner that is compatible with park values and planned outcomes for places in the Park.
- e. Sites where landing, hovering and taking off of aircraft may be permitted are set out in Appendix 4. Further sites maybe added where they are consistent with policy a. above. Use should be limited to activities undertaken for park management, emergency, or search and rescue purposes and those authorised through a concession. Concessions for more than two aircraft (including helicopter) landings per day in total at any site should not be granted, unless it can be demonstrated that a greater number can be accommodated without detriment to park values or objectives, policies and outcomes sought for recreational settings outlined in section 6.1 to 6.8.
- f. In situations of limited capacity or incompatibility between different types of recreational activities, priority should be given to non-motorised forms of recreation over motorised (including aircraft and watercraft) activities. The Department will advocate for a similar approach to navigation on the Whanganui River if opportunities to enjoy the Park by use of canoes or other non-motorised craft are likely to be affected.

- g. The Department will monitor the use of motorised vehicles and craft in the Park for any adverse effects (such as noted above in policy a.) and conflict between users and departmental park management activities) and include mechanisms to minimise these adverse effects (such as controlling concession use, limiting or reviewing use and landing sites and use of quieter aircraft).
- h. Aircraft may operate in the Park where required for emergencies and park management, if adverse effects on national park values, the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public are avoided.
- i. The Department will require all aircraft concessionaires or pilots contracted to concession holders and the Department for management purposes, to hold AIRCARE accreditation.
- j. Should monitoring demonstrate illegal use of powered vehicles, aircraft and other forms of transport within the Park, the Department may prosecute the offenders. Should the offenders be approved concessionaires, the concession will be revoked immediately. This policy links with section 6.11 Hunting and 7.12 Beehives/ Beekeeping.

## 6.18 Commercial visitor services (including guiding) *Ngā ritenga mō ngā pakihī manuhiri*

### 6.18.1 Long-term outcome

High-quality commercial services that enhance the visitor experience are provided through the granting of concessions that are compatible with the outcomes sought for and values of the Park

### 6.18.2 Management considerations

The Park is important as a tourist destination, and expenditure by visitors makes a significant contribution to the local economy. Commercial operators (including guides) can assist visitors and the less confident or experienced to venture into the Park. They can also provide new insights into its natural, cultural and historical values as well as providing



Commercial operators at Mangapurua Landing. Photo: C. Norgate.

advice on appropriate and safe use of the Park and the Whanganui River.

A concession is required from the Department to carry out a commercial activity in the Park. The criteria for assessing applications are considered in section 7 Other activities and uses (specifically 7.1.4 Policies).

Unless a party lands and is guided within the Park, guided travel along the Whanganui River does not require a concession because the river is not part of the Park. Likewise, hire of equipment (including canoes) from outside the Park for use on the Whanganui Journey does not require a concession.

Most applications for concessions are to provide for guided canoeing trips staying at camp or hut sites along the river, or day trips by jet boat combined with a short walk to the Bridge to Nowhere. The Department can not control the pick up or drop off of mountain bikers or trampers to the Matemateāonga and Mangapurua Tracks as these access points from the river are not part of the Park.

In May 2012 there were 12 commercial guiding concessionaires operating in the Park, all based on the Whanganui River. These activities are generally compatible with the recreation management policies in this plan. Monitoring and contingency planning in the event of future changes in demand are considered in sections 6.3.8 and 9.3 of this plan.

### 6.18.3 Objective

1. To enable a range of appropriate, high-quality services to be provided to visitors through the granting of concessions compatible with the outcomes sought for the Park and its recreational settings and places as described in this plan.

### 6.18.4 Policies

- a. The Department will continue to provide information to intending visitors on appropriate tourism activities that are available in the Park and to liaise and consult regularly with concessionaires on matters of mutual interest.
- b. Commercial tourism operations should be compatible with other visitors' use and enjoyment of the Park. When processing applications, the cumulative impacts of concessionaires in an area will be considered, together with the criteria set out in section 7.1.4.
- c. Concessionaires and their clients should use public facilities on a first-come-first-served basis. Where demand at huts exceeds bunk space, they should not occupy more than 50% of a hut's bunk space even if they arrive first and should be prepared to use adjacent camping areas if necessary.

## 6.19 Information, interpretation and education *Ngā tohutohu, whakamārama, me te mātauranga*

### 6.19.1 Long-term outcome

The visitor experience is enhanced by an understanding of the Park's values, in particular its cultural significance.

### 6.19.2 Existing Services

Information and interpretation relating to the Park is available in a variety of forms, including publications by the Department and voluntary organisations such as Whanganui Tramping Club and the Friends of the Whanganui River, commercial guides based on the river, the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board and the Whanganui Iwi annual hikoi, along with signs and displays. This management plan covers those services provided or financially supported by the Department.



### 6.19.3 Publications

Three brochures are available from the Department: the Matemateāonga Track; Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Tracks; and the 'Whanganui Journey'. Also available are two factsheets, the Ātene Skyline and Te Maire Track.

As part of the Department's "Supersites for Education" programme, free school information and resource packs have been developed for both Te Maire and Ātene and are available from departmental offices. Supersite and other general information about the Park is also provided on the internet through the Department of Conservation's web site [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) and those of other organisations.

A revised recreational and interpretative map (Parkmap 273-06, Whanganui) was prepared in 2005. This includes descriptive material about the Park and features of interest within it. Concessionaires, information centres and other outlets sell the map.

### 6.19.4 Signs at boundaries and access routes

The three-panel composite signs were updated in 2004 to provide information about the Whanganui Journey at Cherry Grove, Ōhinepane, Whakahoro and Pīpīriki. These include a combination of information and interpretation.

Outside the Park, Pīpīriki is a focal point in the history of the river and provides a gateway for day visitors as well as the main exit point for the Whanganui Journey.

A number of signs and information boards were erected soon after the Park was established. These include signage at the Kohi Saddle end of the Matemateāonga Track and the information kiosk at the start of the Whanganui River Road, north of Whanganui.

### 6.19.5 On-site interpretation within the Park



Interpretation signage at Bridge to Nowhere. Photo: L. Davies.

New interpretation has been provided at key sites throughout the Park from Whakahoro to Pīpīriki. The interpretation includes descriptions of cultural, historic, and biodiversity values as well as the Whanganui Journey.

Other signage visible whilst travelling along the Whanganui River is limited to direction and advanced warning signs for huts and campsites. Any signs located close to the river have a high likelihood of being washed away during floods. Drawing attention to or encouraging access to pā sites that are wāhi tapu can also be a sensitive issue for Whanganui Iwi and full consultation would be needed before deciding whether improved interpretation of these sites would be appropriate in the future.

### 6.19.6 Management considerations

Given the range of material that is currently available or in preparation, the main priorities during the plan period are identified as:

- providing information required for safety;
- providing and updating information and interpretation signs at features of interest within the Park and at main access points; and
- working in partnership with tāngata whenua, concession holders, schools, kura and other agencies to promote awareness of the Park through joint projects.

Enhancing people's knowledge and understanding of the Park and its features is a vital part of park management. It can serve a wide range of purposes, including:

- helping visitors to plan and carry out their visit safely and with confidence;
- highlighting recreational, educational and aesthetic opportunities and making visitors more aware of any relevant bylaws or regulations;
- enhancing understanding of the conservation values and features of interest in the Park. This can help to enhance the quality of the visit and support for pro-conservation behaviour within the Park and may also assist the management of visitor impacts;
- reducing risks to public safety by assisting visitors in assessing potential hazards or difficulties and meeting the Department's health and safety obligations;
- promoting public support for conservation in general; and
- enhancing knowledge and understanding of past and current associations of people with the Park and the Whanganui River.

General Policy requires that a range of information about national parks should be provided for the range of purposes listed above. Signs and display boards should not be intrusive unless they need to be highly visible for public safety reasons.

Whilst it is difficult to justify large-scale expenditure on services that are used by only a relatively small number of visitors or are subject to vandalism, there is a need to maintain standards of presentation. Printed material, information signs and display boards that are either out-of-date or in poor repair need to either be renewed or taken out of service, unless they have historical value in their own right.

The Wanganui Conservancy Interpretation Strategy (prepared in the mid-1990s) proposed new initiatives, including historical panels and maps at Mangapurua Landing and Whakahoro and an interpretative panel for Te Maire Track. In addition, the strategy proposed to maintain, improve or upgrade all existing signs and displays, such as at the Ātene viewpoint.

Despite the recommendations in the Interpretation Strategy, the focus in the Park over the past decade has been on visitor safety rather than interpretation. However further funding may become available for broader interpretation as safety concerns are met.

### 6.19.7 Objectives

1. To ensure that visitors to the Park are aware of the recreational, educational and aesthetic opportunities available, potential hazards and any relevant rules or restrictions.
2. To inform visitors about the story of particular natural and historic features within the Park and to foster an understanding and appreciation of their value.
3. To educate the public regarding the effects that plant and animal pests and diseases have on Park values, and how their introduction and spread can be avoided.
4. To encourage visitor behaviour that improves the conservation value of the Park and discourage behaviour that reduces that value.
5. To ensure that information provided about the Park (including signage) does not have adverse impacts on its natural, cultural or historic values (through visual intrusion or disturbance of sensitive habitats) or lead to disturbance of culturally sensitive sites, including wāhi tapu.



## 6.19.8 Policies

- a. Interpretative panels will be provided and kept up to date by the Department at locations in the Park where they have greatest potential to improve understanding and appreciation of the Park and positively influence visitor behaviour. Priority will be given to main entry points, huts and campsites and the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka Valleys (including managed historic sites).
- b. Signs will be erected and maintained by the Department within the Park to meet legal or departmental safety standards and assist visitors in assessing risks or hazards.
- c. Signs will be erected and maintained by the Department at entry and exit points on the Matemateāonga, Mangapurua, Ātene and Te Maire Tracks and in advance of campsites and landing points along the Whanganui River where required. Elsewhere in the Park, track signage will be provided and maintained to the appropriate track or route service standard.
- d. The Department may also provide, replace or maintain interpretative displays outside the Park, but will give priority to locations where there is a partnership or joint arrangement with other agencies such as regional or district councils, NZ Historic Places Trust, tāngata whenua and the community.
- e. The Department will develop proposals for on-site interpretation of any wāhi tapu sites or other sites of particular significance to tāngata whenua with the agreement of tāngata whenua.
- f. Where appropriate, tāngata whenua will be consulted on interpretative material provided by the Department and invited to contribute their perspective. Use of te reo Māori (with English translation) will be encouraged.
- g. Where appropriate, concession holders who introduce visitors to the Park will be consulted on interpretive material that promotes recreational, educational and aesthetic experiences and behaviours compatible with preservation of the Park.
- h. Where appropriate schools/kura will be consulted to ensure the educational aspects of interpretation material are effective at increasing awareness, knowledge and understanding of the Park, and encouraging participation in action to protect conservation values.
- i. The Department will continue to provide up-to-date educational resources for schools visiting the Ātene and Te Maire “Supersites”. Consideration will also be given to developing new “Supersites” or other educational resources that are more accessible to schools organising travel down the river or arriving from the west or east of the Park.

## 7 Other activities and uses *Ngā mahi me ōna ritenga*

### 7.1 Other activities and uses with potential effects on the Park *Ngā mahi me ōna ritenga e hāngai ana ki te papa rēhia*

#### 7.1.1 Long-term outcome

Other activities and uses of the Park are permitted and managed to the extent that they are compatible with the natural, historic and cultural values of the Park, and the quiet enjoyment of these by other visitors.

#### 7.1.2 General issues

In addition to conservation and recreation activities, there may be interest in using land within the Park for other purposes. Examples include livestock grazing, laying of pipelines and power lines, telecommunications facilities and beekeeping. In addition, the Park can be affected adversely by land uses and other activities occurring outside its boundaries, for example vegetation clearance, wastewater discharges and water abstraction activities upstream within the Whanganui catchment.



Beehives within a bush clearing. Photo: C. Norgate.

Where the activity or development takes place on land administered by the Department, one or more authorities to undertake the activity or development may be required. This can include permissions required under a variety of legislation (including the Wildlife Act 1953, the National Parks Act 1980, Conservation Act 1987, and the Historic Places Act 1993) and in particular permission under Part III B of the Conservation Act 1987 and section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 for a concession. A concession can take the form of a lease, licence, permit or easement.

The procedure for applying for authorisation for an activity within the Park is set out in legislation and in the CMS. The outcomes sought for the Park and the objectives and policies in this plan provide further criteria against which applications would be assessed.

For activities taking place outside the Park, the Department may take an advocacy role, either informally or through legal processes such as under the Resource Management Act 1991 if Park values are considered to be affected.

Table 2 provides a non-exclusive checklist of specific issues that may need to be taken into account when considering requests for authorisation from the Minister or the Department.

Table 2: Range of potential adverse effects on national park values

Natural state – terrestrial ecosystems.	<p>Damage to or competition with indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>Clearance, disturbance, modification or destruction of any vegetation or natural area.</p> <p>Damage to wildlife or habitat.</p> <p>Introduction of new, or increase in existing threats to indigenous ecosystems e.g. pests, weeds and pathogens and diseases.</p> <p>Discharge of pollutants to the land.</p>
Natural state –aquatic ecosystems.	<p>Damage, disturbance or modification to aquatic life or in-stream habitat.</p> <p>Restriction of native fish passage.</p> <p>Discharge of pollutants, including sediment to waterways e.g. diesel spills, animal waste.</p> <p>Erosion, scouring or deposition of riverbed or banks.</p> <p>Alteration of water levels in watercourses or wetlands.</p> <p>Introduction of new, or increase in existing, threats to indigenous ecosystems e.g. pests and weeds.</p>
Natural state – landscape and landforms values.	<p>Damage to landforms.</p> <p>Impact on the natural landscape, i.e. stand out as being non-natural by virtue of character or design.</p> <p>Damage to geological features.</p> <p>Reduction of the natural character of wetlands, rivers and streams.</p>
Historic and cultural values.	<p>Damage to historic sites or objects, including wāhi tapu, e.g. disturbance of the ground.</p> <p>Impact on cultural values, including offensiveness to tāngata whenua or members of the public generally.</p>
Limitation of recreational opportunities.	<p>Restriction of free public access to the Park.</p> <p>Damage or impact on other existing public use facilities (e.g. tracks).</p> <p>Overcrowding e.g. at car parks, huts, campsites.</p> <p>Loss of open space.</p> <p>Interference with people’s quiet enjoyment of the Park e.g. loud noises; vehicle and jet boat speed.</p> <p>Adverse impacts on views of park e.g. activities that produce glare and light.</p> <p>Production of offensive or damaging levels of dust.</p> <p>Production of objectionable odours.</p> <p>Adverse health effects.</p> <p>Increased risk to human safety.</p>
General.	<p>Significant cumulative adverse effects.</p> <p>Slope instability, erosion.</p> <p>Discharge causing air pollution.</p> <p>Incompatibility with park values e.g. provides an anti-conservation message.</p> <p>Exacerbation of natural hazard events.</p> <p>Adverse effects on park values and adjacent land.</p> <p>Rubbish or debris left in the Park.</p>

### 7.1.3 Objectives

1. To allow uses of the Park that require a concession only if compatible with national park purposes and if adverse effects on the Park’s natural, historic and cultural values or public enjoyment for recreation are avoided or mitigated to the satisfaction of the Department.
2. To avoid adverse effects on the Park’s natural, historic and cultural values or public enjoyment for recreation from activities arising from outside its boundaries.

#### 7.1.4 Policies

- a. All activities in the Park that require a concession or other authorisation must:
- be consistent with the long-term outcomes sought for places (as identified within this plan);
  - be restricted to the use of existing access;
  - demonstrate how the activity will benefit the Park, public use and enjoyment, or safety;
  - identify if the activity will have an effect on indigenous plants and animals, natural features, scenic values, historic or cultural values, sites of historic and/or cultural importance, soil stability, water quality and the natural state of the Park. If adverse effects are identified, an assessment on how these effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated must be provided;
  - demonstrate that the activity will have no adverse effects on other park users, other activities already taking place in the Park or the ability of staff to manage the Park;
  - identify any national or regional benefits;
  - note whether any further development might result from the activity and if so, what impact that might have on the Park and park users; and
  - describe the impact of the activity on cultural values and obtain the views of tāngata whenua through consultation.

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis against the relevant legislation, General Policy, the Conservation Management Strategy and the relevant sections of this plan, including the non-exclusive list of potential adverse effects set out in Table 2. Consultation with tāngata whenua and other interested parties will be undertaken where their interests may be affected.

- b. In accordance with section 17U (4) of the Conservation Act 1987, concessions will not be granted for structures and facilities that could reasonably be located outside the Park, other than certain types of accommodation and related facilities.
- c. The Department, concessionaire and other legally authorised holders should be required to monitor and mitigate the effects of their activities as described above within objective's 1 and 2. Should monitoring reveal detrimental effects, mitigation could include (but not be limited to) a reduction in the scale, capacity or frequency of the activity or group size, creating seasons for specific activities or a limiting the number of concessions.
- d. The Department will seek to ensure that the values of the Park are fully recognised in district and regional plans prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 and will submit in opposition to plan changes or resource consent applications that could have an adverse effect on those values.
- e. Concessionaires will be responsible for operating their activity safely, while adhering to the relevant legal obligations and safety standards. This includes but is not limited to, the safety of staff, clients, contractors and the general public, and may involve working with the Department to provide interpretation.

## **7.2 Power generation, infrastructure and roading** *Ngā take hiko me ōna ritenga*

### **7.2.1 Long-term outcome**

Utility and roading projects do not have any adverse impacts on the natural, cultural, historic and recreational values of the Park.

### **7.2.2 Management considerations**

Policy 10.3 of the General Policy provides the national context for utilities and roading proposals in national parks.

### **7.2.3 Power generation**

Most proposals for generation of power within the Park are for use off-site, including wind farms and hydro proposals, and would not be in accordance with the National Parks Act by virtue of their impact on the natural values of the Park. The Department is likely to oppose any future proposals within or adjoining the Park that would have a significant adverse effect on these values.

### **7.2.4 Survey installations**

Fixed high points, known as trigonometric stations, are an integral part of the national land survey system and provide a basis for present and future surveys. Section 53 of the Cadastral Survey Act 2002 enables any surveyor authorised by the Surveyor-General to enter and install survey marks, which includes pegs and beacons. They must give the Department notice of their intentions prior to entry.

### **7.2.5 Telecommunications and other utilities and structures**

Advances in technology will eventually allow many telecommunication services to be located on lower altitude private land or for a greater level of service to be provided on existing infrastructure with minimal adverse environmental effect. Until this occurs, there may be demand for new sites on elevated land administered by the Department and co-location at existing sites. Whilst the introduction of new structures would undermine the 'natural state' of the Park and could impact on other natural, cultural or historic values, the co-siting of new services may be able to be undertaken with little additional impact to these values and as such can on occasion be accommodated.

Whilst unlikely, there may be interest in locating other structures and utilities, such as pipelines or power lines in the Park. Applications for other structures or easements would be considered on the same basis as those for telecommunication and other utilities.

### **7.2.6 Objective**

1. To avoid potentially adverse impacts of utilities and roading projects on the natural, cultural, historic and recreational values of the Park.

## 7.2.7 Policies

- a. Projects involving the development, replacement or upgrading of utilities or roads in the Park should not be permitted unless compatible with the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980, General Policy and the provisions of this plan. Any proposals for new roading, whether for public, private or concessionaire use, will require the approval of the Minister. Any utilities that may be permitted should be of a scale, design and colour that harmonise with the landscape, should not have an adverse effect on the natural state of the Park, should take into account cultural values and avoid detrimental effects on wāhi tapu.
- b. Concessions received for proposals as discussed in policy a. and policies c. to e. should demonstrate how adverse effects (including visual and other environmental effects) can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- c. The Department will advocate for the decline of resource consent applications for power generation projects (including hydro-electric schemes and wind farms) outside the boundary of the Park that could have a significant adverse effect on the natural, cultural, historic or recreational values of the national park.
- d. The Department will work co-operatively with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) to ensure maintenance of lines of sight at survey beacons is undertaken with the minimum of vegetation clearance (e.g. only regrowth of previously cleared vegetation).
- e. The Department will advocate for the use of global positioning systems and electronic survey equipment that do not require vegetation trimming or disturbance.
- f. In order to reduce the adverse effects of the facilities and the access to them on the cultural, natural and scenic landscape values of the Park, telecommunications and associated facilities should be co-sited.
- g. The installation, maintenance and upgrading of non-commercial telecommunications equipment, such as flood warning and seismic monitoring systems and remote area weather stations within the Park, may be permitted. There must be a clear benefit to public safety and welfare or departmental management activities, and avoidance of significant adverse effects on natural, historic, cultural or recreational values.
- h. All applications for the erection of structures within the Park should be subject to consultation with tāngata whenua and other key stakeholders with respect to siting and any other relevant impacts on their interests.
- i. Any redundant utilities should be removed from the Park at the cost of the utility owner, in order to minimise adverse effects on the landscape. Once the redundant structures are removed the site will be restored as far as possible to a natural state also at the cost of the utility owner.
- j. Any application for the development, erection, maintenance/servicing and/or monitoring of power generation, infrastructure or roading utilities should consider whether the activity could take place by helicopter rather than by an access road. Whilst helicopters may impact on natural and recreational values in the short term, they may have a lesser long term impact on the natural, historic and cultural values of the Park than the construction of access roads.



## 7.3 Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining *Ngā rapu momo takawai, ngā tirohanga me ngā keritanga*

### 7.3.1 Long-term outcome

Mining, prospecting and exploration companies appreciate the risks and effects of their activities on the natural, cultural, historic or recreational values of the Park. These activities may only be considered where they are consistent with Park values.

### 7.3.2 Management considerations

The Park contains few identified mineral resources and past exploration for petroleum in the area has been unsuccessful. Terrestrial and estuarine sediments such as those at Tāngārākau and Rētaruke (both located outside the Park) contain thin sub-bituminous coal seams, which have been mined by both underground and opencast methods. Other economic coal deposits may be located in the Park, but have yet to be identified.

Mineral deposits in the beds of the main water courses flowing through the Park are not part of the Park. There are no other areas within the Park where removal of sand, shingle or other natural mineral material would be considered appropriate, except for small scale use, for example for track maintenance and other national park management purposes.

The process of gaining authorisation for mining-related activities is complex and may require consents under the Crown Minerals Act 1991, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the National Parks Act 1980. Mining and mining-related activities are considered to be incompatible with national park values and principles (which includes the preservation of the Park in its natural state) and there is only a limited range of activities for which an access arrangement may be accepted, as set out in section 61(1A) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

### 7.3.3 Objective

1. To preserve the natural, scenic, historic and cultural values of the Park from the impacts of resource extraction, mining and related activities.

### 7.3.4 Policies

- a. Applications for access arrangements or any other consents required for mining and related activities will be considered against the relevant legislation and General Policy, the Wanganui Conservation Management Strategy and the provisions of this plan.
- b. Activities relating to the taking or use of stone, mineral, gravel or turf that would otherwise be an offence under section 60 the National Parks Act 1980 may be authorised by the Minister for small samples required for conservation or national park management, traditional cultural purposes, scientific or educational purposes.

## 7.4 Farming/grazing *Ngā whenua tupu kai mā ngā kararehe*

### 7.4.1 Long-term outcome

Farmers or concession holders graze or farm their stock on historically approved grazing sites in the Park, where it assists in managing conservation plant pests and is consistent with Park values.

#### 7.4.2 Management considerations

Grazing by livestock occurs in both pastoral land, unfenced scrubland, forest around the edges of the Park and in enclaves of previously cleared land within it. As at May 2012, there are a small number of licences covering less than 100 hectares in total within the Park.

Unlicensed or unmanaged grazing also occurs in the Park, usually in the form of winter sheltering of stock. This is an offence under section 60 of the National Parks Act 1980.

Section 51 of the National Parks Act 1980 provides for grazing or farming on land in national parks that in the public interest, should continue to be farmed or grazed. However grazing and farming are not generally in accordance with the requirement of the National Parks Act 1980 to preserve national parks as far as possible in their natural state.

Under General Policy 10.2, National Park Management Plans may make provision for grazing or farming on land that is already used for these purposes and where it is in the public interest to allow the activity as a management tool.

General Policy 10.2 (a) sets out the general circumstances and conditions under which a grazing or farming concession may be granted.

#### 7.4.3 Objective

1. To restrict use of the Park for grazing or farming to areas that are already used for these activities and where continued use will assist with the achievement of Park objectives or where other management methods are not practicable.

#### 7.4.4 Policies

- a. Grazing should only be permitted for management purposes (for example plant pest control).
- b. Concessions may be granted or renewed for grazing or farming on land that is already used for these purposes. In assessing applications for farming or grazing concessions the following factors will be taken into account:
  - departmental management objectives and specific management plans or prescriptions for the land;
  - the current or potential natural, historic and recreational value of the site for conservation and the effects of grazing on the preservation or restoration of these values; and
  - the costs associated with withdrawal of grazing and reversion to native vegetation, such as fencing and plant pest control, and potential risks in terms of spread of invasive plant pests or fire.

Priority will be given to preservation and restoration of natural, historic and cultural values rather than continuation of farming activities.

- c. The Department will investigate and where appropriate, prosecute continuing offenders who have unauthorised livestock in the Park.
- d. Grazing or farming concessions should be issued for a 5-year term and market rentals paid.
- e. A grazing or farming concession may be granted if it is shown that the activity:
  - will not create the risk of erosion;
  - will not detrimentally affect park values;
  - will not create adverse effects of stock on waterways, wetlands and riparian zones;
  - is suitable for the location and land type;

- will effectively control the number and type of stock;
  - maintains freedom of entry and access for the public; and
  - will not compromise the potential of sites for restoration.
- f. Monitoring of grazing or farming concessions should be undertaken by the concession holder and the Department to prevent any adverse effects as described above in policy e. Monitoring may also include the effects on recreation, natural, cultural and historic values in particular native vegetation and fauna. Should monitoring identify any of the aforementioned adverse effects, the Department may review the scale of concession and require mitigation of those effects such as fencing or riparian planting.

## 7.5 Commercial filming and photography *Tango whakaahua, whakaata hei pakihī*

### 7.5.1 Long-term outcome

Commercial filming crews and photographers understand and operate in a way that is consistent with Park values. Their activities also have minimal impact on other recreational visitors or filming locations.

### 7.5.2 Management considerations

The Department receives applications for commercial filming or photography for both promotional and educational purposes and for the sale of photographs and other products.

Commercial filming and photography may be appropriate where it is consistent with park management objectives, for example, by increasing appreciation of conservation values, encouraging use of under-utilised tracks and huts or acknowledging the spiritual and cultural values of the Park to the tāngata whenua.

### 7.5.3 Objective

1. To allow commercial filming or photography to take place in the Park where it is consistent with Park values and purposes.

### 7.5.4 Policies

- a. Applications for commercial filming and photography will be assessed against the legislation, the policies, objectives and outcomes sought for the Park, the criteria set out in Table 2 and in accordance with General Policy 10.7. Applications should be:
  - consistent with the recreation opportunities present in the place in which it takes place;
  - subject to the same conditions as other uses (such as the landing and hovering of aircraft, the use of off-road vehicles and animals and the construction of facilities); and
  - restricted to the use of existing means of access.
- b. The Department will advise applicants for commercial filming and photography to consult with tāngata whenua on any issues of cultural sensitivity before formally lodging the application.

## 7.6 Collection of specimens *Ngā kohikohi whakaaturanga*

### 7.6.1 Long-term outcome

Researchers appreciate the natural, cultural and historic values of the Park and collect specimens for conservation management and education where it is consistent with these values, and with no or minimal effects.

### 7.6.2 Management considerations

Research for conservation management and education can sometimes require the taking of specimens. The taking of specimens from national parks other than for park management purposes is constrained by the National Parks Act 1980 and requires prior consent. It is also an offence under the Wildlife Act 1953 to take any native animal protected by that Act without an authorisation.

### 7.6.3 Objective

1. To avoid unnecessary damage to or loss of the Park's natural, historic and cultural resources through the taking of specimens for research, collection, cultivation or other purposes.

### 7.6.4 Policies

- a. Applications for the research, collection, cultivation or other proposed activities relating to indigenous species, fossilised plants or animal material, rocks, soils and other geological materials from the Park will be assessed against the:

- General Policy for National Parks;
- applicable legislation, and
- this management plan.

Matters that may be taken into account include (but are not limited to) whether:

- the activity can take place outside the Park, or at a different location where potential adverse effects could be significantly less than that proposed;
- historic, cultural, natural, recreational and scenic values of the Park are adversely affected by the proposed activity;
- the amounts proposed to be collected are minor in relation to the abundance of the material, but sufficient to achieve the objectives of the proposal; and
- the proposal is essential for management, research, interpretation or educational purposes.

- b. The Department or the concession holder for this activity may be required to monitor the activity to assess the adverse effects noted above within policy a. Should monitoring reveal significant adverse effects, these may be required to be mitigated at the cost of the concession holder. Mitigation examples include returning the samples taken or planting appropriate eco-sourced plants as replacements.
- c. The Department will consider applications to take specimens for scientific research from any person who has the necessary credentials, or who has recognised referees. Permits for education purposes will generally be personal to the supervisor of the research project.

- d. Applications seeking authorisation for the research, collection, cultivation or other purposes may be required to consult with tāngata whenua in order to understand tāngata whenua interests in the proposed activity.
- e. The Department will require that any collection of archaeological specimens from within the Park that provides a record of Māori activity be approved by both tāngata whenua and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
- f. Research and monitoring results should be made publicly available unless withheld under the Official Information Act 1982.

## **7.7 Monuments** *Ngā whakamaharatanga*

### **7.7.1 Long-term outcome**

Monuments, memorials and plaques occur/take place in exceptional circumstances, where they are consistent with Park values. Those that are erected/occur are consistent with and do not detract from the character of the site.

### **7.7.2 Management considerations**

Monuments, memorials and plaques are often used to commemorate a person or event, site or structure, special to a particular area. Unless there is clear justification, they are inappropriate in the Park. Applications will be considered only in circumstances where the historic association of the site, individual or event is thought to be of exceptional regional, national or international significance.

### **7.7.3 Objective**

1. To recognise important people and events associated with the Park, but to avoid the introduction of signs, notices or other features that detract from park values.

### **7.7.4 Policies**

- a. Permits for free-standing monuments (normally small plaques) to commemorate a person or event within the Park should be granted only in exceptional circumstances, such as for people or events of national importance associated with the Park or at places that shed light on or illustrate earlier habitation. They should be consistent with the character of the site and planned outcomes for the locality and should not be attached to or engraved into natural features.
- b. Tāngata whenua and other interested parties will be consulted with respect to siting of monuments and any other matters of potential sensitivity.

## 7.8 Military use *Te whakamahi ā-hōia*

### 7.8.1 Long-term outcome

The military appreciate Park values and minimise the effects of their activity on others (as per the 1990 Defence Training Agreement).

### 7.8.2 Management considerations

Military manoeuvres are generally accepted as being incompatible with natural values. However, certain areas within the Park may be available for training, in particular for skills such as camping and bush craft. Authorisation may be given where adequate supervision is available and the activity does not compromise park values or disadvantage other users, and complies with the 1990 Defence Training Agreement or any successor to it.

### 7.8.3 Objective

1. To minimise the impacts of military activities in the Park on park users, the environment and Park values.

### 7.8.4 Policies

- a. Specialised training of military personnel in the Park may be permitted where the effects on other users park values are minimal.
- b. Mechanised military manoeuvres will be prohibited within the Park off formed and maintained roads, in line with the agreement in place between the New Zealand Defence Force and the Department.
- c. Any applications for aircraft landings will be assessed in accordance with section 6.17 Motorised vehicles, aircraft and other forms of transport and this management plan.

## 7.9 Natural hazards and emergencies *Ngā tūpato me ngā ohore*

### 7.9.1 Long-term outcome

The Department manages natural hazards and emergencies with a minimal interference approach but a focus on visitor safety. Visitors are aware of the risks of natural hazards and emergencies.

### 7.9.2 Management considerations

General Policy 7(b) includes requirements that the management of risks from natural hazards in national parks should be undertaken with minimal interference to natural processes and national park values, and will include an assessment of the hazards and the associated risks to people, places, taonga, and property.

In general the Department's approach will be a combination of avoidance of risks to structures and/or 'managed retreat', depending on the circumstances.



### 7.9.3 Objective

1. To inform national park users of significant natural hazards when they occur in high use recreation areas.

### 7.9.4 Policy

- a. Should the Department identify a natural hazard in the Park that may create a high risk to people, places, taonga or property, a hazard and risk management plan may be developed. The Department will:
  - consult with tāngata whenua and other interested people and organisations on the development of the hazard and risk management plan; and
  - inform the aforementioned parties on the options to address risks.

## 7.10 Floods *Ngā waipuke*

### 7.10.1 Long-term outcome

Visitors are aware of the risks of flooding and take personal responsibility and are prepared for such events.

### 7.10.2 Management considerations

With its extensive catchment, the Whanganui River system can experience high floods. At Pīpīriki flood levels of 20 metres above normal river level have been recorded.

Abnormally high flows and rapid rises in water levels can create safety risks for river users. In combination with the soft substrate, flooding can also cause accelerated bank erosion. Signs, steps and landing stages placed close to the river are likely to be washed away, and some campsites, because of their location close to the river continue to be under threat from flooding. This has implications for the location and design of structures and facilities along the river corridor and raises the issue of how such risks should be managed.

### 7.10.3 Objectives

1. To contribute to public awareness of the risks posed by high flows and rapid rises of water levels on the safety of river and park users
2. To minimise the risks to visitor facilities in the Park arising from flooding.

### 7.10.4 Policies

- a. The Department will not place or support the placement of permanent signs or structures in proximity to the Whanganui River or other rivers where there is a high probability of flooding, except where considered essential for public safety.
- b. The Department will in consultation with tāngata whenua, develop contingency plans for changes to the boundaries or location of camp or hut sites that are subject to significant risks from bank erosion.

## 7.11 Fire Control *Ngā ahi*

### 7.11.1 Long-term outcome

No open fires are lit, except in the fireplaces provided, and visitors are aware of the risks posed by fire.

### 7.11.2 Management considerations

Vegetation fires are generally not a serious hazard in the Park due to the high rainfall. Principle risk areas are buildings and the exotic and scrub areas on the fringe of or near the Park boundary. In general permits are not issued for fires within the Park and fires are not permitted at campsites. Should a fire permit be obtained, conditions are imposed on the permit holder to reduce fire risk and to minimise potential adverse effects on natural processes caused by firewood collection.

The Minister of Conservation is the fire authority for all land administered by the Department and within a one kilometre contiguous fire safety margin. The Department, through the Minister of Conservation, is responsible for fire prevention and suppression within this area as defined under section 2 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. The Department may issue fire permits, but also has the power to impose a partial or complete fire ban or other restrictions within the Park under this Act.

Fire control is undertaken in accordance with the Department's Standard Operating Procedures and the Conservancy's Fire Action Plan, which is updated annually. In addition the Department is required to train staff in fire control, notify closed fire seasons, maintain fire weather records and equipment and also comply with the National Rural Fire Authority's Rural Fire Management Code of Practice. The Department can recover costs under the Rural Fires Act 1977, where it is proven a person has negligently set a fire with or without a permit.

### 7.11.3 Objective

1. To prevent or minimise fire damage in the Park, in order to protect human life, preserve natural and historic values and safeguard structural assets.

### 7.11.4 Policies

- a. The Department will give priority to the control and suppression of wildfires within the Park except where the act of fighting fires would endanger human life.
- b. The Department will continue to have an ongoing commitment to public education of park users and adjacent landowners on the dangers of fire.
- c. With appropriate safeguards and the approval of the Conservator, fire may be used as a land management tool within the Park where necessary to preserve or minimise risk of significant damage to the Park's forest ecosystem, human life, historically important sites or buildings and other structures. The Department will inform adjacent landowners if fire is being used as a land management tool.
- d. The Department will encourage visitors to the Park to use gas, liquid or solid fuel cookers, or alternatively to use enclosed permanent fireplaces provided in huts.
- e. Any new buildings should be designed with adequate fire protection measures and equipment, and all existing structures should meet the relevant fire safety standards.

## 7.12 Beehives/Beekeeping

### 7.12.1 Long-term outcome

Concessions for beehive activities are issued consistently with the long-term outcomes sought in this plan. The Department and the beehive industry work cooperatively together resulting in a reduction in illegal activities, and minimal or no adverse effects on Park values.

### 7.12.2 Management considerations

At the time that this plan was approved there was an upsurge of both legal and illegal beehive activity in the park, due to the growth of the beekeeping industry. The Department is reviewing this issue in accordance with Conservancy beehive guidelines and notes that due to the Park's large boundary, illegal beehive activity is difficult to monitor. The effects to date of such illegal activity include impacts on native fauna and flora, and on sites of cultural of significance from the creation of new vehicle tracks and aircraft movements. Should these activities be discovered, the Department will remove the structures and block access to allow regeneration of the native forest. The Department may take steps to prosecute offenders and may seek compensation to mitigate the effects of the illegal activities.

The Department is working with the beehive industry to educate them of the Park's values and seek compliance with the Conservancy beehive guidelines.

### 7.12.3 Objective

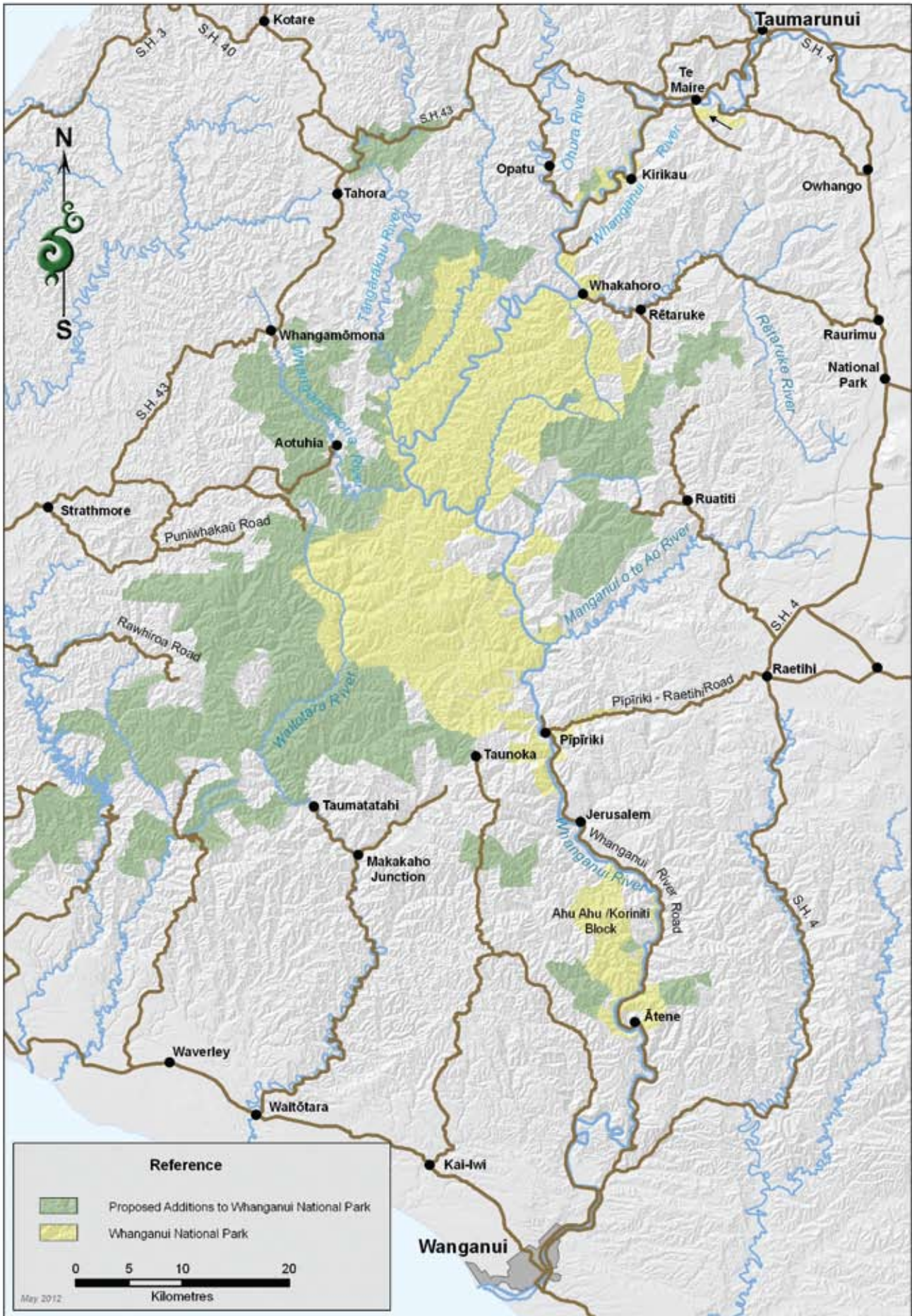
1. To educate and work with the beehive industry to avoid adverse effects on Park values.

### 7.12.4 Policies

- a. The Department will liaise with the beekeepers, the honey industry and biosecurity authorities to develop a beehive keeping Code of Practice consistent with the long-term outcomes of the Park. These activities are also linked to policies 6.17.7 (Motorised vehicles, aircraft and other forms of transport).
- b. The Department will monitor the Park for beehive activity (both legal and illegal) to ensure compliance with concession conditions (such as location, the numbers of hives and how they were sited) and Conservancy beehive guidelines. Should monitoring result in lack of compliance, the discovery of illegal activities or adverse effects on Park values, the activity will be reviewed and mechanisms may be implemented (such as controlling or removal of concession use).
- c. Should illegal activities be reported and proven to be linked to a concessionaire, the concession will be revoked immediately.
- d. Those undertaking illegal activities may be prosecuted.



Map 6: Additions to Whanganui National Park



## 8 Park Additions

### *Ngā hononga o te papa rēhia*

#### 8.1 Long-term outcome

The Park boundaries are extended to include lands with related forest ecosystems that are already administered by the Department.

#### 8.2 Management considerations

In the early 1990s the Department investigated large-scale additions to the Park and 91,200 hectares were identified as being worthy of addition to the Park because of the very high conservation values present in those areas. Following preparation of a report and recommendations, the New Zealand Conservation Authority supported the additions, but further action stopped pending further progress on the resolution of Treaty of Waitangi claims.

The Department will consult further with tāngata whenua that have settled with the Crown about the potential addition to the Park of public conservation land identified in the early 1990s from within their areas of interest. The Department will not seek to initiate consultation or the process of additions to the Park from areas of interest of tāngata whenua that have not yet settled with the Crown, unless those tāngata whenua wish to discuss the issue. Where areas of interest overlap but one party has yet to complete the settlement process, the Department will not initiate addition of those sites to the Park unless all parties agree.

This management plan does not instigate the proposed additions to the Park detailed in Map 6. Section 8 of the National Parks Act 1980 provides for the investigation of proposals for additions to a Park. Additions and changes to the boundaries of existing national parks are made by the Governor-General by Order-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Conservation. The Minister receives recommendations from the Authority after consultation with the appropriate Conservation Board.

The Department may through this plan indicate amendments to the Park boundary that it considers would meet the criteria for addition to the Park. However the procedure of public consultation and reporting to the Authority is independent of the management plan process.

Under General Policy 6 (h) the Authority may also, under certain limited circumstances, recommend additions or boundary adjustments without requiring a formal investigation. This may include, recommendations for land administered by the Department that is largely surrounded by the Park such as the Mangaparua Scenic Reserve.

#### 8.3 Objective

1. To add areas to the Whanganui National Park that meet the criteria for inclusion under the National Parks Act, 1980.

## 8.4 Policies

- a. The Department may seek the addition of areas of land to the Park where their values merit preservation, through either the reclassification of land already under its administration or through agreed purchase, gift or exchange. Areas for potential inclusion would be assessed against the conditions and criteria set out in the General Policy and National Parks Act 1980 and in terms of their potential to:
  - provide enhanced recognition and preservation for areas with natural, historic and scenic values that either complement or enhance those already present in the Park;
  - enable more efficient, effective or comprehensive management of the Park's natural values and boundaries; and
  - add to the overall wilderness qualities and quiet enjoyment of the Park.
- b. Informal consultation will take place with the Minister, tāngata whenua, the Conservation Board, adjacent landowners, territorial authorities, Fish and Game and other interested parties prior to commencement of statutory processes for any new proposed additions or amendments, including those previously recommended for national park status.
- c. The Department will consult further with tāngata whenua that have settled with the Crown about the potential addition to the Park of public conservation land identified in the early 1990s from within their areas of interest.
- d. The Department will not seek to initiate consultation or the process of additions to the Park from within the areas of interest of tāngata whenua who have not yet settled with the Crown unless those tāngata whenua wish to discuss the issue.
- e. Where areas of interest overlap but one party has yet to complete the settlement process, the Department will not initiate addition of those sites to the Park unless all parties agree.
- f. Where applicable and pending a formal review of the plan, the objectives and policies in this plan will be used as guidance for the management of any new areas added to the Park.



## 9 Implementation, monitoring and review *Whakakaupapatia, ngā mahi tirohanga*

### 9.1 Long-term outcome

The Department regularly monitors the long-term outcomes sought from this plan, implementing reviews and updates to the management of the Park and this management plan where appropriate, in consultation with the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Whanganui River Māori Trust Board, tāngata whenua and other interested and legislated parties.

### 9.2 Implementation *Whakakaupapatia*

#### 9.2.1 Management considerations

The Department is funded by an annual appropriation from Parliament to carry out an agreed range of activities that the Minister and the Government of the day wish the Department to achieve.

Implementation of the plan will be undertaken during both the day-to-day and strategic decision-making and management associated with administration of the Park by the Department. Priorities in any one year may vary from those set out in the Conservation Management Strategy and this management plan in response to national departmental priorities. Threats to natural, historic and recreational values, weather events, financial constraints and other factors can also redirect priorities from year to year. The management plan will be implemented within these constraints.

The main mechanism for implementing this management plan will be the Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy's annual business planning process. The business plan, prepared under section 41(2) (d) of the Public Finance Act 1989, allocates staff time and money to priority objectives and actions for the forthcoming year. This management plan will assist in focusing effort and funds, allocated through the business plan, to the Park so that the desired outcomes can be achieved.

The Conservation Board has a role to play in this as section 6M(1)(c) of the Conservation Act 1987 establishes as one of the functions of the Conservation Board:

“To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General of Conservation on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans”.

Under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980 the Board's functions also include considering and determining priorities for the implementation of this management plan, reviewing and reporting on the effectiveness of administration of the General Policy and providing advice on the interpretation of this management plan. In exercising these functions the Conservation Board plays an important role in furthering the objectives and outcomes of this management plan, and is a link between the Department and the wider community.

Decisions on day-to-day management and strategic management issues will be guided by policy in the plan. Some of these decisions will be reactive, for example, assessing an application received from a concessionaire, others may require the use of powers to regulate use of the Park under the National Parks Act 1980 or other legislation. The desirability of specific bylaws has been indicated elsewhere in the plan, but other bylaws may be introduced as the need arises.

Maintaining and developing relationships with tāngata whenua and the wider community will be an important factor influencing the way in which this plan is implemented. Examples of the methods that will be pursued by the Department to enable this to happen have been identified throughout the plan.

### 9.2.2 Objective

1. To ensure that the plan is implemented effectively and in an open and accountable manner, and kept up-to-date through appropriate monitoring, reporting and review.

### 9.2.3 Policies

- a. The Department will use this plan in making decisions that affect the management of the Park and will implement the objectives and policies set out in this plan through the annual business planning process, subject to availability of resources.
- b. The Department will endeavour to secure adequate resources to implement this plan.
- c. The Department will facilitate the Conservation Board in carrying out its functions with respect to the Park as required under the National Parks Act.
- d. The Department will, in implementing this plan, seek to develop partnerships and relationships with tāngata whenua and the wider community.
- e. The Department will seek bylaws to implement the plan and control and regulate the use of the Park where necessary.

## 9.3 Monitoring and reporting *Ngā mahi tirohanga me ngā pūrongo*

### 9.3.1 Management considerations

National park management plans are required to identify what regular monitoring and evaluation should be undertaken to assess the effects of activities on national park values and specify what actions should be taken if there are any adverse effects on those values.

The Department is also required to provide the Conservation Board with a report (at least annually) on the implementation of national park management plans.

Monitoring will be carried out by the Department to ensure that the management plan is being implemented effectively, that the provisions of the plan are still current and that they are best serving the interests of the Park.

The principal measure of management performance will be the extent to which the management objectives and other outcomes set out in this plan are being achieved. Performance information about inputs, process and outputs may also contribute to this evaluation.

The selection and testing of performance indicators is a complex and potentially costly process, for which there are no national standards or guidelines for national parks in New Zealand. A range of topics and issues are already monitored through a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. The monitoring system for the Park is therefore

expected to develop and change during the plan period, and will for the time being focus on key operational outcomes, such as monitoring the effectiveness of animal pest control operations and visitor use of the Whanganui River corridor.

Specific monitoring indicators and measures for effective management are provided within this management plan at each chapter, and priorities will be agreed with and reported on to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board. Examples of specific techniques to monitor outcomes range from monitoring the changes in population of threatened species through to monitoring visitor satisfaction and the numbers of people using visitor facilities.

### 9.3.2 Objective

1. To provide feedback to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Whanganui River Māori Trust Board, tāngata whenua and other interested parties on the achievement of objectives contained within this plan.

### 9.3.3 Policies

- a. The Department will monitor progress towards the achievement of the objectives and implementation of policies set out in this management plan.
- b. The Department will provide monitoring reports to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board at least annually, indicating progress towards implementing the policies and achieving the objectives of this plan. These reports will also be made available to Whanganui River Māori Trust Board, tāngata whenua (through mana whakahaere) and the general public.
- c. The Department will work with the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Whanganui River Māori Trust Board, tāngata whenua and others to establish a concise indicator set (of no more than 20 indicators) that reflect overall progress made in meeting the outcomes sought for the Park.

## 9.4 Review *Tirohanga*

### 9.4.1 Management considerations

Processes for review and amendments of the management plan are provided for in sections 47 and 48 of the National Parks Act 1980.

A review of the plan as a whole or in part may be initiated at any time by the Director-General after consultation with the Conservation Board. The plan as a whole must be reviewed not later than 10 years after its approval, although the Minister may extend this period.

Amendments to the plan may be initiated at any time by the Director-General after consultation with the Conservation Board. Every amendment must be carried out in accordance with sections 47 and 48 of the National Parks Act 1980. However, where the proposed amendment is of such a nature that the Director-General and the Conservation Board consider that it will not materially affect the plan's objectives or policies, a simpler process may be used. In such a case, section 46(5) of the National Parks Act will apply and no formal public consultation will be required.

#### 9.4.2 Objective

1. To ensure that this management plan is a current and effective planning document.

#### 9.4.3 Policies

- a. The Department will initiate a review or an amendment to the plan under one or more of the following circumstances:
  - when changes to General Policy, Conservation Management Strategy or legislation represent a significant departure from the provisions of the plan;
  - when plan monitoring indicates that provisions in the plan are impractical or have been superseded by new information or evidence;
  - where a significant concession application is received where the plan does not provide for the activity, it may be more appropriate to review the plan;
  - when new information comes to light on a key management issue; or
  - no later than 10 years from the date of approval.
- b. The Department will meet with the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and with Whanganui River Māori Trust Board and other representatives of tāngata whenua at periodic intervals (at least once every 18 months) to review implementation of the management plan.



## Part III: Supporting information



Peripatus. Photo: R. Morris.





# 10 Glossary

## *Rārangi whakamārama*

Where available, definitions and descriptions are drawn from the primary legislation (National Parks Act 1980, Conservation Act 1987) and the General Policy for National Parks (2005).

**Abiotic:** Relating to physical resources that do not include plants, animals or micro-organisms.

**Activity:** Includes a trade, business, or occupation.

**Advocate:** Make, support or promote a case or cause (in this plan for conservation purposes).

**Aircraft:** Means 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 (section 2, Civil Aviation Act 1990).

**Animal:** Means any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish (including shellfish) or related organism, insect, crustacean, or organism of every kind; but does not include a human being (section 2, National Parks Act 1980).

**Aquatic life:** Any species of plant or animal life (except birds) that must, at any time of the life history of the species, inhabit freshwater; and includes any part of any such plant or animal (section 2, Conservation Act 1987).

**Archaeological site:** A site that was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or is the site of a wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and is or may be able through investigation by archaeological means to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand (section 2, Historic Places Act 1993).

**Authorisation:** Collective term for all types of approvals by the Minister and the Director-General of Conservation provided for in a statutory process.

**Authority:** See New Zealand Conservation Authority.

**Awa:** River. In this plan in particular the Whanganui River and all waters flowing into it.

**Backcountry adventurer:** A recreational visitor to backcountry areas who is accepting of a degree of risk and discomfort in order to reach relatively inaccessible natural areas.

**Backcountry comfort seeker:** A recreational visitor to backcountry areas who expects safe facilities and a degree of comfort at camping or hut facilities.

**Biodiversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992).

**Biosecurity:** The exclusion, eradication or effective management of risks posed by pests and diseases to the economy, environment and human health (NZ Biosecurity Strategy 2003).

**Building:** Has the same meaning as given to it by sections 8 and 9 of the Building Act 2004.

**Burning, prescribed:** The controlled application of fire, under specified conditions, to achieve a fire of required intensity and rate of spread to attain planned management objectives.

**Bylaw:** A bylaw made by the Minister of Conservation, by notice in the New Zealand Gazette, under section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980.

**Companion dog:** A dog certified by the Top Dog Companion Trust as being a companion dog or a dog under training as a companion dog (section 56E(3), National Parks Act 1980).

**Concession:** A lease, licence, permit or easement, granted under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 with reference to section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980, to enable the carrying out of a trade, occupation or business.

**Concessionaire:** Means a person who is –

- a) a lessee; or
- b) a licensee; or
- c) a permit holder; or
- d) the grantee of an easement under section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980.

**Conservancy:** A Department management unit that covers a specific region and each conservancy has several Area Offices that deliver conservation outputs.

**Conservation:** The preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations (section 2, Conservation Act 1987).

**Conservation area:** Has the same meaning as in the Conservation Act 1987.

**Conservation boards:** Conservation boards are established under section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. The primary functions and powers of conservation boards are set out in the Conservation Act 1987 and the National Parks Act 1980 (sections 6M and 6N, Conservation Act 1987 and section 30, National Parks Act 1980).

**Conservation management plan:** A plan for the management of natural and historic resources and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes that implements a conservation management strategy and establishes detailed objectives for integrated management within a place or places specified in a conservation management strategy (section 17E, Conservation Act 1987).

**Conservation management strategy:** A strategy that implements general policies and establishes objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. A strategy is reviewed every 10 years (section 17d, Conservation Act 1987).

**Consultation:** An invitation to give advice and consideration of that advice. To achieve consultation, sufficient information must be supplied and sufficient time allowed by the consulting party to those consulted to enable them to tender helpful advice. It involves an ongoing dialogue. It does not necessarily mean acceptance of the other party's view, but enables informed decision-making by having regard to those views.

**Collaborative Management:** Working together with another party for a common purpose within existing legislation.

**Cultural:** Societal values with an emphasis on New Zealand/European history and Māori tikanga that are handed down through the generations.

**Cumulative effects:** An effect that arises over time or in combination with other effects (section 3, Resource Management Act 1991).

**Customary use:** Gathering and use of natural resources by tāngata whenua according to tikanga.

**Department:** Department of Conservation.

**Director-General:** The Director-General of Conservation.

**Ecological values:** Values related to living organisms, their interrelationships with each other and their environments.

**Ecosystem:** A biological system comprising a community of living organisms and its associated non-living environment, interacting as an ecological unit.

**Effect:** Any positive or adverse effect; and any temporary or permanent effect; and any past, present or future effect; and any cumulative effect that arises over time or in combination with other effects regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect and also includes any potential effect of high probability; and any potential effect of low probability that has potential impact (section 3, Resource Management Act 1991).

**Eradicate:** To remove completely.

**Facilities:** Facilities 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, huts, roads, car-parking areas, toilets, picnic areas, signs and interpretation panels, viewing platforms, wharves, and boat ramps.

**Fish and Game Council:** Statutory body with functions pertaining to the management, maintenance and enhancement of the sports fish and game resource of a region in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters (section 26p, Conservation Act 1987).

**Fishery:** One or more stocks or parts of stocks or one or more species of freshwater fish or aquatic life that can be treated as a unit for the purposes of conservation or management (section 2, Conservation Act 1987).

**Fishing:** Means the catching, taking, or harvesting of freshwater fish, and includes:

- i) Any other activity that may reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of freshwater fish;
- ii) Any attempt to catch, take or harvest freshwater fish;
- iii) Any operation in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition. (Conservation Act 1987).

**Freshwater fish:** Includes finfish and shellfish that must at any time in the life history of the species inhabit freshwater, and includes finfish and shellfish that seasonally migrate into and out of freshwater.

**Game:** Means the wildlife declared to be game specified in the First Schedule to the Wildlife Act 1953. As at the date of the approval of this Plan they are all birds viz: black swan, chukar, grey duck, mallard duck, paradise duck, spoonbill duck, partridge, red-legged partridge, pheasant, pukeko, Australian quail, Californian quail and Virginian quail.

**General Policy:** Refers to General Policy for National Parks, published by the Department for the New Zealand Conservation Authority (2005).

**Habitat:** The environment within which a particular species or group of species lives. It includes the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned.

**Historical and cultural heritage:** Any building or other structure, archaeological site, natural feature, wāhi tapu, or object, associated with people, traditions, events or ideas that contributes to an understanding of New Zealand's history and cultures.

**Historic place:**

- a) Means:
  - i) any land (including an archaeological site); or
  - ii) any building or structure (including part of a building or structure); or
  - iii) any combination of (i) and (ii) that forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand; and
- b) includes anything that is in or fixed to such land (section 2, Historic Places Act 1993).

**Historic resource:** Means an historic place within the meaning of the Historic Places Act 1993, and includes any interest in a historic resource (section 2, Conservation Act 1987).

**Hōhonutanga:** Depth; complexity.

**Indigenous species:** Refers to plants and animals that have established in New Zealand without the assistance of human beings and without the assistance of vehicles or aircraft. This includes species that are unique to New Zealand as well as those that may be found elsewhere in the world. Use of the words 'indigenous' and 'native' have the same meaning in this plan.

**Information:** Includes interpretation.

**Intellectual property rights:** Ownership of knowledge or vested interest in the ownership of knowledge.

**Interpretation:** Conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of national or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media. It occurs in the vicinity of the subject and is designed to stimulate visitor interest, increase understanding and promote support for conservation.

**Intrinsic value:** This is a concept that regards the subject under consideration as having value or worth in its own right independent of any value placed on it by humans.

**Invasive plant pest:** A plant that can significantly and adversely affect indigenous species and communities including: genetic variation within species (within and between populations); the survival of threatened species or the quality or sustainability or natural communities.

**Kāinga:** Village, settlement, home.

**Kaitiaki:** Guardian.

**Kaitiakitanga:** The exercise of customary practices of guardianship, protection, stewardship and sustainable use by the tāngata whenua in relation to ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga.

**Mana:** Prestige, authority.

**Manaaki:** Care or show respect for.

**Mana whakahaere:** Literal translation is those with authority or jurisdiction.

**Mana whenua:** Customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapū or individual in an identified area.

**Mouri:** Whanganui Tāngata Whenua mita (written as mauri outside of the Whanganui Region). Essential life force, the spiritual power and distinctiveness that enables each thing to exist as itself.

**Mining:** Means to take, win, or extract, by whatever means, a mineral existing in its natural state in land, or a chemical substance from that mineral, for the purpose of obtaining the mineral or chemical substance; but does not include prospecting or exploration; and “to mine” has a corresponding meaning (section 2, Crown Minerals Act 1991).

**Minister:** The Minister of Conservation.

**National park lands and waters:** All land included in a national park where land may include the foreshore, and the bed of a stream, river, tarn or lake and other permanent water bodies, such as peat bogs, wetlands and tidal waters that flow through that area of a national park within the coastal marine area.

It is a matter of legal fact in the case of each national park whether or not ‘park lands’ include foreshore and seabed areas; not all foreshore and seabed surrounded by or adjoining a national park will have the status of national park.

**National park management plan:** A national park management plan provides for the management of a national park in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980 (section 45(2), National Parks Act 1980).

**National park values:** The values outlined in section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980.

**Native:** Indigenous.

**Natural:** Existing in or produced by nature.

**Natural character:** The qualities of an area that are the product of natural processes and, taken together, give it a particular recognisable character. These qualities may be ecological, physical, spiritual or aesthetic in nature.

**Natural quiet:** Natural ambient conditions in a natural area; the sounds of nature.

**Natural state:** Unmodified by human activity or introduced fauna or flora.

**New Zealand Conservation Authority:** A national body of 13 appointed members established under section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987. Amongst other functions, it has the statutory responsibility for adopting General Policy for National Parks, and approving conservation management strategies and plans and National Park Management Plans (section 6B, Conservation Act 1987 and section 18, National Parks Act 1980).

**Oranga:** Well-being.

**Order-in-Council:** An order made by the Governor-General in Council.

**Outcome:** A goal or end result of a conservation action or series of actions.

**Pā:** A village fortified for defence against enemies.

**Participation:** Contribution of effort, information, and ideas towards the discharge and attainment of the Department’s work.

**Partnerships:** The relationship between individuals or groups that is characterised by mutual cooperation and responsibility for the achievement of a specific goal.

**Personal mobility device:** A device designed to transport one person; is propelled by hand or a propulsion system at a maximum speed of 15 km/hour; and is ridden by a disabled person.

**Pest:** Any organism, including an animal, plant, pathogen and disease, capable or potentially capable of causing unwanted harm or posing significant risks to indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems.

**Place:** An area identified in a conservation management strategy or national park management plan for the purposes of integrated management. It may include any combination of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas and may be determined by a range of criteria including, but not limited to: ecological districts, geological features, catchments, internal departmental, regional or district council or rohe/takiwā boundaries, land status, major recreation or tourism destinations, commonality of management considerations and unique management needs.

**Plant:** Any angiosperm, gymnosperm, fern or fern ally; and includes any moss, liverwort, alga, fungus, or related organism (section 2, National Parks Act 1980).

**Pou whenua:** Marker pole or post.

**Preservation:** In relation to a resource, means the maintenance, so far as is practicable, of its intrinsic values (section 2, Conservation Act 1987).

**Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi:** The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi identified from time-to-time by the Government of New Zealand.

**Private accommodation:** Place to live or lodge that is not available to the general public on an open basis.

**Protection:** In relation to a resource, means its maintenance, so far as is practicable, in its current state; but includes:

- a) its restoration to some former state; and
- b) its augmentation, enhancement, or expansion. (Section 2, Conservation Act 1987).

**Public interest:** Interest that is open to or shared by all people.

**Rāhui:** A restriction or control of specified activities put in place by the tāngata whenua as kaitiaki to manage an area in accordance with tikanga.

**Representative:** Examples typical of a given indigenous species, habitat or ecosystem that currently occur or once occurred in a place.

**Restoration:** The active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms and landscapes in order to restore indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes and their cultural and visual qualities. For historic heritage: to return a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.

**Remoteness seeker:** A recreational visitor to the Park who seeks remote settings with few or no facilities.

**Road:** Means:

- a) A road that is formed and maintained for vehicle use by the public;
- b) A route that is marked by the Department for vehicle used by the public or identified in a conservation management strategy or national park management plan for use by vehicles generally or for a particular type or vehicle (for example a bicycle) or as a vehicle parking area. (General Policy for National Parks 2005).

**Rohe:** Geographical territory of an iwi or hapū (General Policy for National Parks 2005).

**Route:** Generally unformed and lightly cut route catering for the most experienced backcountry visitor.



**Salmonids:** Means:

- a) Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*);
- b) Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*);
- c) (American) Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*);
- d) Lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*);
- e) Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*);
- f) Quinnat or Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*);
- g) Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*).

The above sports fish includes any hybrid and the young, fry, ova, and spawn, and any part of any such fish; but does not include salmon preserved in cans and imported into New Zealand.

**Site:** A defined area within a wider place.

**Species:** A group of organisms that has evolved distinct common inheritable features and occupies a particular geographic range, and which is capable of interbreeding freely but not with members of other species.

**Sports fish and game management plans:** Plans approved by the Minister of Conservation under section 17M of the Conservation Act 1987.

**Sports fish:** Every species of freshwater fish that the Governor-General may declare, by Order-in-Council, to be sports fish for the purposes of the Conservation Act 1987; examples are trout and salmon.

**Tāngata:** Person.

**Tāngata whenua:** Iwi or hapū that has customary authority in a place.

**Taonga:** Valued resources or prized possessions held by Māori, both material and nonmaterial. It is a broad concept that includes tangible and intangible aspects of natural and historical resources of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu and intellectual property.

**Tapu:** Sacred.

**The Crown:** Her Majesty the Queen acting through ministers and departments of state.

**The Park:** Refers to Whanganui National Park unless specified otherwise.

**Tikanga:** Customary values and practices related to specific iwi and hapū.

**Track:** A formed but unsealed way for foot traffic.

**Tūpuna:** Ancestor.

**Tramping track:** A well-marked track catering for relatively inexperienced backcountry walkers. May be benched or graded in parts.

**Urupā:** A designated area of land where bodies of the deceased are laid to rest.

**Utilities:** Includes, but is not limited to, structures and infrastructure for telecommunications, energy generation and transmission, oil and gas production and distribution, sewerage provision, water supply and flood control, roads and airstrips, hydrological and weather stations.

**Viability:** The ability of a species or a community to persist over time.

**Vehicle:** Vehicle means any device that is powered by any propulsion system and moves on rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means; and includes any device referred to previously from which the propulsion system has been removed; or the rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means of movement have been removed; and does not include:

- a) a pushchair or pram;
- b) a child's toy; or
- c) a personal mobility device used by a disabled person.

**Wāhi taonga:** Treasured place.

**Wāhi tapu:** Place sacred to Māori in a traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual or mythological sense (section 2, Historic Places Trust Act 1993).

**Waka:** Canoe.

**Whakapapa atua and whakapapa tupuna:** Divine and human genealogy.

**Whanganui Journey:** Part of the Great Walk Network, the Whanganui Journey is a 145km river journey along the Whanganui River from Taumarunui to Pipiriki through the Whanganui National Park.

**Wairua:** Life principle, spirit.

**Wetlands:** Permanent or intermittently wet areas, shallow water or land-water margins. Includes swamps, bogs, estuaries, braided rivers, and lake margins.

**Whakapapa:** Recounting of genealogical lineage; genealogy.

**Wild animal:** Wild animal has the meaning set out in the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and includes: possums; deer, wallabies, thar, wild goats, wild pigs, and chamois (section 2, Wild Animal Control Act 1977).

**Wilderness area:** Means any part of a national park set apart as a wilderness area under section 14 of the National Parks Act, 1980.

# 11 References

## *Whakapānga*

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## 12 Appendices

### Appendix 1: Recognised public access points into the Whanganui National Park.

Refer to Map 4: Recreational opportunities and zones for further information

REF NO/LOCATION	LAND OWNERSHIP	LEGAL STATUS OF ACCESS	TYPE OF ACCESS
1 Ātene.	S21 928622 Section of track over private land. S21 947622 Over private land for 300 m.	Informal. Informal.	Foot. Foot.
2 Ahuahu.	R21 869 701 Paper road.	Legal right.	Foot.
4 Taumatatahi.	R21 637829 Paper road to Trains track.	Legal right.	Foot.
5 Puniwhakaū.	R20 574086 Paper road then Conservation Area (unit 70361).	Legal right.	Foot.
6 Kohi.	R20 609 128 Private land for first 100m then Conservation Area (unit 70360).	Informal agreement.	Foot.
7 Ruatiti Road end.	S20 975 177 Legal road, then Conservation Area (unit 70301).	Legal right.	Foot and quad bike.
8. Oio Road (Whakahoro).	S19 891308 Paper road.	Legal right.	Foot and quad bike.
9. Te Maire.	S19 995479 Straight from public road.	Legal right.	Foot and 2WD.





## TERMS OF ISSUE

This Protocol is issued subject to the provisions of the Deed of Settlement and the Settlement Legislation. These provisions are set out below.

### 1 Provisions of the Deed of Settlement relating to this Protocol

1.1 The Deed of Settlement provides that:

1.1.1 a failure by the Crown to comply with a Protocol is not a breach of the Deed of Settlement (clause 9.17); and

1.1.2 this Protocol does not restrict the ability of the Crown to interact or consult with any person the Crown considers appropriate including any iwi, hapuu, marae, whanau, or other representative of tangata whenua (clause 9.18); and

1.1.3 this Protocol:

(a) is consistent with section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987;

(b) does not override or diminish:

(i) the requirements of the Conservation Legislation;

(ii) the functions and powers of the Minister of Conservation, or the Department of Conservation, under that legislation; or

(iii) the rights of Ngaa Rauru Kiiitahi, or a Representative Entity, under that legislation (clause 9.6).

1.2 Representative Entity has the same meaning in clause 1.1.3 of these terms of issue as it has in clause 1.10 of the Deed of Settlement.

### 2 Authority to issue, amend or cancel Protocols

2.1 Section 21 of the Settlement Legislation provides that:

(1) Each responsible Minister may –

(a) issue a protocol to the governance entity in the form set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the deed of settlement; and

(b) amend or cancel that protocol.

(2) A protocol may be amended or cancelled under subsection (1) at the initiative of either –

(a) the governance entity; or



- (b) the Minister who issued the protocol.
- (3) The Minister who issued the protocol may amend or cancel that protocol only after consulting with, and having particular regard to the views of, the governance entity.

### 3 Protocols subject to rights and obligations

#### 3.1 Section 22 of the Settlement Legislation provides that:

Protocols do not restrict –

- (a) the ability of the Crown to perform its functions and duties and exercise its powers in accordance with the law and government policy, which includes (without limitation) the ability to –
  - (i) introduce legislation and change government policy; and
  - (ii) interact or consult with a person the Crown considers appropriate, including, without limitation, any iwi, hapuu, marae, whaanau, or other representative of tangata whenua; or
- (b) the responsibilities of a responsible Minister and a responsible Ministry; or
- (c) the legal rights of Ngaa Rauru Kiiitahi or a representative entity.

### 4 Noting of Protocol


#### 4.1 Section 25 of the Settlement Legislation provides that:

- (1) The existence of the DOC protocol must be noted in the conservation documents that affect the DOC protocol area.
- (2) The noting of the DOC protocol must include a summary of the terms under which the protocol is issued, as set out in attachment B of the DOC protocol.
- (3) The noting of the DOC protocol is –
  - (a) for the purpose of public notice only; and
  - (b) not an amendment to a conservation document for the purposes of section 17I of the Conservation Act 1987 or section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980.

### 5 Enforcement of Protocol

#### 5.1 Section 23 of the Settlement Legislation provides that:

- (1) The Crown must comply with a protocol while it is in force.
- (2) If the Crown fails without good cause to comply with its obligations under a protocol, the governance entity may, subject to the Crown Proceedings Act 1950, enforce the protocol.



- (3) Despite subsection (2), damages or any form of monetary compensation are not available as a remedy for failure to comply with a protocol.
- (4) To avoid doubt,-
  - (a) subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to guidelines developed for the implementation of a protocol; and
  - (b) subsection (3) does not affect the ability of a court to award costs in relation to proceedings referred to in subsection (2).

## 6 Limitation of rights

6.1 Section 24(1) of the Settlement Legislation provides that:

- (1) The DOC protocol does not have the effect of granting, creating, or providing evidence of an estate or interest in, or rights relating to, land held, managed, or administered, or flora or fauna managed or administered under –
  - (a) the Conservation Act 1987; or
  - (b) the statutes listed in the First Schedule of that Act.



## Appendix 3: Nationally threatened species

Nationally threatened species known or thought to occur in the Whanganui National Park as at October 2005. Based on Molloy et. al. (2002) and De Lange et. al. (2004).

SPECIES	RECOVERY PLAN	ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE PARK	POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS	MANAGEMENT TO DATE	MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS OR OTHER COMMENTS
Long-tailed bat.	Yes.	Widespread but exact distribution poorly known.	Likely to be declining based on threat category – elsewhere key agents habitat loss (unlikely to be significant in WNP) and predation.	None directly. Habitat maintained through possum control.	Improve knowledge of distribution and abundance. Potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi-species predator control.
Short-tailed bat.	Yes.	Widespread but exact distribution poorly known.	Stable possible slight decline but unknown. Central NI STB work in Tongariro has resulted in species dropping down the threat ranking.	None directly. Habitat maintained through possum control.	Improve knowledge of distribution and abundance.
Whio (Blue duck).	Yes.	Occasional, but not breeding, on Whanganui but on significant tributaries e.g. Fetaruke, Heao, Manganui o te Ao, Mangapurua. Inside park occurs on Omaru and towards headwaters of the Waitotara.	Declining rapidly across its range. Declining in WNP. Key predator thought to be stoats. Poor riparian management will also cause decline.	None inside WNP apart from some colour banding on the Fetaruke. Nearest management is stoat control and monitoring of colour banded population on Manganui o te Ao.	Improve monitoring and understanding of WNP populations. Potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi-species predator control.
North Island Kōkako.	Yes.	Extinct though unconfirmed records.			Potential to reintroduce in the long-term but not a priority and methods for reintroduction to large forest blocks not yet in place. Require rats and possums to less than 5% RTC.
North Island Kākā.	No.	Nearly extinct as breeding species.	Declining rapidly where predator management not in place. Key threats stoats – also some impact rats possums.	None.	Potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi-species predator control.
North Island Brown Kiwi.	Yes.	6,000-10,000 in Matemateaonaga Ecological District (includes most of WNP).	Declining at 5.6% per annum. Population will halve every 10-15 years. 95% of chicks / juvs fail to reach 1 year old. Key predator of juvs – stoats. But significant loss of adults to dogs/cats/ferrets (edge).	None directly but reduction in possum abundance following 1080 may provide temporary bursts of recruitment.	Potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi-species predator control. Requires management of stoats – techniques already exist for areas of 10 - 15,000 hectares.
Yellow-crowned Kākāriki.	No.	Patchily distributed across WNP – population size unknown.	Declining as a result of predator impacts – rats and probably also possums, stoats.	None.	Potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi-species predator control.

SPECIES	RECOVERY PLAN	ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE PARK	POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS	MANAGEMENT TO DATE	MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS OR OTHER COMMENTS
New Zealand falcon.	No.	Widespread at low densities.	Population size unknown – declining slowly but causes of decline poorly known.	None.	Not known – may benefit from predator control as nests may be vulnerable.
Kererū (New Zealand Wood Pigeon).	No.	Widespread.	Declining slowly – predation principally possums and rats but stoats also impact. Competition for food from possums. Localised poaching.	None directly but reduction in possum abundance following 1080 may provide temporary bursts of recruitment.	Potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi species predator control.
Long-tailed cuckoo.	No.	Widespread.	Declining slowly – causes unclear but probably include predation of host nests and declines in host species.	None.	Not clear but potential to be part of multi-species management approach through multi species predator control.
Grey duck.	No.	Hybrids widespread (Note this species is secure overseas).	Unknown but majority of birds will be mallard / grey hybrids. Hybridisation is key threat.	None.	May be too late to halt hybridisation with mallard.
Fernbird.	No – at risk only.	Patchily distributed in wetlands and scrub.	Probably stable.	None.	Not required.
Pacific gecko.	No.	Not known but probably present.	Not known but likely to be declining as a result of introduced predators.	None.	Not known – levels of predator control required for lizards to benefit poorly known.
Striped skink.	Yes.	Not known if present in WNP.	Not known.	None.	Techniques for locating and monitoring this species are currently being researched.
Other lizards.					May occur but little is known of threats or abundance in the WNP – taxonomy of many gecko and skink species remains unresolved and as issues are tackled the number of threatened species in the WNP may change.
<i>Powelliphanta waitotara</i> .	Yes.	Single shell known from close to Waitotara Conservation Area – no records known from WNP.	Unknown. Likely to be affected by predation by introduced mammals.	None.	Locate populations if they exist.
<i>Dactylopsanus taylori</i> .	Yes.	East and West of WNP. Old records from WNP, but has not been confirmed from inside WNP. Type locality is close to the park.	Unknown. Likely to be affected by pigs.	N/A.	Follow up on historical records. Locate and manage populations if they exist.

SPECIES	RECOVERY PLAN	ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE PARK	POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS	MANAGEMENT TO DATE	MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS OR OTHER COMMENTS
<i>Brachyglottis turneri</i> .	No.	On steep banks next to Whanganui River and its tributaries. Exact localities still being ascertained.	Appears to be stable, but has not been studied.	None.	Undertake survey, target goat and deer control if "impact" identified.
<i>Thismia rodwayi</i> .	No.	Reserves near Whanganui River in vicinity of Taumarunui.	Not known.	None.	None.
<i>Trichomanes colensoi</i> .	No.	Exact distribution in WNP unknown.	Not known.	None.	Undertake passive surveillance. Record all sightings and assess and implement management needs if located.
<i>Botrychium australe</i> .	No.	Exact distribution in WNP unknown.	Not known.	none.	Undertake passive surveillance. Record all sightings and assess and implement management needs if located.
<i>Schoenus fluitans</i> .	No.	Not known from WNP, but historic records from Waimarino.	Not known.	None.	Undertake passive surveillance. Record all sightings and assess and implement management needs if located.
<i>Lindsea viridis</i> .		Exact distribution in WNP unknown.	Not known.	None.	Undertake passive surveillance. Record all sightings and assess and implement management needs if located.
<i>Pseudopanax laetus</i> .	No.	Exact distribution in WNP unknown.	Not known.	None.	Undertake passive surveillance. Record all sightings and assess and implement management needs if located.
<i>Pseudopanax edgerleyi</i> .	No.	Exact distribution in WNP unknown.	Not known.	None.	Undertake passive surveillance. Record all sightings and assess and implement management needs if located.



## Appendix 4: Aircraft landing and hovering sites in Whanganui National Park

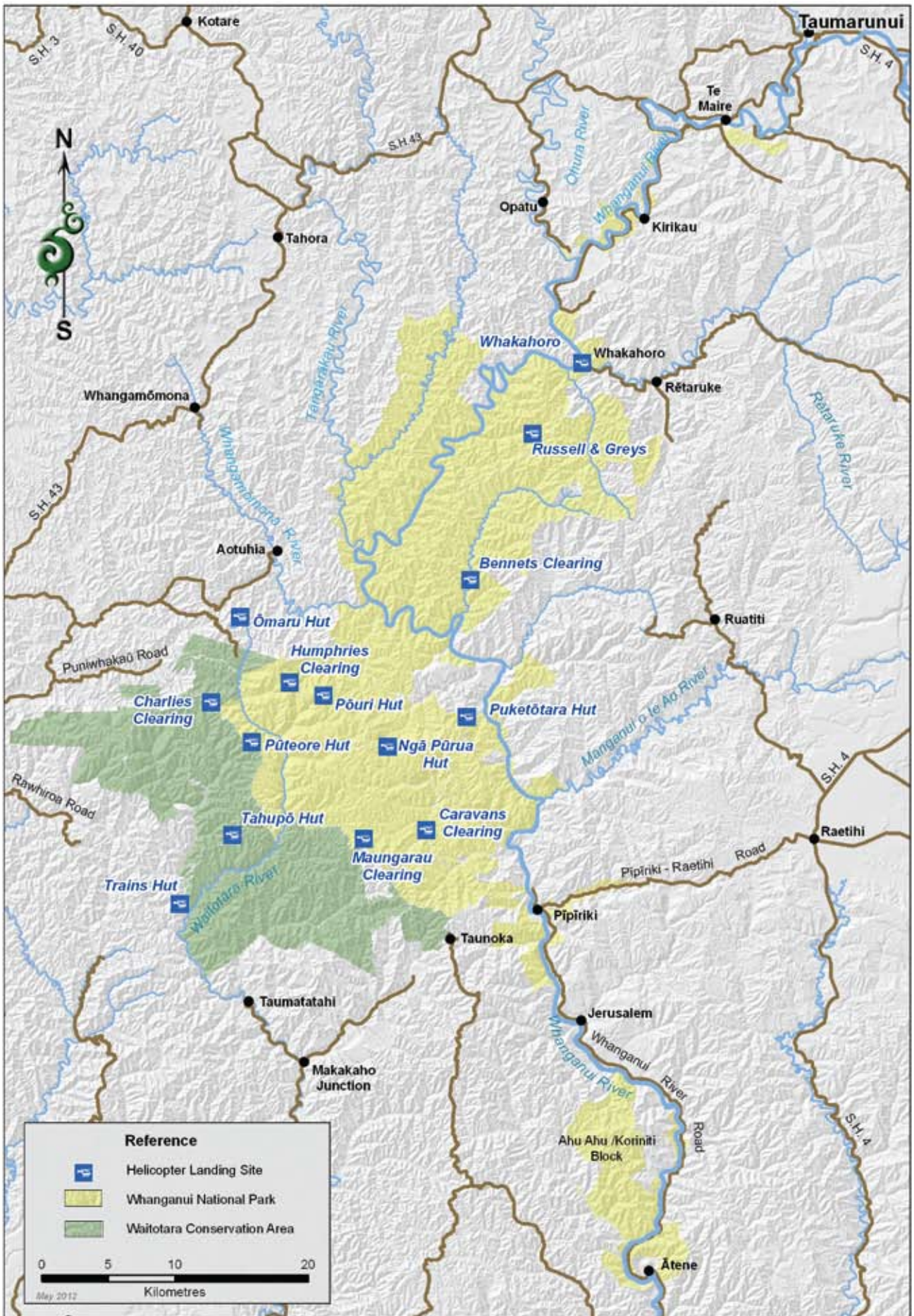
Schedule of aircraft landing and hovering sites in the Whanganui National Park

NAME	GRID REFERENCE	HUGHS 500	JET RANGER	SQUIRREL	IROQUOIS	SITE DESCRIPTION
Ōmaru Hut.	634-118	√	√	√		100m west of hut.
Pōuri Hut.	696-058	√	√	√		Clearing beside hut.
Puketōtara Hut.	803-044	√	√			In front of hut.
Ngā Pūrua Hut.	747-021	√	√	√		50m east of hut.
Tahupō Hut.	628-954	√	√	√	√	400m south of hut.
Pūteore Hut.	646-020	√	√	√	√	20m west of hut.
Trains Hut.	589-902	√	√	√	√	Clearing beside hut.
Whakahoro.	890-308	√	√	√	√	Clear area by hut.
Maungarau Clearing.	726-957	√	√	√		Clearing.
Humphries Clearing.	688-077	√	√	√	√	Clearing.
Caravans Clearing.	795-958	√	√			Clearing.
Russell and Greys.	853-256	√	√	√	√	Clearing.
Bennetts Clearing.	807-146	√	√	√	√	Clearing.
Charlies Clearing.	612-054	√	√	√	√	Clearing.

Please note: The aircraft mentioned above are to give an indication of the size of the landing areas and what size aircraft can land there. It is the responsibility of the pilot to ensure that the site is safe.

Please also note: If new huts are constructed, helicopter access may be permitted at the hut site at the Departments discretion.

Map 7: Aircraft landing and hovering sites in the Whanganui National Park.



## Appendix 5: Recorded archaeological sites within or adjacent to Whanganui National Park

NZAA SITE NUMBER	EASTING	NORTHING
R19/1	2689000	6230700
R19/2	2689000	6231100
R19/3	2688000	6230200
R19/4	2689300	6229900
R19/14	2682100	6230100
R19/15	2681600	6230300
R19/16	2679100	6225000
R19/17	2682800	6230400
R19/19	2687200	6234700
R19/20	2689100	6230900
R19/22	2688900	6238400
R19/25	2688900	6238600
R19/26	2688700	6238600
R19/27	2688700	6230500
R19/39	2681000	6227400
R19/40	2681400	6230300
R20/1	2685500	6190100
R20/17	2672100	6217000
R20/18	2673500	6218000
R20/56	2681800	6205500
R20/57	2681900	6205600
R20/58	2679500	6211000
R20/60	2686600	6190200
R20/62	2685100	6195800
R20/63	2681500	6218700
R20/64	2680900	6216700
R20/65	2681800	6219100
R20/66	2681900	6219300
R20/67	2673500	6217600
R20/68	2673600	6218100
R20/69	2673600	6218000
R20/70	2683600	6195300
R20/71	2683400	6200600
R20/72	2682800	6203400
R20/73	2679800	6211800
R20/74	2675900	6212500

NZAA SITE NUMBER	EASTING	NORTHING
R20/75	2680200	6213000
R20/76	2680200	6212900
R20/77	2680200	6212400
R20/78	2680800	6214700
R20/79	2680100	6212900
R20/81	2677100	6195300
R20/82	2674300	6212100
R21/22	2689600	6167600
R21/23	2686700	6185100
R21/25	2686400	6188000
R21/26	2686600	6189400
R21/29	2686800	6189600
S19/21	2693600	6243600
S19/23	2697200	6248300
S19/25	2691500	6240400
S21/2	2693900	6163100
S21/8	2690800	6166400
S21/9	2691100	6166300
S21/10	2693800	6162700
S21/11	2694600	6162700
S21/12	2693800	6165100
S21/13	2694700	6166000
S21/14	2694300	6165400
S21/15	2693100	6164700
S21/16	2693000	6176400
S21/17	2693000	6176500

**Note:** As at 28th February 2007. Some of these recorded sites pre-date 1900 and will be subject to the provisions of the Historic Places Act 1993. List does not include unrecorded archaeological sites and should not be interpreted as a true reflection of the history of human habitation and resource exploitation within the park boundaries. Grid references accurate to only  $\pm 100$  metres. Source: New Zealand Archaeological Association.