

RAPID ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AND TREND

Location (name, details): HUTCHINSON SCENIC RESERVE	Grid reference: V20/155089 Area (ha): 45 Ecological District: Maungaharuru			
Protective status/designation: Scenic Reserve	Managing agency: DOC			
Observer(s): Geoff Walls and Finn Scheele	Date: 12/12/98			
Route taken: Loop and link track system; across grazed area to separate forest area	Time spent: 1½ hours			
Photos taken: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
Significant fauna site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Significant flora site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Landform: Gently undulating country, cut by deeply incised streams				
Altitude, Aspect: 540-580m asl; S aspect				
Soil/rock type: Deep sediments and pumice overlying limestone and greywacke gravels				
Drainage: Incised streams				
Erosion: Very little				
Other notes:				
ECOSYSTEM/HABITAT				
	Primary	Secondary	% area	Notes
Beech forest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<2	
Broadleaved forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Podocarp forest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	
Mixed native forest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25	
Kanuka forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<5	
Exotic forest/plantation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<5	
Treeland, Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15	
Tree fernland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Bracken fernland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<1	
Scrub, Shrubland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15	
Flaxland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Tussock grassland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pasture, Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20	
Herbfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Alpine, Subalpine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cliff, Bluff, Gorge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Swamp, Marsh, Bog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lake, Pond, Lagoon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
River, <u>Stream</u> , Riverbed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sandy coast, Dunes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Rocky coast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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VEGETATION

Canopy cover (%): 0-5 5-25 25-50 50-75 75-100

Canopy composition (underline dominant species):

Kahikatea, Matai, Rimu, Kanuka, Manuka, Red beech, Cabbage tree, Lacebark, Kowhai, Kohuhu and other small trees. Two patches of forest separated by grazed shrubland-treeland.

Vegetation condition (health):	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Comments
Canopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor in centre, good in W & E
Subcanopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good in W, fair in E
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good in W, fair in E
Ground cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good in W, fair in E

Notes:

Poor overall in centre (grazed area)

Vegetation trend:	Improving	Stable	Deteriorating	Don't know	Comments
Canopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subcanopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ground cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes:

Improving in W, stable in E, deteriorating in centre

Regeneration:	None	A little	Moderate	Much	Main species/Comments
Canopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subcanopy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ground cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Epicormic shoots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes:

Much regeneration beneath canopy in W, a little in E, none in centre

Special plants (rare, threatened, local, distribution limits/anomalies, etc.):

Species	No. (estimate)	Condition (as above)	Trend (as above)	Main threats/Comments
<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>	?	?	?	Possums; needs survey
<i>Dactylanthus taylorii</i>	?	?	?	Possums; needs survey

Notes:

Threats, Impacts and Management urgency:

	Minor	Major	Urgent	Not urgent	Comments
Deer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Goat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Possum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need to keep on top of
Rabbit, Hare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Major threat to centre area
Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Major threat to centre area
Rat, Mouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keep bait stations running
Vine weeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Shrub, Tree weeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need to control sycamore
Herb/Grass weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human visitor impacts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Survey/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dactylanthus</i> , <i>Tupeia antarctica</i>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes:

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FAUNA					
Overall fauna:					
	<u>Rel. abundance</u> ¹	<u>Condition</u> ²	<u>Trend</u> ³	<u>Main threats/Comments</u>	
Native birds	Many	Good	Stable	Predators, competitors	
Exotic birds	Many	Good	Stable		
Bats	Moderate	?	?		
Native reptiles	?	?	?		
Native frogs					
Exotic frogs					
Native fish	?	?	?		
Exotic fish					
Native land inverts	Mod	?	?	Rodents	
Exotic land inverts					
Native aquatic inverts	?	?	?		
Exotic aquatic inverts					
Other (specify)					
<u>Notes:</u>					
Special fauna (rare, threatened, local, distribution limits/anomalies, etc.):					
<u>Species</u>	<u>No. (estimate)</u>	<u>Condition (as above)</u>	<u>Trend (as above)</u>	<u>Main threats/Comments</u>	
Long-tailed bat	20+	?	?		
Kereru	15-20	Good	Stable		
Tui, Bellbird	30	Good	Stable		
<u>Notes:</u>					
Management needs:					
	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Urgent</u>	<u>Not urgent</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Deer control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Goat control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pig control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Possum control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Major competitors/predators
Rabbit, Hare control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mustelid, Cat control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Needs addressing
Rat, Mouse control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bait stations may be controlling
Weed control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sycamore
Fencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Upgrade in E
Human visitor management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bats, reptiles, stream life
Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bats
Other (specify) Stock removal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued grazing will destroy trees and shrubs and restoration potential in centre: urgent issue
<u>Notes:</u>					

¹ None; Few; Moderate; Many

² Good (healthy, thriving); Fair (okay); Poor (depleted, struggling); Don't know

³ Improving; Stable; Declining; Don't know (?)

SPECIFIC CONDITION AND TREND INDICATORS FOR SITE/AREA							
[Examples: highly palatable plants, good food plants for birds, rare species, seedlings, epicormic shoots, possum sign, tracking, bark stripping, sensitive fauna, rampant weeds, visitor numbers, water quality, erosion, vegetation structure, bird population.....]							
<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Condition</u> ¹	<u>Trend</u> ²	<u>Monitoring technique</u>	<u>Comments</u>			
Tree fuchsia	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Fivefinger, Wineberry	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Lancewood	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Kanono, Karamu	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Broadleaf epicormics	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Cabbage tree epicormics	Poor-Good	Deteriorating-Improving	Observation	Poor in centre, Good in W			
Native tree seedlings	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Hen-&-chickens fern	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation				
Big podocarps	Fair	Stable	Observation	Could use veg. Plots			
Blackberry	Good	Improving-Stable	Observation	Good ungulate browse indicator			
Sycamore seedlings	Many	Increasing?	Observation	Need to monitor and control			
Tui, Bellbird & Kereru populations	Good	Stable	Observation				
Long-tailed bat	?	?	Tracking/Detectors	Every 5 years or so			
<i>Dactylanthus, Tupeia antarctica</i> ?	?	?	Tagged plants	Need survey first			
NB: generally indicate improvement in W, stability in E, deterioration in centre							
MANAGEMENT HISTORY, CURRENT REGIME AND FUTURE NEEDS							
<u>Control Programme</u>	<u>>10 yrs ago Effectiveness</u>	<u>3-10 yrs ago Effectiveness</u>	<u>Last 3 years Effectiveness</u>	<u>Current Effectiveness</u>	<u>Future Needs</u>		
	(o * ** ***)	(o * ** ***)	(o * ** ***)	(o * ** ***)	Scale up	Status quo down	
Ungulate	**	**	**	**		✓	
Pig							
Possum	*	***	***	***		✓	
Mustelid/Cat	o	o	o	o	✓		
Rodent	o	o	o	o	✓		
Weed	*	**	**	**	✓		
Fencing	**	**	**	**	✓		
Visitor impact	***	***	***	***		✓	
Other (specify)							
Stock removal	o	o	o	o	✓		
Notes:							
Greatest management need is stock removal from centre and forest restoration there							
PRIORITY FOR MANAGEMENT							
<u>Management Need</u>	<u>Priority</u>			<u>Urgency</u>			<u>When/Frequency</u> ³
	<u>Low</u>	<u>Mod</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Mod</u>	<u>High</u>	
Baseline survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asap
Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seasonally, Annually, 5y
Animal pest control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing
Weed control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asap, Ongoing
Visitor management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As required
Other (specify)							
Restoration (centre)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asap

¹ Good (healthy, thriving); Fair (okay); Poor (depleted, struggling); Don't know (?)

² Improving; Stable; Declining/Deteriorating; Don't know (?)

³ Monthly, Seasonally, Annually, 2 -yearly, 5 -yearly, 10-yearly, Ongoing, etc.