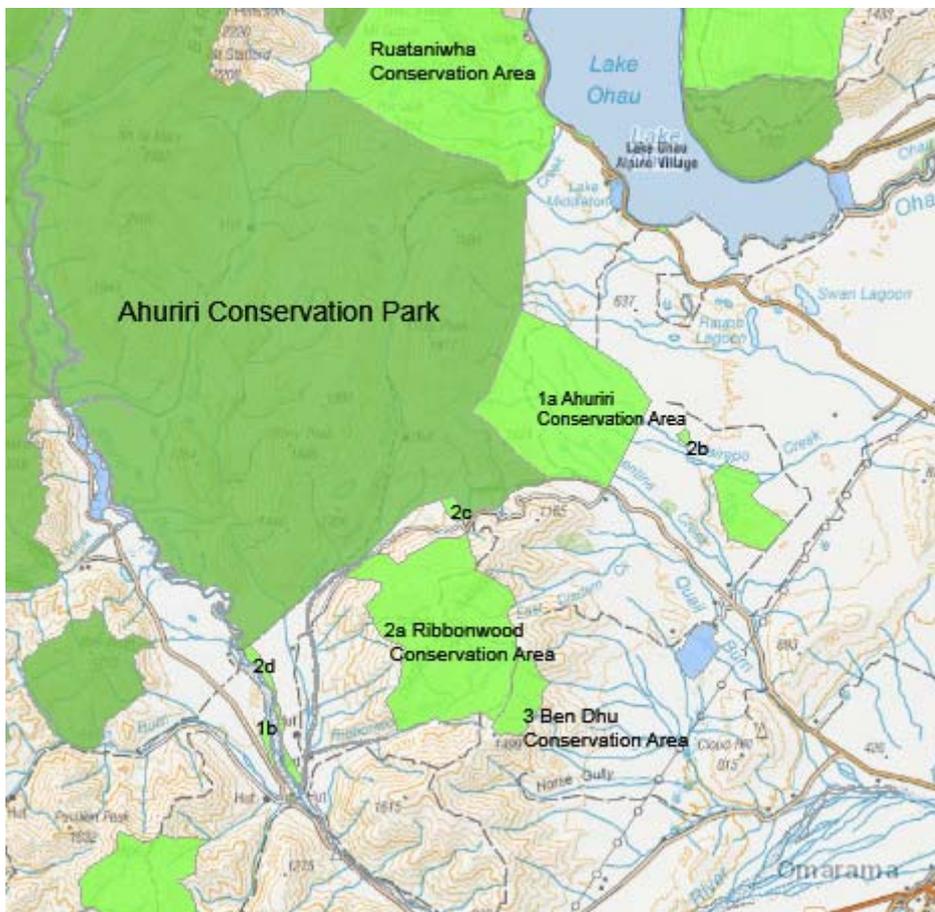


Proposal to Add Land to Ahuriri Conservation Park

Introduction

This paper has been prepared to provide background information on a proposal to add approximately 4808 hectares of stewardship land (held under section 25 of the Conservation Act 1987) to Ahuriri Conservation Park. The land proposed for addition to the Park is numbered on the map below and described in the table on page 2.

Relevant land



Location Map

Areas proposed for inclusion into the park are numbered to correspond with the table on page 2.

Identifying Name	Map Identifier	Napalis ID	Legal Description	Area (hectares)
Ohau Moraines Wetland Complex (Ahuriri Conservation Area)	1a	2510271	Sec 2 Blk VII Ohau Lake Survey District	2043.6625 (Tarnbrae)
Ahuriri Conservation Area	1b	1963163	Section 3 SO 389141	47.79
Ribbonwood Conservation Area	2a	3014792	Sec 9 SO 474703	2,312.6245
	2b	3014597	Sec 8 SO 474703	16.0260
	2c	3014596	Sec 6 SO 474703	33.81
	2d	3014788	Sec 1 SO 474703	90.3490
Ben Dhu Conservation Area	3	1783166	Sec 3 SO 365229	264.0289

Table 1: Relevant land

Background

Ahuriri Conservation Park was created in March 2005 by notice in the New Zealand Gazette. The park comprises areas of Birchwood Station purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund (NHF), land transferred following tenure review of the Quailburn and Ben Avon Crown pastoral leases, and other land previously held under section 25 of the Conservation Act 1987. Joining together all these parcels of land unified them under the umbrella of conservation park status and meant the areas were no longer managed in isolation.

Since the park was created, other ex-Crown pastoral lease land in the Ahuriri River catchment has become conservation land following tenure review, along with a large area (known as Tarnbrae - identified as area 1a in the table above) that was purchased through the NHF. The department now proposes to include these new areas into the Ahuriri Conservation Park to elevate their protection status and to allow for unified management.

This proposal is in line with policy 2.2.12 and Table 5 of the Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management Strategy 2016, which requires conservation areas within the Ahuriri River catchment to be considered for addition to the Ahuriri Conservation Park.

The approximately 400 ha land parcel (Quailburn Conservation Area) shaded green and to the southeast of map areas 1a and 2b is not proposed for inclusion in the park, as 'scientific reserve' is considered a more appropriate classification for this land.

Values of the Areas Proposed for Inclusion

Ribbonwood Conservation Area



The higher altitude areas of the Diadem Range, as shown in the image, form the bulk of Ribbonwood Conservation Area (photo by Dave Wilkins)



From Quailburn Saddle, looking at the northern end of Ribbonwood Conservation Area (photo by K. McKinley)

Ribbonwood Conservation Area's main value lies in it being part of a wider landscape of noteworthy visual and scenic values. The conservation area has outstanding views from many locations, a feature that is significant for recreation. The summit of the Diadem Range, which runs through this area, is visually impressive with distinctive rocky outcrop, scree and gravel landforms. Around 48 ha of Ribbonwood Conservation Area is made up of outwash flats and terraces located along the Ahuriri valley floor.

Ben Dhu Conservation Area

This area contains tall tussock grasslands, alpine fescue tussock, rocky outcrops, small areas of scree, cushion plant communities and wetland flushes. It extends the recreation access for walkers to the eastern flanks of the Diadem Range from the Ahuriri/Quailburn Saddle area.



Ohau Moraines Wetland Complex (Ahuriri Conservation Area)



Ohau Moraines Wetland Complex, formerly Tarnbrae Station, was purchased by the NHF in 2008 and is a very important addition to the park. It adds in basin floor wetlands and moraines which are not represented in any other parts of the park. Expansive views of Lake Ohau and the surrounding mountains, including Ben Ohau/Ruataniwha Peak, are all obtainable from the area. These vistas, coupled with the rich array of native plant species and the striking landscape features, make the Ohau Moraines Wetland Complex a very desirable destination. If added to the park, DOC anticipates this area would still be known as the Ohau Moraines Wetland Complex.

Image showing the main Tarnbrae purchase area - now known as Ohau Moraines Wetland Complex. (Photo and text by Joy Comrie)

Submissions or objections are invited

Written submissions or objections are now invited on the proposal to add land to the Ahuriri Conservation Park and will be accepted up to and including 5.00pm 24 May 2017. They may be sent to the address below or emailed to jewilliams@doc.govt.nz

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