

RAPID ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AND TREND

Location (name, details): EASTERN KAWEKA FOREST PARK: LITTLES CLEARING-MAKAHU SADDLE- BOULDER STREAM	Grid reference: U20/040085-064077 Area (ha): c. 500 Ecological District: Kaimanawa																																																																																																																			
Protective status/designation: Forest Park	Managing agency: DOC																																																																																																																			
Observer(s): Geoff Walls and Finn Scheele	Date: 12/12/98																																																																																																																			
Route taken: Littles Clearing loop track; Kaweka Flats track to Boulder Stream	Time spent: 3 hours																																																																																																																			
Photos taken: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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: Old high plateau adjacent to mountain slopes; undulating and cut by steep-sided streams Altitude, Aspect: 920-1100m asl; E aspect Soil/rock type: Greywacke, overlain with pumice Drainage: Incised steeply descending streams Erosion: Quite active: the result of geological uplift, forest clearance, past farming attempts and deer Other notes:																																																																																																																				
ECOSYSTEM/HABITAT																																																																																																																				
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%;">Primary</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Secondary</th> <th style="width: 10%;">% area</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Beech forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">65</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broadleaved forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Podocarp forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed native forest</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input 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VEGETATION					
Canopy cover (%): <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-100					
Canopy composition (underline dominant species): Mountain beech, Red beech, Manuka, Kanuka, Hall's totara					
Vegetation condition (health):	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Canopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good in places, damaged elsewhere
Subcanopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As canopy
Ground cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Notes: Wind and snow damage to canopy; deer damage to understorey					
Vegetation trend:	<u>Improving</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>Deteriorating</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Canopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local deterioration/improvement
Subcanopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ground cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Notes:					
Regeneration:	<u>None</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Much</u>	<u>Main species/Comments</u>
Canopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subcanopy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Understorey/Undergrowth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ground cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Epicormic shoots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Notes: Not really enough to retain a healthy forest long-term					
Special plants (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>	
<i>Alepis flavida</i>	2	Poor-Good	Stable?	Possums, wind, deer	
<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i>	100+	Fair	Improving, Declining	Possums, wind, deer	
<i>Cordyline indivisa</i>	1000+	Good	Stable	Deer	
Notes: Major declines in mistletoe noted since possum arrival; trend reversed in places through control					
Threats, Impacts and Management urgency:					
	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Urgent</u>	<u>Not urgent</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sika deer a major problem
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"/>	Also a major problem
Rabbit, Hare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rat, Mouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bait stations would help
Vine weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shrub, Tree weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
Herb/Grass weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human visitor impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public attitude to conservation
Survey/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mistletoes
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	Mod	Poor-Fair	Declining	Predators, habitat deterioration	
Exotic birds	Mod	Good	Stable		
Bats	?	?	?		
Native reptiles	?	?	?		
Native frogs					
Exotic frogs					
Native fish	?	?	?		
Exotic fish					
Native land inverts	Few	?	?	Rodents, possums	
Exotic land inverts					
Native aquatic inverts	?	?	?		
Exotic aquatic inverts					
Other (specify)					
<u>Notes:</u>					
Major declines in native fauna noted since European arrival; apparently still continuing					
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>	
NI Brown kiwi	20	Poor	Declining	Predation/lack of young	
NI Kaka	20	Poor	Declining	Predation/lack of young	
Kakariki	20	Poor	Declining	Predation/lack of young	
Falcon	4	Fair	Stable		
Long-tailed bat	?	?	?		
<u>Notes:</u>					
Management needs:					
	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Urgent</u>	<u>Not urgent</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Deer control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rat, Mouse control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bait stations suggested
Weed control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human visitor management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public attitude to conservation
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kiwi, Kaka, Kakariki, Falcon,
Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-tailed bat
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<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 (?)