

Fangorn and Forbidden Forest

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9747	LENZ:	F5.2b Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: Private		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
Area(ha): 1.1	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
GPS: 1687973X & 5669914Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	Chronically threatened 10-20% left
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Protection Status:	QEII Pending
Bioclimatic Zone: Semi-Coastal	Catchment:	Tapuae (386)
Ecosystem Type: WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest		

General Description

Fangorn and Forbidden Forest KNE is located on privately owned land on Pheneys Road, 2km south of Omata. The site lies in the Egmont Ecological District and Tapuae Stream catchment. Fangorn and Forbidden Forest is made up of twin forest remnants which are separately fenced. Combined, the twin remnants consists of 1.1ha of semi-coastal kohekohe, tawa forest and are in close proximity to several existing KNEs; McNeil KNE, Woodside and Berridge Twin Bush, Ralph Arnold KNE; Atkinson's Bush and Watatao KNE.

Ecological Features

Flora

The forest remnant is a good example of semi-coastal tawa forest and is located in an 'Acutely Threatened' LENZ environment (F5.2b, less than 10% indigenous forest remaining). The main canopy is a mix of puriri, tawa, kohekohe, rimu, pukatea and rewarewa and is generally in good condition. The understorey and ground cover is in good condition in one section and is made up of a variety of species including kawakawa, kanono and regenerating kohekohe. The second section of this area has a relatively good condition understorey with significantly more ground cover but more shrub weeds are present.

Fauna

Native birdlife recorded in and around Fangorn and Forbidden Forests include the New Zealand pigeon, grey warbler, fantail, tui, morepork and shining cuckoo. Excellent habitat exists for reptiles, invertebrates and freshwater fish.

Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	The remnant provides connectivity to other Key Native Ecosystems nearby including Woodside KNE and Brookwood KNE
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains three species of climbing rata and Manuka which are classified as 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' due to their potential vulnerability to myrtle rust.
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation that is poorly represented in Taranaki and classified as F5.2b - an 'Acutely Threatened' LENZ environment
Sustainability - Positive	Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management it will remain resilient to existing and potential threats.

Other Management Issues

Weeds - High	Large areas of blackberry, Tradescantia and Montbretia. Smaller, scattered patches of Himalayan honeysuckle, inkweed, ginger and wooly nightshade.
Predators - Medium	Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site. The site falls within the current Towards Predator Free Landscape predator control programme.
Possum Self-help	The site falls within the Hurford Self-Help area.
Habitat Modification - Medium	The western side of the forest shows signs of grazing from chickens as the land owner grazes his chickens within the area as a method of Tradescantia control.
Herbivores - Medium	This site is fully fenced from sheep and cattle. There are pet chickens within the site which are used by the land owner for wandering willy control, however they may also have an impact native seedlings within the forest. This site is also vulnerable to possums.

