

## Cool Acres

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9739	LENZ:	F7.2a At risk
Ecological District: Manawatu Plains		F1.3b Less reduced, better protected
Land Tenure: Private		F5.2c Acutely threatened
Area(ha): 925	National:	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
GPS: 1726621X & 5618898Y		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland	Regional	At risk 20-30% left
Ecosystem Type: MF21: Tawa, kamahi, rimu, northern rata, black beech forest	Ecosystem Loss:	Less reduced >50% left
MF7.2: Rata, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest	Protection Status:	Local Government
MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest	Catchment:	Manawapou (347)

### General Description

The Cool Acres site is located on private land, approximately 13 kilometers east of Hāwera off Inagahape Road, in South Taranaki. The site is large (925 hectares) and made up of a mix of mature cutover native forest, regenerating native forest, and gorse reverting to native. Topography is mainly steep to very steep slopes leading down to the Otoki stream and stream tributaries in the upper Manawapou River catchment. The site lies within the Matemateāonga and Manawatū Plains Ecological Districts. It is directly connected to the Tarere Conservation Area and Raurimu KNEs, providing very good connectivity between indigenous habitats in this area.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The areas of old forest canopy are dominated by tawa with a mixed and varied range of other species, including pukatea, rewarewa, kāmahi, miro, rimu, hinau, kahikatea and pigeonwood. The understory is dominated by unpalatable species, such as tree ferns, mingimingi and tree daisy. Notable flora species are present including three species of threatened rata.

#### Fauna

Birdlife at the site is reasonably diverse and includes notable species such as the North Island brown kiwi, long-tailed cuckoo, North Island robin and whitehead. Other native birds recorded include grey warbler, silvereye, pied tomtit, tui, bellbird, fantail, kereru and morepork. Long-tailed bats are confirmed present and are notable for the site. The site provides habitat for and will contain other notable fauna including reptiles, native fish and invertebrates.

### Ecological Values

Sustainability - Positive	In good vegetative condition and large in area. Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management, the site can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.
Representativeness - Medium	Contains an ecosystem type listed as 'At Risk' (MF7-3 Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest). Over 70% of this type of forest has been lost in Taranaki and remnant areas remain under threat from introduced predators and browsers.

Rarity and Distinctiveness - High	Contains a range of notable fauna including the North Island brown kiwi, long-tailed cuckoo, North Island robin, whitehead and long-tailed bat. A range of other notable fauna will also be present including native fish, reptiles and invertebrates. Also contains notable flora species such as five species of threatened rātā and ramarama.
Ecological context - High	The site is large (925 ha) and connected to existing native habitats in the area. The site provides good connectivity to other Key Native Ecosystems and habitats in this area, including the Tarere Conservation Area and Raurimu KNEs.

**Other Management Issues**

Weeds - Low	A few large areas of gorse are present although reversion to native vegetation is well underway in these areas. Gorse is acting as a good nursery for regenerating seedlings and will be outcompeted by native vegetation in time.
Predators - High	Predator species including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs, will be having an impact on native species at the site.
Herbivores - High	There is high risk to palatable flora species from browsers such as possums and goats in this area. Occasional goat and possum control is currently undertaken along the forest and pasture margins at the south end, however the site is large and well connected to extensive habitat for these pest species, so re-incursion will be ongoing. Feral pigs are occasionally present. Good fencing contains stock on the small pasture margin at the south end.
Habitat Modification - Medium	The soil and underlying geology make the area potentially more at risk from natural erosion.

