

# **RANGITAIKI 61B FOREST**

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**Owned by  
RANGITAIKI 61B TRUST**

## **Forest Management Plan**

**For the period June 2018 – June 2023**



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## Table of Contents

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INTRODUCTION .....	2
THE LANDSCAPE CONTEXT .....	3
1. The Forest Land .....	3
2. The Broader Landscape .....	6
3. Socio-economic profile and adjacent land .....	10
4. The Regulatory Environment & Risk.....	13
5. Commercial Risk Management.....	18
6. Environmental Risk Management .....	20
THE MANAGED PLANTATION ESTATE .....	25
7. Commercial Plantation Estate .....	25
8. Commercial Crop Establishment and Silviculture .....	29
9. Harvesting Strategy and Operations .....	32
10. Forest Inventory, Mapping and Forest Records .....	34
NON-COMMERCIAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION.....	36
11. Protected Forests, Habitats, Ecosystems and Species .....	36
12. Property Management and Protection .....	40
OTHER BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST .....	45
13. Recreation, Forest Products and Other Special Values .....	45
LOOKING AHEAD .....	48
14. Monitoring.....	48
15. Industry Participation and Research .....	50
16. Future Planning .....	51
17. Register of Plan Change and Review .....	52
Appendix 1 - Contact details for Regional and District Councils with jurisdiction over Rangitaiki 61B Forest.....	53
Appendix 2 - Other Relevant Legislation.....	54
Appendix 3 - PF Olsen Significant Aspects – Objectives, targets and monitoring.....	55
Appendix 4 - Significant Aspects of a Plantation Forest Life Cycle.....	56
Appendix 5 - Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016 .....	57

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## INTRODUCTION

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### **Foundation Principle**

Rangitaiki 61B Trust is committed to adopt the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Principles and to meet their Criteria and the FSC standards of good forest management. These standards include ecological, social and economic parameters.

Rangitaiki 61B Trust is committed to the PF Olsen FSC Group Scheme that is implemented through the Group Scheme Member Manual and associated documents.

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### **About this plan**

This document provides a summary of the forest management plan and contains:

- Management objectives;
  - A description of the land and forest resources;
  - Environmental safeguards;
  - Identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species;
  - Rationale for species selection, management regime and harvest plan and techniques to be used;
  - Appropriate management of unstocked reserve areas;
  - Maps showing plantation area, legal boundaries and protected areas;
  - Provisions for monitoring and protection.
-

# THE LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

## 1. The Forest Land

### Overview

This section describes the physical and legal attributes of the land on which the forest is located. Included in this section are discussions of:

- Location and access;
- Topography;
- Soils;
- Climate;
- Legal ownership and tenure.

### Legal ownership

The forest is legally described on certificate of title numbers 63b/630 as follows:

- Pt Allot 61, Rangitaiki Parish, Blocks IV, V and VIII, Whakatane SD 87.14 hectares.

The tenure is freehold.

### Forests & location

Rangitaiki 61B Forest is located near the Whakatane River approximately 5 kilometres west of Taneatua on Rewatu Road in the Whakatane District. Internal forest roads provide access to all parts of the forest.

The location of the forest in relation to potential markets is listed in Table 1 and shown in Map 1.

The geographic locations of the main forest blocks within the Bay of Plenty are shown in Map 1 in Section 3.

**Table 1. Distance from forest to log markets**

Potential Market or Export Port	Distance from Forest (km)	Log Market Type
Mount Maunganui	127	Export
Whakatane	45	Domestic
Kawerau	47	Pulp

**Topography**

The topography of the forestland is flat to rolling contour with a few steeper areas. The property drains into the Pacific Ocean via the Whakatane River. Slopes are broken and in the order of 0 to 25 degrees.

Ground based log extraction methods will be utilised at harvesting.

Altitude ranges from 10 to 100 metres above sea level. The general aspect is north west.

**Soils**

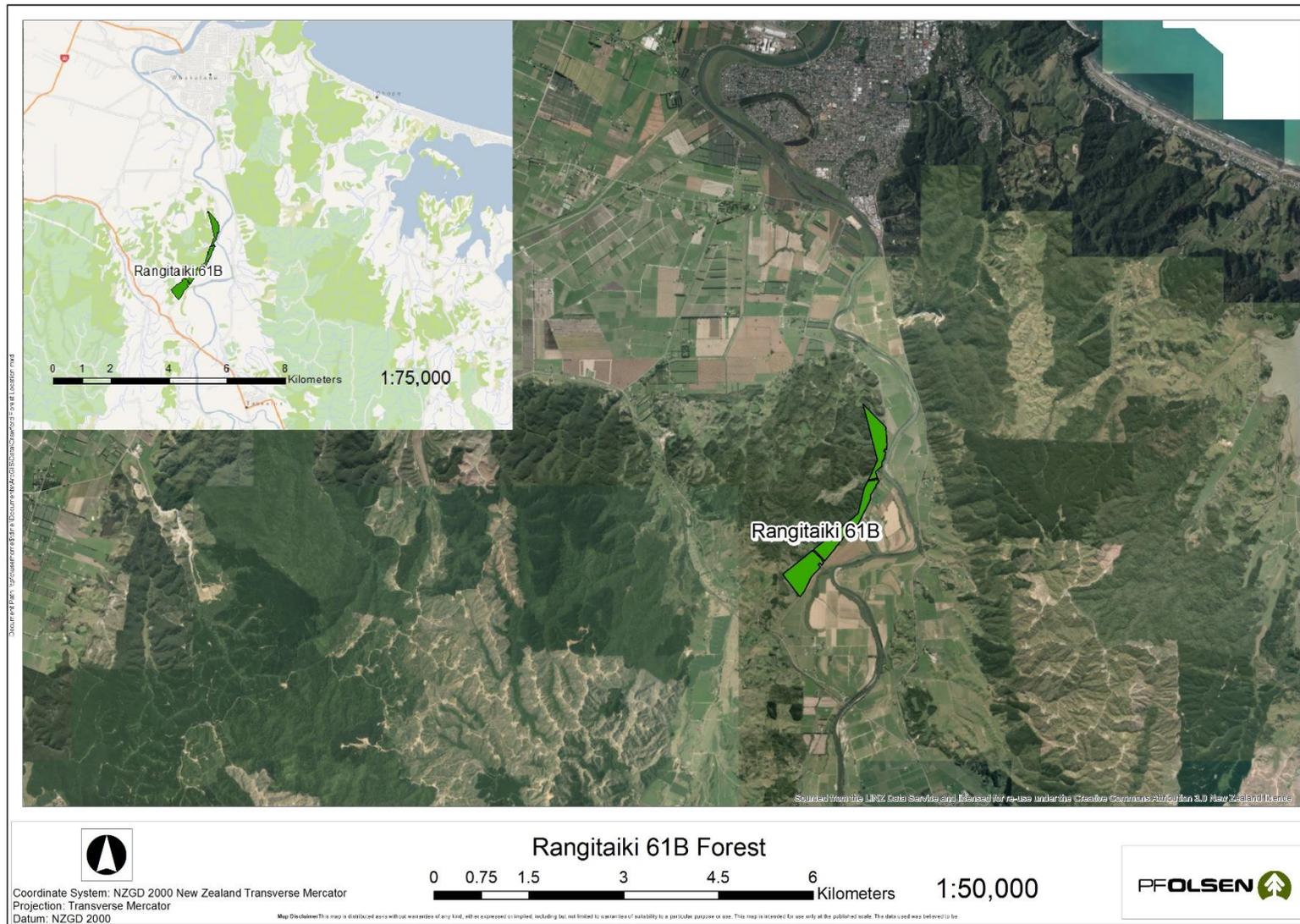
Related to topography, soils of the Taupo-Rotorua area are generally ash and pumice-based soils originating from local volcanic activity. The soils located within the forest are characterised by yellow brown pumice with the potential for moderate erosion. These soils have low natural fertility but are suitable for production forestry.

**Climate**

Climate has a significant effect on tree growth. NZ Meteorological service data recorded at nearby Whakatane is about 1,300 mm and is relatively evenly distributed during the year. Predominant winds are from the North. (Source: NZ Meteorological Services, summaries of climatological observations to 1980).

Temperature: The mean annual temperature is around 15.2°C. These climatic features are generally suitable for establishment and are conducive to good growth of Radiata pine.

### Map 1 - Forest Location Map



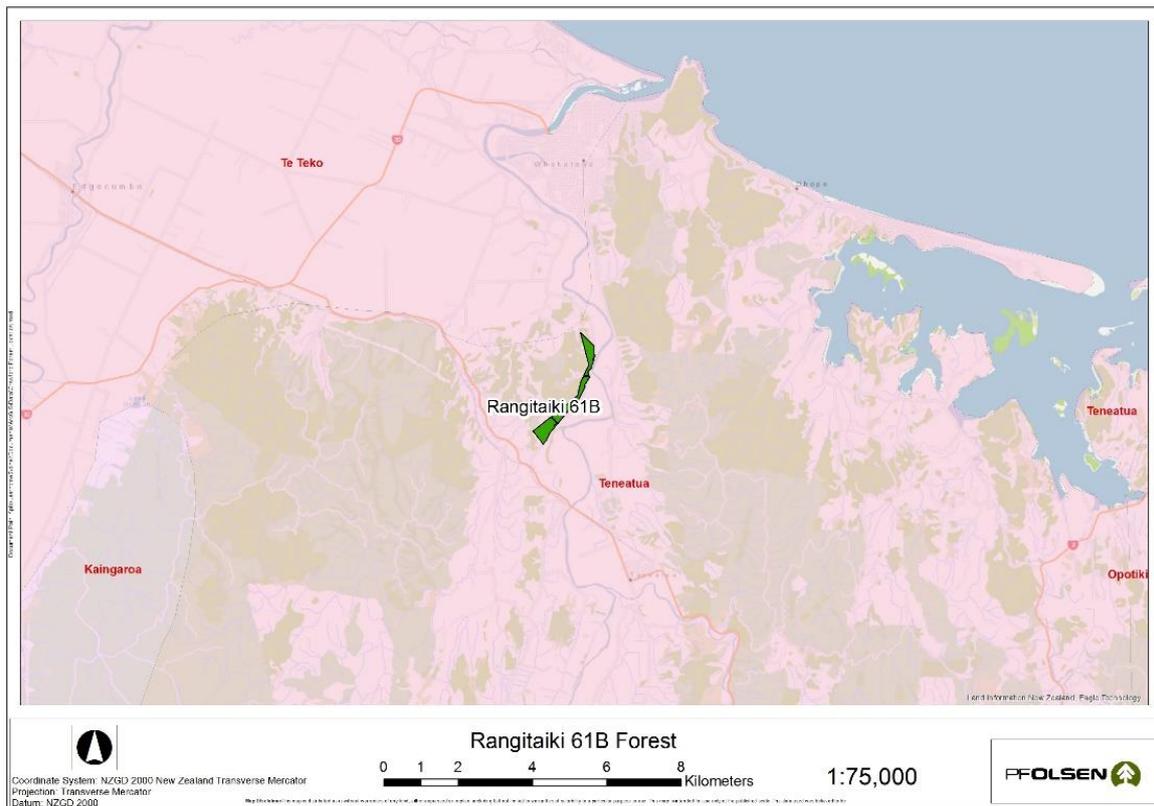
## 2. The Broader Landscape

### Ecological Districts

The forest is located on the foothill margins of the floodplains of the Whakatane river and the Rangitaiki plain. The low rolling hills rising behind the forest originally formed part of a continuous forest sequence of vegetation in transition from warm coastal hardwoods through to podocarp tawa and associated hardwoods with increasing altitude and distance from the coast.

The plains would have been extensive wetlands featuring large areas of flax, kahikatea, cabbage tree, kowhai and numerous other specialised wetland and wetland margin species.

Today the forest remnants within the block are located in land environments that are much reduced in their vegetated extent compared to their original cover. This is particularly the case locally where in the semi-coastal bioclimatic zone of the Taneatua Ecological district (ED) in which the forest sits, only 24% of its original vegetative cover remains (Figure 1). Of those areas remaining, both locally and at the national scale, the proportion formally protected is marginal to adequate, though many of the remaining areas are heavily modified as are the remnants in Rangitaiki 61B.



**Figure 1. Rangitaiki 61B Forest Ecological District**

**Protective Status**

Table 2 shows vegetation types as required by the National Standard for Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand revised in 2013.

**Table 2. Protective status of the ecological landscape**

LENZ type:	LENZ F6.1	LENZ C1.2
Original (pre-Maori) percentage of ecosystem type in Ecological District within land title:	778,785ha 100%	46,306ha 100%
Natural ecosystem area remaining	201705ha 25.9%	5047ha 10.9%
Proportion of remaining natural ecosystem under protection:	109525ha 54.3%	1918ha 38%
Protection by certificate holder	13.2ha 0.012%	0.6ha 0.031%
Protected areas as a % of management estate	13.8ha 39%	
Protected areas as a % of the aggregated Group Scheme management estate by (Rotorua) Ecological District	326.5ha 8%	

**Historic and archaeological sites**

Records of known archaeological and historical places are maintained in the NZ Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme. The Archaeological Site Probability model published by the Department of Conservation<sup>1</sup> provides further guidance on the probability of pre-European archaeological evidence existing based on the geographical location of the forest and historical occupation of the local area.

If a site is found or suspected on any block, the protocols specified in PF Olsen’s EMS, and any others specifically developed in conjunction with Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) and Iwi or other stakeholders, must be observed. Where such circumstances require, an ‘Authority to Modify or Destroy’ will be sought from HNZ with the assistance of an archaeologist. Such authorities are similar in function to a resource consent and, if granted, normally come with conditions that must be met. The process to apply for authorities is documented in PF Olsen’s EMS.

Note also that authorities to modify an archaeological site may sometimes be required from the local District Council and sites of cultural significance are often included in schedules of places and sites of significance in District Plans. Update checks for any sites will be required before any harvesting or related earthworks commences.

<sup>1</sup> Arnold, G.; Newsome, P.; Heke, H. 2004: Predicting archaeological sites in New Zealand. *DOC Science Internal Series 180*. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 24 p.

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**Threatened  
Environments  
Classification**

The Landcare Threatened Environments Classification (TEC) is a measure of how much indigenous vegetation remains within land environments, its legal protection status, and how past vegetation loss and legal protection are distributed across New Zealand's landscape. The TEC is a combination of three national databases:

- Land Environments New Zealand (LENZ)
- Landcover Database 2
- Protected Areas Network

The TEC uses indigenous vegetation cover as a surrogate for indigenous biodiversity, which includes indigenous ecosystems, habitats, and communities; the indigenous species, subspecies and varieties that are supported by indigenous vegetation; and their genetic diversity. It uses legal protection as a surrogate for the relative vulnerability of indigenous biodiversity to pressures such as land clearance, extractive land uses, and the effects of fragmentation. The TEC is therefore most appropriately applied to help identify places that are priorities for formal protection against clearance and/or incompatible land uses, and for ecological restoration to restore lost species, linkages and buffers.

Map 2 shows that Rangitaiki Forest is made up of a combination of the most threatened class (<10% indigenous cover remaining) and one of the lesser threatened environment classifications (>30% remaining, and 10 - 20% protected).

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### 3. Socio-economic profile and adjacent land

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#### Forest history

Rangitaiki 61B Forest block was planted on farmland that was, at the time, relatively unproductive and reverting steadily to scrubland. The partial regrowth was cleared and replanted over a period of 4 years as a commercial venture.

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#### Current social profile

The Bay of Plenty region, in which Rangitaiki 61B Forest falls, is one of the most populated in New Zealand (from Statistics NZ). Rangitaiki 61B forest itself is situated just a few kilometres from the secondary population centre of Whakatane and the major wood processing plants located there. It is also fairly close to the port of Tauranga and is well situated within a larger forest-based infrastructure. However, the forest is small and provides only very few, incremental and intermittent employment and yield opportunities within the larger forest processing and employment landscape.

Planted for commercial investment purposes, activities within the forest have little direct influence on the surrounding processing profile and labour requirements will likely be easily sourced as required, as a part of a much larger available skilled labour pool

In the current market there is some uncertainty as to the financial returns from timber at harvest and other options related to carbon values may need to be considered.

**Table 3. Key statistics as summarised from Census<sup>2</sup> data**

Census Category	Bay of Plenty	NZ
Ethnicity: European	75.7%	74%
Ethnicity: Māori	25%	14.9%
Formal qualifications	75.5%	79.1%
Unemployment	9.0%	7.1%
Dominant occupation	Professional	Professional
Median income	\$26,200	\$28,500
Family with children	35.9%	41.3%
Internet access	72.6%	76.8%
Home ownership	64.7%	64.8%
Employed in agriculture, fishing & forestry	8.5%	5.7%

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/quickstats-about-a-place.aspx?request\\_value=13853&tabname=Business#](http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/quickstats-about-a-place.aspx?request_value=13853&tabname=Business#)

**Associations with Tangata Whenua**

The establishment of this forest was wholly funded by its Maori Trustees and remains owned by them.

**Tenure & resource rights**

A search for these rights in the Maori Land Online website returned no results.

**Neighbours**

Neighbours to the forest estate boundaries have a special interest in the management of the forest. Activities within the forest may positively or negatively impact upon their quality of life or businesses in several ways, while inappropriately managed operations could create risks of adverse health, safety and environmental hazards. Neighbours may use the forests for recreational purposes or place reliance on the forests for provision of water quality or quantity services. Boundary issues such as weed and pest control, access and boundary alignment issues may also involve neighbours.

The following table lists the forest neighbours and their primary activities. Some or all of these parties should be consulted when operations are proposed in forest areas adjacent to their boundaries.

**Table 4. Current neighbours of Rangitaiki 61B Forest**

Owner/Occupier	Location (See Map 3)	Activities
Terry Anderson	East	Farming
Miria Black	South	Farming
John Bluett & Harry Merito	East	
Arthur & Madeleine Brett Kelly	North West	
Mark Caldwell	East	
John & Terence Fairbothor	West	
Maxwell Gray	North West	
Amelia & Grant Ingle		
Kimiora Ltd		
Raewyn Kingsley-Smith	North	
Glenda & Ivan Porter	South West	
Henry Merito	South East	Farming
Irene Mokai		
Kevin Riini	East	
Suzanne Robinson		
Terri Wilkins	South	



# Regulatory Environment & Risk Management

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## 4. The Regulatory Environment & Risk

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### Regulatory considerations

Forestry operations throughout New Zealand are undertaken within the context of a regulatory framework that aims to ensure wider economic, social and environmental goals are achieved for the populace as a whole.

Failure to meet regulatory requirements is a key business risk that must be managed. The following section summarise key regulatory requirements and risk management controls exercised over forestry operations in the forests.

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### Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Leadership, a constant focus on health and safety, and the strong message that safety rates as the number one priority ahead of any other business driver are all highly important for PF Olsen management. The company also takes the following steps to ensure worker health and safety:

- Contractor selection process including emphasis on:
    - safety systems and track record;
    - worker skills and training; and
    - equipment type and standard.
  - Work planning.
  - Contractor induction.
  - Monitoring, including random and reasonable cause drug testing, safe work practices and PPE.
  - Incident investigation and reporting, including investing in software, training and processes development to enable good transparency on lag and lead indicators.
  - Regular reporting to and interaction with the Client on matters related to safety.
  - Regular (annual) review and update of the critical risks as identified in PF Olsen data sets and from Industry indicators. Such a review shall focus on incidents that have caused harm and/or loss, any known cause factors and mitigations and revised controls.
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**Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991**

The RMA sets up a resource management system that promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and is now the principal statute for the management of land, water, soil and other resources in New Zealand. The RMA effectively delegates much of the rule development and enforcement to local government organisations. Table 5 lists the organisations relevant to Rangitaiki 61B Forest:

**Table 5. Regional and District Councils under Rangitaiki 61B Forest**

Regional Council <sup>3</sup>	District Councils <sup>4</sup>
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Whakatane District Council

Under the RMA, each Council has its own planning documents and associated rules that have been developed through public process. Any forestry operations must comply with the rules relevant to the Council area in which the operations are to take place.

At the time of formulation of this Management Plan, many individual Council rules will be superseded by a new instrument under the RMA, the 'National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry' (NES-PF), designed explicitly to assist streamlining, efficiency and consistency in the application of environmental law to the forest industry (see next section). Contact details for the councils is shown in [Appendix 1](#).

**National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF)**

Come into law on 1 May 2018, the NES-PF is a whole new rule hierarchy that applies the same rule set uniformly across most forestry operations in all parts of New Zealand. Operations come under the legal force of this RMA instrument, though local Councils retain the ability to regulate specific areas outside the NES-PF, e.g. Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Landscapes, giving effect to the Coastal Policy Statement etc.

The underpinning the structure of the NES-PF is a rule hierarchy linked to the erosion susceptibility of the lands upon which forestry operations are to be conducted.

Work commissioned by the Ministry of Primary Industries led to the creation of a national spatial map, the 'Erosion Susceptibility Layer' (ESC) that classifies all of New Zealand into a series of four classes of erosion susceptibility from low (green) to very high (red).

The stringency of the rules hierarchy, i.e. whether consents are needed and the degree to which Councils can apply discretion to the conditions attached to a consent, is then tied closely to the recognised erosion susceptibility of the lands involved and the risks created by the operations.

*Continued on next page...*

<sup>3</sup> Regional Councils responsible for soil conservation and water and air quality issues

<sup>4</sup> District Councils responsible for land use and biodiversity issues

...continued

In the case of Rangitaiki 61B Forest, Table 6 indicates the proportion of the productive forest by the respective ESC classes.

**Table 6. ESC Classes (Erosion Risk)**

	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
<b>Area (ha)</b>	35.31 ha	7.66 ha	18.28 ha	
<b>Area (%)</b>	58%	13%	30%	

In broad terms, harvesting, roading (earthworks) and new afforestation operations will need consents in the red zone. Earthworks will need consents in orange, and in the green and yellow zones most operations will be permitted subject to conditions. The coverage of the erosion classes within the estate are illustrated in Map 4.

**Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014**

Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 it is the landowner’s responsibility to identify any historic sites on their land prior to undertaking any work which may disturb or destroy such sites. Records of archaeological and historical places are maintained in the NZ Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme <http://www.archsite.org.nz/>.

If a site is found or suspected on any block, protocols specified in PF Olsen’s EMS, and any others specifically developed in conjunction with HNZ, archaeologists and Iwi or other stakeholders, will be observed and the necessary Archaeological Authorities obtained with HNZ and if necessary the local Territorial Authority.

These responses may include, but are not limited to:

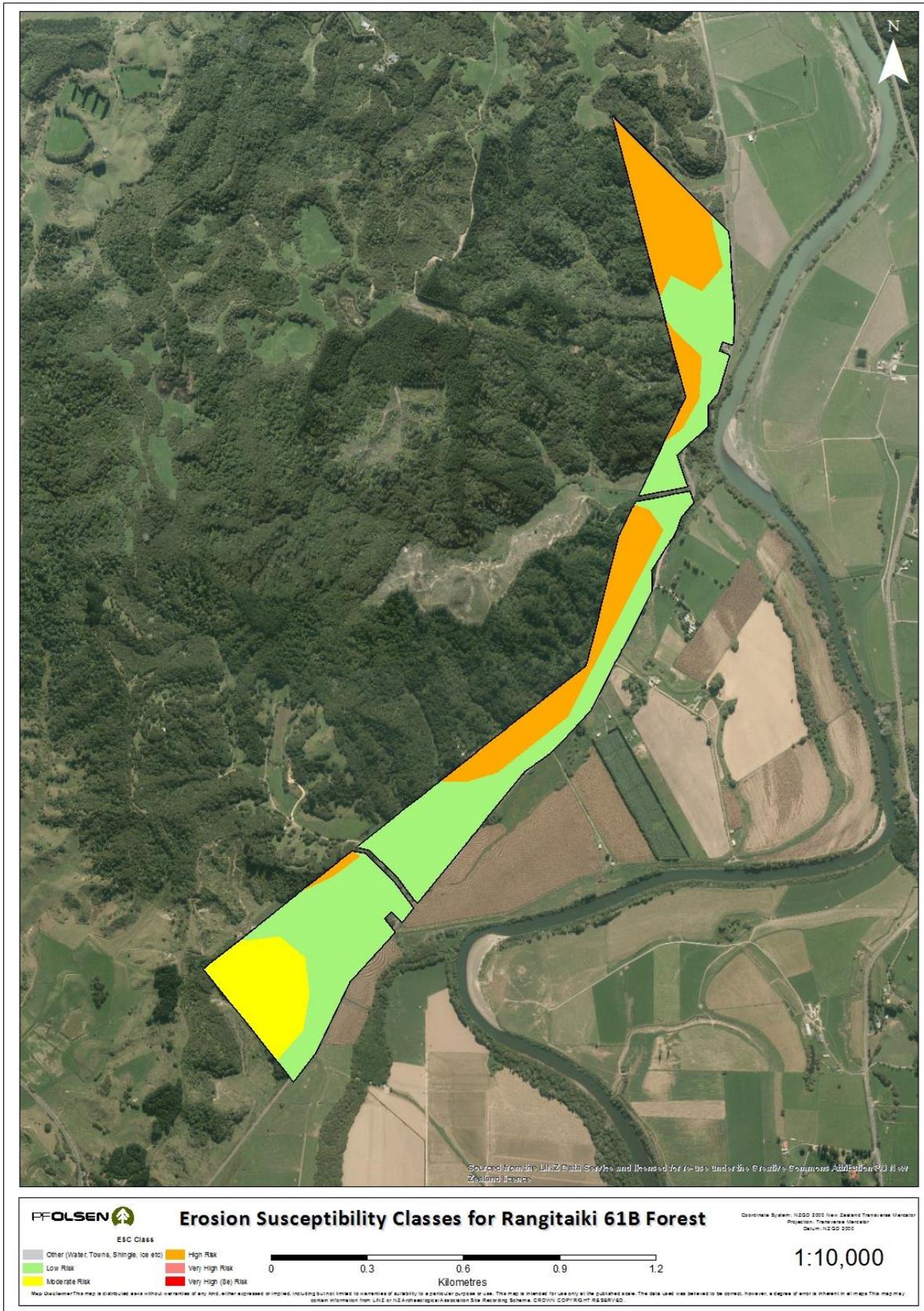
- Map and ground surveys to identify, mark and protect known heritage sites.
- Iwi consultation and surveys for unknown sites.
- Archaeological Authorities to modify sites if required.

Accidental Discovery Protocols to stop work and engage experts if sites are discovered during operations.

**Consents & authorities held**

There are currently no resource consents or HNZ authorities held that apply to Rangitaiki 61B Forest.

### Map 4 – National Environmental Standard Erosion Susceptibility Classes in Rangitaiki 61B Forest



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**Emissions  
Trading Scheme**

Forests in New Zealand are governed by rules related to New Zealand's Climate Change Response Act (CCRA) to reduce the nation's carbon footprint and contribution to associated climate change.

Rangitaiki 61B Forest was planted on 'Kyoto compliant' land that was vacant as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1989. These forest areas have not been registered to participate in the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme and are not subject to the accrual of emissions credits and liabilities under that scheme.

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**Other relevant  
legislation**

There are numerous other statutes and regulations that impact on forest operations. Forest owners can be held liable for breaches of these Acts and may be held responsible for damage to third party property. Management processes seek to manage and minimise these risks.

Other relevant legislation is listed in [Appendix 2](#).

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## 5. Commercial Risk Management

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### Market access retention

It is a major focus of the Property Manager to ensure contracted products are delivered on time and in specification to ensure Rangitaiki 61B Trust retains credible access to its markets.

Rangitaiki 61B Trust maintains independent third party environmental certification for its estate under Forest Stewardship Council certification (FSC). PF Olsen Ltd acting under the instruction of its client will be responsible for the execution and maintenance of the required FSC certification elements of which this management plan forms an important component.

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### Log customer credit risk

There have been a number of NZ sawmills fail in recent years leaving log customers unpaid for the last month's deliveries. The PF Olsen Investment Manager manages customer credit risk exposure and mitigation measures for export markets while PF Olsen manages these risks for domestic log customers.

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### Infrastructure damage or service disruption

Rangitaiki 61B Forest has two electricity lines that run through the North and South boundaries of the forest. Risks around these are managed by:

- Identification on maps and on the ground any utilities at planning stage.
  - Early engagement with utility owner to plan operations to minimise risks.
  - Operational execution of agreed plans with parties specifically qualified for the tasks involved when working close to utilities.
- 

### Fire

Fire is always a risk to the forests. Rangitaiki 61B Forest has minor risk as it is located in the Centre of the North Island, where there is a variety of weather conditions annually.

Fire risk is managed through:

- Protocols to restrict work hours or to stop work in periods of extreme fire risk.
  - Annual auditing and regular monitoring of contractors' fire prevention and first response equipment prior to fire season each year.
  - Maintenance of trained personnel and fire suppression equipment.
  - Protocols for pooling of resources as a first response to fires under the leadership of the relevant Rural Fire Authority.
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**Pests and  
diseases**

Pests and diseases are managed according to any statutory obligations and best practices as identified by scientific research and past experience, with the type and intensity of treatment (if any) subject to what is at risk and the age of trees.

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## 6. Environmental Risk Management

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### Environmental risk

Environmental risk is managed by PF Olsen as appointed property manager, through a cascade framework from high level 'intent' determined by the Forestry Rights owner, through PF Olsen's own environmental policies, thence through defined and documented processes constituting an Environmental Management System (EMS), supported by monitoring and reporting. PF Olsen's policies and Rangitaiki 61B Trust business objectives are considered to be well in alignment.

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### Environmental policy

*PF Olsen Limited is committed to:*

- *Sustainable forest and land management;*
- *Promoting high environmental performance standards that recognise the input of the community in which we operate;*
- *Supporting an environment of continuous improvement in environmental performance;*
- *Obtaining and retaining independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party forest certification in conformance with the Principles and Criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council and / or the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification as specified by forest owning clients, or in any case ISO:14001 Environmental Management Systems.*

In order to achieve these commitments **PF Olsen** (and PF Olsen Certification Scheme Members) will undertake the following:

- Where applicable to a particular forest, comply with the presiding **Certification Standards** as set out in any agreements between the forest owners and PF Olsen.
  - **Planning** of operations to avoid, mitigate or remedy degradation of **ecological, heritage** and **amenity** values;
  - Compliance with all relevant **legislation** and where appropriate exceed environmental statutory requirements;
  - **Training** for all employees and contractors to ensure an understanding of certification member's commitments to high standards of environmental performance, their responsibilities under the environmental legislation and to assist the implementation of sound environmental practices;
  - **Monitoring** environmental and socio-economic research and international agreements that may improve environmental and certification performance;
  - Regular environmental performance **audits** of operations;
  - Support for environmental **research**;
  - Undertake forest management in accordance with the principles and ethics of the **NZ Forest Accord** the **Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management in NZ**, and other relevant agreements, conventions and accords.
  - Promotion of the prevention of **waste** and **pollution** / efficient use of **energy**;
  - Due regard for the well-being of the **community**.
-

**Objectives, targets and monitoring**

PF Olsen’s objectives, targets and monitoring categorised across 5 key aspects of the business:

1. Economic
2. Legal
3. Social
4. Health & safety
5. Environment

A systematic management approach ensures these objectives and targets remain the cornerstone of PF Olsen’s business, backstopped by monitoring processes that form a regular review of practices. These are summarised in [Appendix 3](#).

**EMS framework**

The Environmental Management System (EMS) is an integrated set of cloud based, defined and documented policies, processes and activities that govern the physical implementation of forest management activities. The EMS applies a systematic approach certified to ISO:14001 standards to ensure that prevention of adverse and harmful impacts is effective.

The framework is reviewed annually with the input of an Environmental Management Group (EMG).

**Environmental Code of Practice**

As a member of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association, all operations carried out on the property should be undertaken in conformance to the NZ Forest Owners Association ‘New Zealand Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry’. This publicly available document sets out guidelines that underpin the requirements for sound and practical environmental management.

**Forest Road Engineering Manual**

As a member of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association, roading and engineering techniques employed within the forest should conform to the industry best practice as outlined in the New Zealand Forest Owners Association publication, ‘NZ Forest Road Engineering Manual’, published 2012.

**Assessment of environmental risks**

Environmental risks arising from forest operations are assessed and managed on a site-by-site basis prior to execution. The relative probability and magnitude of adverse effect attributable to any particular operation on any particular site is highly variable.

*Continued on next page...*

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At a high level, ‘risks’ are presented as consuming services summarised for a typical plantation life cycle in [Appendix 4](#). As a broad assessment over the total Rangitaiki 61B Forest, the **potential** for adverse impacts across the range of operations and forest sites is indicated in the Environmental Assessment matrix below (Table 7), which summarises the identified risks across ‘key management aspects’. The level of potential risk has been evaluated in the matrix as high ‘H’, medium ‘M’ or low ‘L’, or not applicable ‘NA’ and is thus indicative of the level of care that might need to be applied to ensure the potential for adverse effects is minimised.

**Table 7. Risk assessment for key aspects involved in forest management activities**

Forestry Operational Activities	ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES/ISSUES											
	Erosion & Sediment Control	Water Quality	Soil Conservation & Quality	Air Quality	Aquatic Life	Native Wildlife	Native Vegetation	Historical & Cultural Values	Landscape & Visual Values	Neighbours & other forest users	Public Utilities	Recreation Values
Harvesting	H	H	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	H	L	L
Earthworks	H	H	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Slash Management	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Stream Crossings	H	H	L	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Mechanical Land Preparation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Burning	L	L	L	H	L	L	L	L	H	H	L	H
Planting	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tending	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fertiliser Application	L	H	L	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Agrichemical Use	L	H	L	L	H	L	H	L	L	H	H	H
Oil & Fuel Management	L	H	L	L	H	L	L	L	L	H	L	L
Waste Management	L	L	L	L	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L
Forest Protection	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

**Hazardous substances management**

Hazardous substances are any substances, which may cause adverse environmental impacts and/or injury or health problems if incorrectly handled or used.

The hazardous materials which may be used within Rangitaiki 61B Forest are:

- Pesticides
  - Herbicides: for commercial and ecological weeds;
  - Fungicides: for forest fungal disease control ; and
  - Vertebrate or invertebrate toxins: used for control of pest mammals e.g hares and possum or wasps.
- Fuels and oils.
- Fire retardants – only ever used if there is a fire.
- Surfactants – to increase herbicide efficacy.

Transportation, storage and labelling of these hazardous materials must all comply with the provisions of the Health and Safety Manual, which is maintained under ISO 9001 certification and incorporate legislative controls under EPA and NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals code of practice.

During actual usage, the highest risks are associated with chemical trespass or bulk fuel spillages. These risks are managed by:

- Neighbour consultation over planned spray operations.
- Careful planning and timing of any aerial operations having regard to wind and spray drift.
- Unsprayed buffer strips on neighbour boundaries and riparian or other protected reserves.
- GPS flight path control and records.
- Monitoring and recording of weather conditions during the operation, including using smoke bombs and photos/video.
- Moving contractors into the use of double skinned bulk fuel storage tanks as the preferred method of containment for all larger capacity tanks.
- Tracking of all active ingredient usage within the estate.

Risk management includes active involvement in and review of technologies and research into alternative methods for the control of weeds, pests and diseases where these are effective and efficient.

**Highly hazardous chemicals**

There are five agrichemicals that have been classified ‘highly hazardous’ (HH) by FSC that are used in forestry and conservation operations within PF Olsen group certified forests. All these five have recently been added to FSC’s HH list (Table 8). Special derogations to continue usage of these chemicals, subject to conditions, are being applied for by PF Olsen as FSC Group Manager in conjunction with the wider NZ certified industry. The derogation process is run according to specific policies put in place by FSC, including extensive canvassing of stakeholder views.

All the classes of formulations used are registered and legally approved for in use New Zealand by the NZ Environmental Protection Agency, subject to various controls, and for the purposes to which they are applied as listed below.

**Table 8. FSC Highly hazardous chemicals used or potentially used within Rangitaiki 61B Forest**

Active ingredient	Purpose	Common usage
Copper based products	Fungicide	Needle cast control
Picloram	Herbicide	Establishment weed control
Carbaryl	Insecticide	Localised wasp control
Cholecalciferol	Vertebrate pesticide	Localised possum control
Pindone	Vertebrate pesticide	Rabbit and hare control
<i>Use subject to Animal Health Board emergency provisions only</i>		
Sodium cyanide	Vertebrate pesticide	Animal Health Board only, ground based possum control
Sodium Monofluoroacetate (1080)	Vertebrate pesticide	Animal Health Board only, extensive aerial possum control

# THE MANAGED PLANTATION ESTATE

## 7. Commercial Plantation Estate

### Productive Capacity strategy

Forest management is carried out to ensure the productive capacity of the Rangitaiki 61B Forest is not compromised. This encompasses multiple aspects that include:

- [Pests and weeds](#) and [forest health](#)- can reduce productivity,
- [Inventory](#)- to feed into growth estimation, a core step in timing silviculture and formulating the cutting strategy,
- [Silviculture](#)- to enhance the value of the resource,
- [Harvesting](#)- achieving a successful harvest in terms of the forest owner’s health and safety, environmental and commercial objectives.

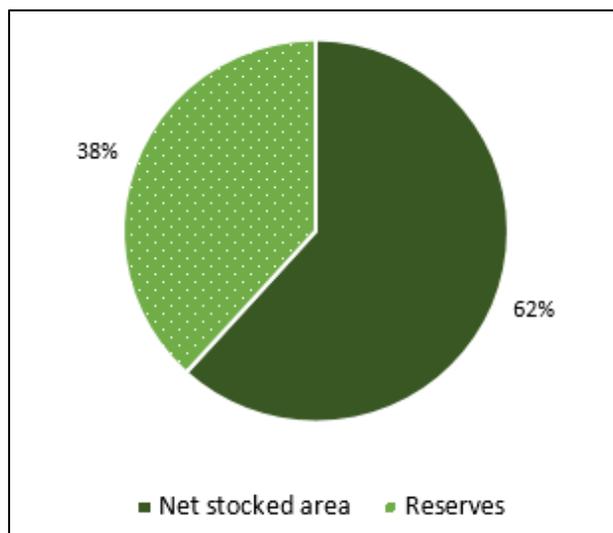
### Forest area

The net stocked areas have been measured from a map produced by PF Olsen Ltd (Map 5). Table 9 and Figure 2 show the estimated net stocked areas of each stand.

**Table 9. Rangitaiki 61B Forest area (ha)**

Gross area	Net stocked area	Reserves
34.5	21.3	13.2

Unproductive areas include stocking gaps, roads and tracks, and other small unplanted areas. Total unproductive area has been derived by subtraction.



**Figure 2. Rangitaiki 61B Forest area (ha)**

**Current species**

The species grown at Rangitaiki 61B Forest is *Pinus radiata* (radiata pine). This species has been chosen to best meet the management objectives set out above and in section 2 given the characteristics of the forest land as described in section 3.

Treestocks established in the forest are summarised in Table 10:

**Table 10. Treestock seedlot and GF ratings.**

Stand	Treestock
R61B-01-01	GF 19, Seedlot 97/2 (4.9ha planted in 1998)
R61B-01-02	GF 10, Seedlot 98/204 (16.4ha planted in 2000)

**Productivity indices**

The two most common estimators of the productivity of a site are the Site index and 300 index.

Site index is a measure of productivity of a site in terms of height growth of radiata pine at age 20.

The 300 index is a measure of productivity of a site based on stem volume growth (mean annual increment) of 300 stems per hectare.

The site index for Rangitaiki 61B Forest is approximately 35  
The 300 index for Rangitaiki 61B Forest is approximately 35 to 37 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr.

Rangitaiki 61B Forest is about average for site productivity in the general area for forestry sites.

**Current crop status**

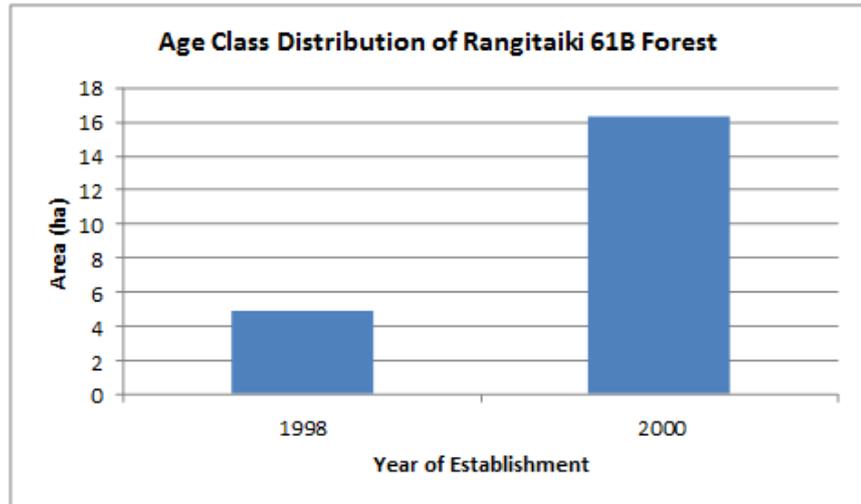
Measurement data from the most recent inventory in 2007 was summarised to give the current status of the crop. The entire plantation within the forest is of the same age class (Table 11):

**Table 11. Current crop status of Rangitaiki 61B Forest**

Stand	Year planted	NSA (ha)	Total Stocking (s/ha)	Basal Area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	Mean Crop Height (m)	Mean DBH (cm)
R61B-01-01	1998	4.9	761	12.1	13.2	19.9
R61B-01-02	2000	16.3	-	11.6	11.9	19.5

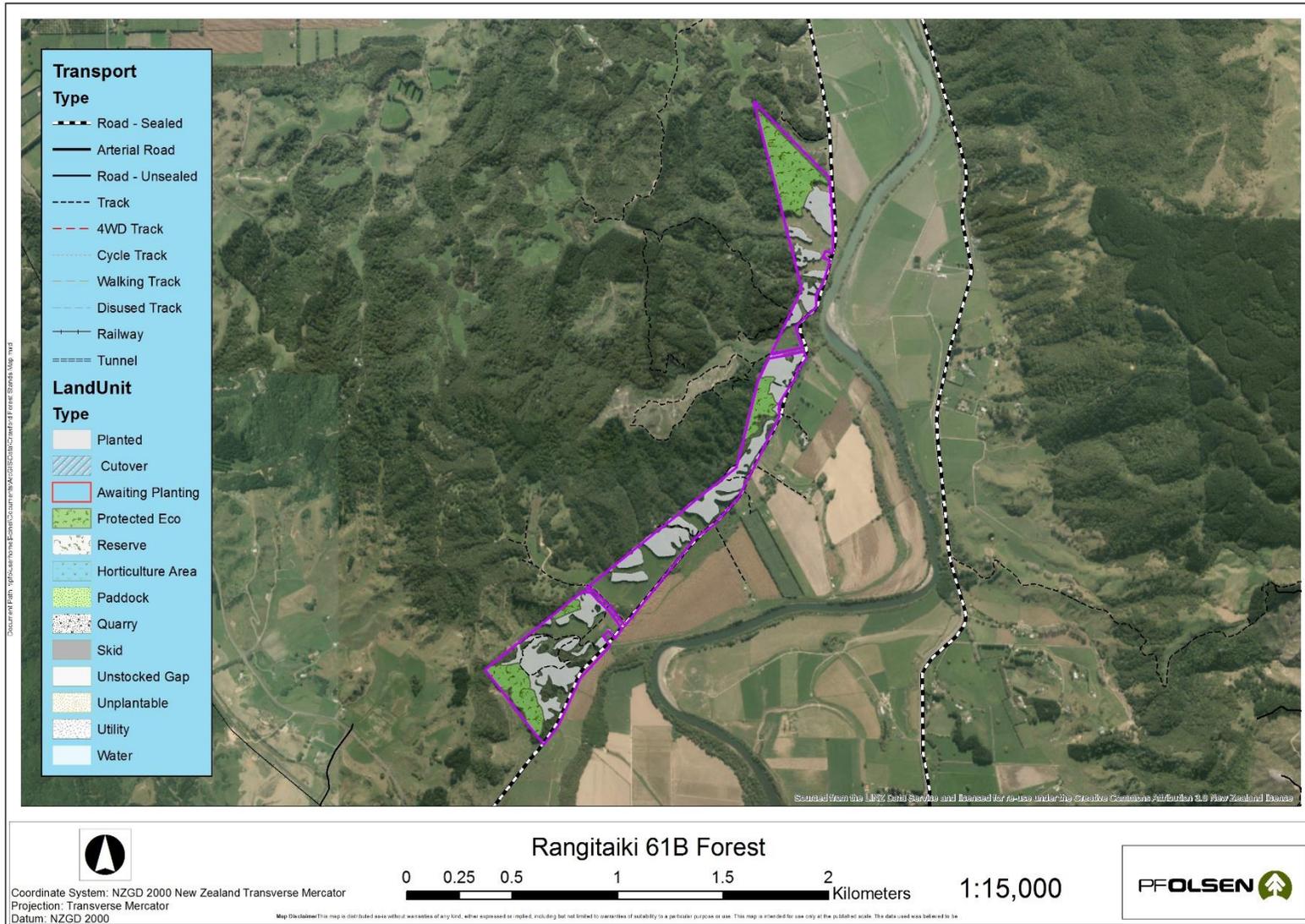
**Age Class  
Distribution**

The age class distribution of Rangitaiki 61B Forest is illustrated in Figure 3:



**Figure 3. Age class distribution of Rangitaiki 61B Forest**

### Map 5 – Forest Stands Map



## 8. Commercial Crop Establishment and Silviculture

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### Introduction

Forest operations are implemented to ensure a good quality crop and maximum growth. These operations include land preparation, establishment, weed control, pest and disease control, fire protection, pruning and thinning, and general property asset maintenance.

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### Forest management goals

The Rangitaiki 61B Forest owners are committed to ensure that the forest will be managed to:

- Grow trees and produce logs for the manufacturing of different wood products in New Zealand and overseas with a focus on 'fit for purpose' log production;
- Ensure that the productivity of the land does not decline;
- Ensure that environmental values are identified and maintained;
- Ensure that historic sites are identified and protected;
- Ensure that other forest values and products are identified, protected and where possible enhanced;
- Ensure that the forest estate's contribution to carbon cycles is maintained or enhanced;
- Harvest the trees as close as possible to their economic optimum age and achieve the best possible financial returns to the owners;
- Replant following harvesting where agreements require;
- Meet all statutory requirements and comply with forest industry best practice;
- Provide recreational opportunities where practical;
- Act as a good corporate citizen and neighbour; and
- Ensure all forest management practices are consistent with the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council and NZS AS:4708:2014.

These goals are further detailed in 'PF Olsen Key Aspects - Objectives, Targets and Monitoring' in [Appendix 3](#).

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**Crop species**

In Rangitaiki 61B Forest, the only crop species grown is Radiata pine.

Radiata pine, when intensively managed, will produce a range of different log types suitable for various processing options. The pruned butt log can be used to make knot-free veneer or decorative timber. The unpruned logs can be used for structural timber, for veneer or for feedstock for finger jointing. The small logs and those with defects and excessive knots can be used for pulp and paper, MDF and other reconstituted wood products such as tri-board and particle board.

Radiata pine is the most common species processed in New Zealand and export markets are well developed for both finished products and logs.

In New Zealand radiata pine is also the main focus in terms of research and development. Past research and development has resulted in improvements in growth, form and wood characteristics as well as development of a range of finished products, building codes and timber standards.

**Other species**

Alternative species have been considered, but these did not meet Rangitaiki 61B Trust's objectives.

**Unwanted pine spread**

In areas where it is drier and windier, re-establishment programmes will include a spread risk assessment using the Wilding Spread Risk Calculator to inform decisions about replant boundaries and monitoring or other control strategies if required. There is no intention to plant or replant in other species with known high spread risk. The use of the Calculator is also a requirement under the NES-PF and this will be adhered to.

**Establishment**

There is no further establishment planned at Rangitaiki 61B Forest during the period of this management plan.

Re-establishment will aim to use high quality treestocks suitable for the site and market. These will be investigated at time of establishment.

**Pre-establishment considerations**

Prior to re-establishment of the tree crop, a review will be conducted to identify whether there are any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna within the area to be planted and what, if any, adjustments in planning may be required. This may include the extension of an existing wildlife corridor or riparian area by increasing setbacks at the time of crop replanting. A plantation crop is likely to confer beneficial habitat buffering rather than cause adverse effects.

*Continued on next page...*

*...continued*

These considerations are covered by the afforestation checklist and riparian rules contained within the EMS.

### **Tending**

The tending regime executed at Rangitaiki 61B Forest is a 2-lift tending regime, consisting of two pruning operations and thin-to-waste. No further tending operations are required.

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### **Tree nutrition**

The soils in Rangitaiki 61B Forest are not likely to be deficient in nutrients for healthy tree growth. However, there are soils within New Zealand that are deficient in one or more nutrients. The most common nutrient deficiencies are likely to be:

- **Magnesium** – Magnesium deficiency is a particular problem of the Central North Island and is associated with the phenomenon known as mid crown yellowing where the middle of the tree crown turns a yellow colour. Heavily pruned trees and some seedlots are more predisposed to the deficiency than others.
- **Boron** – Boron deficient trees can suffer dieback from the terminal buds and this symptom is closely associated with moisture stress and drought. Trees growing on the drier East Coast of both Islands and on the pumice soils of the Central North Island are prone to boron deficiency.

Foliar samples will be taken if nutrient deficiency symptoms are seen or expected. Fertiliser will only be applied if the health and the growth of the trees are significantly affected.

Site productivity and tree nutrition are actively researched components of industry research programmes in which PF Olsen is an active stakeholder and all harvesting entities are a financial contributor through the Forest Research Levy Fund.

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## 9. Harvesting Strategy and Operations

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### Harvesting strategy

As a plantation with a non-normalised age-class structure, the harvesting strategy employed at Rangitaiki 61B Forest is to harvest the forest or constituent stands as close as possible to the optimum economic age as practical. This is the age at which the growth in volume and improvement in quality is offset by the cost to maintain the forest for another year. The optimum rotation length (for radiata pine) is expected to be within 25 to 30 years (this may be less for framing or unpruned stands).

Of importance in this assessment is the actual growth of the tree crop, the market for the wood at the time of the harvest and the outlook then and for the near future. These factors, together with logistics such as the availability of suitable harvest contractors and the requirements of resource consents, will determine the actual harvest time.

The strategy will be reviewed regularly as more or new information arises, such as re-mapping, stand inventory, and research data. This will be used to provide a basis for forward projections on which to plan infrastructure, labour and market access issues as well as environmental and resource consent processes.

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### Planning and preparing for harvest

Forward planning is essential when considering harvesting activities. Harvest planning should ideally commence 2 years before harvesting to enable roading infrastructure to be developed and any resource consents, archaeological surveys, etc. to be undertaken. This reduces the chance of hold-ups to the commencement of harvesting, which can be costly when log prices are fluctuating.

Harvest planning is conducted within a detailed structured framework controlled within the PF Olsen FIPS system. Planners are guided through a total of 100 elements involving environmental, cultural, community, infrastructural, and safety issues that must be addressed as well as direct operational and economic considerations, prior to the issuing of final prescriptions.

Harvesting operations will be undertaken by contractor and supervised by the forest manager.

Harvesting is not planned over the duration of this plan.

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**Infrastructure**

Forest infrastructure includes roads, tracks, landings, bridges and culverts. Design specifications for these are outlined in the ‘PF Olsen Standard Specifications for Road and Landing Construction’.

Typically, infrastructure within an early- to mid-rotation age ‘greenfields’ forest is limited to access for a 4WD vehicle. During harvest planning, upgrades of existing roads/culverts/bridges and planning for new roads, landings and crossings will be identified and scheduled. The type of infrastructure designed and constructed is influenced by topography, harvest duration and intensity of use.

Once established, these require maintenance. The PF Olsen Asset Hazard Register is a GIS-linked database of forest assets that includes bridges, culverts and crossings under resource consent. This provides the framework for a record of the asset attributes, and its associated maintenance schedule, some of which are required under consent conditions.

**Contractor management**

Prior to engaging a new contractor, a comprehensive review of the contractor’s safety systems, safety record, systems of work organisation and equipment is carried out. With regard to crew configuration, where topography and terrain allows, mechanised felling, extraction and processing is a mandatory requirement. PF Olsen as the Property Manager must be satisfied on this review, regardless of the tendered price.

Upon appointment all new contractor crews undergo a comprehensive safety and environmental induction, while PF Olsen Ltd, in conjunction with its contractors and NZQA training providers NorthTech, runs a comprehensive programme of training to ensure the workforce is competent for the work they are required to perform. The formal NZQA qualifications are supplemented periodically by internally run training courses including those on environmental matters.

All contractors are subject to quarterly contractor monitoring audits and random drug testing. A full safety systems audit is scheduled and carried out annually. Full crew re-inductions take place every 5 years.

Weekly crew visits and monthly (or fortnightly according to risk) KPI assessments including environmental audits pick up corrective actions and follow-up on those. WorkSafe undertakes audits on an unannounced basis from time to time.

## 10. Forest Inventory, Mapping and Forest Records

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### Inventory

Forest growth and development is monitored through forest inventory. Forest inventories providing stand information are required at different times and for different reasons throughout the life of the rotation:

- Pre-assessment: for silviculture rate setting and validating operational timing vs silvicultural targets;
- Quality control: to check contractor's performance and update stand records;
- Mid-crop: to collect measurement inputs for growth modelling;
- Pre-harvest inventory is scheduled for stands around age 24, to collect measurement data on the crop. This is used for harvest planning, marketing and revenue estimation.

New technologies may see some of this information gathered and analysed using remote sensing in the future.

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### Pre-assessment

Pre-assessment is the collection of stand parameters prior to a tending operation. It allows for:

- The calculation of contract rate for tending;
- A final check on the validity of the regime and timing of commencement of operations i.e. DOS targets can be achieved, or crop height is sufficient for pruning lift scheduled.

Sampling intensity is low but pre-assessment does provide good quality information on the work content involved in each tending operation and sets a base price for negotiation.

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### Quality control

Quality control is carried out during and after a tending operation. The aims of the quality control system PF Olsen have established are to:

- Collect sufficient data to monitor a contractor's performance and correct this if necessary, with minimum delay;
- Collect sufficient quantitative data to provide reliable estimates of the crop state;
- Provide data as input for growth modelling; and
- Provide data for estimating timing of the next tending operation.

PF Olsen's 'Tending Manual' details the procedures to follow for pre-assessment and quality control plotting.

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**Mapping**

All mapping within Rangitaiki 61B Forest is in digital format and is constantly updated in a Geographic Information System (GIS) that is linked to FIPS. The GIS system spatially records a vast array of forest data, from stand and legal boundaries, to reserves, rivers, roads, infrastructure, topography and soils.

Accurate mapping also assists budgeting, planning, calculation of future revenue/tree crop value, calculation of payments, infrastructure location, and harvest planning.

**Forest records**

Forest records are essential in monitoring the forest operations by providing a historic perspective to the physical condition of each stand.

Rangitaiki 61B Forest has detailed records of each stand’s silvicultural management history, productivity, inventory and other attribute data are compiled and maintained in a stand records database and Geographic Information System (GIS). These records form the basis for informing silvicultural scheduling, harvesting schedules and other management activity.

**Pre-harvest inventory**

The principal aim for the pre-harvest inventory is to obtain estimates of recoverable volume by log grade. This information can then be used to develop marketing and harvesting strategies. Pre-harvest inventories will be undertaken when stands reach five years or less from harvesting.

Sampling intensity is targeted to achieve 10% confidence limits on basal area on a stand-by-stand basis. Smaller stands may be aggregated into crop types to achieve this as in mid-crop inventory.

# NON-COMMERCIAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION

## 11. Protected Forests, Habitats, Ecosystems and Species

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### Introduction

Indigenous biodiversity management in or associated with exotic forests is a normal component of everyday forest management. Environmental certification systems place obligations upon the forest manager to be aware of and, where required, enact procedures to assist with the maintenance and protection of important biodiversity where they are able.

Exotic forests can and do provide a level of biodiversity, though this is often enhanced by natural forest ecosystem remnants embedded within the plantation matrix. These are often the most important contributor to the total of the productive landscape's biodiversity. However, rare and threatened species can also be found associated with exotic forests and may require special attention for management.

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### Protected ecosystems

The protected ecosystems are recorded and ranked on the basis of ecological criteria reflecting the stands representativeness, rarity of species, size and connectivity, function and landscape values. Relative value in terms of the 'ecological landscape' (Section 4) also informs that process.

Actions are prioritised according to the 'Protection Category' status allocated to the areas from the assessments and classifications undertaken. The management implications pertinent to each status are summarised in Table 12. Prioritisation of work effort will also be based on the principle of ensuring successful and maintainable outcomes at limited scales as a priority over wide scale but marginally beneficial outcomes.

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**Table 12. Protected Ecosystems Management Categories**

Protection Category	Primary Management Objective	Activity Level	Monitoring
Passive	Minimise non-essential damage, maintain area	Fire protection	- Area - with adjacent stand assessments
	Observe RPMS obligations	3rd party arrangements regarding pests, apply RPMS	- Pests - to meet RPMS - General forest health survey
Limited	Protect from non-essential damage, maintain area, maintain function (where practical)	Fire protection	- Sample forest condition monitoring
	Observe RPMS obligations	3rd party arrangements regarding pests, apply RPMS. Associated maintenance pest control	- Low level pest monitoring where relevant - Sample related fauna if relevant
Full	Protect from all controllable damage, maintain area & function	Fire protection	- Area monitoring
	Improve quality	Specific management	- Forest condition monitoring
	Observe RPMS obligations	Targeted pest control, 3rd party arrangements regarding pests	- Pest monitoring where relevant - Related fauna monitoring if relevant
Special	Restoration if practical	As above, plus fencing, covenanting, co-management agreements & funding (where practical)	- As above, plus as defined in any restoration agreement

Table 13 details the areas in the special protection category within the Rangitaiki 61B Forest, categorised by protective function.

**Table 13. Protected Ecosystems management categories by function and area**

Protective Function	Protective Category
	Passive
Erosion Control	
Landscape / Amenity	
Non-specific	
Rare Species	
Riparian Ecosystem	
Terrestrial Ecosystem	13.2
Wetland Ecosystem	
<b>Total Area (ha)</b>	<b>13.2</b>

**Management and riparian setbacks**

A standardised GIS-based stream classification system based on NIWA’s River Environment Classification (REC) has been used to develop a rationale for defining riparian management with a set of rules in the EMS that apply to operations occurring near the riparian corresponding with each stream category. Categorisation of each stream reach is done by the physical characteristics of the particular reach, e.g. underlying geology, streambed slope, climate, and reach order.

It also provides the minimum set-backs upon establishment or reestablishment of forest after harvest where riparian setbacks had not existed before. The morphology of streams can mean that the minimum set back is wider in many instances.

The stream categories within Rangitaiki 61B Forest are summarised in Table 14. The total length of waterways within the forest estate is 0.93 km.

**Table 14. Length of stream by REC class**

REC Class	Length (m)	Length (km)
Small_Low_Wet_Soft	321.2	0.321
Small_Low_Wet_Soft	228.8	0.229
Small_Low_Wet_Soft	117.6	0.118
Small_Low_Wet_Soft	259.6	0.260
<b>Total</b>	<b>927.2</b>	<b>0.928</b>

**Rare and threatened species**

No specific rare or endangered species are known to inhabit this forest. Kereru a declining species has been reported and can be expected to make transient use of the native habitat when in search of food. The modified nature of the sites lowers the likelihood of important species being present though as the plantation crop matures, Long-tailed cuckoo may also inhabit the site seasonally.

Records of sightings and locations are currently collected and reported in FIPS. Over time this has enabled the build-up of a spatial distribution picture of species within different geographical locations.

As of June 2018, PF Olsen will have transitioned into using the NatureWatch app for rare species reporting. This app contains a spatial database of the distribution for every rare species recorded within our plantation forests. A listing of key species of interest is held by all contractors and staff along with species sighting forms and a request to report such information

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**CITES species**

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 34,000 species of animals and plants.

The full list of New Zealand CITES listed species are available in the EMS, or [online](#) on the department of Conservation website.

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**Anticipated activities**

In line with the prioritisation approach described previously, key areas of work related to protected ecosystems within Rangitaiki 61B Forest over the next 5 years are expected to be:

- Maintenance of threatened species records database and integration into industry Naturewatch 'Biodiversity in Plantations' project.
-

## 12. Property Management and Protection

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### Statutory pest obligations

Pest management within Rangitaiki 61B Forest is subject to statutory obligations under the Regional Pest Management Strategy administered by Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

The strategy applies to both pest plants and animals and categorises them, in terms of management objectives. The categories, objectives and land owner obligations are summarised the Regional Pest Management Strategy Plan in [Appendix 5](#). These plans are maintained online by the relevant Regional Council.

---

### Plant Pests

The overall objective in managing plant and animal pests is to:

- Meet statutory obligations under the Regional Pest Management Strategy,
- Reduce their direct impacts on both plantations and indigenous biodiversity values,
- Ensure that any impacts on neighbouring properties are promptly dealt with,
- Monitor the abundance and distribution of these species within Rangitaiki 61B Forest.

The major plant species potentially threatening production values within the forest can be seen in [Appendix 5](#).

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### Animal Pests

The PF Olsen Integrated Pest Management provides guidance on application and execution of the PF Olsen Ltd Environmental Management System (EMS) for pest control and chemical use.

The main animal pest in Rangitaiki 61B Forest is the introduced possum. Possums attack the growing tips of both plantation and native trees, causing stem malformation and die back. Possums are also a threat to neighbouring property owners who are farmers as they can carry and spread tuberculosis to domestic stock.

Other pests include rabbits and hares in low numbers.

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Animal pests in Rangitaiki 61B Forest will be controlled using ground control methods as required, which prevent impacts on non-target species. The forest manager will coordinate operations with organisations such as the Regional Council and the Department of Conservation to achieve effective and efficient control within the forest area and on neighbouring land, where required.

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**Insects and fungal disorders**

Diseases, which can affect the forest trees and adjacent native vegetation, are monitored throughout the year by the forest manager, and once a year by a professional independent forest health assessor. Most diseases cause little damage and do not require control.

The exception is *Dothistroma*, a fungus which attacks pine needles. This fungus is controlled using a copper-based fungicide, but only when the infection reaches a critical level.

*Dothistroma* infection can also be controlled through silviculture by timely thinning and pruning operations, which increases air movement and lowers humidity levels.

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**Pest Control**

**Plant pests**

When controlling plant pests, chemicals are applied in keeping with all legislative and safety requirements and with industry best practice. Herbicides are used to desiccate most harvested areas prior to re-establishment or land handback to reduce weed competition. Re-established trees are also released with another chemical application where necessary during the first one to two years after establishment.

A bio-control weevil (*Cleopus japonicus*) that was being trialled in the previous plan period for efficacy against *Buddleia* has now widely established and is having some impact in some areas. Its full efficacy will not be known for some years.

**Animal pests**

Animal pests are controlled using shooting, trapping or toxins, especially prior to establishment and in the first few years of a tree's life. Only licensed operators are used for toxin control and all legal requirements are enforced. Permits are issued to private/recreational hunters on occasion and these permits require that kill returns be completed after hunting to provide information on animal densities, location and health.

The forest manager will co-ordinate operations with organisations such as the local Regional Council and Department of Conservation to achieve effective and efficient control within the forested area and on neighbouring land where required.

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**Fungal pests**

*Dothistroma pini* is the most commonly occurring fungal disorder within the radiata pine plantation. This fungus is controlled using an aerially applied copper-based fungicide spray, but only when the infection reaches a critical level. *Dothistroma* can also be controlled through silviculture by timely thinning and pruning operations, which increases air movement and lowers humidity levels.

No control is currently completed on the other fungal disorders.

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**Chemical control**

All chemical applications are managed in accordance with PF Olsen EMS, the NZ Standard for agrichemical application, HSNO regulations and the obligations conferred by FSC and to manage and minimise the use of chemicals including use of alternatives where available and to manage stakeholder expectations.

As part of the FSC commitments:

- All chemical usage is tracked by active ingredient and application area to enable reporting and monitoring of trends and is reported on an annual basis.
  - PF Olsen is an active participant in research into chemical reduction, efficacy and safety issues related to the ‘restricted use’ derogations applied by FSC to various activities pursuing biological control agents.
  - No chemicals classified by FSC as ‘Highly Hazardous’ are used other than under the terms of any derogations applied by FSC.
- 

**Fire prevention and control**

With the weather patterns normally experienced in the Bay of Plenty during the period late spring/summer, fire can be a real threat to the forest. This can be minimised by:

1. Having an effective fire plan and rural fire control organisation;
  2. A close link with the relevant fire authorities, and an understanding of equipment and trained manpower requirements;
  3. Active prevention measures which include restrictions on allowable access, fire prevention signage, publicity when fire danger prevails, access to adequate water sources, and if required constructing and maintaining firebreaks;
  4. Effective fire reporting communications systems, mapping, and fire plan alert procedures;
  5. Good forest management that recognises the influence of terrain, roading network and accessibility, and fuel build-up from silvicultural practice that will influence fire prevention and control measures.
-

**Fire authority responsibilities**

The legal responsibility for fighting forest fires lies with the respective territorial land authorities where the forest is situated. In the case of Rangitaiki 61B Forest, the Rural Fire Authority (RFA) is the Whakatane District Council.

In the event of a fire that starts within the forest, the RFA is responsible for attending and providing the resources to extinguish the fire. Where a fire starts outside the forested area and moves into the forest, the RFA has recourse to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund to compensate for firefighting costs.

There is a close liaison with the RFA in terms of developing the ‘fire plan’ and the maintenance of good communication relative to potential risks and fire danger ratings.

Note: The rural fire fighting organisations and funding mechanisms are being restructured with a new organisation ‘Fire Emergency New Zealand’ (FENZ) coming into existence on the first of July 2017 ready for the 2017/18 fire season.

**Public liability insurance**

It is recommended that Rangitaiki 61B Trust maintain public liability insurance cover, with a firefighting extension, to indemnify against unforeseen adverse activity both within the forest area and adjoining land tenure. In the case of fire spreading from Rangitaiki 61B Forest onto adjoining land, Rangitaiki 61B Trust would be liable for the firefighting costs and any damage to property.

However, PF Olsen as management agency does carry comprehensive insurance against such issues and all contractors working in the forests must also maintain a level of cover approved by PF Olsen and provide regular verification of currency of policies.

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**Fire insurance**

Regarding the location of the forest and the high public activity around the fringes, there will always be the potential for fire. If a fire originates within the forest, the owners will ultimately be liable for suppression costs. A major fire may cost many thousands of dollars to extinguish, with the main costs being the use of heavy machinery, helicopters, and manpower.

Insurance for Rangitaiki 61B Forest is held by Rangitaiki 61B Trust. The current extent of cover is:

- Firefighting cover (the costs of fire suppression)
- Wind cover
- Cover for the crop value and re-establishment costs are retained based on a recognised crop valuation but is reviewed on an annual basis.

Rangitaiki 61B Trust should liaise closely with the forest manager at the time of fire insurance renewals and if necessary instruct the forest manager to keep premiums paid up.

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## OTHER BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

### 13. Recreation, Forest Products and Other Special Values

#### Introduction

Forest plantations can provide non-timber forest products and special values that enhance the economic wellbeing of the owner or legitimate forest users. Non-timber products are an important means of maximising the production capacity of the forest whilst maintaining environmental and social values. The forest management plan provides procedures for developing and managing these resources.

#### Environmental and social cost-benefit analysis

Forests can deliver numerous social and environmental products, both positive and negative to varying degrees. These non-timber products can be difficult to quantify, unlike financial costs and benefits.

Table 15 rates the relative positivity and negativity of the more common social and environmental products produced by the Forest relative to the most likely alternative primary production system, pastoral dry stock farming. A high level generalised analysis of provisioning and consuming services related to forest management is shown in [Appendix 4](#).

**Table 15. Environmental and social cost-benefit analysis of key non-timber products & services**

Environmental or social product	Increasingly negative				Neutral			Increasingly positive			
	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
Soil stabilisation										✓	
Erosion/soil loss				HP							MR
Water quality				HP							MR
Riparian shading			HP							MR	
Water quantity					MR	HP					
Carbon sequestration											✓
Native wildlife habitat									✓		
Threatened fauna									✓		
Native fish									✓		
Air quality					HP		MR				
Native reserve protection										✓	
Landscape/visual			HP					MR			
Recreation										✓	
Commercial forest use										✓	
Firewood											HP
Local employment					MR				HP		

*NOTE: where the ratings differ throughout a rotation, 'MR' is used to indicate the mid rotation (growing) stage of the forest, and 'HP' refers to during or post-harvest.*

**Recreational  
usage**

Rangitaiki 61B Forest is not used for any official recreational activities however, some minor possum shooting does occur infrequently.

The forest will continue to be open for legitimate use subject to entry by permit.

Primary requirements in management of such forest usage are:

- Access subject to non-conflict with current operations and any other safety requirements,
- Acceptable fire danger status,
- Access provided to defined areas other than those freely open to the public,
- Appropriate liability and fire insurance to be carried by permittees,

Forest usage rules to be adhered to.

**Non-timber  
forest products**

The primary commercial non- timber (timber and pulp) uses arising from the forests are:

- Sites for apiarists.
- Commercial firewood dealers who may be licensed to pick up low grade residues for resale to domestic households.
- Permitted collections of pine cones for community fundraising events.

None of these products hold any forest certification status.

Currently Rangitaiki 61B Forest is not producing or developing non-timber products.

**Other special  
values**

In the regional landscape context, Rangitaiki 61B Forest plantations and indigenous ecosystems in combination provide well-defined ‘environmental services’. These include:

- Enhanced water quality, and buffering of regionally significant water bodies from agricultural and urban generated nitrification;
- Soil stabilisation and conservation;
- Providing a buffer against flooding during storms;
- Temperature moderation in waterways for maintenance of aquatic life including threatened native species and world-renowned sports fisheries;

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*...continued*

- Enhance wildlife and plant habitat leading to increased biodiversity;
- Expanded habitat opportunities for some declining and or threatened fauna;
- Carbon sequestration and buffering of the effects from a nationally adverse carbon generation footprint.

In recent times some of these environmental services have acquired quantifiable and significant financial value (nitrogen and carbon in particular).

Over the term of this plan, the regulatory environment will continue to be actively monitored and where possible efforts made to secure the introduction of properly structured market mechanisms to ensure forestry is not dis-incentivised, relative to other land uses.

Other environmental services will continue to be supplied or enhanced based on good corporate citizenship and responsible environmental management.

**Public access roads**

There is one paved public road adjacent to the east boundary of Rangitaiki 61B Forest. All signage of roads and tracks must be followed and those using the routes will still require a permit if there is any intention to access the forest from the road routes.

These public road locations are publicly viewable in the Walking Access Commission website<sup>5</sup>. Any users are expected to abide by the Outdoor access code<sup>6</sup> published by the Walking Access Commission.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.wams.org.nz/wams\\_desktop/index.html](https://www.wams.org.nz/wams_desktop/index.html)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/walkways-and-access/outdoor-access-code>

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 14. Monitoring

#### Introduction

To ensure that the management objectives identified in this plan are being achieved, various monitoring exercises outside normal operations management have been developed. Monitoring results are summarised and reported as and when required and are also, where appropriate, made publicly available through the PF Olsen webpage.

#### Values monitored

Management inspections are undertaken regularly. The direct forest monitoring framework implemented and applicable to Rangitaiki 61B Forest is tabulated below.

**Table 16. Environmental process monitoring framework**

Monitored Element	Components	Data Source	Data medium	Reporting / Website Frequency
Chemical Usage	- A.I Usage - Area Overuse	- Operational Supervisors	- FIPS - <u>Form</u>	- On Demand - Annual
Client Satisfaction	- Post-operation client survey	- Clients	- Survey Form	- Post-operational - Annual
Consultation Activity	- Complaints - Other Interactions	- Operational Supervisors - Planners	- FIPS - <u>Form</u> - <u>Meeting Minutes</u>	- Annual - Annual
Environmental Incidents	- Incident Number - Categories	- Operational Supervisors	- FIPS - <u>Form</u>	- On Demand - Annual
Environmental Goals	- All	- Environmental Management Group	- Meeting Minutes	- Annual
Environmental Training	- Courses - Numbers - Names	- Staff	- FIPS - NZQA	- Annual - Individual
Flora & Fauna	- Species & Status - Frequencies - New Finds	- Operational Supervisors - Public - Crews	- FIPS - <u>Form</u> - <u>Naturewatch</u>	- On Demand - Annual
Forest Estate Structure	- Area: Plantation & Protected Ecosystem - Age-class - Species - Forest Type - Protection Status	- Management Plans - Stand Records	- FIPS Stand Records	- On Demand - Annual
Forest Growth	- PSP Protocols - Periodic Inventory - ISO 9001	- Contractors	- Volume Reconciliations - Estate model	- Periodic-annual - Not on web

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Monitored Element	Components	Data Source	Data medium	Reporting / Website Frequency
Forest Health	- Disease & health	- NFH Surveillance Program <sup>7</sup>	- Document	- Periodic-Annual - Not on web
FSC Membership	- Block - Location - Name	- Certifying Body	- Certificate	- On Demand - Annual
Health & Safety Statistics	- LTI / MTI / TIFR - Accidents & Incidents - Initiatives	- Operational Supervisors	- Noggin	- Monthly - Annual
High Conservation Value Forests	- Condition Trends - Photopoint Monitoring	- Contractors - Supervisors	- Spreadsheet	- Annual
Internal Audit CAR Activity	- Frequency * - Category	- Auditors(ees) - Operational Supervisors	- Noggin	- Annual
Log Production	- Total Logs - FSC Certification	- Log docket at harvest	- Woodtrack	- On Demand - Annual
Operational Monitoring	- Audit Trends - Cause Analysis	- Operational Supervisors	- FIPS - <u>Form</u>	- Monthly - Annual
Pests	- RTC / RTI - Kill Returns - Other	- Contractors - Supervisors - Permitees	- FIPS - Various	- Annual - Where Relevant
Protected Ecosystem Condition	- Condition Trends - Photopoint Monitoring	- Contractors - Supervisors	- Spreadsheet	- Bi-annual if restoration initiated
Recreational & Non-Timber	- Permits Issued	- Branch Offices - Forest Security	- FIPS	- Annual
Resource Consents	- Number - Compliance	- Operational Planners	- FIPS	- Monthly - Annual
Social Survey	- Demographics, - Values - Work Conditions	- Contractors	- Survey form	- 3 yearly
Stream Monitoring	- Clarity +/- other specific - Full NOF	- Supervisors - Contractors - BOPRC	- Various	- Operational - BOPRC S.o.E.

**Other monitoring** Other operational standards are monitored through a variety of concurrent and post operational assessment procedures that cover all critical aspects of the business of the forest. This information which includes log manufacturing quality performance, safety performance, financial and budget performance as well as stakeholder feedback and client satisfaction surveys and other private or commercially sensitive is not made public. However, the framework around this monitoring is tabulated in [Appendix 3](#)

<sup>7</sup> Forest health inspections are undertaken annually, by an independent specialist forest health assessor, through the NZ Forest Owners Association forest health scheme.

## 15. Industry Participation and Research

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- NZFOA and FGLT** Rangitaiki 61B Trust primary means of participating as part of the forest owner community, and to gain industry intelligence and access to research findings is via:
- Membership of New Zealand Forest Owners’ Association Inc. (NZFOA) <http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/> and representation through its Property Manager on the Executive Board and working committees of NZFOA.
  - Payment of a commodity levy (currently 27 cents/tonne or JAS) to the Forest Growers’ Levy Trust (FGLT). <http://fglt.org.nz/>. The FGLT uses these funds to finance pan-industry good programmes and contracts NZFOA to carry out this work.
- 

**Research** A little over 50% of the funds raised by FGLT are allocated to forestry research projects. These funds are supplemented by NZ Government research for industry funds that are bid for on a contestable basis every few years.

Application of the research is via knowledge gained in workshops, uptake by contractors, commercial providers and better genetics. PF Olsen’s direct involvement with other research bodies such as FFR contributes to and benefits Rangitaiki 61B Trust through early application of good ideas and research findings.

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**FISC** The Forest Industry Safety Council (FISC) was set up in early 2016 following an independent review of safety in the forest industry. FISC is a forum for exchange of safety improvement initiatives, and to develop resources for forest managers and contractors. These resources are primarily delivered via the Safetree website <http://safetree.nz/>. FISC is financed jointly from FGLT and government, primarily Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC).

PF Olsen’s continued support of FISC in the form of senior staff involvement in the OAG and TAG committees ensure Rangitaiki 61B Trust interests are considered and that outcomes are understood and applied in practice.

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## 16. Future Planning

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### Introduction

This plan pertains to the management of Rangitaiki 61B Forest and will be adhered to for the next 5 years. Any deviation from this plan will be justified only on the basis that the changes do not adversely affect the environment. Any changes which are contrary to the policies contained in this management plan require a full review of this plan. The next review date for this plan is June 2023.

Deviations from this plan will be justified on the basis that the changes do not adversely affect the environment and are necessary or beneficial to achieving the management goals and objectives.

The forest management plan is used for both medium and long-term planning.

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### Associated management plans

Associated with this plan are forest agreement specific plans covering the descriptive and management detail pertinent to each forest. These plans contain primary descriptive data for the specific forest and details of planned silvicultural objectives. These plans are maintained by the investment manager for Rangitaiki 61B Trust

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### Operation plans

Short term tactical planning is accomplished through development of annual operations plans in conjunction with detailed budgeting. These plans are prepared in accordance with this Management Plan. Harvesting operations are also planned on a block by block basis because of the level of detail required.

Such operational plans and associated budgets are subject to approval by the forest owners at the beginning of each financial year.

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### Stakeholder consultation

Consultation with key stakeholders has been enabled as part of the development of this plan which will be publicly available on the PF Olsen Certification website. Feedback from stakeholders (and others as they become apparent) is monitored, including actions undertaken to resolve disputes and issues and may inform changes in operational practice or future plan reviews.

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## 17. Register of Plan Change and Review

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### Introduction

This plan pertains to the management of the Rangitaiki 61B Forest estate and will be reviewed on an annual basis. This section documents specific changes made during each review.

Change	Date	Section/Page

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## **Appendix 1 - Contact details for Regional and District Councils with jurisdiction over Rangitaiki 61B Forest**

<b>Council</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Website</b>
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	0800 884 880	0800 884 882	<a href="mailto:info@boprc.govt.nz">info@boprc.govt.nz</a>	<a href="https://www.boprc.govt.nz/">https://www.boprc.govt.nz/</a>
Whakatane District Council	07 306 0500	07 307 0718	<a href="mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz">info@whakatane.govt.nz</a>	<a href="https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/">https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/</a>

## Appendix 2 - Other Relevant Legislation

### Commercially relevant statutes & regulations

Accident Compensation Act 2001 #49  
 Animal Welfare Act 1999  
 Biosecurity Act 1993  
 Climate Change Response Act 2002  
 Conservation Act 1987  
 Crown Forest Assets Act 1989  
 Fencing Act 1978  
 Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017  
 Forestry Rights Registrations Act 1983  
 Forests Act 1949  
 Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983  
 Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996  
 Health and Safety at Work Act 2015  
 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014  
 Protected Objects Act 1975  
 Reserves Act 1977  
 Resource Management Act 1991 regulations  
 Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941  
 The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975  
 Trespass Act 1980  
 Wildlife Act 1953

Relevant regulations to the above legislation also apply as well as various industry Accords, Codes of Practice as listed below.

### Industry Accords & Codes

New Zealand Forest Accord  
 Principles of Commercial Plantation Forest Management  
 New Zealand Environmental Forestry Code of Practice  
 New Zealand Code of Practice for the Management of Agrichemicals.  
 Climate Change Accord  
 NZ Log Transport Safety Accord  
 Eliminating Illegal Forest Products in New Zealand  
 MoU Federated Farmers and Forest Owners Association and Farm Forestry Association  
 New Zealand Forest Road Engineering Manual



## Appendix 4 - Significant Aspects of a Plantation Forest Life Cycle



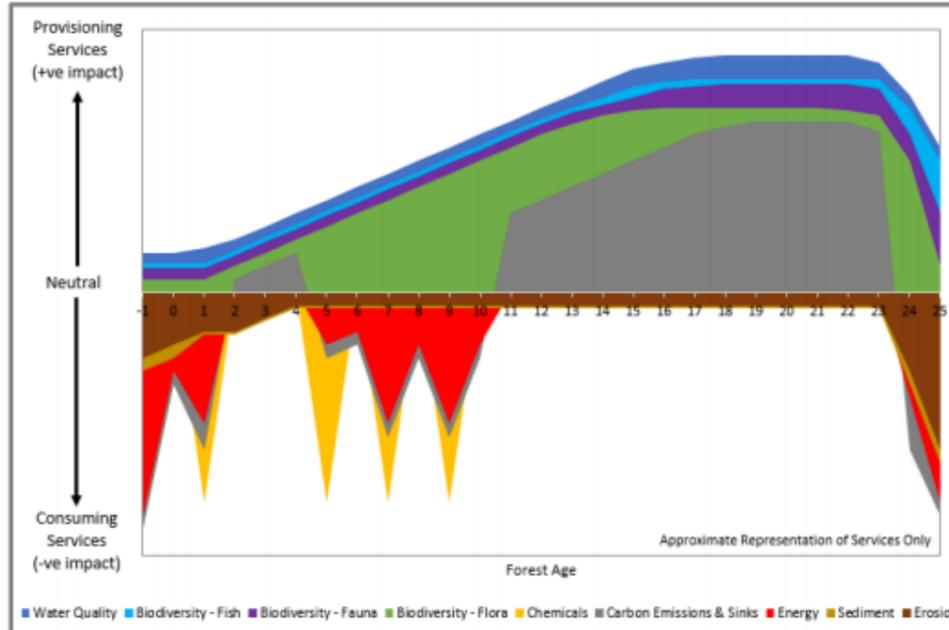
# SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF A PLANTATION FOREST LIFE CYCLE

### Provisioning and Consuming Services

#### Provisioning Services (+ves)

1. **Biodiversity — Fauna:** plantation forests are home to a wide range of native and endemic species, including kiwi, New Zealand falcon, fernbird, weka, kokako, geckos, skinks, frogs, and short- and long-tailed bats.
2. **Biodiversity — Fish:** streams provide habitat for a range of native fish species, including Giant and Banded Kokopu, Long-finned Eel, Koura and whitebait species.
3. **Biodiversity — Flora:** plantation forests host a variety of native plants. Pioneering plants (ferns, coprosmas, manuka etc.) eventually form the sub-canopy layer under the production species. In addition riparian zones, wetlands, native reserves and other natural areas add a native flora component to the overall forest matrix. These are often protected under Regional/District Council plans, the NZ Forest Accord, management agreements, or as part of forest certification schemes.
4. **Carbon sinks:** trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert it into oxygen. Trees store the absorbed carbon, even after they are harvested.
5. **Water quality:** once canopy closure is achieved the in-stream temperature stabilises. Riparian zones and the plantation trees stabilise the land, reducing and removing excess nutrient loads. This in turn provides a better quality of habitat for fish and freshwater insects.
6. **Clean air**
7. **Employment,** especially at the time of harvest, both within the forest and ancillary services such as transport and processing
8. **Recreation opportunities** such as hunting, walking, mountain biking, hunting, orienteering, horse riding, motor sport events,





Approximate Representation of Services Only

Aspect	Provisioning / Consuming Services	Frequency	Impact Level	Control Level	Time of Impact	Control Methods
Biodiversity	Fauna	Low	Variable	Medium	Land prep, roadworks & harvesting	Protection, BEP's, buffer zones, timing of operations, monitoring, species management plans
	Fish	Low	Variable	Partial	Land prep, roadworks & harvesting	Protection, BEP's, buffer zones, timing of operations, monitoring, species management plans, fish passage
	Flora	Low	Variable	Partial	Harvesting	Protection, BEP's, buffer zones, timing of operations, monitoring, species management plans, weed control, remedial/enhancement planting
Ecosystem Health	Pests & Weeds	High	Variable	Medium	Ongoing	Control based on identification of weed/pest and associated threat. Chemical (aerial or ground-based), mechanical, biocontrol, trapping, species/management selection. Research into non-chemical alternatives
	Carbon Emissions & Sinks	Oscillating	Medium	Low	Land prep, silviculture, spraying, roading & harvesting	Use of bio oils and lubricants, try to minimise machine movements, replanting new crop after harvest
	Chemicals	Infrequent	High	High	Land prep & ages 5-10 years	Research into amounts used and chemical types, limit spray drift
	Energy	Medium	Low	Low	Any operation involving machinery	Invest in / research energy efficient machinery and technology
Soil & Water	Erosion	Intermittent	High	High	Until canopy closure (-1 to 5 years), extreme weather events, harvesting	Hydroseeding, mulching, BEP's, appropriate earthwork engineering, check sites after weather events, replanting new crop after harvest
	Sediment	Continuous but Low	Medium	High	Until canopy closure (-1 to 5 years), extreme weather events, harvesting	Use of sediment control traps, appropriate earthwork engineering, check sites after weather events, replanting of new crop after harvest
	Water Quality	Low	Variable	High	Extreme weather events, harvesting	Use of sediment control traps, appropriate earthwork engineering, buffer/riparian zones, protection of wetlands, remedial planting, replanting new crop after harvest
Social	Recreation	Medium	Variable	Medium	Variable, dependent on forest and location	Access provided through forest permit system to ensure user and operational safety. Permits allow monitoring of forest usage and hunting kill returns
	Employment	High	Variable	High	Ongoing, peak at harvest/replant	Seek to provide continuity of employment for high performing contractors, provide training opportunities to engage and retain a professional and capable workforce

#### Consuming Services (-ves)

1. **Carbon Emissions:** heavy machinery and chainsaws during land prep, thinning and harvesting operations (fuel/oil use)
2. **Chemicals:** *Dothistroma* control and weed control
3. **Energy:** energy is released during any forestry operation involving machinery
4. **Erosion:** caused by harvesting, roading and land prep operations, plus extreme adverse weather events
5. **Sediment:** caused by harvesting, roading and land prep operations, plus extreme adverse weather events



## Appendix 5 - Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016

Species managed in the Regional Pest Management Plan

Agency pests	Eradication/ Exclusion pests	Containment pests	Restricted pests	
Cape tulip*	Alligator weed*	African feather grass	Agapanthus	Parrot's feather*
Didymo	Horse nettle	Apple of Sodom	Aluminium plant*	Periwinkle
Hydrilla	Kudzu vine	Asiatic knotweed*	Arum lily	Plectranthus
Johnson grass	Marshwort*	Blackberry (defined areas)	Banana passionfruit*	Prickly pear cactus
Manchurian wild rice*	Nassella tussock*	Boneseed*	Blue morning glory*	Privet*
Phragmites*	Noogoora bur	Chilean rhubarb*	Bushy asparagus*	Purple nutsedge
Pyp grass*	Purple loosestrife*	Climbing spindle berry*	Californian rush*	Rum cherry*
Phytophthora taxon agathis (PTA)	Senegal tea*	Coast tea tree	Cathedral bells*	Saltwater paspalum
Salvinia*	Spartina	Darwin's barberry*	Cestrum species (four)	Selaginella *
Water hyacinth*	Water poppy*	<i>Egeria densa</i> *	Chilean flame creeper*	Shield pennywort
White bryony	White edged nightshade*	Gorse (defined areas)	Chinese fan palm	Smilax*
Rainbow lorikeet	Brown bullhead catfish	Green goddess lily*	Climbing asparagus*	Snow poppy*
Feral sika deer	Koi carp	Hornwort *	Climbing dock	Strawberry dogwood
	Perch	Italian buckthorn	Coastal banksia	Sydney golden wattle
	Rooks	Lagarosiphon	Crack willow*	Tree of heaven*
		Lantana*	Elaeagnus	Taiwan cherry
		Lodgepole pine*	Elephant's ear	Thistle species other than variegated thistle
		Old man's beard*	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Tradescantia
		Ragwort (defined areas)	English ivy	Tuber ladder fern*
		Royal fern*	Firethorn*	Velvet groundsel
		Variiegated thistle	German ivy	Wilding conifers (excluding Lodgepole pine)
		Wild ginger – yellow and kahili*	Grey willow*	Wonder tree
		Wild kiwifruit	Heather*	Argentine and Darwin ants
		Woolly nightshade (defined areas)*	Himalayan balsam	Eastern Rosella
		Yellow flag iris*	Houttuynia	Hedgehog
		Feral Goats	Japanese honeysuckle*	Ferrets
		Rudd	Japanese spindle tree*	Wild cats
		Tench	Japanese walnut	Gambusia
		Wallabies	Jasmine	Magpies
			<i>Lilium formosanum</i>	Wild mice
			Mexican feather grass	Possums
			Mexican waterlily*	Feral rabbits
			Mignonette vine	Rainbow skinks
			Mile-a-minute*	Rats (Ship and Norway)
			Mistflower	Stoats
			Monkey apple*	Wasps (common wasp, German wasp, Asian paper wasp, Australian paper wasp)
			Moth plant*	Weasels
			Pampas*	

\* These species are listed in the National Pest Plant Accord. The full list of species on the Accord is available on the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's website ([www.maf.govt.nz](http://www.maf.govt.nz)).