

FORMAK Site Assessment Form Issue date: 4-6-04

Site Location

Names	Map Grid Reference	or..	GPS Coordinates	Offset (if any)
Site Name:	NZMS 260 Map No:		East:	Offset bearing:
Catchment:	East:		North:	Offset (m):
Region:	North:		Accuracy(m):	

Assessment radius (m)

Ownership (tick the box)		Legal Protection (tick the box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Informal (no legal protection)	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation estate

Site Assessment

Assessed by: <input type="text"/>	Recorded by: <input type="text"/>	Assessment Date: <input type="text"/>
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1) Management

Management	Sketch of area assessed, and route walked
<p>History - Is the forest (tick the box)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1) Primary (original, mature native forest).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2) Modified Primary (forest that has major changes from e.g. past logging)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3) Secondary (forest that has regenerated following land clearance)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4) Revegetated (forest actively re-established on bare land)</p> <p>Note on history:.....</p> <p>Current animal pest control – Yes / No / Don't know</p> <p>Notes on control:</p>	
<p>Current weed control – Yes / No / Don't know</p> <p>Notes on control:</p>	
<p>Past animal control(last 5 yrs)-Yes / No / Don't know.</p> <p>Notes on control:</p>	
<p>Past weed control(last 5 yrs) - Yes / No / Don't know.</p> <p>Notes on control:</p>	
Notes:	

2) From Overview Site

See FORMAK Visual Guide

	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
Size	1) 0-5ha. 2) 5-25ha. 3) 25-100ha 4) Over 100ha.	
Shape	1) Narrow long strip, sometimes can look through from one side to other – may be 20m or less in width. 2) Some wider areas where cannot see through forest. 3) Most of forest area in compact shape without extensive exposed strips, but occasional small fingers do occur. 4) Extensive approximately round or square area.	
Nearby native forest	1) No forest areas over 10ha in size within 5km. 2) Closest areas of forest over 10ha in size are 1 - 5 km away. 3) Areas of forest of at least 10 ha present within 50m – 1000m (1km). 4) Large continuous area of forest present within 50m of area assessed.	
Corridors	1) Patch is completely isolated from other tall stature vegetation for over 1km. 2) Vegetation corridors are present within 500m – 1km of the patch. 3) Vegetation corridors are present within 500m of the patch. 4) Extensive vegetation corridors including exotic forest, vegetated waterways are present up to boundary of the forest and extend to other areas of native forest over 10ha in size.	

3) On the Forest Edge

See FORMAK Visual Guide

	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
Forest edge canopy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Major dieback in canopy, dead standing trees. 2) Areas of significant dieback, but all trees live. 3) Small areas of localised dieback. 4) Canopy without dieback. 	
Forest edge understorey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Understorey completely absent. 2) Some understorey present and occasional seedlings / saplings present close to the edge of the canopy. 3) Considerable understorey and many seedlings / saplings around the edge of the canopy. 4) Vigorous, abundant understorey with a range of seedlings / saplings spreading well beyond the current extent of the canopy. 	
Forest edge - weeds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Many weeds present along edge – weeds dominate understorey. 2) Weeds common as scattered patches and individuals along the boundary. 3) Few weeds forming isolated patches or individuals on edge. Local native vegetation dominates understorey. 4) No weeds present. 	
Fencing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No fencing 2) Some fencing, e.g. one side, or fence poorly maintained with large breaks 3) Most of boundary fenced, includes all areas where stock access likely. Some small recent breaks. 4) Secure, intact fencing around whole area, or area where no possibility of stock entry (e.g. urban). 	
Adjacent land use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Livestock farming (note type) 2) Exotic Forest 3) Residential / urban 4) Reserve (public or private reserve land) 	

4) Moving Through the Forest

See FORMAK Visual Guide

Doing Simple Counts (see end of this form)

State	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
Canopy Condition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Very sparse foliage, many large holes, dieback covers more than 25% of tree crowns. 2) Foliage sparse in some areas, canopy holes common. Some dieback. 3) Foliage mostly dense, only occasional sparse areas, Canopy holes rare, very occasional dieback. 4) Abundant dense foliage over whole canopy, no canopy holes or dieback. 	
Canopy Browsing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Severe canopy browse: 75-100% of leaves browsed on possum preferred species. 2) Moderate: heavy canopy browse - 25-75% of leaves browsed on possum preferred species 3) Light canopy browse: 1-25% of leaves browsed on possum preferred species. 4) No canopy browse. 	
Understorey / Regeneration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Understorey completely bare of all species. 2) Very few plants preferred by deer / goats / stock are present in the knee to shoulder height range. Scattered seedlings of other species. 3) Moderate numbers of plants preferred by deer / goats / stock are present in the knee to shoulder height range. Other species relatively abundant. 4) Abundant plants preferred by deer / goats / stock and other species may also occur. 	
Understorey Browsing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Severe understorey browse. 75-100% of stems of deer/goat/stock preferred species are browsed. Understorey may be completely bare. 2) Moderate – heavy understorey browse. 25-75% of stems of deer/goat/stock preferred species are browsed. 3) Light understorey browse. 1-25% of stems of deer/goat/stock preferred species are browsed. 4) No understorey browse. 	
Ground Cover	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Bare soil, rock / gravel covers more than 20% of ground. Eroding soil common. Ground vegetation (ferns, moss, seedlings etc less than 	

State	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
	50cm tall) absent or very uncommon. 2) Scattered bare soil and rock. Eroding soil uncommon. Ground veg (see definition in (1)) covers less than 20% 3) Bare soil, rock absent or very uncommon. No eroding soil. Ground veg (see definition in (1)) covers 20 – 50% of ground. 4) No bare soil, rock, or eroding soil. Ground veg (see definition in (1)), abundant, covering 50-100% of the ground.	
Bird Song	1) Bird song almost entirely absent. Only occasional calls heard. 2) Bird song present some of the time, but with extended breaks. 3) Ongoing bird song but with occasional breaks. 4) Continuous bird song with no breaks.	

5) Canopy Gaps

See FORMAK Visual Guide

(Find gaps in the canopy, over 3m in diameter, and examine the understorey vegetation)

Canopy Gap	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
Regeneration	1) No seedlings – area completely open. 2) Occasional seedlings – scattered individuals 3) Seedlings common – brush against you as you walk across area.. 4) Abundant, dense cover of seedlings and undergrowth – you have to continually push your way through.	
Species	1) No plants preferred by deer / goats / stock – dominated by tree ferns, pepperwood or other unpalatable species. 2) Occasional plants preferred by deer / goats / stock amongst dominant tree ferns, pepperwood or other unpalatable species. 3) Common plants preferred by deer / goats / stock. Unpalatable species such as tree ferns, pepperwood etc also common. 4) Abundant plants preferred by deer / goats / stock dominate.	

6) Threats ?

See FORMAK Visual Guide

Threat	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
Vine Weeds	1) Very common, cover more than 50% canopy. 2) Common, 10 – 50% canopy. 3) Occasional, up to 10% canopy. 4) None present.	
Shrub Weeds	1) Very common, more than 50% understorey or canopy. 2) Common, 10 – 50% understorey or canopy. 3) Occasional, up to 10% understorey or canopy. 4) None present.	
Ground cover weeds	1) Very common, cover > 50% ground area. 2) Common, 10 – 50% ground area. 3) Occasional, up to 10% ground area. 4) None present.	
Possums	1) Abundant fresh sign (droppings, pad runs, bark scratching / biting). 2) Common fresh sign but sometimes scattered. 3) Sign uncommon, often quite old. 4) Sign very rare or non existent.	
Deer	1) Abundant fresh sign (droppings, major tracks & hoof prints). Occasional deer may be disturbed 2) Common fresh sign but sometimes scattered. Sightings of deer uncommon. 3) Sign uncommon. Sign is often old 4) No sign	
Goats	1) Abundant fresh sign (droppings, major tracks & hoof prints). Goats commonly heard or seen. 2) Common fresh sign but sometimes scattered. Occasional goats heard or seen. 3) Sign uncommon. Sign is often old 4) No sign	
Stock	1) Abundant fresh sign (droppings, major tracks & hoof prints). Stock heard or seen throughout area. 2) Common fresh sign but sometimes scattered. Occasional stock heard or seen, generally confined to scattered areas on edge.	

Threat	Estimate (Circle appropriate level)	Notes Species etc
	3) Sign uncommon. Sign is often old. Only near edges. 4) No sign	
Human Impacts	1) Widespread trampling, and other damage throughout area. 2) Common trampling and damage but limited to certain areas 3) Occasional localised minor damage 4) No damage	

Vegetation

Identify the main species and the approximate percentage of the site they cover. This includes both **native and exotic** (introduced) species. Don't try to record all species, just the more common ones.

Estimate this percentage cover in each of the three broad height tiers:

- *Emergent species*: Larger trees sticking out above the main canopy – these may be species like rimu or kahikatea.
- *Canopy species*: The trees making up the main canopy of the forest.
- *Understorey*: Trees and shrubs below the main canopy of the forest, but above knee height.

	Emergent species	Cover (%)
		Canopy species
	Understorey species	Cover (%)

Note: Percentage cover in each tier must total to less than 100%.

