

Name:	Ruahine Range (Including Forest Park and Ridges)	
Location:	NZ Topo BL35, BL36 & BM35	
Description:	The Ruahine Range ONL includes land within the Ruahine Forest Park. The Manawatū District boundary runs along the ridgeline separating the western side of the Ruahine Range and Tararua District on the eastern side. The range stretches from the Manawatū Gorge in the south to beyond Mangaweka to the north., while the ONL starts 8km north of the Manawatū Gorge. Much of the skyline lies with Manawatū District, and much within Tararua District.	
ONL/ONF/SAF:	Outstanding Natural Landscape	
Natural Science:	Geological/ Geomorphological:	It is the dominant geographical landmark in the Manawatū District comprising a sequence of mesozoic greywackes of the Torlesse terrane. Representative part of the axial range that extends along the Alpine Fault from Westland to Bay of Plenty. Originated through uplift that has occurred through the meeting of the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates. Folded landscape with patchwork of deeply incised drainage catchments. Ruahine Range has been the subject of geological research, such as the PhD of Dr M Marden on structure and lithology of the Torlesse terrane. Unique as the oldest and most dominant geological landmark in the Manawatū District.
	Biological/Ecological:	The Ruahine Range contains a significant area of unmodified indigenous vegetation and is comprised primarily of the Ruahine Forest Park. Representative of the original podocarp and beech forest that covered much of the foothills and throughout the Pohangina and Ōroua Valleys. This intact forest is indicative of the area's mauri. It includes alpine beech forest and subalpine tussock, and is an important kiwi habitat. Subject of ecological research by DOC (and Forest Service before them) on impacts of pests including possums, deer, pigs. Appears to be a relatively healthy functioning ecosystem that is clearly evident in the landscape. An ecological feature of this size (300ha) is unique within the Manawatū District. It includes small fingers of indigenous vegetation in gullies running off the western side of the range and beyond the forest park boundary.
	Hydrological:	It includes the upper reaches of some watercourses, such as Bielski Gully – Te Ano Whiro Stream. It is an important catchment for the Rangitikei, Ōroua and Pohangina Rivers and their tributaries. The mauri from the catchment's mountains and forests is transported through the waterways to nourish the land.
Perceptual:	Memorability:	Highly memorability as the defining feature and reference landmark for the entire district, dominating the eastern horizon and visible from throughout the district as an expansive indigenous vegetation cover on the dominant axial mountain landform.
	Legibility/Expressiveness:	Ranges very expressive of tectonic uplift and highly legible as the eastern boundary of the Manawatū District. Steep river and drainage valleys display natural erosion processes over time through the greywacke geology.
	Transient:	Higher mountain ranges covered by snow in winter months. Ranges have a defining effect on the weather, which can change quickly. Exposed to extreme weather.
	Aesthetic:	High degree of coherence derived from the colour, texture, maturity and consistency of native vegetation which creates a vivid and visually striking pattern of land cover. When considered in combination with the land form, it is recognised as the most iconic landscape of the district.
	Naturalness:	Extensively covered in unmodified indigenous vegetation with high degree of perceived naturalness, isolation and wilderness values. Absence of built form, structures and roads contributes to the perceived naturalness. Both Whariti and Te Apiti windfarm are located south of the Ruahine Range ONL in Tararua District. No other network utilities are known within the Manawatū District Ruahine Range ONL.
Associational:	Historical:	Pockets of early European migration and settlement, although now largely devoid of human habitation. Colenso followed the track used by Māori from Te Awarua in the west to the Makaroro River in the east.
	Tangata Whenua:	The Ruahine Range, under the Settlement Act, is acknowledged as an area of interest for Ngāti Apa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui-a-Rua, Ngāti Hauiti, and Rangitāne o Manawatū (for whom it is also a statutory acknowledgement area). In addition, the Settlement Act and Ororua Declaration recognise Ngāti Kahungunu in relation to the Range. The Ruahine Range holds great historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū, as it is one of two mountain ranges that identify the iwi of Rangitāne. The long white cloud over the Range is said to be the taniwha Whangaimokapuna. The southern Ruahine Range is intrinsically connected and related to the activities of the Pohangina (River and Valley), Te Ahu a Turanga and Wharite as well as the numerous peaks along the Ranges of which the majority are named after Rangitāne o Manawatū ancestors. The Ruahine Range is named after the daughter of Turanga (Turangaimua, son of Turi, captain of the Aotea Waka). The Ruahine mountain range is a source of mauri for Rangitāne o Manawatū, hence the mauri is then transported by the waters of the Ōroua, Pohangina and Manawatū Rivers to the rest of the Rangitāne rohe. Peaks of significance to Rangitāne include Maharahara, Otumore, Tirahe, Te Hekenga, Te Ahu a Turanga. Wharite Peak towards the south is also of significance but lies in the Tararua District east of the Manawatū boundary line.

	<p>There is a rock on the hilltop in the Ruahine Range named Te Ahu a Turanga(imua)-(the sacred mound of Turanga (the elder child). This peak is of great significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū as it is the place where Turangaimua, the son of Turi, the Captain of the Aotea waka was killed. Turangaimua settled in the Manawatū after marrying a Rangitāne o Manawatu woman, Parehuia. At some time after his marriage, Turangaimua journeyed to Tamaki nui a rua and Ahuriri, and joined with Rangitāne o Manawatū in fighting the local iwi. Unfortunately, the seemingly defeated Ahuriri iwi were not entirely vanquished and the Turangaimua group were overrun at a saddle on the Ruahine Range, just north of Te Āpiti. Turangaimua was killed in the ensuing battle, along with several Rangitāne o Manawatū chiefs. The slain were heaped in a mound and the site was named Te Ahu a Turanga, the mound of Turangaimua, at the entrance to the mountain Range. Te Ahu a Turanga is a significant waahi tapu, culturally, spiritually and historically to Rangitāne o Manawatū. The site is registered with the New Zealand Archaeological Association, as is the narrative associated with it.</p> <p>The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 gives recognition to many areas throughout the Manawatū District, including those places listed above regarding the Ruahine Ranges. One particular area referred to in the Deed of Settlement between Rangitāne o Manawatū and the Crown follows ridgelines across the ranges from Mount Richards in the Pohangina Valley to Ruaroa in Tararua District (see map), via (but excluding) Maharahara (1095m) and Matanginui (1074m) peaks. Rangitāne o Manawatū also have an interest in the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve (see map). However, the scenic reserve on the northern side of the Manawatū River lies within Tararua District and the scenic reserve on the southern side lies within Palmerston North City.</p> <p>The One Plan identifies 'The series of highest ridges and highest hilltops along the full extent of the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges, including within the Forest Parks' as an ONFL. The Ruahine Range extends south as far as the Manawatū Gorge. The highest ridge extends along the full length of the Ruahine Range right down to the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve which encloses the Manawatū Gorge. This includes the 6km of farmland between the southern end of the Ruahine Forest Park and the Manawatū Gorge. The ONL identified in the landscape assessment is refined in extent from that identified in the One Plan, which the One Plan makes provision for at the TLA scale. The landscape assessment has reduced the southern extent of the One Plan ONL and generally aligned it with the southern extent of the forest park This is due to the greater naturalness of the forest park compared to the modified state of the landscape between the forest park and Manawatū Gorge which contains grazed farmland and Te Apiti windfarm. In determining this ONL, consideration was given to the Rangitāne o Manawatū interests in both the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve and the connection with Te Ahu a Turanga and Wharite (Whare-tītī) Peak. However, all lie within Tararua District so fall outside the jurisdiction of the Manawatū landscape assessment, even though they may be interpreted as being part of the ridgeline.</p>
Shared/Recognised:	<p>The One Plan recognises the qualities of the Ruahine Range as being 'the skyline's aesthetic cohesion and continuity, its prominence throughout much of the Region and its backdrop vista..' and gives protection through the following provisions: The Ruahine Ranges ONFL is in two parts: (j) The Ruahine Forest Park (land administered by the Department of Conservation) and (l) "the skyline" (or more correctly "The series of highest ridges and highest hilltops along the full extent of the Ruahine Ranges including within the Forest Parks described in item (j). Because the One Plan has been prepared through a public process, including public notification and hearings, these provisions reflect shared and recognised values of the Region. This reinforces the perceptual recognition that the prominence and memorability of the Ruahine Range causes this landscape to form a key part of the identity of the District.</p>
Recreation:	<p>Extensive tramping and eco-tourism. Many huts established over the years by clubs and DOC. Public access is available to the forest park as well as being able to arrange access with local landowners such as through private land separating road ends from forest park. Sixtus Lodge and Outdoor Education Centre on Limestone Road used as a base for school visits to the Ruahine Range and local area.</p>
Summary of Key Characteristics:	<p>Very high degree of naturalness due to the extensive covering of indigenous vegetation, dominance of large scale landforms, feeling of isolation, wilderness, and lack of human modification. Lack of built development which contributes to the perceived naturalness of the ranges as a defining backdrop to the District. Important recreational area. Highly memorable mountain range landform which contributes to the identity and sense of place of the District and Rangitāne o Manawatū. An existing large transmission tower at Wharite Peak lies outside Manawatū District but is located on one of the highest ridges, affecting the perceived naturalness of the Ranges as seen from Manawatū District.</p>
Potential Issues:	<p>The high degree of perceived naturalness is derived from the dominance and expressiveness of the Ruahine Range, contrasting with the surrounding agricultural land form and land use. This could be threatened by clearance of indigenous vegetation for alternative land use; earthworks such as mining, roading or quarrying; large scale damming of rivers; large network utilities; and pests and weeds. It would assist with the protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage built development; • discourage earthworks; and • discourage adverse effects on cultural values.

ONFL1 - Outstanding Natural Landscape - Ruahine Range (including forest park & ridges)

