

RPS – SCHED7 – Regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes

Table 48 lists some regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region and their associated characteristics and values in narrative form.

The extent of these regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes, in particular the coastline of the Region, has not been well defined. Therefore, assessments will be required using the approach set out in RPS-NFL-P2 and the criteria listed in Table 8 at the time that any use or development is proposed for those areas, so that the actual location of the feature or landscape can be defined in relation to the use or development proposal.

Table 48 - Regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes in the Region include the following:

Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes	Characteristics / Values
1. Tongariro National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly the park's visual prominence in the Region and the contrast of the Rangipo desert with adjacent landscapes b. Geological features including the Rangataua Lava Flow c. Recreational values, particularly tramping and snow sports d. Scientific value, particularly the volcanic landscape e. Ecological value, particularly the mountainous ecology and the extensive tussock grasslands and <i>wetlands*</i> supporting rare indigenous flora f. Importance to tangata whenua
2. Whakapapa River and river valley, including all of the river catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics b. Recreational values c. Ecological significance, particularly in providing a habitat for the Blue Duck (whio)
3. Whanganui River and river valley, upstream of Aramoana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scenic qualities provided by the gorge landscapes and papa rock formations b. Recreational values, particularly tramping and hunting, and those provided by the <i>water*</i> and riparian margins c. Ecological value provided by the presence of original forest remnants d. Importance to tangata whenua e. <i>Historic heritage*</i>, in particular historical importance and numerous archaeological sites
4. Whanganui National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly the gorge landscapes and papa rock formations b. (Ecological significance, particularly for providing habitat for rare bird species, the presence of mature indigenous forest, contribution to the national conservation estate, wilderness c. Intrinsic value d. Importance to tangata whenua e. Recreational values, particularly tramping and hunting, and those provided by the <i>water*</i> and riparian margins f. Recognised protection – national park

Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes	Characteristics / Values
	g. <i>Historic heritage*</i> , in particular historical importance and numerous archaeological sites
5. Kaimanawa Ranges, in particular the skyline and the south-eastern side of the ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly the visual prominence of the skyline in much of the Region b. Ecological significance, including the Ranges' contribution to the national conservation estate
6. The skyline of the Puketoi Ranges defined as the boundary between the land and sky as viewed at a sufficient distance from the foothills so as to see the contrast between the sky and the solid nature of the land at the crest of the highest points along the ridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly the visual prominence of the skyline in the eastern part of the Region b. Geological features, particularly the asymmetrical landform termed a <i>cuesta</i>
7. Mount Aorangi - Awarua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly Mount Aorangi's visual prominence and contrast to the Mangaohane Plateau b. Intrinsic value c. Ecological significance, provided by areas of unmodified podocarp forest, high diversity of <i>wetland*</i> types and as a habitat for rare indigenous flora and fauna d. Scientific value, particularly Reporoa Bog and Makirikiri Tarns e. Importance to tangata whenua
8. Manganui o te Ao River and river valley, including the Makatote and Mangaturuturu Rivers and their valleys, the Waimarino and Orautoha Streams (but not the Waimarino and Orautoha valleys or the Ruatiti Stream or valley)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly river gorges and riparian margins and outstanding wild and scenic characteristics b. Ecological significance, providing a habitat for the Blue Duck (<i>whio</i>), and wildlife and fisheries c. Recognised protection – National Water Conservation Order d. <i>Historic heritage*</i>, in particular historical importance, archaeological sites and high potential for archaeological site discovery
0. Rangitikei River and river valley from Mangarere Bridge (approximate map reference NZMS 260 T22:488-496) to Putorino (approximate map reference NZMS 260 T22:315-315), and from Mangarere Bridge (approximate map reference NZMS 260 T22:488-496) to the confluence of Whakaurekou River and Ohutu Stream (approximate map reference NZMS 260 U21:714-691)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics – particularly its gorges, the Rangitikei alluvial terraces and high bluffs, and the Rangitikei River Plio-Pleistocene fossiliferous sediments (map reference NZMS 260 S23:214-224) b. Scientific and educational value c. <i>Historic heritage*</i>, in particular historical importance, archaeological sites and high potential for archaeological site discovery
1. The Ruahine Forest Park (land administered by the Department of Conservation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly its prominence throughout much of the Region and its backdrop vista in contrast to the Region's plains b. Ecological values, including values associated with mature indigenous forest, remnant and regenerating indigenous vegetation and important habitat c. Contribution to the national conservation estate d. Recreational values, especially tramping and hunting e. Historical values associated with early recreation, hunting and botanical exploration

Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes	Characteristics / Values
	f. Cultural values
2. The Tararua Forest Park (land administered by the Department of Conservation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly its prominence throughout much of the Region and its backdrop vista in contrast to the Region's plains b. Ecological values, including values associated with mature indigenous forest, remnant and regenerating indigenous vegetation and important habitat c. Contribution to the national conservation estate d. Recreational values, especially tramping e. Historical values associated with early recreation f. Cultural values
3. The series of highest ridges and highest hilltops along the full extent of the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges, including within the Forest Parks described in items (10) and (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual, natural and scenic characteristics of the skyline of the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges, as defined by the series of highest ridges and highest hilltops along the full extent of the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges, including the skyline's aesthetic cohesion and continuity, its prominence throughout much of the Region and its backdrop vista in contrast to the Region's plains b. Importance to tangata whenua and cultural values c. Ecological values including values associated with remnant and regenerating indigenous vegetation d. Historical values e. Recreational values
4. Manawatū Gorge, from Ballance Bridge to the confluence of the Pohangina and Manawatū Rivers, including the adjacent scenic reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly provided by its distinctive landscape b. Geological feature, provided by being the only river in New Zealand to drain both east and west of the main divide c. (Ecological significance, provided by its regenerating indigenous vegetation and remnant native shrubland d. Scientific value, particularly for its geology
5. Parts of the Coastline of the Region, particularly the Ākitio Shore Platform, Castlecliff to Nukumarū coastal cliffs, Foxtangi Dunes, Hokio Beach South Dune Fields and Santoft parabolic dunes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly its special coastal landscape features b. Coastal geological processes c. Ecological value, particularly the Whanganui, Whangaehu, Turakina, Rangitikei, Ākitio, Ōhau, Waikawa and Manawatū River estuaries as habitats for indigenous fauna d. Recreational value e. Significance to tangata whenua f. Scientific and educational values g. <i>Historic heritage*</i>, in particular historical importance, archaeological sites and high potential for archaeological site discovery.
6. Cape Turnagain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visual and scenic characteristics, particularly its visual prominence along the Region's east coast b. Ecological significance, particularly as a habitat for blue penguins and fur seals c. Scientific value

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">d. Significance to tangata whenuae. <i>Historic heritage*</i>, in particular historical importance, archaeological sites and high potential for archaeological site discovery