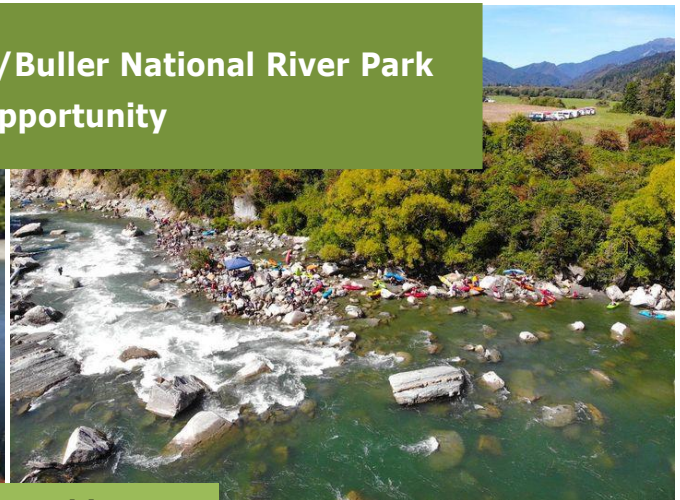


Kawatiri/Buller National River Park

Rewild opportunity



Inspiring our community to rewild this place

The Opportunity

Flowing down to the sea from the mountains around Lake Rotoiti, is the untamed and spectacular Kawatiri/Buller River, that will flourish when its riverbanks and native forests are rewilded under integrated management.

This unique landscape is ideal for rewilding of riverbanks, grazed public land, regeneration, and native forest along the entire 100km of the river. It will be a shining example of mountains to the sea ecological connectivity, joining Nelson Lakes, Kahurangi and Paparoa National Parks to the sea.

The banks and adjoining public land are also nationally important native forest ecosystems, river landscapes, visitor destinations and attractions, river recreation and geological preservation sites.

The conferring of National Park status would recognize these nationally important values, with all the benefits that rewilding can create, as our first National River Park.

Current Management

Most of the area is managed by DOC as part of the Buller Gorge Scenic Reserves, Nelson Lakes National Park, Kahurangi National Park, stewardship land and various other protected areas. 2,400 hectares is managed by LINZ as riverbed and Crown Land. 900 hectares is managed by local Councils mainly as unformed legal road. 500 hectares is managed by Kiwirail as an unformed part of the Stillwater Ngakawau Railway.

Context

There is a wonderful opportunity to rewild now, using surveying, fencing, nursery, visitor access track construction, planting and tending labour to attain immediate ecological, social and economic value.

There is an ongoing effort required for rubbish removal, wilding willow and other weed control to retain and enhance ecological and scenic values.

About 3,600 hectares of public land damaged by clearance, drainage, grazing, roading, and railway can be rewilded.

The water of this river is already recognized for its nationally important values with a national Water Conservation Order that protects recreational, wild and scenic river, fisheries or wildlife habitat and scientific values.

The site is an uplifting experience for travelers along State Highway 6 from St Arnaud to Westport for 100km of this outstanding river journey, as they follow in the footsteps of māori. Extensive river recreation occurs along its length, including swimming, kayaking, canoeing, pack rafting, rafting, and jet boating. Murchison is the mecca for Aotearoa whitewater kayaking.

Visitor attractions along the river include the giant Inangahua Earthquake Landslip, Buller Gorge Swingbridge - Aotearoa's longest swingbridge, and Hawks Crag - where the State Highway is cut into the steep cliff.

Inclusive protection of the small areas of Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Parks ensures integrated land management for all public conservation land along the Kawatiri/Buller.

Key Benefits

- 3,600 hectares of riparian pasture and regeneration rewilded to native forest and carbon sink with an end to carbon emissions
- 34,000 hectares of new National Park legal protection for nationally important river ecosystems, tourism access and experience of the unique Kawatiri/Buller River landscape, and geological preservation sites
- Ecological corridor for native species to connect from Nelson Lakes, Kahurangi and Paparoa National Parks and Victoria Forest Park to the sea and estuary
- Spade-ready employment for iwi and the community in surveying, fencing, wilding willow and weed control, and nursery/planting/tending



Dedicated to iwi, river travelers, and Mick Hopkinson NZOM

Further reading

Kawatiri/Buller River - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buller_River and <https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/buller-the-mighty-river/>

Buller Festival - <https://www.facebook.com/BullerFestival> and <https://bullerfestival.wordpress.com>

Buller Gorge - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWY4Xi-OxGw>

Buller Water Conservation Order -

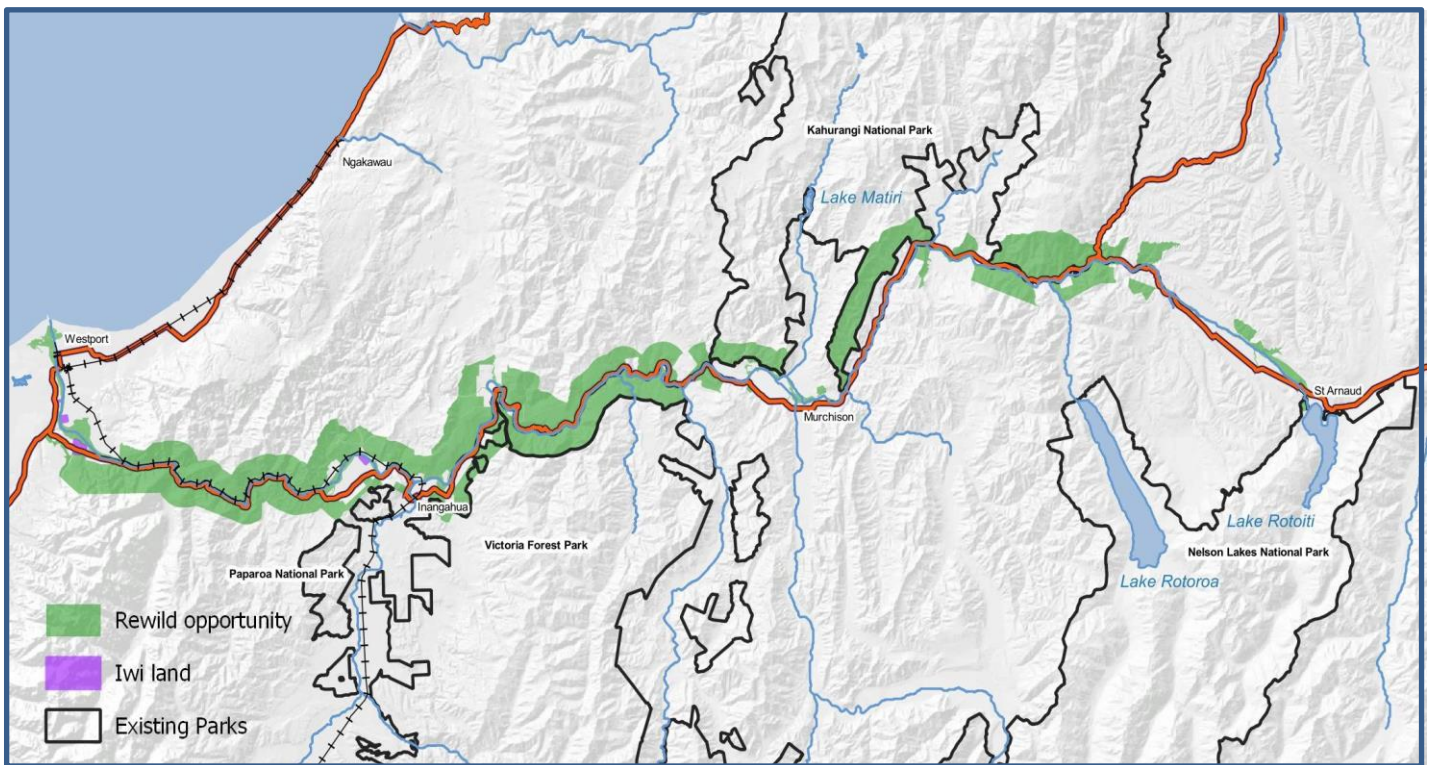
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2001/0139/latest/DLM49250.html> and Forces unite to protect wild rivers <http://www.outstandingrivers.org.nz/pdfs/Forces-Unite-To-Protect-Wild-Rivers.pdf>

Welcome to St Arnaud <https://www.newzealand.com/int/st-arnaud/>

and Murchison <http://www.visitmurchison.nz/> and Westport

<https://westport.nz/>

Opportunity Location



Rewilding: to create and protect healthy ecosystem processes and functions that can sustain themselves, our society, and our economy.

