WAIORA MANUHEREKIA

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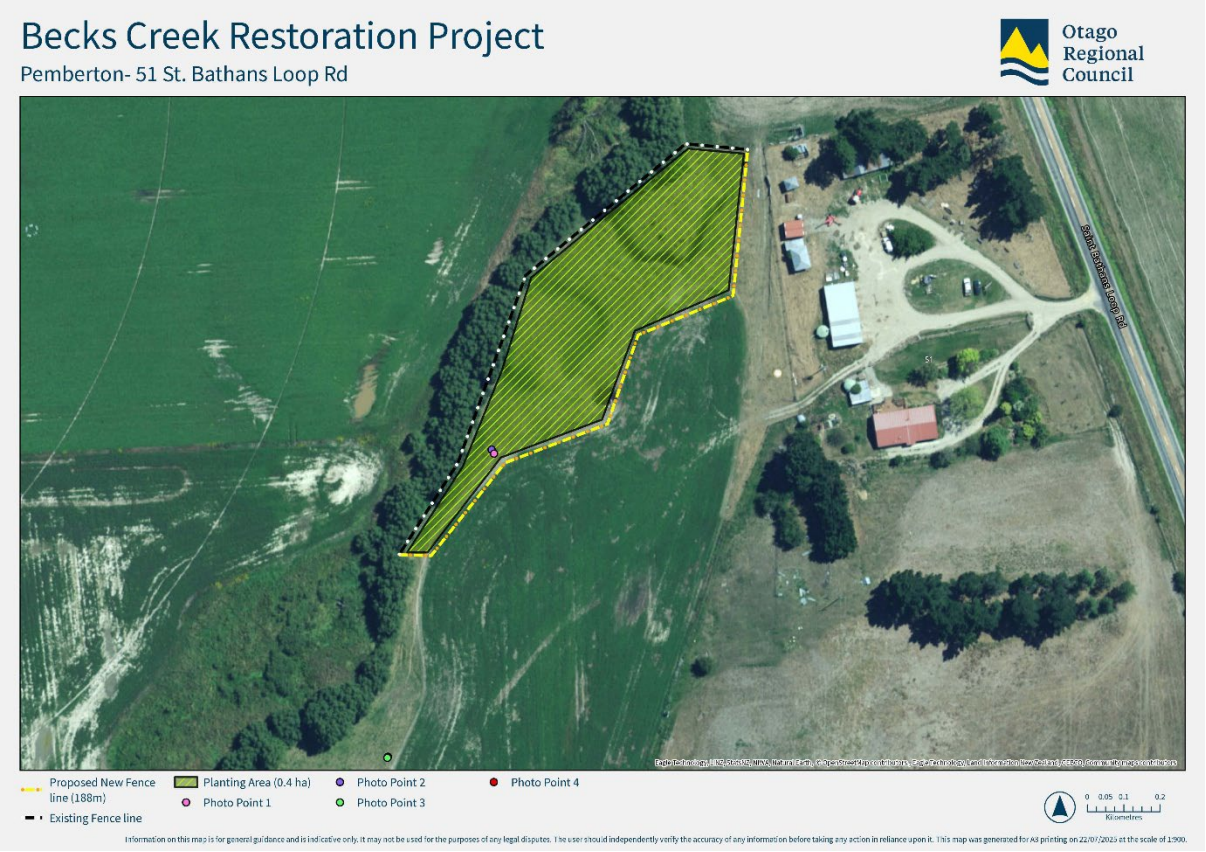
Manuherekia wetland network

Becks Creek wetland

Site Details

- **Landowner:** Chris Pemberton
- **Location**
  - Coordinates: Easting 1343178, Northing 5012700
  - Ecological District: Maniototo
  - Ecological Region: Central Otago
- **Wetland dimensions:** 2.5 ha.

Site Map



Current wetland condition photo

Photo taken November 21st 2024.

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Photo taken February 12th 2025.

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Site Description

General

Primary hydrosystem: Riverine
Secondary hydrosystem: Palustrine
Primary wetland class: Creek
Secondar wetland class: Marsh
Primary wetland form: Flat
Secondary wetland form: Basin
Primary structural class: Grassland
Secondary structural class: Treeland

Topography

Soils: Information retieved from S-Map Online 27/03/2025.
Soil sibling: Flax_108a.1. Deep, silt, poorly drained. Proportion: 100%.

Current Vegetation

The site includes Becks Creek and surrounding wetland areas. Vegetation within the site area primarily comprises crack willows and exotic grasses. The edges of Becks Creek are dominated by dense crack willow (large trees often over 10 meters). Vegetation between pasture or cultivated paddocks and willows is comprised of exotic grassland dominated by the wetland obligate grass, blue sweet grass with occasional kneed fox tail and rye grass. Indigenous species are rare, pūkio is occasional present beneath crack willow. Hawthorn and briar were not noted during the Wildlands site visit 26 February 2025 but it is possible that they are present but not detected.

Wildlife

This site potentially provides good habitat for native galaxias species. Willows are likely to provide some habitat for avifauna.

Site History

Crack willows have been removed from the area previously but have regenerated since.

Description of water flow and drainage

Becks Creek originates in the Dunstan Mountains and flows south west into the Manuherekia just south of Becks. No drains were observed within the immediate vicinity of the site, water was still flowing in the creek in very dry conditions

Current condition

Heavily infested with willows and other woody weeds with few examples of indigenous vegetation. Currently not excluded from stock and grazing pressure has further impacted the values.

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Enhancement Proposal

Vision

To restore the natural values of the wetland through weed control and native plantings.

Objectives

Control woody weeds, exclude stock, and plant with native species.

Expected outcomes

Fencing & Planting

Fencing the Eastern side of the waterway is required to fully exclude stock from the area.
Plantings along the riparian corridor and adjacent low lying areas will limit willow regrowth and enhance wetland values and functioning.
Plantings on this property will be restricted to the wet area of paddock indicated on the map above.
Due to the current condition of the planting site, where stock are excluded from need to be planted fully and managed well. This is because once stock are removed, any open ground will be colonised by weeds and rank grass.

Weed control

The willow infestation of this stretch of waterway is dense. Willows are to be aerial sprayed and left standing dead. Willows can be mechanically removed by mulcher in some areas.

Sedimentation

Stock exclusion from wetland areas adjacent to Becks Creek will prevent pugging, reduce sediment inputs into the waterway and improve water quality outcomes.

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Total Investment

Fencing: $1,309
Weeds: $5,000
Planting: $25,000 *(made up of $20,000 of plants planted by Habitat Restorations Aotearoa and $5,000 of supply only plants)*
Total: $31,309

Funding source

Fencing materials, planting & weed control – Waiora Manuherekia
Fencing installation & ongoing weed maintenance – Landowner.

Monitoring

Annual photopoint monitoring to be used to track changes in the wetland.
Annual SHMAK monitoring can be used to track improvements in ecosystem health.