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Waiowhiro Flat Wetland

Site Number: SNA8

Ecological District: Rotorua Lakes

Source of Information: Shaw and Beadel (1998)

Digital Scale: 1:2,000 **Data Source: RDAM 2006 Regional Council:** Bay of Plenty 1998 Site Number: NHS No. 8 **Current Tenure:** Unprotected 39.9 ha Site Area: 290-300 m Altitude Range: Lowland **Bioclimatic Zone:**

Grid Reference: NZTM E1883185, N5778119

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE	LANDFORM	EATENI
1	Grey willow/swamp coprosma-Baumea-blackberry-swamp kiokio	Flat	49.9 ha
	forest (with local harakeke, Carex secta, karamu and manuka;		
	local patches of Yorkshire fog and lotus).		

Indigenous Flora: No threatened or at risk species as listed in de Lange et al. (2009) have been

recorded from this site.

Taxa present include Baumea arthrophylla, B. tenax, swamp kiokio, Carex secta, C. virgata, Coprosma robusta × C. propingua, Eleocharis gracilis,

Lemna minor, and Schoenus maschalinus.

Fauna: No threatened or at risk species as listed in Hitchmough et al. (2007) or

Miskelly et al. (2008) have been recorded from this site. Common forest

birds are present in this area; lake birds utilise the margins of this site.

Notes on Overall **Condition:**

Highly modified wetland, with an exotic canopy and an understorey of

predominantly indigenous vegetation.

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998):

Part of this site has been cleared since Shaw and Beadel (1998).

Threats/Modification/ Vulnerability:

This wetland was grazed by cattle, horses, and sheep, causing degradation to the indigenous understorey in 1996. Drains have been dug through the wetland, but do not appear to be affecting watertable levels (Shaw 1990). Colonisation by adventive plants is the most serious threat to this wetland at present, and disturbance caused by grazing and digging drains is likely to

exacerbate this problem.

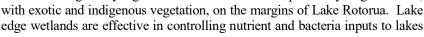
Risk Assessment: Drainage: Risk to site - high; Timeframe - high.

Grazing (cattle, horses, sheep): Risk to site - high; Timeframe - high.

Significance Level: Regional (Appendix 5 - Table 1 - Criteria 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; Table 2 -

Factors R8, R17).

Significance This site is regionally significant because it is a comparatively large wetland, Justification: with exotic and indigenous vegetation, on the margins of Lake Rotorua. Lake







via ground water contaminated from urban development and rural agricultural practices (Gibbs & Lusby 1996).

This site includes flats and wetlands in the lowland bioclimatic zone. The extent of indigenous vegetation on these ecological units has been greatly reduced and very little is protected in the existing reserve system.

Fieldwork Required: Yes. Management and biodiversity information is lacking. Vegetation maps

require updating based on field survey and new aerial photographs. Lake edge near the site also requires field inspection to identify and assess the natural

values.

Notes: This site was recommended for protection (RAP No. 8) as part of a natural

area survey of Rotorua Lakes ED (Beadel et al. 1998).

References: Shaw (1990); Beadel *et al.* (1998); Shaw and Beadel (1998).



