

FOREST ACCESS POLICY (PUBLIC)



1. Document Purpose and Scope

This document outlines forest access ***policies and procedures that OneFortyOne New Zealand (OFO) will follow in considering requests for access*** into the forests that they manage in Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough districts.

The scope of the document includes ***management of access for non-commercial uses compatible with forestry on:***

- All OFO-NZ freehold Land, excluding the Kaituna Sawmill
- All Golden Downs Forests land that is owned by Ngāti Toa
- All Rai and Golden Downs Forests land owned by Ngāti Tama
- All Rai and Golden Downs Forests land owned by Te Ātiawa
- All Golden Downs West Forests land owned by Ngāti Tama and Te Ātiawa (JV)

The aim of the document is to outline how OFO will provide for managed recreational activities while managing the risks and conflicts from recreational access in an active working forest. OFO has to balance the management of recreational access with the level of unlawful activity such as rubbish dumping, vandalism to equipment, damage to infrastructure, theft and trespassing.

It's important to note that a clear differentiation exists between public access onto private land managed by OFO and the public access easements (PAEs) which access the DOC estate through OFO managed land. PAEs are outlined in Section 3.4 with maps in the Appendix.

2. Principles and Desired Outcomes

PRINCIPLES	DESIRED OUTCOME
OFO will provide access to the land that they manage for recreational activities that are compatible with forestry while:	Where practical and safe, public access and recreational use to OFO forests is encouraged to achieve the following desired outcomes:
Ensuring that health and safety risks are managed for people using the forest.	Significant risks are eliminated or minimised by managing and communicating the timing, location, and conditions for forest access. OFO delivers a <i>primary duty of care</i> ¹ as a PCBU.
Ensuring that forestry operations, private property and the forest crop are not put at risk or compromised.	Forest Access is isolated from active forestry operations. Risks to the forest crop and adjoining private property are minimised.

Managing the risks and/or protecting the cultural values, waahi tapu and other significant sites within the land.	Cultural values, waahi tapu or significant sites are protected.
Managing the risks to the environment and ecological values.	Environmental and ecological values are protected or enhanced.
Avoiding or minimising conflict between different types of recreational activities and forestry operators.	Recreational users understand and respect the way conflicts are managed.

3. Management of Forest Access

OFO recognises that their forests can provide for a wide range of recreational and cultural activities and OFO oversees access for visitors to the forests, provided the safety of forest employees and contractors and people entering the forest can be reasonably managed and that the tree crops can be protected. Keeping people safe generally means keeping forestry operations and recreational activities separated.

Protecting the tree crop that underpins hundreds of jobs for the regional economy and the investment of the shareholders of OFO means managing fire risk, forest health risks, the risks associated with plantation forestry operations and risks associated with unlawful behaviour in the forests.

3.1. Permits Are Required for All Forest Access

All forest access is by permit only; application forms are available on our website - [Public Information - One Forty One](#).

Forest access is generally restricted to weekends, public holidays and daylight hours only.

Access over summer is more restricted because of the potential for high fire risk. OFO will close the forests to access in periods of high fire danger and storm events. Forest closures can apply to all activities as OFO recognises that it must manage the risk of people or vehicles starting fires, as well as the risk of people being trapped inside the forest if a fire starts nearby or if storm damage prevents access.

OFO do have areas of the forest where they allow access on weekdays and over extended periods of the year. These arrangements are generally for specific areas where clubs, organisations or community groups manage the activity under a separate Access Agreement and where they take responsibility for users including notification of any forest closures. Examples are mountain bike trails at Kainui and Taylors Pass and horse-riding access in specific forest blocks in both Nelson and Marlborough. OFO encourages clubs to engage with OFO to discuss suitable recreational pursuits.

Permits for mountain biking on forestry roads within Manuka Island block can be issued, subject to forestry activities and any other permit conditions.

3.2. Conditions of Permit Access

There are standard Terms and Conditions for Forest Access, these are attached to the Permit.

People must always comply with both the standard conditions and special conditions of the permit. OFO employees and Forest Security contractors may ask to see your permit and you must have a copy of the permit available for inspection at any time while you are visiting our forests. If you do not have a copy, you will be asked to leave the forest immediately and may be escorted out of the forest. (See Section 4. Forest Security and Process for Non-Compliance).

Permit fees are charged to recover administration costs of the permit system and a partial recovery of Forest Security operations. They are subject to review each year. Third party insurance, drivers licences and firearms licences need to be available on request.

3.3. Public Hunting Season

OFO allows parts of the Forest Land to open for Public Hunting permits, generally from late April to October. This is managed in close collaboration with iwi landowners Ngāti Toa, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Tama.

Further information and permit application details are available on the OFO website – [Public Information - One Forty One](#).

3.4. Public Access Easements (PAE) – No Permit Required

There is a network of Public Access Easements (PAE) across the OFO estate (refer to maps in Appendix 1). The majority of these enable access to Mount Richmond Forest Park (MRFP). They were established as part of the original Crown Forest Licenses. **PAEs provide access on foot, horseback, bicycle, motorcycle or light vehicle. OFO, as the occupier of the land, may close or restrict the PAE access during hours of darkness; for reasons relating to safety of those using the access and for those working on the forest land OR for reasons relating to the protection of the forest land. A Permit is NOT required to use the PAEs when they are open.** There is no requirement for OFO to maintain the roads under the easement documents.

The public have a right of access over unformed legal roads and Marginal Strips. These areas are shown on the [Walking Access Commission Mapping System \(WAMS\)](#).

3.5. Special Recreational Areas – No Permit Required

OFO has some recreational areas throughout its managed forest area that are available for the public to use without a permit (unless closed for fire risk, storm damage or reasons associated with safety or protection of the forest land).

The areas include:

- Norris Gully Picnic Area, Clark Valley Picnic area, McLeans Picnic Area in the Tasman District.
- Collins Valley Picnic area in Rai Forest in Nelson.
- Bartlett's Creek, Quartz Creek and Jubilee Flat in the Wairau Northbank area in Marlborough.

3.6. Fire Risk

OFO takes guidance from the Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) document *Fire Guidelines for Forestry Operations Nelson Tasman* when considering fire weather risk and public access to their forests. *(An equivalent document covers Marlborough-Kaikoura)*. The FENZ documents describe a range of measures for forest managers to adopt in response to climatic (weather) conditions to reduce the risk of fire starting and spreading.

The document is based on Fire *Weather Indices* tracked across more than twenty-five weather stations across the Top of the South – <https://fireweather.niwa.co.nz/>. Public access to forests can be restricted at the discretion of OFO to manage fire risk.

3.7. Forbidden activities

Permit conditions outline rules and expectations. To note some important activities in this policy, the following are activities not allowed:

- Night-time access (including PAEs).
- Firewood collecting.
- Motorbike riding.
- Un-permitted hunting and carriage of firearms.

4. Forest Security and Process for Non-Compliance

Permits for access are managed by both OFO employees and OFO Security Contractors depending on the type of access being requested. Forest Security Contractors are used to ensure that the forests are safe for all permitted visitors and to safeguard the forests and forestry contractors' property located in OFO forests.

Everyone who enters an OFO forest is expected to be able to produce a valid OFO Forest Access Permit on request by an authorised OFO person. If a Permit is not able to be produced, the following process will be followed:

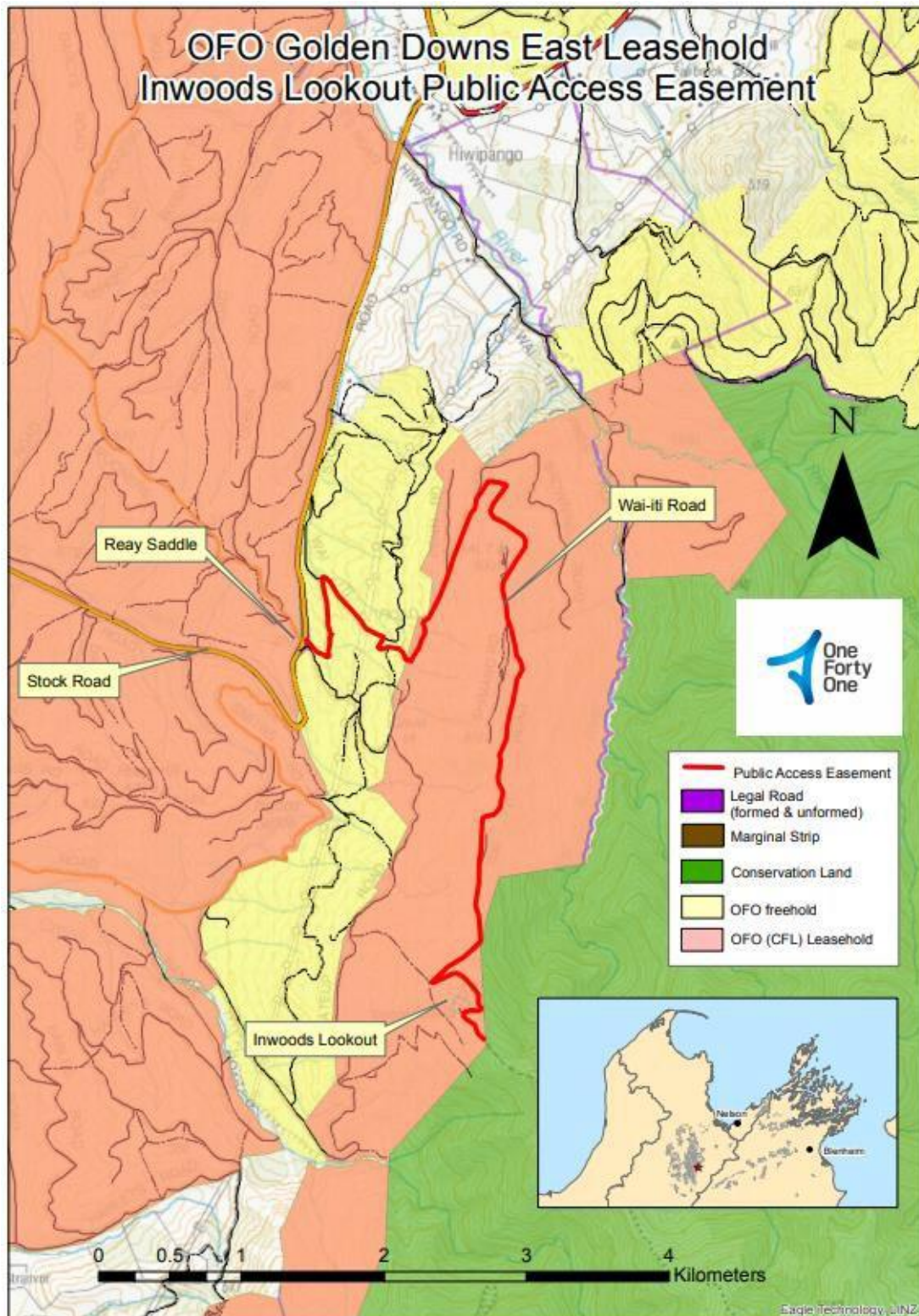
First non-compliance:

- You will be advised that forest access is by Permit ONLY and where you can find more information on what permits are available and how to apply for a permit.
- You will be asked to supply your name and address and your vehicle registration and phone contact details.
- You will also be asked to leave the forest immediately and you will be advised that if you are found in the forest again without a valid permit you may be trespassed, and your details may be passed on to the NZ Police.
- Forest Security will maintain a report of the incident.

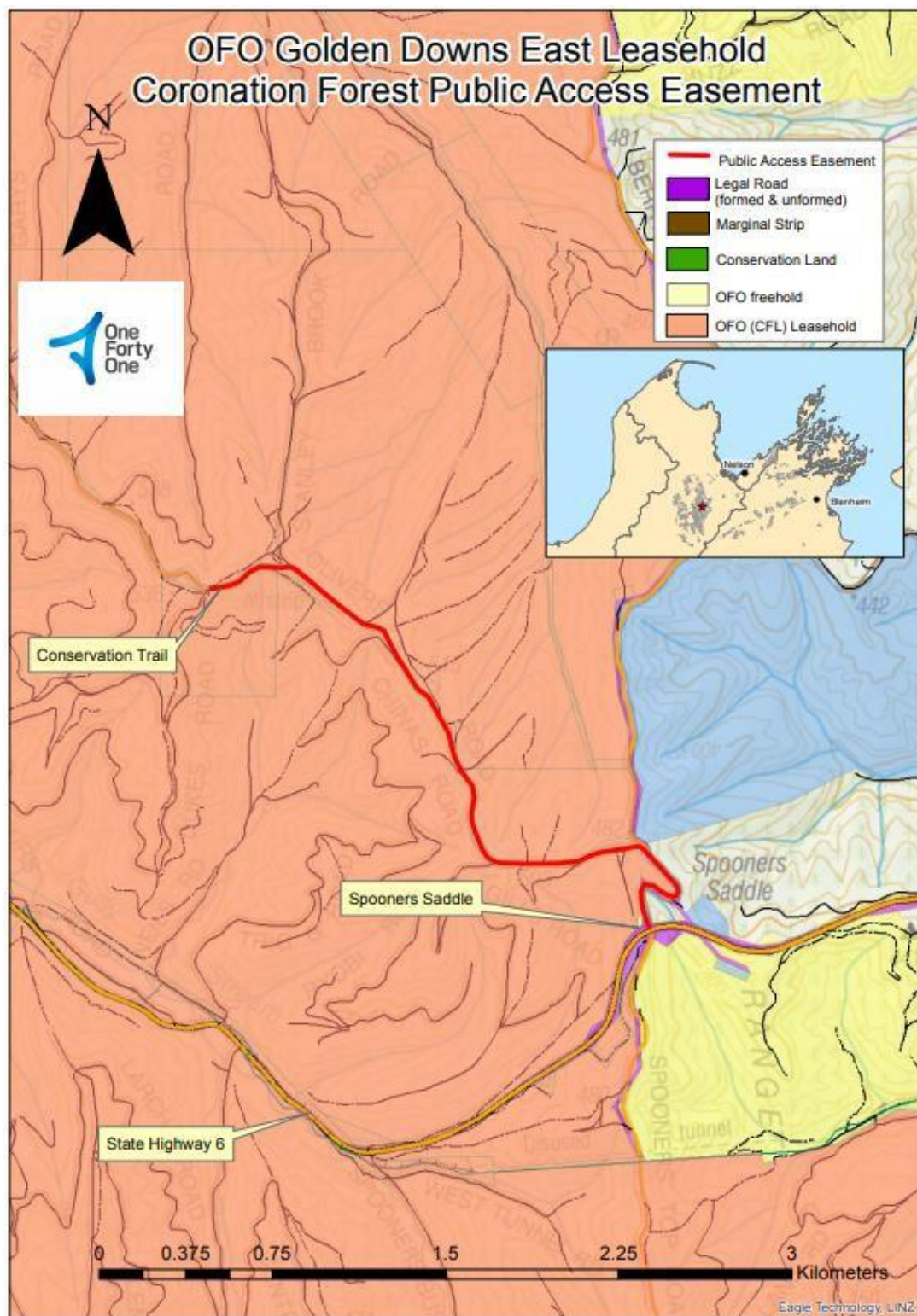
Second non-compliance:

- If you are found a second time on OFO managed land without a permit, you will be served a Trespass Notice and your details passed to the NZ Police.
- **Exceptions:** OFO and authorised Forest Security Contractors may issue a Trespass Notice immediately, if the person requested to produce a permit is dumping rubbish, unpermitted hunting and carriage of firearms, using threatening language or behaviour or has been identified by video or camera images or by a credible person as having been on OFO managed land within the last 24 months without a valid permit.

5. Maps of Public Access Easements

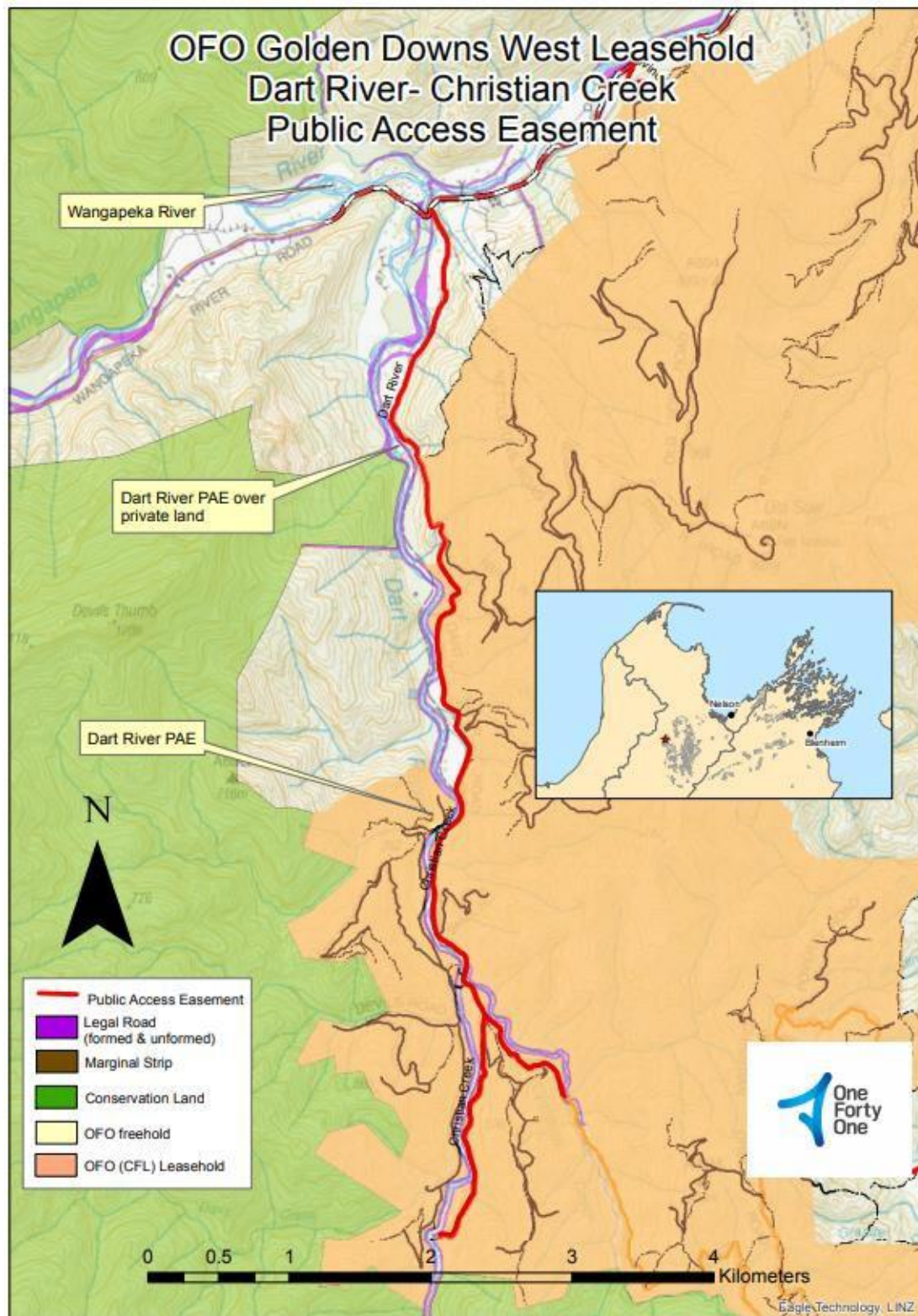


Golden Downs East PAE No.1 From Stock Road to Mount Richmond Forest Park at Inwood's lookout. It is a steep road maintained to 4WD standard.

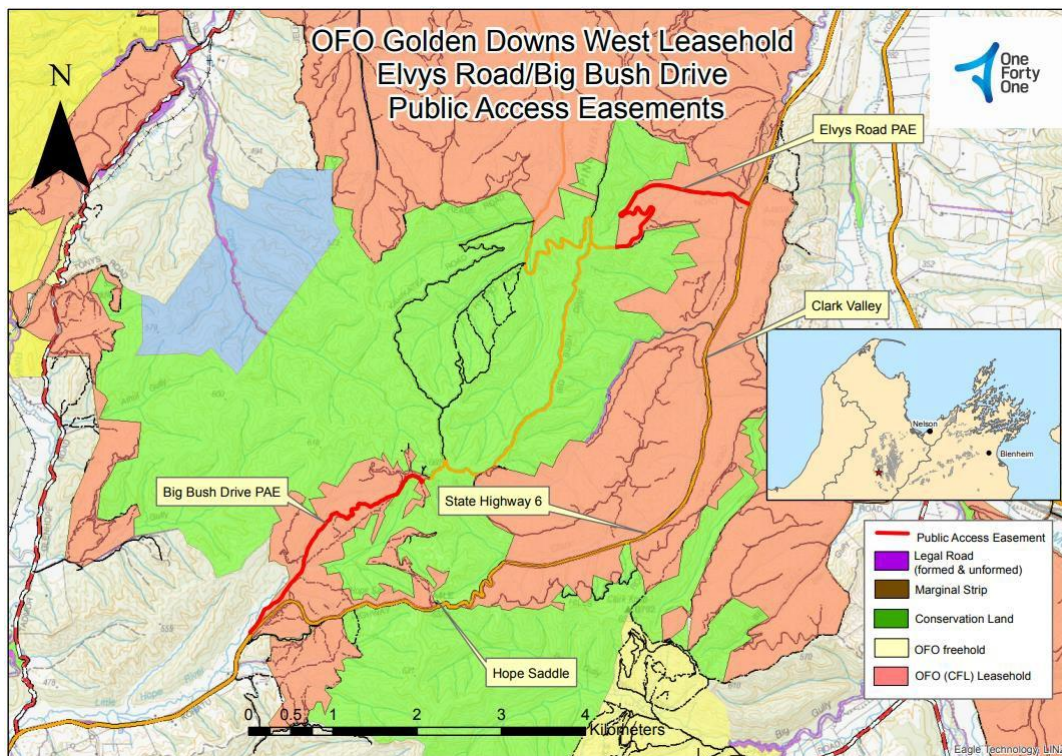


Golden Downs East PAE No.2 Access to the Coronation Conservation Trail from State Highway 6 - Spooners Saddle.

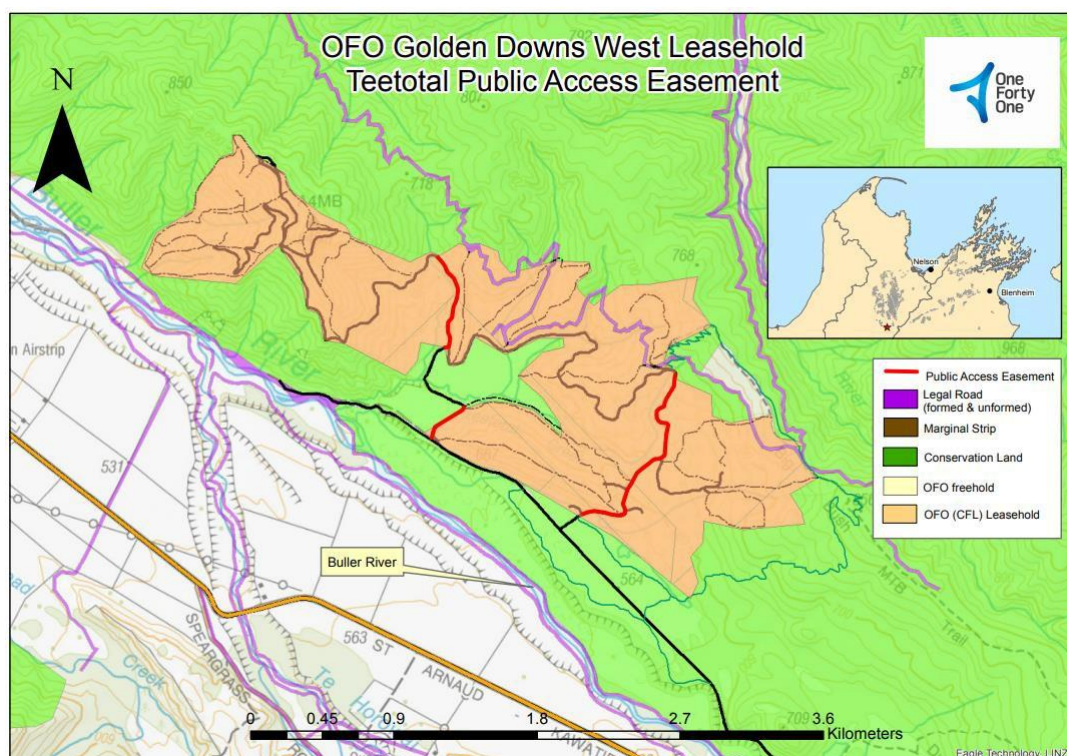
A busy forest arterial road and often closed to the public to allow for forest operations.



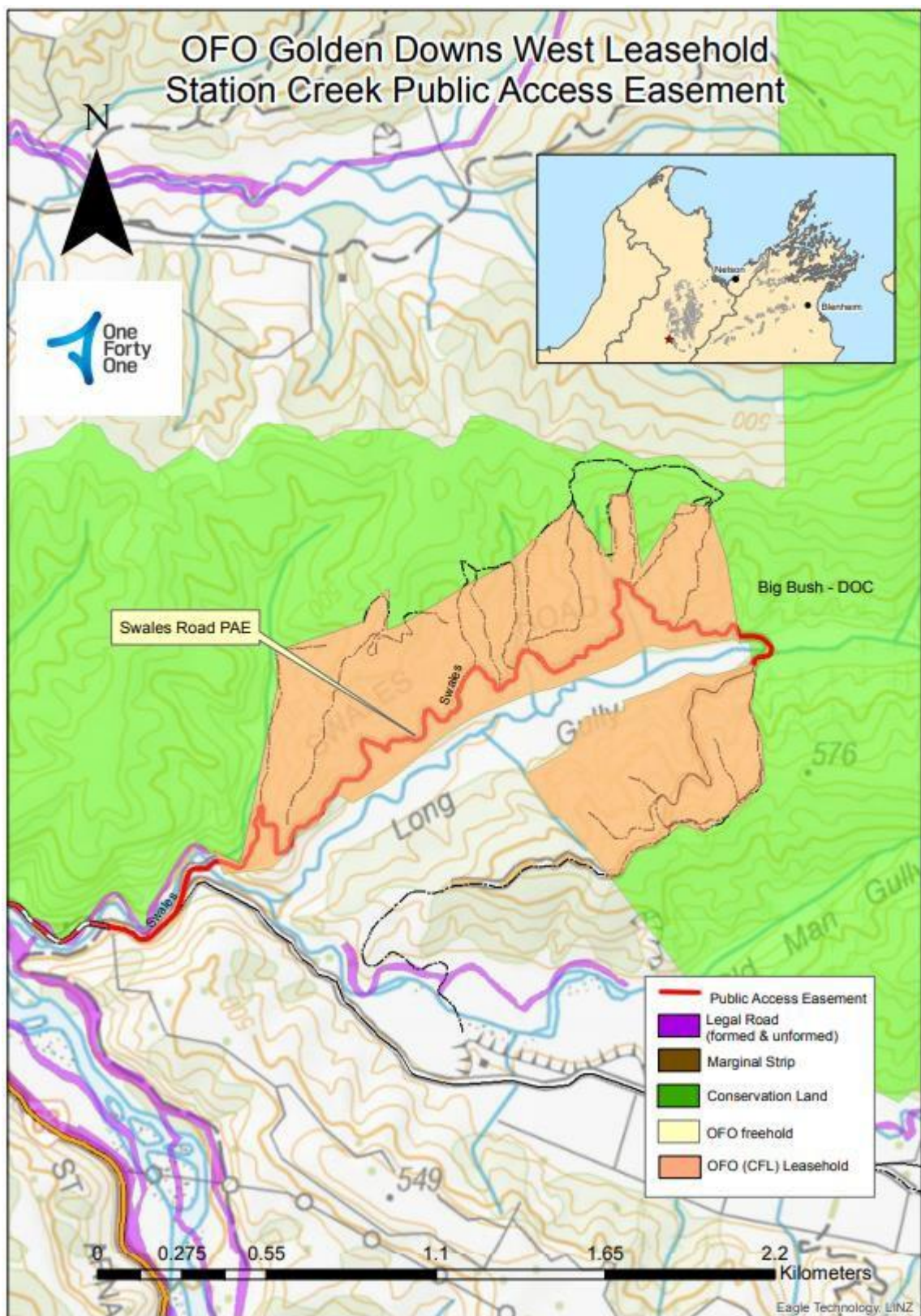
Golden Downs West PAE No.1 The PAE crosses a neighbour's land and does not follow the formed road.



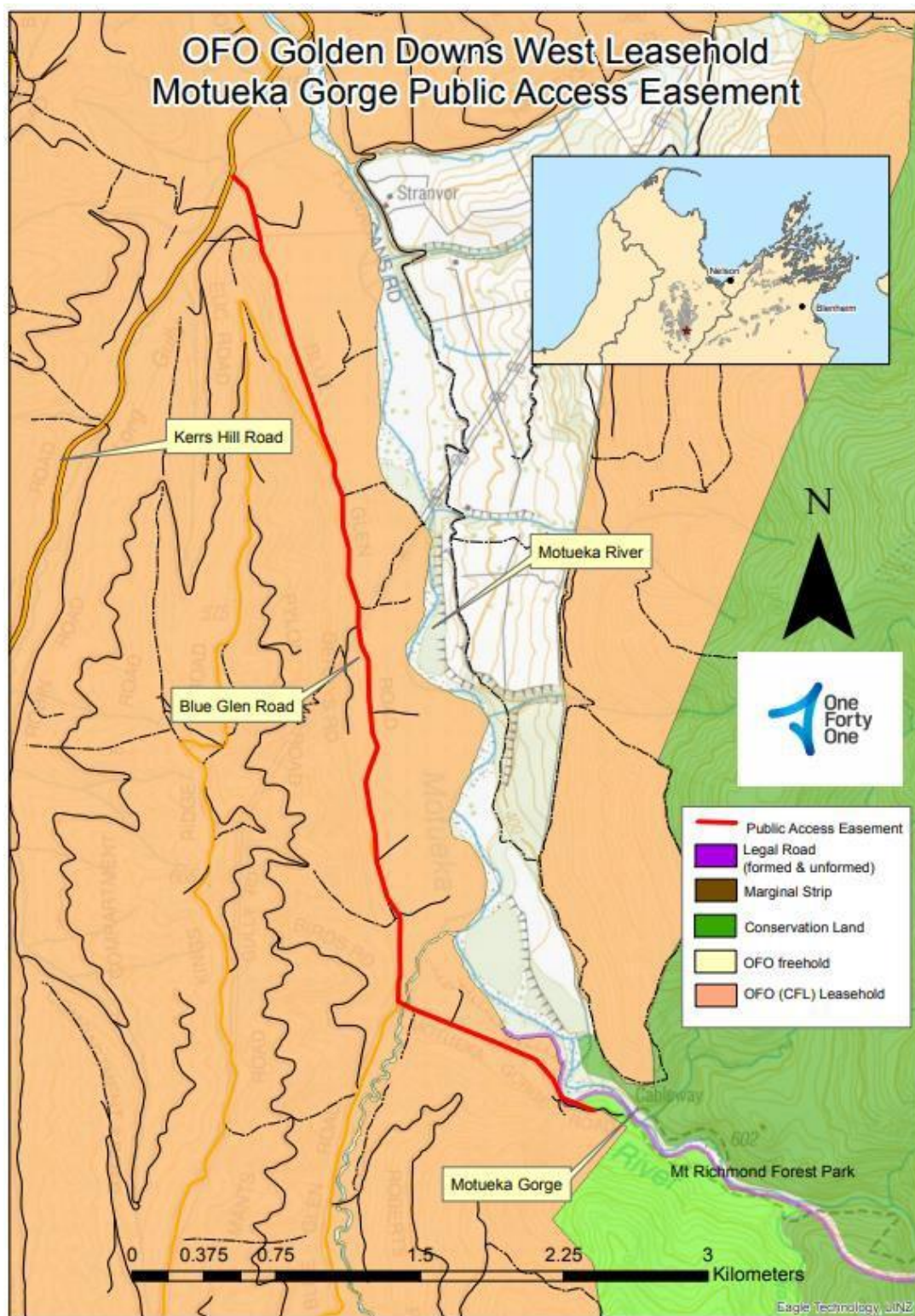
Golden Downs West PAE No.2 and No.3. PAE No.2. connects SH 6 in Clark Valley to Big Bush Reserve. PAE No.3 connects SH 6, south of the Hope Saddle, to Big Bush Reserve. Note: The PAEs do NOT provide access to Donald Creek Road in Tadmor Valley.



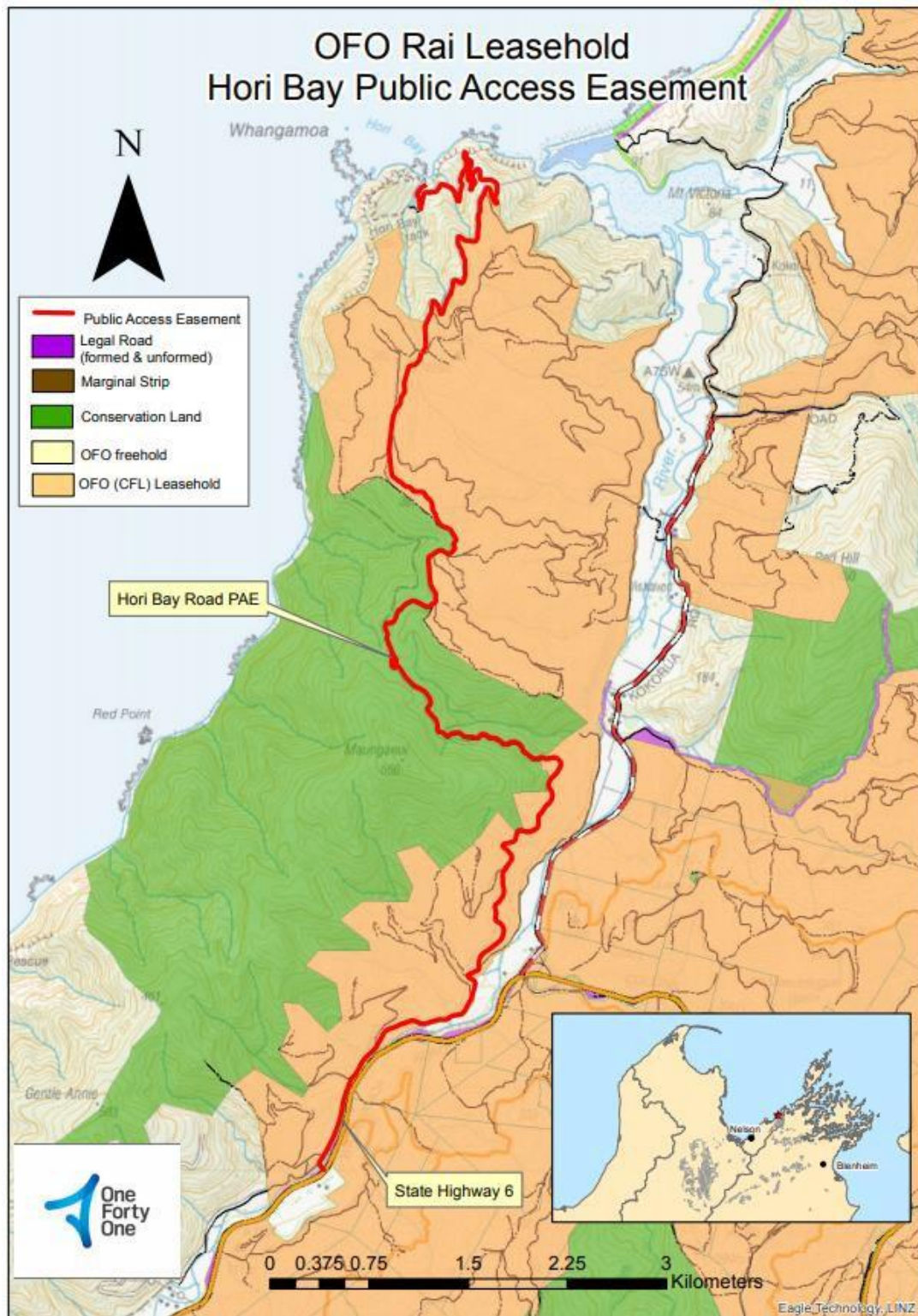
Golden Downs West PAE No.5 Access to Big Bush Reserve through Teetotal Forest with access over DOC land outside of OFO forest.



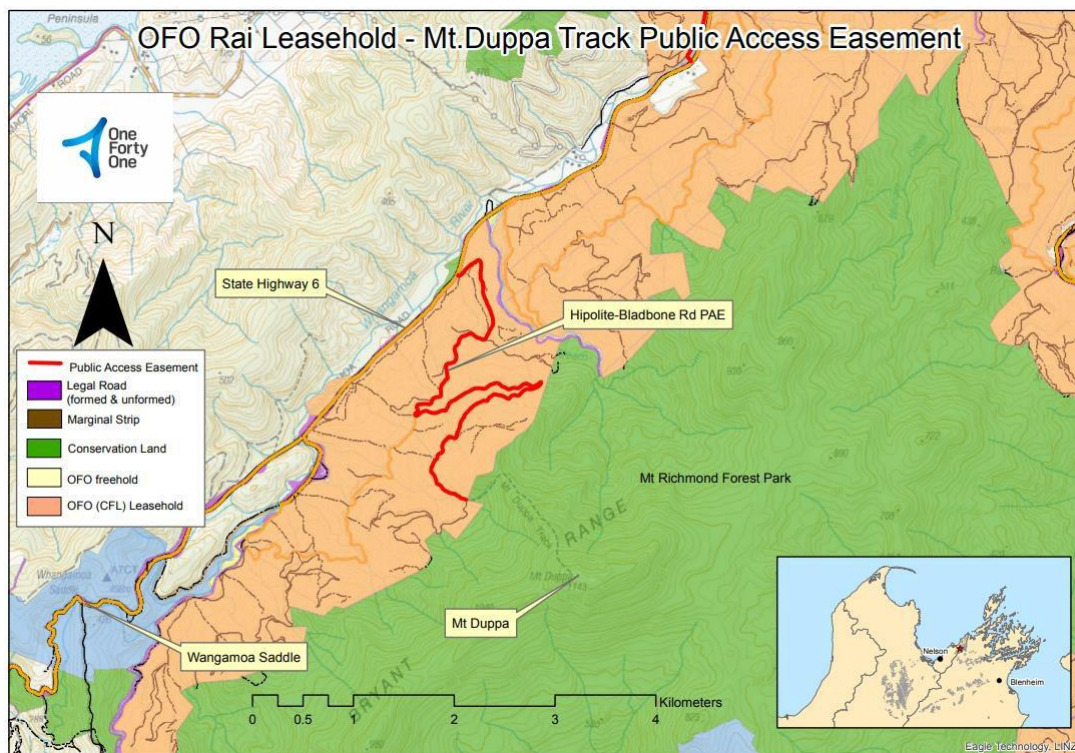
Golden Downs West PAE No4. Access to Big Bush, the PAE crosses neighboring private land before entering OFO managed land and is currently closed.



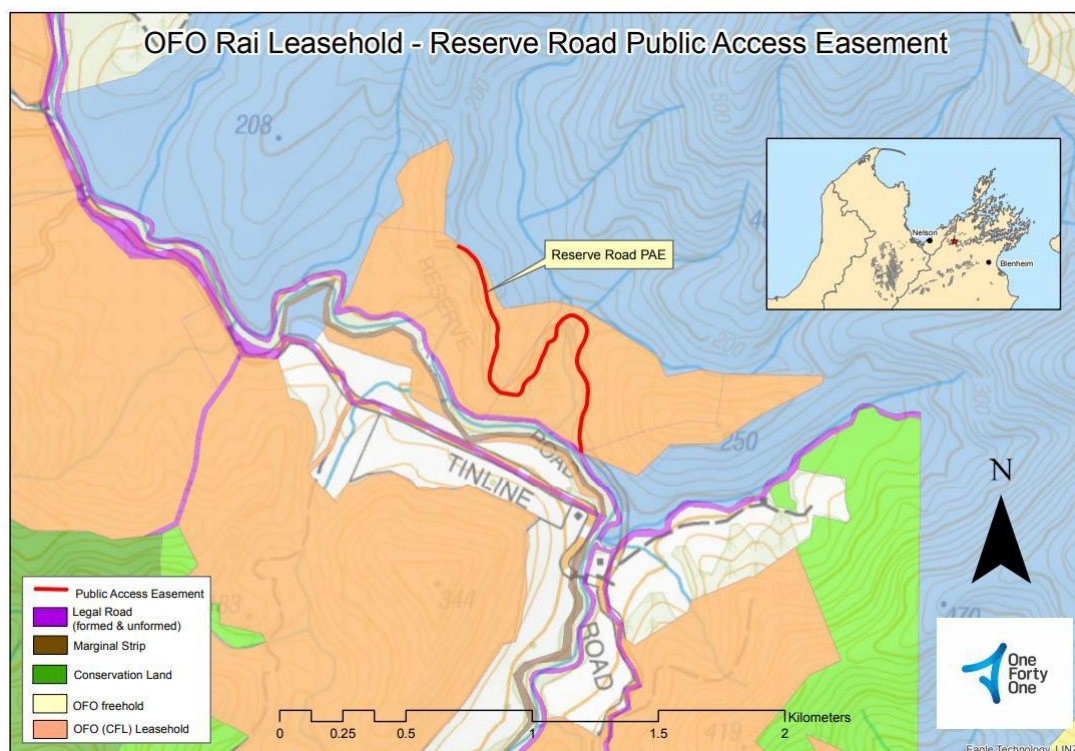
Golden Downs West PAE No.6 Access to Motueka Gorge and Mount Richmond Forest Park from Kerr Hill Road.



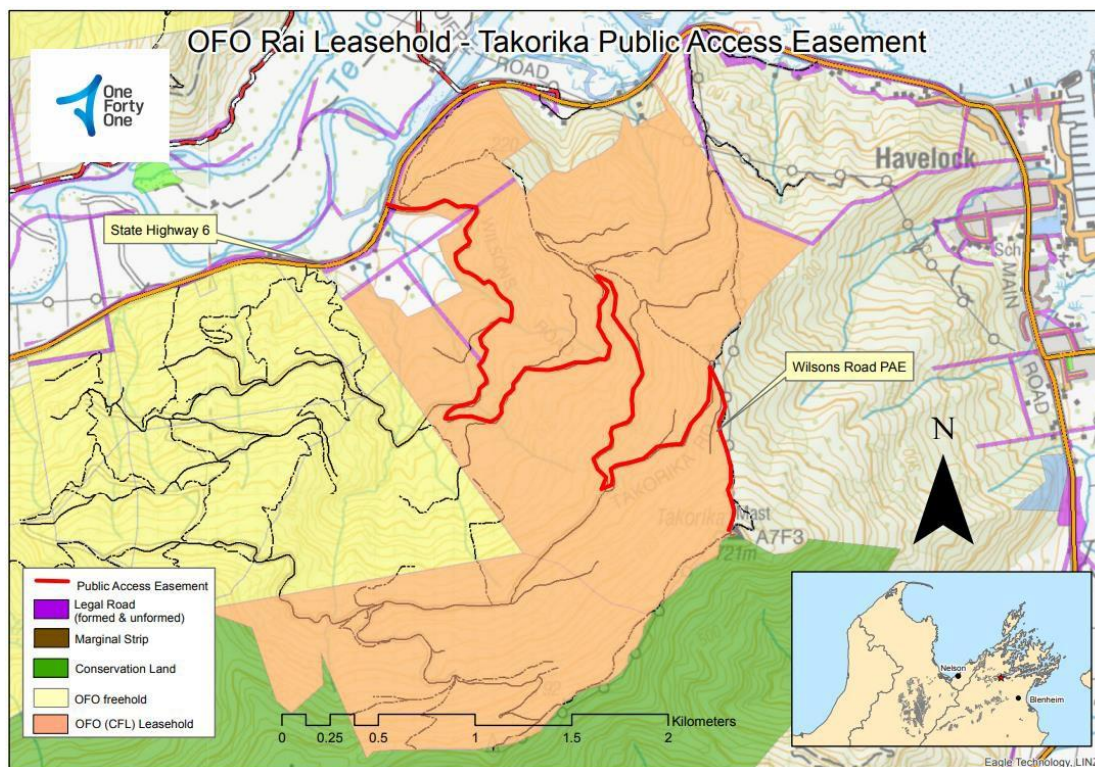
Rai PAE No.1 Access to Hori Bay from State Highway 6. The last 2.8 km of road (on privately owned land) is washed out and provides foot access only.



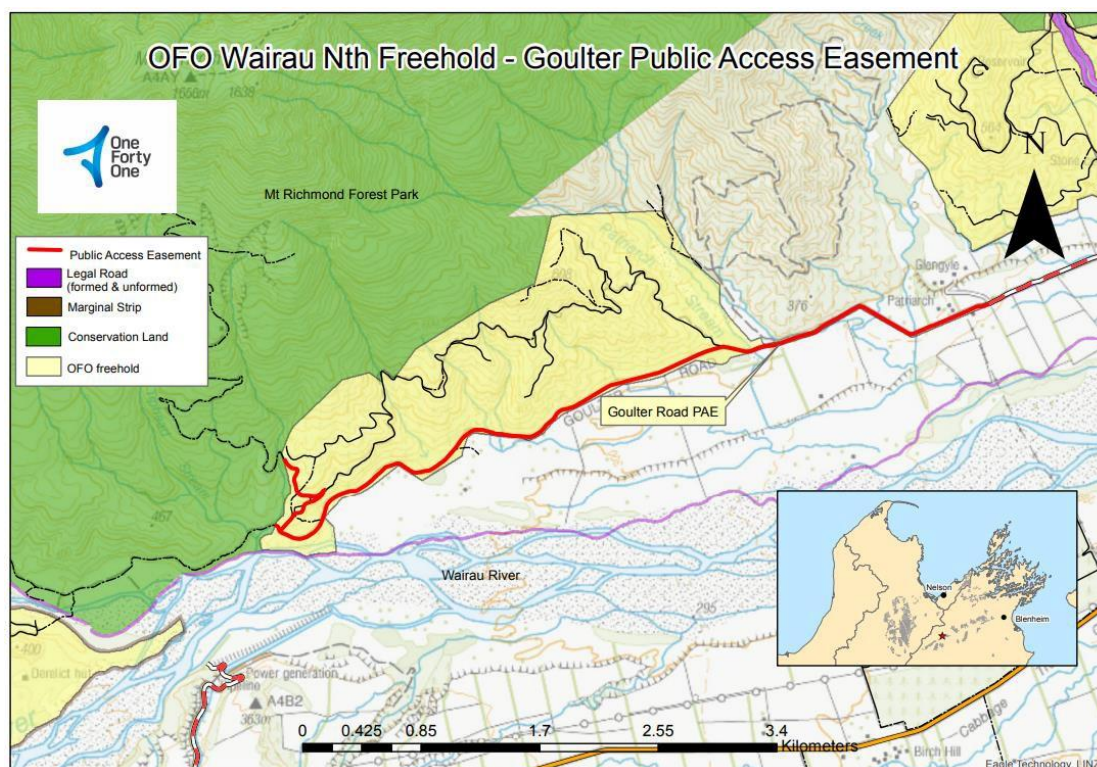
Rai PAE No2. Access over Hippolite and Bladebone forestry roads to the Mount Duppa walking track in Mount Richmond Forest Park. Note: the roads are maintained to a 4WD standard.



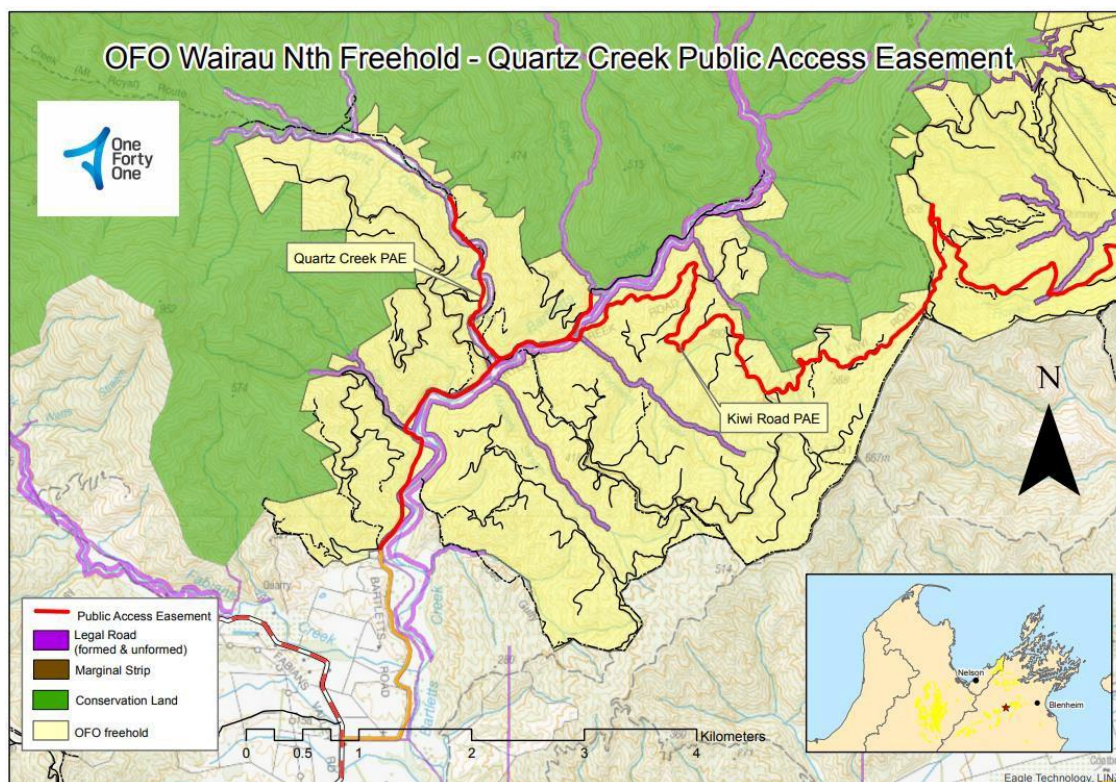
Rai PAE No.3 Access from Tinline Road to Pelorus Reserve There is no vehicle access to this PAE.



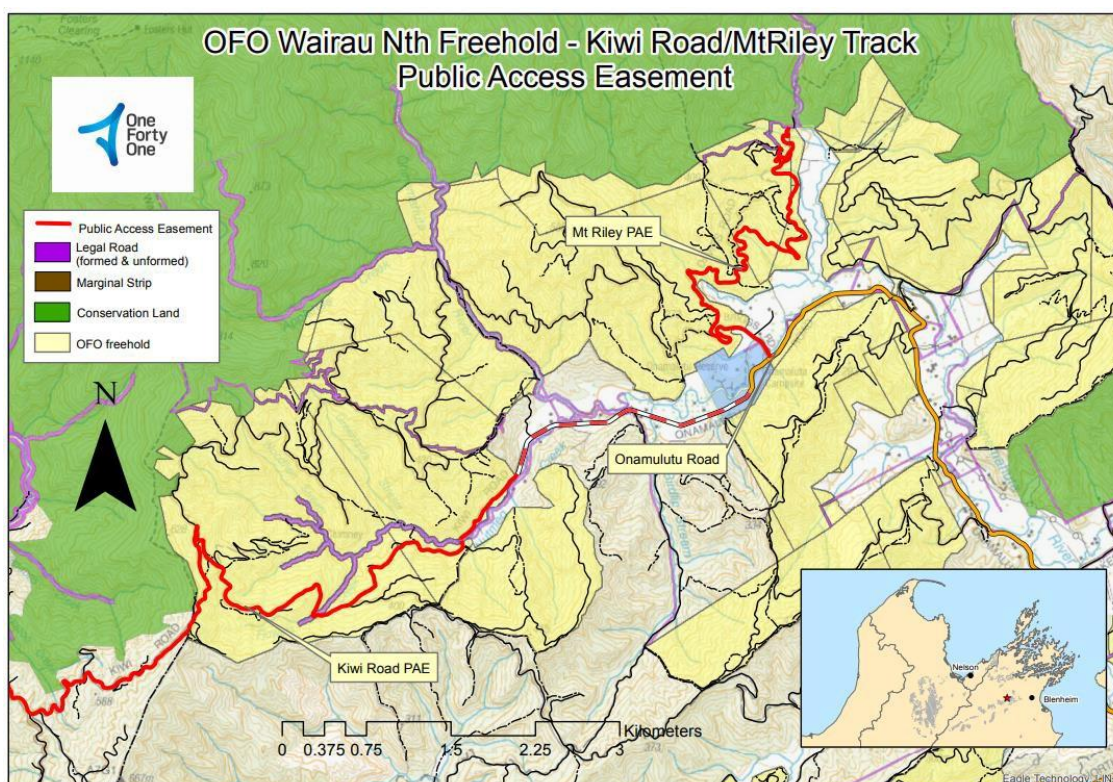
Rai PAE No4. Access over Wilsons forestry road to Mount Richmond State Forest Park from SH 6 near Havelock.



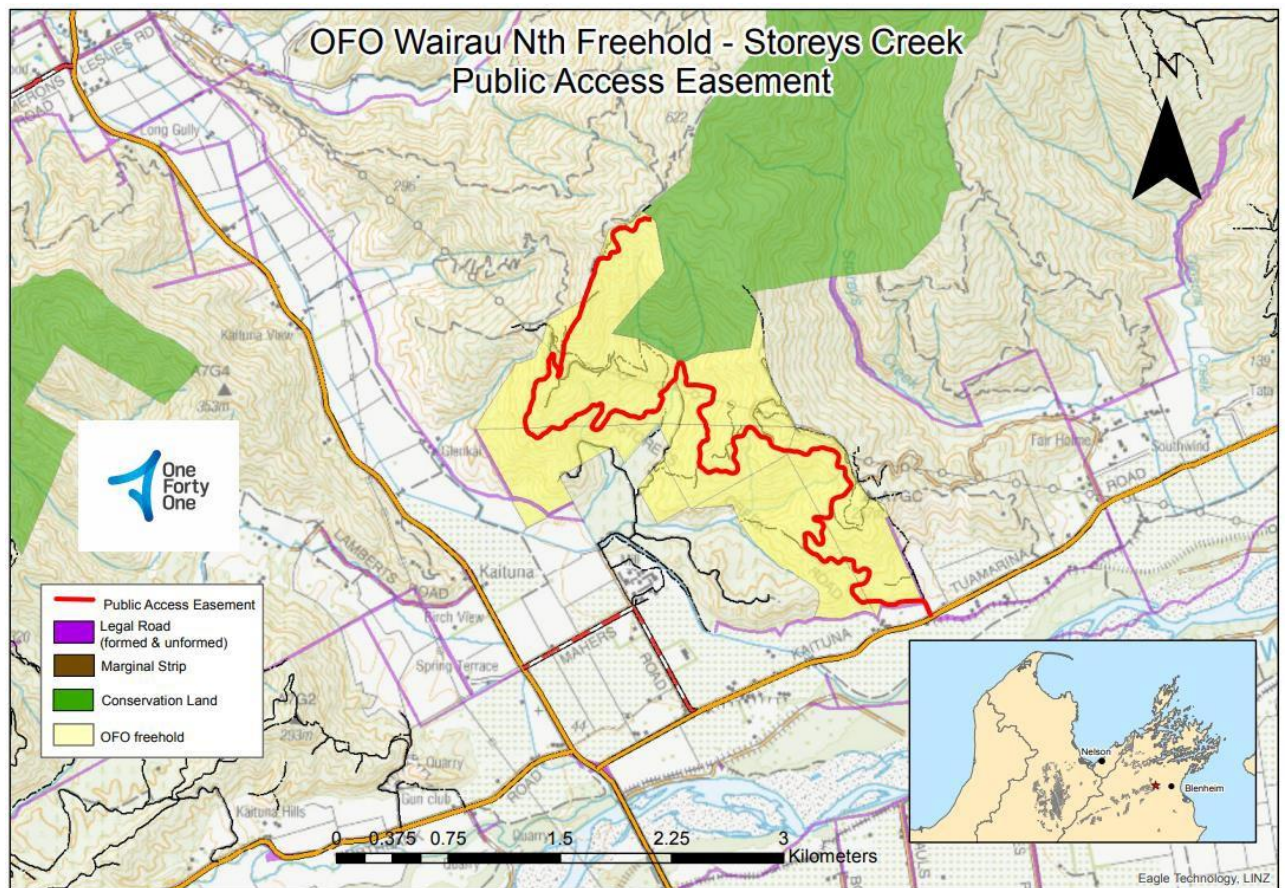
Wairau PAE No.1 Access over Goulter forestry road to Goulter River and Mount Richmond Forest Park Wairau Northbank.



Wairau PAE No. 4 Access over Bartlett's road to Quartz Creek and Mount Richmond Forest Park and connecting to Kiwi Road - Wairau Northbank



Wairau PAE 5 Access over Kiwi Road and Davies Road to Mount Richmond Forest Park Mt Riley Track - Onamalutu Valley - Wairau Northbank.



Wairau Forest PAE No.6 Access over Storeys Creek forestry road to Mount Richmond Forest Park.

6. Document Administration

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6.1. Approval

Approver	Position	Date
Shaun Truelock	General Manager NZ Forests	26/3/2024
Shaun Truelock	General Manager NZ Forests	30/4/2024
Shaun Truelock	General Manager NZ Forests	31/7/2025

6.2. Version History

Version number	Revision date	Revision author(s)	Revision notes
1	31/7/2020	Andrew Karalus	Replaces the old 2015 Hunting and Access policy that was out of date. This policy NZEV002 has a supplementary policy NZEV001.
2	26/03/2024	Alex Tolan	Review for currency. Updated to include PAE maps not previously included.
3	3/04/2024	Alex Tolan	Incorporate relevant comments received from Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa/Outdoor Access Commission.
4	31/07/2025	Jo Field	Add mountain biking permit access in Manuka Island forest, at request of Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa/Outdoor Access Commission.