

Name:	Mangamako Gorge	
Location:	NZ Topo BL35	
Description:	Mangamako Stream valley to the confluence with Rangitikei River. Incised river valley with exposed rocky escarpments and dense indigenous vegetation.	
ONL/ONF/SAF:	Outstanding Natural Feature	
Natural Science:	Geological/ Geomorphological:	Representative of deeply incised valleys which characterise the area and are unique to the surrounds. The gorge is expressive of the erosion process of the stream through the sedimentary soils, resulting in a meandering watercourse with exposed rock outcrops or white mudstone bluffs that contrast with the surrounding pastoral landscape.
	Biological/Ecological:	Indigenous forest remnants on valley sides, which enhances ecological value and water quality, increasing ecosystem health and mauri, while also creating a habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife. Mangamako Gorge is listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002), Appendix 1B (SA41). The Horizons Regional Council recommends the Mangamako Stream for trout spawning value in the Manawatū-Wanganui Region, with both brown and rainbow trout residing in the stream. Predictive modelling research by NIWA also shows that kōaro could be expected the Mangamako Stream (which are unique to tributary streams), while freshwater mussels, red-finned bullies, and rare longfin and shortfin eel have been recorded as present.
	Hydrological:	This gorge services a wide agricultural catchment area and contributes ecosystem functionality through erosion control and the maintenance of water quality and transportation of mauri before runoff reaches the Rangitikei River. During the summer the Mangamako Stream only flows intermittently.
Perceptual:	Memorability:	Highly memorable feature due to the extent of indigenous vegetation filling the deeply incised valley which contrasts dramatically with the surrounding modified pastoral landscape. This landscape feature has a high degree of memorability and an expressive gorge entrance where it connects to the Rangitikei River.
	Legibility/Expressiveness:	Complex landform features that are expressive of the erosion processes of the Mangamako Stream demonstrated by its steeply incised character and tall escarpments.
	Transient:	Deep gorges likely to have some impact on microclimatic conditions, such as creation of mist on colder mornings. Fauna present in indigenous vegetation.
	Aesthetic:	Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the valley system has a high degree of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in high aesthetic value. The combination of indigenous vegetation cover with the incised valley system has significance within the district through their rarity. A Powerco pole line crosses a southern arm of the feature with minimal effect.
	Naturalness:	High degree of perceived naturalness in the gully. Naturalness significantly contributed to by the extent of indigenous vegetation and expressiveness of the stream's erosion process. Provides an important ecological node along the Rangitikei River wildlife corridor.
Associational:	Historical:	Unknown.
	Tangata Whenua:	Mangamako Gorge is an area of interest under the Settlement Act for Ngāti Apa, Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Hauiti. Part of the area that Ngāti Apa asserted mana included from the confluence of the Makohine Stream and Rangitikei River, then south a short distance to the mouth of the Mangamako Stream. Additionally, in a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are assumed to be important.
	Shared/Recognised:	Mangamako Gorge is adjacent to the Rangitikei River which is widely recognised for its fishing opportunities.
	Recreation:	Limited opportunities for the public to experience this feature, along fishing does occur further upstream in the Mangamako Stream.
Summary of Key Characteristics:	High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the Mangamako Stream incised landform, which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use, and the limited built modification. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the ecological and water quality values and overall perceptions of naturalness. An existing Powerco pole line crosses a southern arm of the feature.	
Potential Issues:	The steeply incised valley system filled with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discourage loss of native vegetation; discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development. 	

ONFL4 - Outstanding Natural Feature - Mangamako Gorge

