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Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: 11001/018	Property Name: <i>Big River Company Ltd</i> Site Name: <i>Big River Company Ltd SNA G</i>	Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis</i> Date: <i>17 November 2011</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis and Ralph Henderson</i>		Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area): <i>See plan attached for location information.</i>	
LENZ Units: <i>N5.1c</i> Ecological District: <i>Lindis Ecological District & Pisa Ecological District.</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>No photos.</i>	
Topography: <i>Terrace rise</i>	Slope: <i>Moderate to steep</i>	Altitude: <i>300 to 314 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>East</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Acutely Threatened</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>4.54</i>	
Representativeness: Based on ecological modeling undertaken by Walker <i>et al.</i> (2003) the Clutha Basin is understood to have supported a kanuka-kowhai woodland, which may also have included a range of coprosma, matagouri, shrubby wineberry, native brooms and <i>Muehlenbeckia</i> species. The vegetation cover of the site is dominated by kanuka and is therefore considered highly representative of the pre-settlement vegetation in this environment.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status. <i>No threatened species are expected, although the eastern falcon may hunt in the area, which is classified as At Risk.</i>			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>None Observed</i>			
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: Kanuka woodland with some small areas of short tussock grassland dominated by introduced grasses. Degree of Modification: The lack of shrubland diversity suggests the vegetation has been the subject of multiple fire events, which have removed some species including kowhai and a range of coprosma and olearia.			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: Kanuka woodland is expected to provide habitat for a range of common native bird and lizard species.			

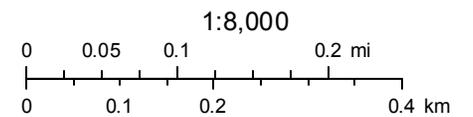
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):</p> <p>Key threats include inadvertent fire events, germinating seedlings browsed by pests such as rabbits and possums, and the invasion of woody weeds and wilding conifers.</p>
<p>Rarity:</p> <p>The threatened environment classification identifies the N5.1c environment to have 2.7 % indigenous vegetation cover remaining and 0.8 % formally protected.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):</p> <p>Given the kanuka woodland has re-established in the area following multiple historical disturbance events it is very likely that the woodland is sustainable.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):</p> <p>The area consists of two vegetation communities: kanuka woodland and short tussock grassland.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?):</p> <p>Indigenous vegetation adjacent to the Clutha River is distinctive given the lack of indigenous vegetation cover left within this environment.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):</p> <p>It is in close proximity to kanuka stands in the Rekos Point Conservation Area and other kanuka stands adjacent to the Clutha River.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):</p> <p>The kanuka woodland is considered sustainable. There is the potential for the community to develop as other native shrubland species associated with kanuka woodland are in close proximity to the proposed SNA.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline):</p> <p>Although the vegetation has lost some of its original diversity, the ecological community is representative of this environment and given the lack of indigenous vegetation cover left adjacent to the Clutha River we recommend the vegetation that remains should have a higher level of protection than currently afforded by the District Plan and taken forward for further consideration as Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Big River Company Ltd SNA G - E18G.



February 5, 2015

- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.