

892451

Scarp - Fish River

Although this land system has many similarities to the scarp - Great Western Tier Land System it occurs in a higher rainfall zone and differs geologically. Extending from Western Bluff to Howells Bluff, along the escarpment and north western boundary of the study area the land system is underlain by Quaternary doleritic talus deposits. There are restricted occurrences of Precambrian metamorphic rocks and Permian-Triassic sediments. The land system consists of three slope components which combine to give it a general concave form. Boulder deposits can occur throughout, but are mainly restricted to the upper slope components where they typically occur under cliff faces. These areas are often devoid of vegetation or carry thickets of *Nothofagus cunninghamii* dwarf 'elfin' forest, together with *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Olearia pinifolia*, *Drimys lanceolata* and *Orites* spp.

Stony, gravelly yellowish brown gradational soils are typical of all components while textures of the B horizons may vary from light clays and clay loams in upper slope regions to light medium clay and light clay on lower slopes. Evidence for relatively deep fertile soils can be found in the tall forests dominated by the ash species *Eucalyptus delegatensis*. If fires could be precluded the wet sclerophyll or mixed forest in the area would probably revert to rainforest with *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Atherosperma moschatum* and *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius* and possibly *Eucryphia lucida*. On exposed upper slopes relatively tall (20-30 m) *Eucalyptus coccifera* dominate over *E delegatensis* with common understorey species including *Hakea lissosperma* and *Bedfordia salicina*.

Land use includes recreation, forestry and hydro-electric power generation. The major hazard facing this area is sheet erosion on the steeper slopes.

LAND-SYSTEM

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Area(ha):13482



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION(%)	20	40	40
RAINFALL(mm)	Approximate Annual Rainfall: 2000-2500		
GEOLOGY	Pleistocene periglacial deposits (Jurassic dolerite talus)		
TOPOGRAPHY		Mountainous Escarpment	
Position	Rocky Lower slopes	Rocky Mid Slopes	Steep (boulder) Upper slopes (21:56)
Typical Slope(°)	10-15	20-30	60-70 (90 in places)
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	(Tall) Open Forest-Open Forest	(Tall) Open Forest	Open Forest
Floristic Association (See Appendix 1 for common names)	Eucalyptus delegatensis Pomaderris apetala Phebalium squameum Bedfordia salicina Pultenaea juniperina	Eucalyptus delegatensis E. dalrympleana Acacia dealbata Nothofagus cunninghamii Pomaderris apetala Phebalium squameum HaKea lissosperma Leptospermum lanigerum Telopea truncata Helichrysum antennarium Cassinia aculeata	Eucalyptus cocclifera E. delegatensis Nothofagus cunninghamii Leptospermum lanigerum Olearia pinifolia Drimys lanceolata Orites acicularis O. revoluta Hakea lissosperma Bedfordia salicina Olearia phlogopappa Coprosma
SOIL			
Surface(A)Texture	Clay Loam	Loam-Silt Loam-Clay Loam	Loam-Sandy Clay Loam
B Horizon(subsoil) Colour (wet) Texture and primary profile	Stony, gravelly, dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) to dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) light clay to light medium clay. Gradational.	Stony, gravelly, dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) to strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) clay loam to light clay. Gradational.	Stony, gravelly, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) clay loam to light clay. Gradational.
Permeability	Moderate-Low	Moderate	Moderate
Typical depth(m)	>0.30	>1.00	>0.50
Depth(A)Horizon(m)	0.05-0.10	0.10-0.20	0.10-0.20
LAND USE	Recreation, forestry, hydro-electric power generation		
HAZARDS	Low to moderate sheet erosion, moderate rill and gully erosion		