

JNL
JUKEN NEW ZEALAND LTD

EAST COAST FORESTS

HCVF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2026

Mick Murphy Oct - 2026

1 Summary

A full HCVF assessment of JNL East Coast forests was completed during 2025. The result of this assessment was that 4 new HCV areas were identified. Management and monitoring plans were developed for these areas by an external consultant in 2026. Each plan outlines a comprehensive list of monitoring requirements which will be implemented over 2026/27. The following is a summary of the work completed to date.

2 HCVF Areas

Totara Native Forest Remnants

Native forest remnants in Totara were originally classified as HCV in 2020. The following table outlines the monitoring criteria for this HCV. This block was designated as High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) under HCV 3, recognising its representation of rare and regionally significant lowland forest ecosystems. An external consultant was brought in to complete several of the monitoring criteria, this was completed in August with the help of JNL staff. This work is covered in a separate report.

Indicator	Method	Frequency	Date Completed
Forest condition	FORMAK field assessment	Every 2 years	August 26th –28th 2026 - external
Understorey regeneration	Seedling transects (see Appendix I)	Every 2 years	August 26th –28th 2026 - external
Invasive plant cover	Surveillance walks	Annually	August 26th –28th 2026 - external
Stock exclusion efficacy	Fence inspection; browse sign assessment	Ongoing	August 26th –28th 2026 - internal
Bird activity	Five-minute bird counts; presence/absence, or acoustic monitoring	Annual	August 26th –28th 2026 - external
Bat presence	Acoustic monitoring	Every 5 years	Tentatively scheduled for 2027
Aquatic condition	eDNA and visual fish and stream assessments	Every 2 years	Tentatively scheduled for 2027
Photopoint monitoring	Fixed-position ground photographs at marked locations, capturing understorey and forest condition. Supplemented by drone imagery for canopy cover.	Every 2 years	Tentatively scheduled for 2027

Pest Control

- Bait stations in lower remnants filled with double tap in May, the upper remnants were filled in September.
- Deployed 5 AT220 auto traps in Totara remnants
- Approximately 25 deer and 60 goats have been culled to date in 2026.





Photopoint – Totara taken in 2023 and 2026

Grassmere Wetland (SH2)

Grassmere wetland is a new HCV identified in the 2025 assessment. The assessment determined the wetland falls under HCV categories 1 and 3. The following table outlines the monitoring criteria for this HCV and the progress to date.

Indicator	Method	Frequency	Completed
Forest condition	FORMAK field assessment	Every 2 years	TBC in 2027
Understorey regeneration	Seedling transects (see Appendix I)	Every 2 years	TBC in 2027
Invasive plant cover	Surveillance walks	Annually	Wildling pine control completed in June 2026
Stock exclusion efficacy	Fence inspection; browse sign assessment	Ongoing	ongoing
Bird activity	Five-minute bird counts; presence/absence, or acoustic monitoring	Annual	TBC in December 2026 – playback for Spotless crake completed in October 2026
Bat presence	Acoustic monitoring	Every 5 years	TBC in Nov 2026. Previous bat survey completed in Nov 2019.
Aquatic condition	eDNA	Every 2 years	eDNA completed October 2026
Photopoint monitoring	Fixed-position ground photographs at marked locations, capturing understorey and forest condition. Supplemented by drone imagery for canopy cover.	Every 2 years	Drone footage completed in September 2026



Grassmere Wetland drone photo Sept 2026

2026 Activities

- Wildling pine removal in June 2026
- Goat culling in April and October 2026
- Feratox baits put out throughout Grassmere forest in September.
- 3 At220 traps deployed in June 2026 (10 ship rats and 4 possums)
- Drone overview flight

Wharerata Wetland

Wharerata wetland is a new HCV identified in the recent assessment. The assessment determined the wetland falls under HCV categories 1 and 3. The following table outlines the monitoring criteria for this HCV.

Indicator	Method	Frequency	Completion Date
Fernbird presence	Detection by any appropriate method (call-playback, field recording, or observation) by an observer familiar with Fernbird. Surveys focused on dawn and dusk. See Appendix II.	Annually, Nov–Jan	Playback in October with no response.
Predator activity	Tracking tunnels along wetland perimeter trap line; trap catch records maintained jointly by JNL and GDC.	Ongoing	2 At220 traps deployed, GDC has put out DOC 200 traps.
Forest understorey regeneration	Seedling transects in indigenous forest adjacent to the wetland (see Appendix I).	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Forest condition	FORMAK field assessment	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Weed cover	Surveillance walk of wetland margins and adjacent forest edges; photopoints.	Every 2 years	Drone flight completed in September
Wetland hydrology	WetMAK assessment and visual check of seepage inflow, outflow connectivity to Puninga Stream, and absence of artificial drainage or modification.	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Bird community — adjacent forest	Five-minute bird counts at fixed points within adjacent podocarp–broadleaf forest.	Every 2 years	TBC December 2026
Photopoint monitoring	Fixed-position photographs at marked locations around wetland margins and adjacent forest, capturing vegetation cover and condition. Supplemented by drone imagery for wetland extent and canopy cover.	Every 2 years	Drone flight completed in September 2026.



Whararata wetland drone photo – September 2026





Drone photos Wharerata Wetland Native Remnant Sept 2026

2026 Activities

- Contact made with Scott Sharp at GDC re HCV designation and to coordinate pest control. Scott's team put out several DOC200's. JNL has put out 2 AT220 traps. GDC biosecurity team also completed a pest control run that include the wetland where they culled 669 possums, 38 hares 2 rabbits and 2 cats.
- 40 Kahikatea trees planted around the JNL end of the wetland.
- Drone overview flights completed in September
- Approximately 8 hours of pine regen cutting completed
- Playback completed for fernbird in October, no response.

Pukeronui Wetland (Timatanga)

Wharerata wetland is a new HCV identified in the recent assessment. The assessment determined the wetland falls under HCV categories 1 and 3. The following table outlines the monitoring criteria for this HCV.

Indicator	Method	Frequency	Completion Date
Wetland condition	WetMAK assessment at each wetland; note vegetation cover, weed presence, and hydrology.	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Jovellana sinclairii presence	Check known locations; record extent and condition of plants	Annually	TBC 2027
Rifleman presence	Passive observation during site visits; five-minute bird counts at fixed points	Annually	Not detected during October visit.
Weed cover	Surveillance walk of wetland margins and seep areas	Annually	TBC 2027
Forest understorey regeneration	Seedling transects in forest areas adjacent to wetlands	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Forest condition	FORMAK field assessment	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Photopoint monitoring	Fixed-position photographs at marked locations capturing vegetation cover and hydrology. Supplemented by drone imagery for wetland extent and canopy cover.	Every 2 years	Drone footage captured in September 2026





Drone photos Pukeronui Wetlands September 2026

2026 Activities

- Drone flights completed in September.
- 2 auto traps deployed – stoat found killed Sept 26th 2026
- Feratox put out the week of October 19th 2026

Kopuawhara / Mahanga Forest

Kopuawhara forest is a new HCV identified in the recent assessment. The assessment determined the native remnant falls under HCV categories 3. The following table outlines the monitoring criteria for this HCV.

Indicator	Method	Frequency	Completion Date
Forest condition	FORMAK field assessment	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Understorey regeneration	Seedling transects (see Appendix I)	Every 2 years	TBC 2027
Ungulate and possum activity	Chew cards, pellet counts, tracking tunnels	Annually	Pest control run completed in November 2026
Invasive weed cover	Track-margin surveillance walks	Annually	December 2026
Freshwater ecological condition (sediment, biota, buffer)	clarity tube reading. TICI (Taxon-Independent Community Index) score for stream health. Every 2 years, and following any adjacent harvest.	Every 2 years; and within 12 months post-harvest in adjacent compartments	Sampling has been completed in the upper Kopuawhara (Waiau Stream), lower will be completed in December 2026
Canopy cover	Aerial imagery review (Drone or aerial/satellite)	Every 2 years	To be completed December 2026
Photopoint monitoring	Fixed-position ground photographs at marked locations (GPS coordinates and bearing recorded), capturing understorey and forest condition. Supplemented by drone imagery for canopy cover.	Every 2 years	To be completed December 2026.