Submission Writing Instructions

Don’t worry this will be (very) easy and won’t take long. The template is at the end of this document.

WHY

It is really important you write a submission! *They do make a difference*. If, as a community, we get together and send hundreds of submissions to explain how important the West Coast rivers are to us, we will deliver the message to Government that these rivers deserve proper, permanent, protection. As an example: the 4000 odd submissions against the original Waitaha hydro proposal had much more impact than the hundred or so which were in support of the dam.

This submission is your chance to add the personal touch to why we should protect West Coast rivers. WWNZ has the legal and political stuff covered for you, we now need you to write these to provide the personal and emotional backing for our arguments.
Now is our chance to be heard, so *please* write a submission.

We have done the research for you, you can read all the details here (or just plough on with a submission, back yourself):
https://whitewater.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/West-Coast-Land-Reclassification-WWNZ-Commentary.pdf

HOW

Scroll down and fill out our template below.

1. **Contact Details**
    a. Fill in your name, and contact details including ***where you are from,*** city/ town is fine.
2. **Introduction**

    a. Under introduction, write who you are writing on behalf of (yourself? A group of friends? A family? A club?) and a little about yourself. Include how long you have paddled and how regularly you paddle on the west coast, or why west coast paddling is important to you.
    b. This is a good chance to add details about other recreation you do in the area (maybe you're a climber, canyoner or avid tramper) make sure you include this.
3. **Context**
    a. We have done this for you.
4. **Hearing**
    a. Under "Hearing in person" you can select whether or not you would like to present your submission to a panel of DOC staff.
    b. I generally say I want to be heard, then turn them down later if I change my mind
5. **General Comments:**
    a. We did the first one. If you want to add more, go for it.
        i. "I really think you should listen to us paddlers because we are so strongly connected to these spaces" or "West Coast is the Best Coast for paddling" are great. Freestyle it.

6. **Unsupported Recommendations: This is the important bit.**
    a. Replace the words in the last box (in red) with a land classification you would prefer/ support. If in doubt refer to the first page of the commentary.
    b. After each recommendation, you will see we have put in a comment, add another one, or as many as you like. **Personal and emotional is what we need.** For example:
        i. *"The first West Coast River I ever paddled was the Whataroa, me and my friends had a truly remarkable time in those beautiful gorges. I have ever since been in love with paddling on the West Coast. I want to make sure that this river is permanently protected, so my children and theirs after that, can have equally life changing experiences in these gorges."* - that is enough.

    c. Add as much as you like into these, more details of your trips into these gorges the better. More examples of teaching, mentoring, positive experiences you've had in there the better. But most importantly it just needs ***a personal touch***, it doesn't need to be complicated or legal – WWNZ has that one covered for you.
7. **Submit it!**
    a. Save it as a PDF,
    b. Send an email with it attached to stewardshiplandreclassification@doc.govt.nz and with the subject line: West Coast stewardship land reclassification.
8. **Peer pressure your friends to do the same.**
9. **Crack a beer, you've just helped permanently protect wild rivers on the West Coast, you legend.**

If you get stuck or confused, get in touch with Hamish Darling via Facebook or email: president@whitewater.nz, he's super happy to help.

Contact Details:

1. Introduction

(introduction/description of the person/club/group making this submission, any relevant qualifications or expertise, interests etc)

2. Context

This submission has is primarily focussed on those areas that the authors have a connection with, through multiple trips to the area, immersion in these remote environments and exploration of gorges and river valleys. Many of the magnificent West Coast gorges are impossible to access or even view without a suitable boat, usually a modern plastic kayak, but increasingly for many people, a pack-raft. These are self-organised, non-commercial trips to areas of immense beauty and personal challenge, leaving an indescribable yet indelible change to one's perspective that cannot be erased or ignored.

The experience of exploration and travel on the wild rivers of the West Coast over the last five or so decades has resulted in the growth of a deep pool of knowledge shared among the whitewater community. Those areas being reclassified that sit outside of our domain of expertise and/or interest have not been commented on.

3. Hearing in person

I wish (to/ not be) be heard (in person/ via video call) to speak to (my/our) points below.

4. General Comments on the Stewardship Reclassification Recommendations

1. I understand the need for reclassification, however am disappointed at the lack of recreation research done to aid the process. I expect as a (paddler/club/ etc.) my perspective should provide some of the missing perspective from the reclassification process.

5. Unsupported Recommendations

The following recommendations are either not supported or partially supported. The rationale and perspective is provided, along with our own recommended classification.

Assessment Area	NaPALIS ID	Impacted Rivers/ Catchments	National Panel Recommendation	Mana Whenua Panel Recommendation	Submitters Recommendation
HOK_19	2805713	Hokitika, Mungo, Toaroha, Kokatahi, Styx, Taipo	Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve	Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve	***Insert your preferred classification here***
1. The northern sections of the Wanganui Otira catchments contain one of the most significant clusters of wild rivers with outstanding recreational values for whitewater kayakers and packrafters, worldwide. 2. This recommendation is important to me/us because…					

MAW_09	2809665 & 2805503	Granville Forest, Grey River/Māwheranui, Otira–Kopara Forest, Robinson River, Crane Creek – Haupiri Road (and Tārere – Crooked River)	Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve	Tarahanga e Toru Historic Reserve	***Insert your preferred classification here***
1. This area of land includes the very popular Crooked River, which despite its challenging access, many paddlers persevere the walk-in to spend time in this amazing riverscape. 2. This recommendation is important to me/us because…					

HOK_49	2805518 2805635	Kakapotahi (Access)	Conservation Park (Waitaha)	Neutral – disposal of pastural land	***Insert your preferred classification here***
1. The Kakapotahi river (Little Waitaha) is a road accessible grade 3 -4 whitewater river, that is navigable over a wide range of flows. The upper Kakapotahi is a higher grade section, also road accessible with a more narrow flow window. This parcel of land includes part of Happy Valley Road, used to access the river, along with some pastoral land, used by paddlers to get in and out of the river. 2. This recommendation is important to me/us because…					

HOK_52	2805641	Waitaha River	Conservation Park (Waitaha)	Stewardship	***Insert your preferred classification here***

1. Much has been written on the Waitaha river, the white water value and the Outstanding Natural Landscapes that surround this area, this submission does not need to add to this body of thorough research.

2. (I/We support/ don't support) the National Panel Recommendation to reclassify the area as a Conservation Park to appropriately protect the outstanding recreational, landscape and ecological values for current and future generations.

TWP_05	2809665 & 2805503	Perth & Whataroa Rivers	Conservation Park (Te Taho & Mapouriki)	Neutral	***Insert your preferred classification here***

1. The Perth and Whataroa rivers provide excellent whitewater for intermediate and advanced paddlers at low to moderate flows. The rivers are often a best option in the drier summer months when other rivers can be too low to navigate safely.
2. This recommendation is important to me/us because…