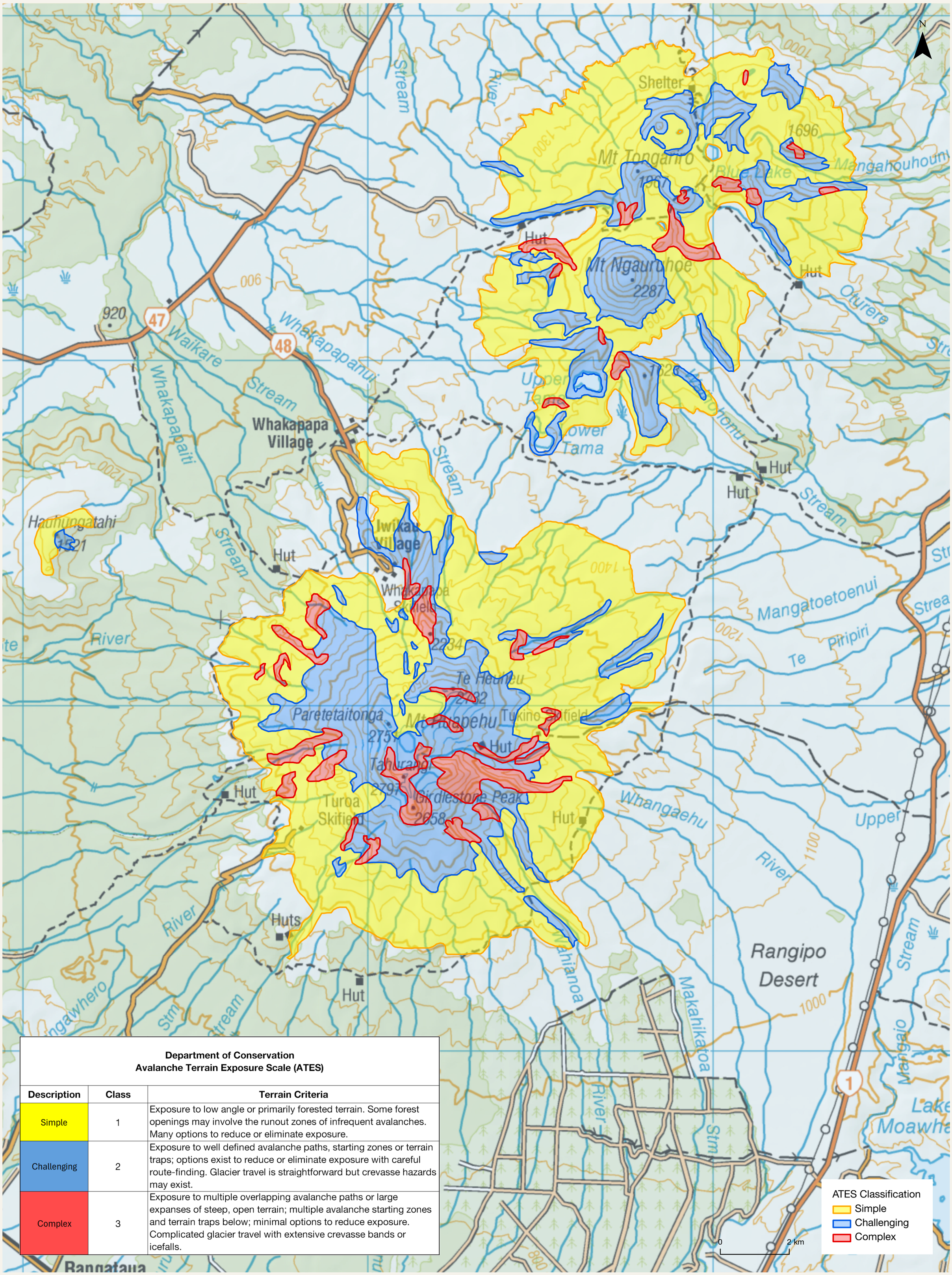

Department of Conservation
Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES)

Description	Class	Terrain Criteria
Simple	1	Exposure to low angle or primarily forested terrain. Some forest openings may involve the runout zones of infrequent avalanches. Many options to reduce or eliminate exposure.
Challenging	2	Exposure to well defined avalanche paths, starting zones or terrain traps; options exist to reduce or eliminate exposure with careful route-finding. Glacier travel is straightforward but crevasse hazards may exist.
Complex	3	Exposure to multiple overlapping avalanche paths or large expanses of steep, open terrain; multiple avalanche starting zones and terrain traps below; minimal options to reduce exposure. Complicated glacier travel with extensive crevasse bands or icefalls.

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale Map (ATES)

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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