Kahurangi consultation 2018-19

Consultation on possible control methods

Because of the limited available options for effective control of the target pest species, the decision was made that the consultation on possible control methods would not be undertaken. The limit on the viable options is due to the primary target species, the size of the treatment area and the time constraints for effective control.

In addition, a significant proportion of the consultation audience were part of the Battle for our Birds 2014, 2016 and 2017 Kahurangi programmes. A smaller audience, primarily concessionaire and recreational groups were contacted as part of the Lower Heaphy 2018 operation.

Consultation with iwi, hunting groups and several conservation groups was carried out by DOC, with all other consultation and notification completed by Vector Free Marlborough Limited (VFML).

It is considered that direct consultation with landowners and other interest groups in the surrounding communities achieves more effective consultative outcomes than public meetings, particularly given a relatively high level of understanding within the community from earlier Battle for our Birds operations in the area.

Consultation on effects

Consultation was carried out by DOC and VFML between December 2018 and May 2019.

Examples of consultation letters and fact sheets can be found below:

1. *Consultation fact sheet*
2. *DOC letter to iwi*
3. *VFML letter to landowners, community groups, concessionaire etc*

The following table shows the number of each type of stakeholder consulted.

Type of stakeholder	Number consulted	Consultant	Reason for consultation	Method of consultation
Iwi	11	DOC	Iwi are considered a key partner in all significant management decisions. Some are also landowners.	Letter and offer of meeting. Several groups took up offer of meeting and asked questions.
Conservation groups	2	DOC	To inform of proposal and obtain views on possible use of deer repellent	Letter and meetings to discuss deer repellent
Hunting and fishing groups	5	DOC	Potential impact on hunting and fishing activities in operation area and surrounding area.	Letter and meetings (national and local level)

Bee industry	7	VFML	Concern that bee industry may be affected	Letter/email
Conservation groups	4	VFML	To inform of proposal	Letter/email
Conservation boards	2	VFML	Co-support for shared biodiversity objectives	Letter/email
Concessionaire	103	VFML	Potential impact on activities	Letter/email
DOC	2	VFML	Co-support for shared biodiversity objectives	Letter/email
Hunting and fishing groups	3	VFML	Potential impact on hunting and fishing activities in operation area and surrounding area.	Letter/email
Landowners/ occupiers	117	VFML	Within 3km of operation area or 2016 water issues	In-person visits. Where property unoccupied, phone, email or letter used instead.
Schools	51	VFML	Exposure of pupils to operation area. Potential impact on activities.	Letter/email

Consultation outcomes

Iwi
DOC met with several iwi groups to provide more information and answered questions from several others. Consultation is ongoing with meetings and provision of information as requested

Landowners
VFML visited the owners or occupiers of all property within the proposed operation area, and at least the nearest adjoining property. Matters were discussed including potable water supplies, stock containment issues and the safety of companion animals. In some instances, VFML agreed to provide emetic pills and/or dog muzzles to help dog owners to manage risk during and after the control period.

Other parties

There was a request from hunting groups for deer repellent bait to be used in the Cobb/Flora area, as had occurred in aerial 1080 operations in the area in 2014 and 2016.

The location and extent of the deer repellent area was recommended by the hunting groups at a national level with consideration of deer repellent use elsewhere as part of the 2019 Tiakina Nga Manu predator control programme.

Some stakeholders opposed the use of deer repellent. DOC took all views into consideration when making a decision on the deer repellent area.

Notification

Pre-operation notification was carried out by VFML in accordance with the regulatory condition timeframes. Examples of the notification documentation can be found below:

4. *Notification fact sheet*
5. *Pre-operation Notification letter*
6. *Public notice*

Notification of imminent commencement (email/phone)

The following table shows the parties additional to those involved in consultation who received a pre-operation notification.

Type of stakeholder	Number notified	Notifier	Reason for notification
Animal care professionals	4	VFML	Information to respond to possible poisoning
Concessionaires	43	VFML	Not directly impacted
Consent providers	18	VFML	Regulatory requirements
DOC	5	VFML	To keep informed of operation in co-managed KNP
Game meat processors	18	VFML	Potential impact
Hunting and fishing groups	3	VFML	National level discussion
Landowners	3	VFML	Outside area of impact
Local government /regulator	5	VFML	Regulatory requirements
Medical professionals	13	VFML	Information to respond to possible poisoning
Schools	37	VFML	Outside consultation area
Police	10	VFML	Potential security or protest issues
Media	7	VFML	Public advisory
Recreation groups	20	VFML	Potential impact on activities
Visitor information centres	11	VFML	Potential impact on visitors

Protect our species
Kahurangi National Park

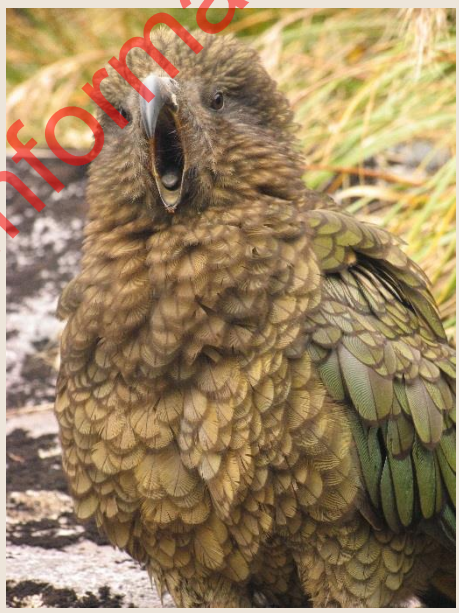
TIAKINA NGĀ MANU
Protect our birds

Successful pest control over recent years

Following recent predator control operations in Kahurangi National Park there are more results for the outcome benefits for several native species from the use of 1080 in the park and elsewhere including kea and rock wren/tuke.

Kea

Nesting success (where chicks survive to fledge) improved from just 2% (between 2009 and 2014) to 50% after the aerial 1080 operations in 2014 and 2016. This accords with results at other sites. A recently published study of kea in rimu forest on the West Coast (between Paringa and Whataroa) showed that kea were nine times more likely to survive and successfully produce chicks after an aerial 1080 operation than without.



Female kea. *Photo: Herb Christophers*

Rock Wren

The tiny reclusive rock wren/tuke has been tracked over several years following the 2014 and 2016 predator control in Kahurangi National Park. Rock wren raised three times more chicks the year after an aerial 1080 operation than birds in a non-treatment area. The next season they raised five times more chicks than the comparison area, showing the benefits lasted over two breeding seasons. When field staff went back in 2016 to the site where aerial 1080 was not used, they found the rock wren population had dropped from 25 birds to just two.

Rock wren. Photo: Craig Mckenzie

Outcome monitoring

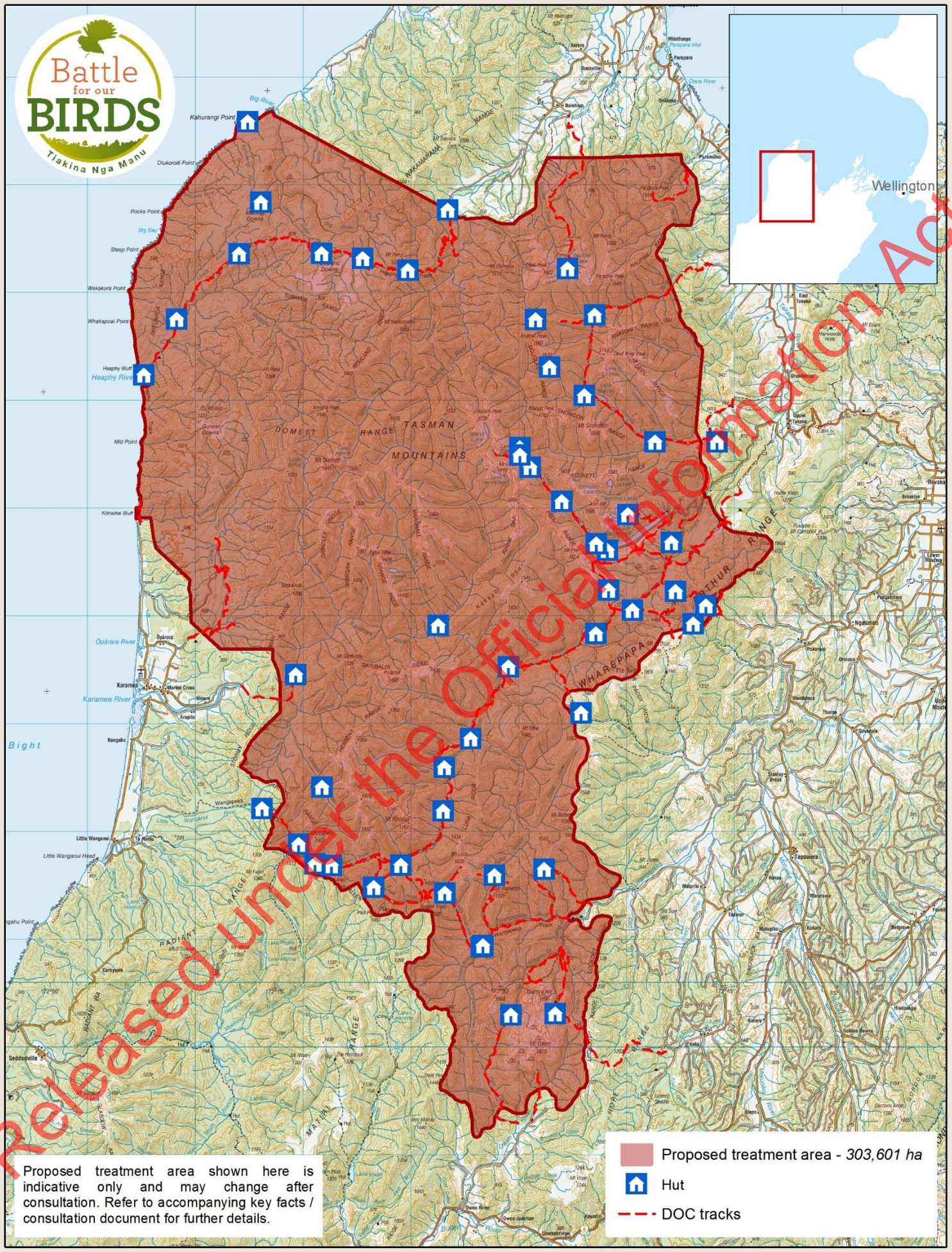
DOC's monitoring for outcomes takes time and results are not always available in the season that the pest control takes place. The research is often very resource-intensive so not all species can be monitored in all places that we control pests. However, the results for species at one site generally hold true for other areas. For more monitoring results see: https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/proof-that-1080-is-saving-our-species/

2019 – The threat to species continues

Extensive seeding of beech trees is likely to occur again in 2019 but on an even larger scale. We have a major pest problem on our hands.

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government



5 km

Scale at A4 = 1:450,000
NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator
Not for navigation

Basemap : LINZ Topo250 / 50
DOC, Geospatial Services
26/11/2018

N

Kahurangi

Aerial Predator Control 2019

Proposed treatment area: *303,601 ha*

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

Q:\GIS_Analysts\Projects\Tasks\BFOB\Kahurangi\Kahurangi_KeyFacts_A4_Overview.mxd

In for the long haul. Landsborough success.

Research shows there are positive results for many native birds from predator control. A 20-year study in the Landsborough valley in South Westland has recorded a doubling of native birdlife after valley-wide trapping and six aerial 1080 operations over that time.
See further details on: www.doc.govt.nz

Whio. *Photo: Herb Christophers*

Kahurangi sites and values

Where heavy seed fall occurs, we can expect predator numbers to soar. To be ready to protect native species at risk, DOC is planning predator control in approximately 300,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park to protect, among others, the following native species:

Whio

- Whio (blue duck) live in fast flowing rivers in many parts of Kahurangi National Park.
- Stoats are predators of whio especially during the breeding season and have been filmed attacking female whio on the nest and robbing eggs.
- Where DOC has done pest control, whio have thrived. In Tongariro Forest, the area under regular pest control has led to a need to expand the protected areas to accommodate the extra fledglings.
- Where aerial 1080 has been used in New Zealand whio are doing well, from Tongariro to Milford.

Great spotted kiwi. *Photo: Rod Morris*

Great spotted kiwi

- Great spotted kiwi or roroa, is the largest of our kiwi species and is an iconic Kahurangi resident. Despite their size, chicks are still vulnerable to stoats until they are big enough to defend themselves. Many mainland populations of kiwi are declining because stoats kill most of their chicks.
- Elsewhere, where effective predator control is carried out, kiwi populations can be stabilized. 1080 control of stoats especially over large areas is the most effective method. Following the use of 1080 in Whangarei Kiwi Sanctuary where trapping alone had failed to halt the decline, chick survival at one site increased from 5% to 56%, and at another site chick survival was 62% compared to 20% at an area with only trapping.

A range of pest control methods will be used including traps and toxins

Aerial application of 1080 baits is the most cost-effective predator control method over large areas. It is the only viable method in remote or rugged terrain. In more accessible areas, traps or bait stations will be laid, depending of the density of pest populations. High predator numbers can overwhelm trapping networks in some areas. In those cases, aerial 1080 pest control will supplement existing trapping.

Aerial 1080 pest control will target rats, but stoats will also be killed through eating poisoned rodent carcasses. Operations begin with an aerial pre-feed of non-toxic baits to encourage rats to eat the 1080 baits that are applied later.

Time frame

Operations will be triggered as rodent populations reach monitored thresholds. Because of the size of Kahurangi, the operation will be divided into smaller operational blocks and carried out at different times. Operations, which are weather dependent, will take place when they are most effective between June and November. Dates will vary between sites and will be confirmed closer to operations taking place.

Planning

The management of the Kahurangi 2019 predator control programme has been contracted to Vector Free Marlborough Ltd. (VFML). Before operations begin, VFML staff will contact affected neighbours, community groups and other interested parties, put up warning signs and advertise in local newspapers. Use of 1080 requires the consent of the Environmental Protection Authority, and permission from the Ministry of Health. The process includes an assessment of environmental effects (AEE) to safeguard the public and the environment.

What you need to know

The Department of Conservation complies with all relevant regulations and takes a precautionary approach to the aerial application of pesticides.

- *The 1080 cereal baits are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped and are dyed* ***green.***
- *Non-toxic pre-feed cereal pellets are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped but are* ***fawn-coloured*** *(not dyed).*

Managing Risk

Dogs in particular are highly susceptible to 1080. The risk to dogs from poisoned carcases will remain until they have completely rotted, perhaps for more than 6 months.

Precautionary approach

Risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- *DO NOT touch bait*
- *WATCH CHILDREN at all times*
- *DO NOT EAT animals from this area*
- *Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS*

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. Warning signs indicate pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. If in doubt, check with your local DOC office.

More information

Vector Free Marlborough Limited
Free phone: 0508 548 008
Email: communications@vectorfree.co.nz
Website: http://www.vectorfree.co.nz

What to do if you suspect poisoning

Contact emergency services: 111
National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766

December 2018
Also see www.doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

4 December 2018

[Name]
[Address]

Kia ora,

Predictive climate modelling and observations of beech flowering over the past few months are showing that there is a high likelihood of a heavy beech seeding or mast occurring in 2019 throughout large parts of the South Island. This would cause rat and stoat numbers to escalate, threatening vulnerable populations of native species.

One of the areas where this mast is most likely to occur and where there are a large number of threatened stoat and/or rat-vulnerable species is Kahurangi National Park. Over the next 6 months we will be measuring beech seedfall and tracking the abundance of rats and stoats at key sites to determine the scale of the beech mast and rise in predator numbers. If a threshold is met it will trigger the need for predator control to protect the at-risk native species.

We are currently planning on an aerial 1080 operation starting in mid -winter 2019 in an area of Kahurangi National Park that is effectively the same as the 2016 Battle for our Birds programme. That operation supported populations of kiwi, kea and whio (among other species) during the rat and stoat plague at the time. Attached is draft map of the proposed area for 2019. The map shows the indicative boundaries of the operation. These boundaries are subject to change depending on site-specific rodent monitoring results and the outcomes of the consultation process.

Over the coming months, we will be conducting an extensive consultation process with iwi, landowners, the local community and other interested parties. Following this consultation, final operational plans will be prepared.

However, before we start any consultation with the wider community, I am writing to you as our main partner in our work to inform you of our planning as early as possible and to ask if you would like to meet so that we can listen to your views on this.

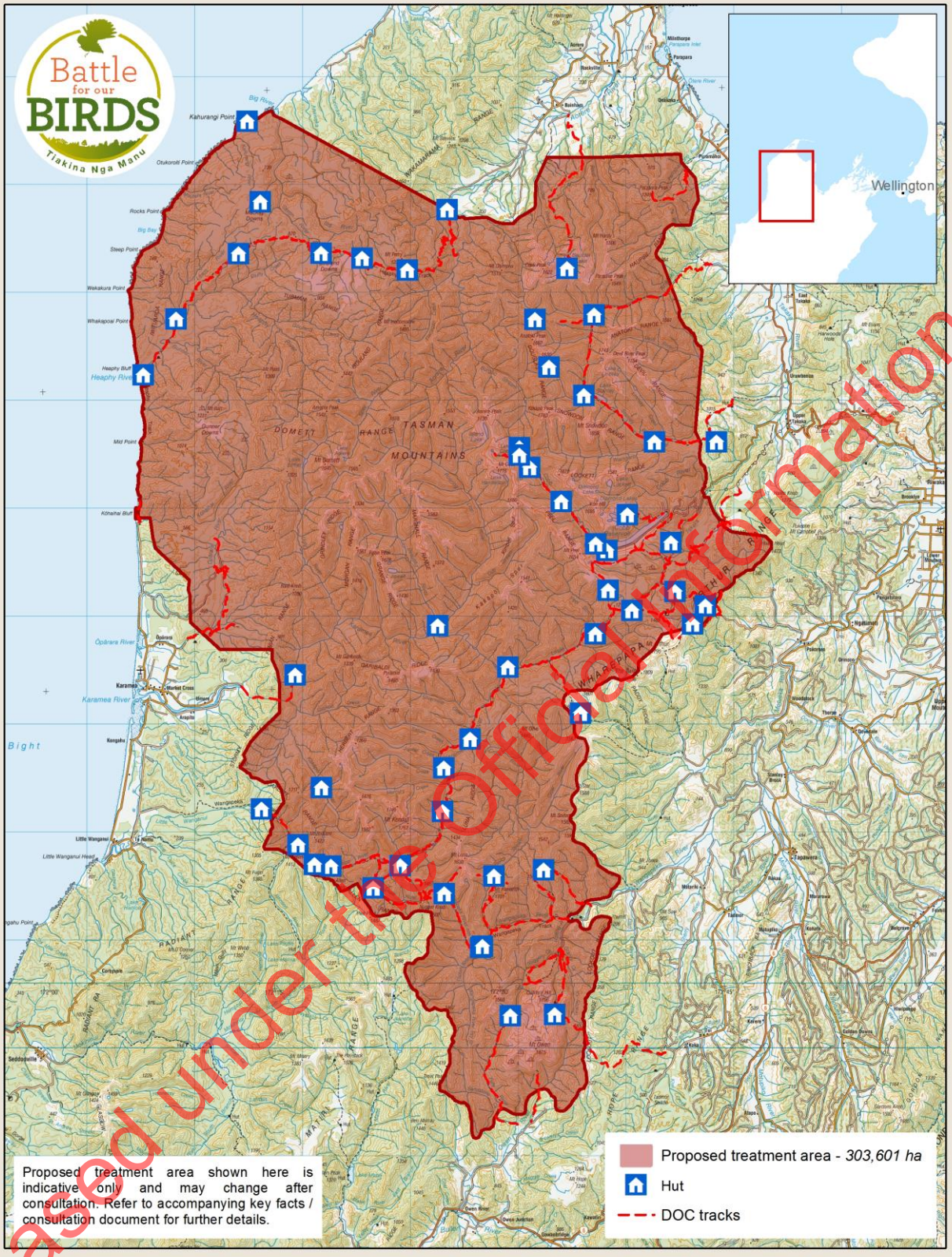
A factsheet containing further information on the proposed predator control operation in Kahurangi National Park will be drafted in the coming months and I will provide this information to you. However, if you would like more details of what is proposed, and especially if you would like to meet with us then please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*
Takaka Office
P O Box 166, Takaka 7142
www.doc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui

Ranger –Kahurangi Project Manager

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*
Takaka Office
P O Box 166, Takaka 7142
www.doc.govt.nz



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*
Takaka Office
P O Box 166, Takaka 7142
www.doc.govt.nz

Date

Add1
Add2
Add3
Add4

To Whom It May Concern

2019 KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK PREDATOR CONTROL OPERATION

Vector Free Marlborough Limited (VFML) wishes to advise that it has been engaged by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to manage delivery of an aerial pest control project in Kahurangi National Park during 2019.

Predictive climate modelling and observations of beech flowering by DOC over the past few months indicate that there is a high likelihood of a heavy mast (beech seeding) event occurring throughout large parts of the South Island next year. This seeding event will potentially cause a significant rise in populations of rodents and stoats, threatening vulnerable populations of native species.

One of the areas where this mast is most likely to occur and where there is a number of threatened species vulnerable to predation is Kahurangi National Park. Over the next six months DOC will be measuring beech seedfall and tracking the abundance of rodents and stoats at key sites in the park to determine the scale of the beech mast and any corresponding rise in predator numbers. If a certain threshold is met it will trigger the need for predator control to protect the at-risk native species.

With the above in mind, VFML has been asked to prepare for an aerial 1080 operation in parts of Kahurangi National Park starting from May 2019 (refer factsheet enclosed).

Also enclosed is draft map of the proposed control area for 2019. The map shows indicative boundaries for the operation. These boundaries are subject to change depending on site-specific rodent monitoring results and outcomes of the consultation process. The provisional control area is effectively the same as the last Battle for our Birds programme carried out by DOC during 2016, which was successful in protecting vulnerable populations of kiwi, kea and whio (among other species) from predation by a plague of rodents and stoats.

The Kahurangi operation requires consent from the Community and Public Health West, Nelson Public Health Service and the Department of Conservation. To satisfy requirements for issue of such consents VFML will be conducting an extensive consultation process with iwi, landowners, the local community and other interested parties during the next few months. Final operational plans will be prepared following the completion of consultation and receipt of statutory consents.

Consultation with landowners / occupiers will mainly focus on properties directly adjoining the proposed control area, however depending upon matters such as water supplies and livestock containment properties further removed may also be affected.

Some recipients of this letter may not be contacted in person however we encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact VFML so we can determine whether follow-up is required. We are particularly keen to receive advice about any of the following matters:

- Water supplies for human potable use sourced from surface streams or springs originating in the control area.
- Uncontained livestock (where these have potential to access the control area).
- Third parties, such as tenants or lessees that occupy your property who may need to be consulted and / or notified.
- Community groups and other organised bodies undertaking enhancement projects within the proposed control area.
- Recreational groups such as tramping clubs, organised hunting associations etc that have a particular interest in any part of the proposed control area.
- Concessionaires such as graziers, tourism operators, fishing guides, commercial hunters etc with approval to carry out activities on DOC administered land within the proposed control area.

A VFML representative may contact you during the next few months to discuss the proposed operation, but regardless of whether consultation in person or other direct contact with VFML is necessary, all parties receiving this communication will be provided with notification nearer the time of operational commencement.

In the meantime, if you would like further detail about the proposed Kahurangi operation you are welcome to contact VFML directly per the following details:

Postal address	Vector Free Marlborough Limited Private Bag 1007 Blenheim 7240
Free phone	0508 548 008
Email	communications@vectorfree.co.nz
Website	http://www.vectorfree.co.nz

Yours sincerely,

Director, Vector Free Marlborough Limited
Approved contractor to DOC

Protect our species in **Kahurangi National Park**

TIAKINA NGĀ MANU
Battle for our birds

Pest control to protect native species from widespread predator plagues

The Department of Conservation will be carrying out aerial pest control over a large area of Kahurangi National Park from 6 May 2019 to protect native species from predator plagues that could decimate their populations.

This pest control is needed to protect the park's whio, rock wren/tuke, kea, kākā, great spotted kiwi, *Powelliphanta* snails, long-tailed bats/pekapeka and other vulnerable native species.

In many forest and tussock areas, very high seeding (known as a mast) in 2019 is providing more food for rodents fuelling rapid rises in their numbers. This in turn leads to increased stoat numbers due to the abundance of rodents to feed on.

Monitoring in Kahurangi National Park has shown escalating rat numbers that could reach plague proportions by late spring if not stopped. The pest control will target rats but will also curb rises in stoat numbers through their eating poisoned rodent carcasses

The aerial 1080 predator control will help protect native birds from predator attacks during their critical breeding season so more adults and chicks can survive to build populations.

Predator control works

In 2014 and 2016, DOC carried out aerial 1080 predator control over approximately 300,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park following similar mast events that led to rises in rat numbers. Monitoring showed rodents were reduced to low levels at most sites and stoat plagues were avoided.

Intensive species monitoring from these operations showed significantly higher rock wren and kea nesting success as a result the 1080 predator control. For more information go to https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/proof-that-1080-is-saving-our-species.

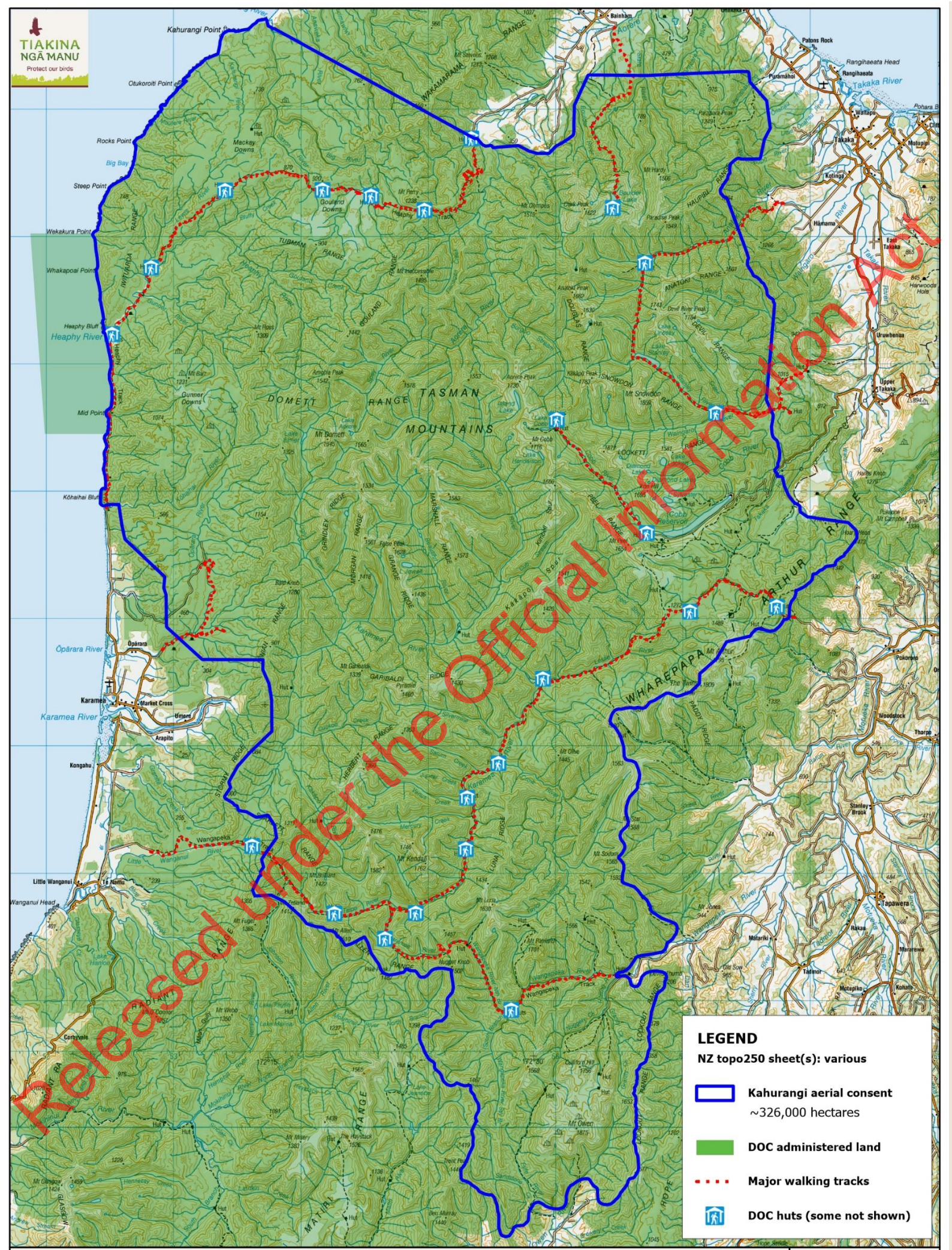
Whio/blue duck *Photo: DOC*

Rock wren/tuke. *Photo: Rod Morris*

Great spotted kiwi chick in Kahurangi National Park. *Photo: Anja McDonald*

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government



2019 Kahurangi predator control
Map showing consent boundary

0 10 km

Map created: 17/04/2019
Proj: NZTM 2000 Scale: 1:360000 @ A4

VECTOR FREE MARLBOROUGH LIMITED

The 2019 Kahurangi predator control operation is proudly delivered by Vector Free Marlborough Limited (VFML) on behalf of the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawbai

What is happening?

DOC has contracted Vector Free Marlborough Ltd (VFML) to manage the Kahurangi aerial 1080 predator control work.

Cereal baits containing biodegradable 1080 pesticide (0.15% or 15 parts 1080 to 10,000 parts of cereal bait) will be applied over approximately 326,000 hectares of the park.

The toxic bait will be sown at a rate of 1.5 kg/ha using 6 gram baits to ensure enough baits are available for control of rats which have relatively small home ranges.

Due to the large size of the Kahurangi operation, the area is divided into four operational blocks. The timing and order of non-toxic and toxic bait application in each block is dependent on there being several days of suitable weather and other factors.

In each block, non-toxic prefeed bait will be aerially applied prior to the aerial application of 1080 bait. This makes rats and possums more likely to eat the 1080 baits.

Ground control using hand-laid 1080 baits may take place in areas where aerial bait application is restricted, for example, around public huts and other facilities.

Public notices informing of the pest control will be placed in local newspapers before the aerial application of toxic bait begins. Notices will be placed in huts and warning signs will be installed at entrances to operational areas. Information can also be found under 'alerts' on the Kahurangi National Park page on the on the DOC website https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/nelson-tasman/places/kahurangi-national-park/. Recreational hunters should go to the pesticide application web pages for up to date information https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/pesticides/.

Adjoining landowners will be notified of aerial 1080 bait application immediately before it takes place. Due to there being four operational blocks, some people may receive several notifications as aerial bait application is carried out in each operational block.

Most DOC huts and the area around them will be excluded from the aerial toxic bait distribution. Water supplies will be either unaffected or alternative supplies will be provided at huts until Public Health Permission conditions are met.

Kea. *Photo C Rutledge*

Kaka. *Photo: Leon Berard*

Track and road temporary closures

Immediately before aerial application of toxic bait begins, VFML staff will visit some huts to advise people there of the operation taking place. Tracks will be closed for entry immediately before and during aerial application of 1080 bait in an operational block. Tracks will remain closed until they have been inspected and cleared of baits as much as possible. This is likely to entail tracks being closed from half a day and up to several days at remote sites.

The following roads will be closed during the non-toxic and toxic bait applications:

- Cobb Road between the Cobb power station and Trilobite Hut.
- Wangapeka River Road between Dart River ford and Courthouse Flat.
- McCallums Mill Road from the entrance to Kahurangi National Park to the Oparara area.

Tracks will remain open during the aerial application of non-toxic prefeed bait. People on the tracks should exercise care if a helicopter is applying bait directly overhead.

Pest control management

Discussions have taken place with neighbouring landowners and others with an interest in the park in finalising the planning for this operation. Public Health Permissions will include conditions to manage public safety. The Environmental Protection Authority and DOC also set stringent procedures and standards that must be met.

What you need to know

The Department of Conservation complies with all relevant regulations and takes a precautionary approach to the aerial application of pesticides.

- *The 1080 cereal baits are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped and are dyed **green**.*
- *Non-toxic pre-feed cereal pellets are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped but are **fawn-coloured** (not dyed).*

Managing risk

Dogs, in particular, are highly susceptible to 1080. The risk to dogs from poisoned carcasses will remain until they have completely rotted, perhaps for more than 6 months.

Precautionary approach

Risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- *DO NOT touch bait*
- *WATCH CHILDREN at all times*
- *DO NOT EAT animals from this area*
- *Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS*

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. Warning signs indicate pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with your local DOC office.

More information

Vector Free Marlborough Limited
Free phone: 0508 548 008
Email: communications@vectorfree.co.nz
Website: http://www.vectorfree.co.nz

What to do if you suspect poisoning

Contact emergency services: 111
National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766

April 2019

Also see doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

24 April 2019

Dear Sir / Madam,

NOTIFICATION OF IMPENDING COMMENCEMENT - KAHURANGI PREDATOR CONTROL OPERATION

Vector Free Marlborough Limited (VFML) wishes to advise landowners and other interested parties of its intention to aerially apply the toxin Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) for the purpose of controlling rats and stoats in parts of Kahurangi National Park and surrounding areas between May and December 2019.

The Kahurangi operation is being undertaken by VFML on behalf of the Department of Conservation (DOC) to protect vulnerable native species from introduced predators following a heavy mast (seeding) event in forests.

Treatment Area

The Kahurangi treatment area takes in approximately 326,000 hectares of public land managed by the Department of Conservation and several other Crown agencies, as well as small areas of unformed road administered by district councils and privately-owned land.

Boundaries of the treatment area extend from Kahurangi Point and Parapara in the north, to the top of the Owen Valley in the south. Much of the western boundary is defined by the coastline of the Tasman Sea before turning inland and loosely following parts of the Fenian Range, Stormy Ridge, Scarlett Range, Radiant Range, Allen Range, Matiri Range and Bald Knob Ridge. To the east, the boundary follows parts of the Lookout, Arthur and Lockett Ranges then crosses the Waingaro catchment, Anatoki Range and Anatoki catchment before skirting the eastern side of Parapara Peak and joining the northern boundary.

The Kahurangi treatment area takes in catchments for many waterways, with the most notable being the Anatoki, Aorere, Cobb, Heaphy, Karamea, Little Wanganui, Owen, Stanley, Takaka, Waingaro and Wangapeka rivers.

A detailed map of the wider treatment area and the various operational blocks is available from the VFML website, the DOC website (https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/pesticides/) and may also be viewed by appointment at DOC offices in Motueka, St Arnaud, Takaka and Westport during business hours from Monday to Friday.

Commencement Date

The Kahurangi treatment area spans a large geographic area and has been divided into four blocks for operational purposes. These will be controlled progressively beginning from **6 May 2019.**

Work in each block will commence with the aerial application of non-toxic cereal pre-feed pellets, and will be followed five or more days later by the aerial application of cereal pellets containing 1080.

All work is weather dependent and the overall project may not be completed until approximately mid-December. People intending to visit the Kahurangi treatment area before 20/12/19 are therefore advised to check the VFML website for the status of each block and/or seek up-to-date information from the DOC website and local DOC offices.

Public Access & Recreational Facilities
Public access to the treatment area is provided by several roads, as well as a large number of back-country tracks and associated facilities managed by DOC.

Affected roads and tracks in the various blocks will be closed to public access whilst aerial the application of toxic bait takes place, and afterwards until field staff have inspected for and removed most toxic baits. Roads and tracks will be open during non-toxic prefeed application, but access restrictions may be in place for short periods of time.

Huts and other back-country accommodation will generally be excluded from bait application during the application of toxic bait to each block, although a number of very low-use sites may be over-sown subject to occupancy and consent conditions, in which case VFML field operatives will be onsite to inspect for and recover toxic baits from open areas afterward.

Affected DOC managed accommodation facilities such as huts and shelters in the treatment area will be provided with alternative drinking water supplies in accordance with Public Health Permit conditions while the application of toxic bait is carried out.

Warning signage and access barriers will be in place at all track entrances whilst the application of toxic bait takes place, and DOC and/or VFML representatives will be stationed at a number of key sites to control access and provide information to visitors. Advisory signage will be installed at key sites prior to non-toxic prefeed application.

Bait Description
Pre-feed: Non-toxic cereal based pellet, approximately 20mm long, cinnamon-lured and non-dyed (light brown / fawn in colour).

Toxic bait: Cereal based pellet, approximately 20mm long, cinnamon-lured and dyed green with a toxic loading of 0.15% Sodium fluoroacetate (1080).

Bait containing deer repellent may be used in some areas, but bait specifications for both prefeed and toxin are otherwise the same.

Bait will be aerially applied by helicopter at a target rate of 1.5kg per hectare, but small areas between operational blocks may receive up to 3kg per hectare to prevent pests repopulating adjacent controlled areas. All bait will be applied using aircraft equipped with global positioning system (GPS) hardware to ensure accurate placement and adherence to consent conditions.

Precautions
This pesticide is poisonous to human and domestic animals. The public are reminded of the danger that toxic baits and possum carcasses pose, particularly to children and dogs.

Children should be kept under strict supervision in the treatment area. Dogs should be kept under strict control at all times and not have access to, or be taken into the treatment area as they are particularly susceptible to accidental poisoning through contact with 1080 bait and poisoned carcasses. The risks of poison carcasses to dogs may extend downstream of the control area.

Game animals should not be sold or taken for eating from within or adjacent to this area until it is declared clear of pesticides.

Warning signs will be erected at all main public entry points and the public are reminded that it is an offence to remove any of these signs. Warning signage will remain in place until monitoring indicates that bait and carcasses no longer contain pesticide residues.

Observe the following precautions whenever you see toxin warning signs present:

- **DO NOT** touch bait
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area
- **DEADLY TO DOGS**, do not allow dogs access to animal carcasses

If you suspect poisoning:

- Contact your local hospital, or dial 111
- National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON – 0800 764 766
- In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet about the operation and the methodology being used. For further information please contact the Kahurangi Operation Controller:

Vector Free Marlborough Limited
Private Bag 1007, Blenheim 7240
Free-phone 0508 548 008
Email communications@vectorfree.co.nz
Web http://www.vectorfree.co.nz/current-aerial-operations.html

Yours faithfully,

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Director – Vector Free Marlborough Limited

Vector Free Marlborough Limited is proud to work alongside the Department of Conservation to deliver the 2019 Kahurangi operation.

KAHURANGI PREDATOR CONTROL OPERATION

Vector Free Marlborough Limited (VFML) wishes to advise the public of its intention to aerially apply the toxin Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) for the purpose of controlling rats and stoats in parts of Kahurangi National Park and surrounding areas between May and December 2019.

The Kahurangi operation is being undertaken by VFML on behalf of the Department of Conservation (DOC) to protect vulnerable native species from introduced predators following a heavy mast (seeding) event in forests during the past few months.

Treatment Area

The Kahurangi treatment area takes in approximately 326,000 hectares of public land managed by the Department of Conservation and several other Crown agencies, as well as small areas of district council administered and privately-owned land.

Boundaries of the treatment area extend from Kahurangi Point and Parapara in the north, to the top of the Owen Valley in the south. Much of the western boundary is defined by the coastline of the Tasman Sea before turning inland and loosely following parts of the Fenian Range, Stormy Ridge, Scarlett Range, Radiant Range, Allen Range, Matiri Range and Bald Knob Ridge. To the east, the boundary follows parts of the Lookout, Arthur and Lockett Ranges then crosses the Waingaro catchment, Anatoki Range and Anatoki catchment before skirting the eastern side of Parapara Peak and joining the northern boundary.

The Kahurangi treatment area takes in catchments for many waterways, with the most notable being the Anatoki, Aorere, Cobb, Heaphy, Karamea, Little Wanganui, Owen, Stanley, Takaka, Waingaro and Wangapeka rivers.

A detailed map of the wider treatment area and the various operational blocks is available from the VFML website, the DOC website (https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/pesticides/) and may also be viewed by appointment at DOC offices in Motueka, St Arnaud, Takaka and Westport during business hours from Monday to Friday.

Public Access & Recreational Facilities

Public access to the treatment area is provided by several roads, as well as a large number of back-country tracks and associated facilities managed by DOC.

Affected roads and tracks in the various blocks will be closed to public access whilst aerial the application of toxic bait takes place, and afterwards until field staff have inspected for and removed most toxic baits. Roads and tracks will be open during non-toxic prefeed application, but access restrictions may be in place for short periods of time.

Huts and other back-country accommodation will generally be excluded from bait application during the application of toxic bait to each block, although a number of very low-use sites may be over-sown subject to occupancy and consent conditions, in which case VFML field operatives will be onsite to inspect for and recover toxic baits from open areas afterward. Affected DOC managed accommodation facilities such as huts and shelters in the treatment area will be provided with alternative drinking water supplies in accordance with Public Health Permit conditions while the application of toxic bait is carried out.

Warning signage and access barriers will be in place at all track entrances whilst the application of toxic bait takes place, and DOC and/or VFML representatives will be stationed at a number of key sites to control access and provide information to visitors. Advisory signage will be installed at key sites prior to non-toxic prefeed application.

Commencement Date

The Kahurangi treatment area spans a large geographic area and has been divided into four blocks for operational purposes. These will be controlled progressively beginning from 6 May 2019.

Work in each block will commence with the aerial application of non-toxic cereal pre-feed pellets, and will be followed five or more days later by the aerial application of cereal pellets containing 1080.

All work is weather dependent and the overall project may extend until approximately mid-December.

People intending to visit the Kahurangi treatment area during the period May to December 2019 are advised to check the VFML website for the status of each block and/or seek up-to-date information from the DOC website and local DOC offices.

Bait Description
Pre-feed: Non-toxic cereal based pellet, approximately 20mm long, cinnamon-lured and non-dyed (fawn in colour).

Toxic bait: Cereal based pellet, approximately 20mm long, cinnamon-lured and dyed green with a toxic loading of 0.15% Sodium fluoroacetate (1080).

Bait containing deer repellent may be used in some areas, but bait specifications for both prefeed and toxin are otherwise the same.

Bait will be aerially applied at a target rate of 1.5kg per hectare, but small areas between operational blocks may receive up to 3kg per hectare to prevent pests in later blocks repopulating adjacent controlled areas. All bait will be applied using helicopters equipped with global positioning system (GPS) hardware to ensure accurate placement and adherence to consent conditions.

Precautions
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