



Date: 16 August 2019

To: Jacquelyn Shannon, Acting Deputy Director-General Operations

CC: Martin Kessick, Deputy Director-General Biodiversity

From: Hilary Aikman, Director National Operations / s 9(2)(a) Acting Director
National Operations

Subject: NEW PERMISSION 6044299 TO REPLACE PERMISSION 6011752 -
KAHURANGI POSSUM, RAT AND STOAT CONTROL OPERATION
2019

Purpose

1. To consider revoking Permission ID 6011752 and granting a new Permission 6044299 which incorporates two changes for undertaking 1080 pest control operations in Kahurangi.

The Kahurangi Permission granted on 16 July 2019

2. On 16 July 2019 the Deputy Director-General Operations Mr Slater granted Permission 6011752 to Vector Free Marlborough Limited for a 1080 (aerial and hand laid) rat, stoat and possum control operation. This Permission was varied on 19 July 2019 by the inclusion of addition words forming an 'avoidance of doubt' provision.
3. Further revisions are required to amend the maximum target aerial sowing rate for 1080 toxic baits, and to remove a requirement from the conditions of the Permission that appears to have been included as an oversight.
4. The permission was granted subject to the requirement that the operation:
 - Is carried out as described in the Application Form submitted 10 April 2019
 - Meets the conditions shown in the attached sheets of DOC Performance Standards for Pesticide Uses Numbers 1 and 2
 - Is granted Public Health permission by the relevant authorities, and that these permissions are provided to DOC prior to commencement of the VTA application.

Why a new Permission is recommended

5. Two changes to the Permission granted on 16 July and varied on 19 July are recommended:
 - a. The first condition which requires the operation to be carried out in accordance with the Application Form submitted on 10 April 2019 is now inappropriate as the sowing rate of the baits has been revised from 1.5kg/ha as stated in the Application to 2 kg/ha; and
 - b. The Performance Standard Sheets referred and attached to Permission 6011752 included Condition 2 requiring that the Code of Conduct for Aerial 1080 in Kea Habitat be followed for this operation, notwithstanding that the Permission

exempts the operation from compliance with the Code of Practice. Condition 2 needs to be struck through to indicate that it does not apply.

6. As Permission 6011752 has already been varied once, it is considered that revoking the Permission and granting a new replacement one is preferable to undertaking a second revision of the original permission.
7. Issuing a replacement Permission avoids the confusion that could otherwise be caused as a result of the final form of the Permission being comprised in what would be three documents that would need to be read together. Revoking the earlier Permission and granting a new one is a much cleaner and less-confusing approach.

Revised sowing rates

8. As originally proposed, the target maximum sowing rate was set at 1.5kg/ha for toxic 1080 baits. Provision was built into the permission however, for up to 3kg/ha to be applied in areas along the boundaries of the four blocks making up the operational area. These areas are required to be double-treated with a two swath overlap between adjacent blocks where the interval between successive tranches of the operation exceeds seven days (ref 26 of the application). Technical advice was that any additional risk from this would be minimal, with the benefits of minimising predator reinvasion outweighing costs (see page 8 of the Assessment Report). A mixed rate of 1.5kg and 3kg/ha was therefore originally proposed for this operation.
9. The sowing rate for toxic feed of 1.5kg/ha has now been revised following the monitoring of recent operations. This year's unprecedented 'mega mast' has provided abundant food for rats, making predator control more challenging. The monitoring results for the three recently completed aerial 1080 operations show nearly 20% rat survival, significantly more than the anticipated level of less than 5%. The exceptional amount of seed from the South Island's biggest beech mast in 40 years means rats don't need to travel far for food from their home ranges. Gaps in bait coverage have left pockets of rodents that wouldn't travel far enough to be exposed to the bait.
10. It is vital that this operation is successful in order to avoid losing local populations of vulnerable native species such as Whio, Powelliphanta Giant land snails, Great spotted kiwi, Long tailed bats, Rock wren and South Island kaka which are vulnerable to rat plagues.
11. The Department's technical advisory team has revised the bait application rate for this and some other operations to ensure more even bait spread. This is at an increased rate of 2kg/ha. This adjustment aims for complete bait coverage to reach all rodents, and will be applied by sowing baits in overlapping swathes, so that the entire area is sown with baits twice and there is no possibility of gaps. By sowing twice and achieving the same kill rate for each individual swath, the operation is expected to achieve at least a 94% mortality for rats.
12. The change from a 1.5kg/ha to 2kg/ha sowing rate for the 1080 toxic baits was recommended by the BFOB TAG to increase the effectiveness of the predator control. You are able to rely on the information on potential risks in the Assessment of Effects which forms part of the Application, and the Assessment Report which accepts that assessment.
13. The BFOB TAG considered that any additional risk of by-kill to non-target species is acceptable in light of the significant potential benefit of increasing the sowing rate,

compared to the known risk of an unsuccessful operation should 1.5kg/ha sowing rate be used instead.

14. It is noted that the proposed increased sowing rate at 2kg/ha exceeds the guidance in the current Method Best Practice for BFOB aerial 1080 baiting which has specified 1.5kg/ha as current guidance. A sowing rate of 2kg/ha has however been used in many past operations, and permission has already been granted here to apply 3kg/ha along block boundaries on the basis of technical advice. The operation will continue to meet other best practice guidance.
15. As the change from 1.5kg/ha to 2kg/ha does not change the potential effects of the operation in a material way, you can rely on the analysis undertaken when Permission 6011752 was granted.

Performance Standard Sheets – compliance with Kea Code of Practice

16. An exemption was granted in the Permission from meeting standards 1 and 3 in section 3.1 of the Code of Practice for Aerial 1080 in Kea Habitat, based on specialist advice. Standard 3 of the kea Code of Practice provides for a maximum toxic sowing rate of 2kg/ha for 6g toxic baits.
17. The 2kg/ha maximum could not be complied with for this operation, as provision was needed for up to 3kg/ha to be applied in areas along the boundaries of the four blocks making up the operational area, and accordingly the exemption from the Code of Practice was provided on the basis of the technical advice. Notwithstanding this however, the Performance Standard sheets attached to the originally granted Permission included a condition requiring the Code of Practice to be followed. This appears to have been an oversight in the process.
18. An amendment is required to remove the requirement in the current conditions to comply with Condition 2 of the Performance Standard Sheets attached to the Permission. Condition 2 states:
 - “2. The DOC Code of practice for aerial 1080 in kea habitat [DOC-2612859](#) must be followed.”
19. That condition is inappropriate as the Code of practice cannot be followed in its entirety for this operation, and an exemption from compliance with the Code of practice has been provided for the operation.
20. Condition 2 should therefore have been struck through to reflect that the Code of Practice is not required to be followed for this operation.
21. The required change can be effected by substituting the attached Performance Standard Sheets with the wording struck through in place of the version of the Performance Standard Sheet attached to the Permission as originally granted. You should also sign the replacement Performance Standard Sheets and initial the deletion of Condition 2.
22. As the addition of this paragraph does not change the substance of the Permission you can rely on the analysis undertaken when the Permission was granted.

Decision

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the need for the recommended changes as set out in the above memo;
 Agree / Disagree
2. **Agree**, given the limited nature of the changes and the support of the Department's technical staff, that you adopt the analysis already undertaken for the granting of Permission 6011752;
 Agree / Disagree
3. **Agree**, to revoke Permission 6011752 to enable the changes needing to be made through a replacement Permission;
 Agree / Disagree
4. **Agree** that the proposed permission and conditions consider the adverse effects of the use of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) on DOC managed or administered land and that granting the permission is in accordance with the purpose of the HSNO Act, recognising the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems and the well-being of people and communities and taking into account the principles of that Act;
 Agree / Disagree
5. **Agree**, under sub-delegation from the chief executive of the Environmental Protection Authority, to grant permission under s 95A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act to for the use of 1080 on the land managed or administered by DOC in the operation area;
 Agree / Disagree
6. **Agree** you are satisfied that, in the area of the operation, possums, rats and stoats are causing damage to wildlife and the killing of these unprotected wildlife is in accordance with the application will meet the purpose of the Wildlife Act;
 Agree / Disagree
7. **Agree**, under delegation from the Director-General of Conservation, to grant an authorisation under section 54 of the Wildlife Act for the killing of possums, rats and stoats in the operation area in accordance with the methods in the application;
 Agree / Disagree
8. **Agree** that, for the purpose of providing greater protection for protected indigenous species, individual protected wildlife may be killed as a result of this operation even though the conditions on the permission are complied with, and that this is in accordance with the purpose of the Wildlife Act;
 Agree / Disagree
9. **Agree**, under delegation from the Director-General of Conservation, to grant an authorisation under section 53 of the Wildlife Act for the killing of protected indigenous wildlife for the purpose of greater protection of indigenous wildlife in the operation area in accordance with the methods in the application;
 Agree / Disagree

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10. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation within the Kahurangi National Park, that this operation is in accordance with the purpose of the National Parks Act and is consistent with the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan;

Agree / Disagree

11. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation within the Kahurangi National Park and under delegated authority from the Minister of Conservation, to authorise under section 51A of the National Parks Act the killing of non-indigenous animals (particularly possums, rats and stoats);

Agree / Disagree

12. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation within the Kahurangi National Park and under delegated authority from the Minister of Conservation, to authorise under section 5 of the National Parks Act the possible killing of indigenous animals as part of this pest control operation;

Agree / Disagree

13. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation that is conservation area (conservation park and stewardship area), that the hunting of animals by the use of poison is in accordance with the purpose of the Conservation Act, that no conservation management plan applies (but the operation is in accordance with the relevant conservation management strategies and conservation general policy), and that public safety has been provided for;

Agree / Disagree

14. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation that is conservation area and under delegated authority from the Director-General, to grant a permit under section 38 of the Conservation Act for hunting animals by the use of poison;

Agree / Disagree

15. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation that is scenic reserve and local purpose reserve, that the killing of fauna by the use of poison is in accordance with the purpose of the Reserves Act, the management of the scenic reserve and local purpose reserve, and the relevant conservation management strategies and conservation general policy.

Agree / Disagree

16. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation that is scenic reserve and under delegated authority from the Minister, to authorise the killing of fauna on the reserve as part of this pest control operation (Note, you cannot agree to this if you have not agreed to the Wildlife Act authorisations);

Agree / Disagree

17. **Agree**, in relation to the area of operation that is local purpose reserve and under delegated authority from the Director-General as administering body, to authorise the killing of fauna on the reserve as part of this pest control operation (Note, you cannot agree to this if you have not agreed to the Wildlife Act authorisations);

Agree / Disagree

18. If you have agreed to the above, **sign** the attached Permission which immediately revokes Permission 6011752 and immediately replaces it with a new permission covering the above matters; **initial** the attached Map; and **initial and sign** the attached replacement DOC Performance Standard Sheets for Pesticide Use #1 and #2 which has Condition 2 struck through.

Agree / Disagree

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16 Aug 2019

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Hilary Aikman, Director National Operations
Operations

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Acting Director National

Decision made by me on

August 2019

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Jacquelyn Shannon, Acting Deputy Director-General Operations

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