Predator Control Plan

268 Boons Valley

Prepared by Nigel Muir & Mish Clark

May 2022

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

PEOPLE—NATURE TOGETHER WE FLOURISH TUIA TE TAIAO

Picton Dawn Chorus
Restoring our native birdlife together.

Kaipupu Point
Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary

WAIKAWA MARAE Inc.

Executive Summary of our predator control plan

Introduction:

This predator control plan is our road map to what we want to achieve at Boons Valley to help restore a natural Wild Waikawa for generations to come. It outlines the methodology that we will undertake for our predator control – helping us to avoid problems, maximize success and develop overtime an organized collaborative community approach.

Vision

To restore the natural habitat at the head of Boons Valley and create a safe corridor for native birds from Picton's two highest peaks (Maunga o Piripiri and Maunga o McCormick) through to the Snout and Waikawa township.

Goal
Create a healthy native habitat

Objective
Plant 5 micro sanctuaries each containing 500 eco-sourced indigenous trees by the end of 2023

Objective
Eradicate all wilding pines and old man's beard from site
By 2024. Southern Rata will be used as an indicator species with multiple photo points to monitor regeneration and growth.

Goal
Increase native bird life

Objective
Undertake 5-minute bird count monitoring every three months to determine numbers and types of birds that exist.
the area

Objective
Kereru will be used as an indicator species. We aim to increase the number of Kereru observed next December by 100%.

Goal
Remove predator pests

Objective
Examine trap catch numbers and monitoring results from Footprint tracking tunnels and chew cards once a year.

Objective
Reduce predator numbers with a particular focus on Stoats and Possums. Our target is <10% tracking over the year.

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Wild Waikawa - 268 Boons Valley

Introduction

Name: Nigel Muir & Michelle Clark

Date: May 2022

Vision statement

What conservation outcome are we trying to achieve?

To restore the natural habitat at the head of Boons Valley and create a safe corridor for native Birds from Picton's two highest peaks (Maunga o Piripiri and Maunga o McCormick) to the Snout and Waikawa Township.

Project goals and objectives

1. **To create a healthy natural habitat**
    a. Plant 5 micro sanctuaries each containing 200 eco sourced indigenous trees by the end of 2023
    b. Eradicate all wilding pines and old man's beard creeper from site by 2024. Southern Rata will be used as an indicator species with multiple photo points to monitor regeneration and growth.
2. **Increase native bird life**
    a. Undertake 5-minute bird count monitoring every three months to determine numbers and types of birds that exist
    b. Kereru will be used as an indicator species. We aim to increase the number of Kereru observed April 2024 by 100%.
3. **Remove Predator Pests**
    a. Examine trap catch numbers and monitoring results from Footprint tracking tunnels and chew cards once a year.
    b. Reduce predator numbers with a particular focus on Stoats and Possums. Our target is <10% tracking over the year.

Background

Include information on your project that helps set the scene.

Our early focus is a 500-acre Significant Natural Area (SNA) situated at the head of Boons Valley in Waikawa.

This pristine parcel of land ranges rises from just above sea level to almost 1000 metres taking in the two highest mountains of Picton. Maunga o Piripiri 970m (the sacred mountain of Waikawa Marae) and Mount McCormack 965m. It is owned by Michelle Clark and Nigel Muir who are totally committed to Kaitiakitanga.

This unique whenua holds many taonga including:

- Hundreds of ancient established podrocarps including Rimu, Totara, Miro, Southern Rata, kotukutuku (Tree Fusha) and four variants of Tawhai (Beech)
- Marlborough Sounds Green Gecko, Puprangi (Powelliphanta), Black Beetle and Koru (native trout)
- Titipounamu (Rifleman), toutouwai (South Island Robin), Miromiro (Tomtit), Kereru, Rironiro (Grey Warbler) and Karearea (NZ Falcon)

Pests have destroyed many parts of this ancient forest. Possums have devastated giant Rata. Stoats, Rats and Feral Cats have wiped out huge numbers of the native bird population while German Wasps have dominated much of the high beech territory at the expense of native insects and birds.

Planning

Site description

Size of project: 500 acres

Habitat: ☐ Alpine ☐ Dryland ☐ Estuary ☑ Forest ☐ Island ☐ Wetland ☐ Coastal ☐ Other

Existing species:

Land status: ☐ Council ☐ Department Of Conservation * ☐ Private ☐ Iwi

Predators: Stoats, possums, rats, wasps, goats,

Site considerations/hazards:

This land rises to almost 1000m and the tops are often under cloud. It contains steep valleys and bluffs. Adverse weather, getting lost, rough terrain, wasps and working with predator traps are all hazards addressed in our Health & Safety Plan.

Community interest (if any):

The Waikawa Marae has developed a solid relationship with the land owners and we are continually exploring newor ways to work together. Picton Dawn Chorus, Department of Conservation and the Marlborough District Council are also all key partners. Neighbours and volunteers are actively involved and several are enthusiastic about extending this work into their own properties.

Outcome target

What is your conservation outcome? You may have more than one.
Note it should be SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

1. **Kereru** – Kereru will be used as an indicator bird species. We aim to increase the number of Kereru observed by April 2024 by 100%.
2. **Southern Rata** will be used as an indicator plant species. We will utilize 5 photo points to monitor growth and flowering on a seasonal basis.
3. **Pupurangi** (Powelliphanta) – 50% reduced predation evidence on the local population based on pre-trapping predation monitoring by April 2024
4. **Bird Count** – Evidence of a 100% increase in numbers or variety in our four monthly 5-minute bird counts by April 2025.

Result target	*What predators do you want to target and to what (detectable) level?* *This should be influenced by your outcome target.* *Note it should be SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.*

1. **Possums** – Target the high population of possums evidenced by extreme predation observations of Southern Rata, Tree Fusha and wild Orchard.

2. **Stoats** – Target predator stoats that are present and roaming from the high Beech Forest through to the lowland warmer river flats.

Possum scavenges an egg at a kererū nest.
Image: Nga Manu images ©

Methodology

Location

268 Boons Valley, Waikawa

Method detail

Give enough detail to clearly show how the work will be done but leave the fine details for any Field Instructions. Refer to best practice for your target predator.

Traps

Trap model and type: *(Follow best practice trapping for non-target species)*

- 135 DOC 200 Stoat/Rat traps
- 115 A12 Possum traps
- 50 Sentinal/Timms Possum traps
- 50 Victor Rat traps

Total number of traps used: 350

Lure type: Erayze and Eggs for DOC 200, Good Nature lure for A12s, alternate Possum dough, lure for Timms/Sentinal traps, alternate peanut butter/chocolate for Victor traps .

Total number of lures used: 7

Pattern of trap lines

Spacing between lines (m) *Draw this on your map*: 200m

Spacing between traps (m) *Draw this on your map:* 50m

Frequency of lure renewal: Monthly

Frequency of trap checking: Monthly

Trap set density/ha: Traps lines are set along contour lines at 200m intervals from sea level to 1000m, Traps will Alternate between Stoat/Rat traps and Possum traps every 50m. Approx 1.6 trap sets per hectare.

Outcome monitoring

Photo points will be set up to measure regeneration, in particular of Southern Rata and will be redone annually. Twice a year 5 minute bird counts August (pre breeding) March (post breeding)

Result monitoring

1. **Possums** – will be recorded twice a year using chew
2. **Stoats** – will be monitored via tracking tunnels once per year

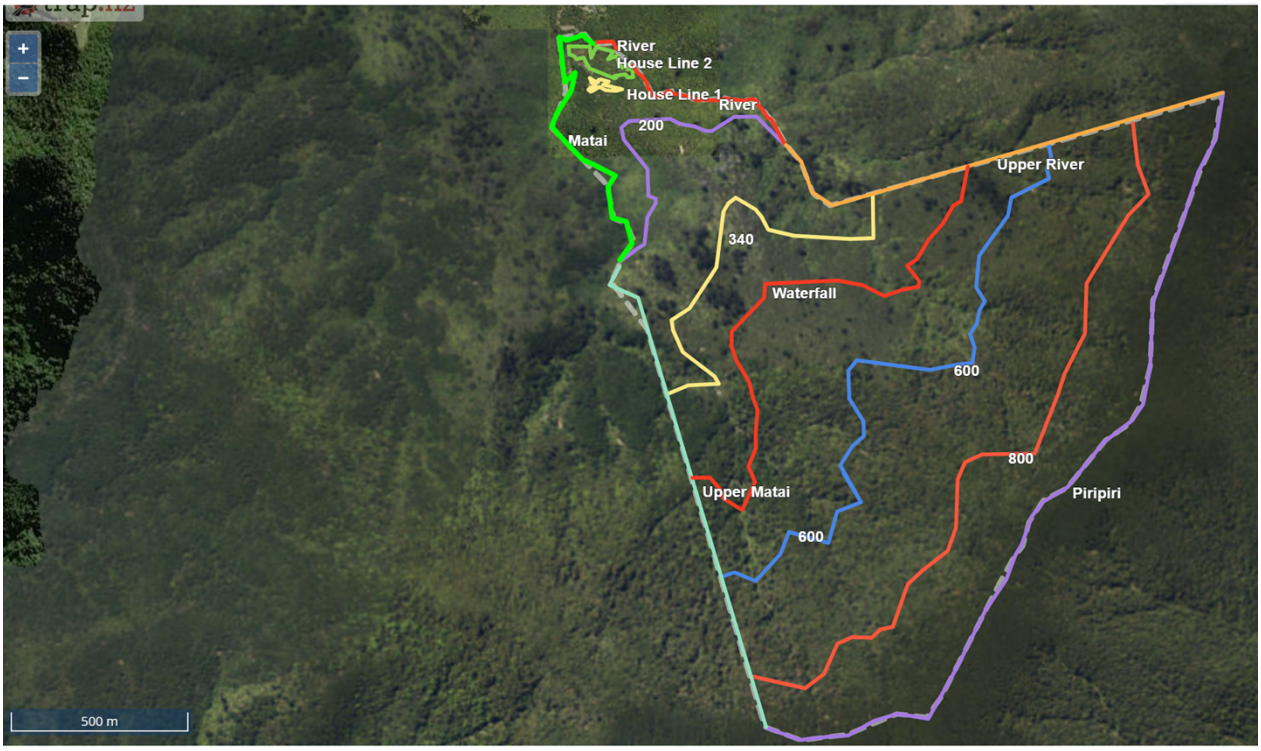
Consents required			
	Landowner/occupier consent?	☑ Yes	☐ No
	Resource consent?	☐ Yes	☑ No
	Iwi consent needed?	☐ Yes	☑ No
	DOC permission?	☐ Yes	☑ No

Please attach health and safety plan using own format or template provided.

Please complete or attach map showing boundary of project site and location of trap lines (this can be hand drawn or taken directly from Google maps and overlaid with trap lines drawn by hand).

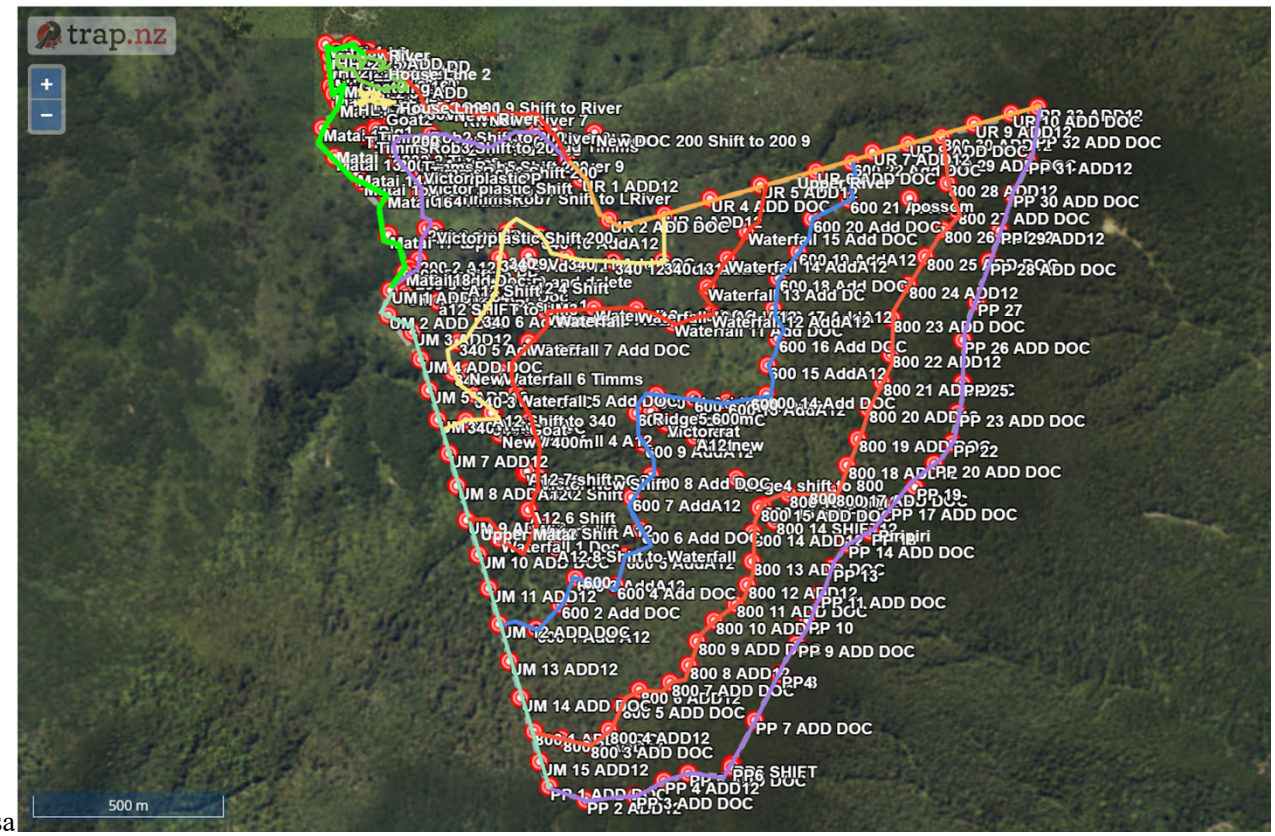
Trapping Lines

12 trapping lines are to be established approximately based on a trapping line every 200m contour.



Trap Spacing

Traps will be spaced every 100m and alternated between possum (A12, Timms, Sentinel) and stoat (DOC 200).



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