

Notification about predator control at Roaring Meg

To protect native species, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is going to reduce rodents in the area.

Why we are controlling introduced predators

Located in the eastern hills of the Paparoa Ranges, the Roaring Meg operation encompasses land from the Pike Valley to the Roaring Meg catchment. Visitors to the area via the many tracks and trails can get close to many native species such as whio and hear the call of Great spotted kiwi overnight. These are unique and special experiences that will be lost without predator control.

Native species are under threat from rats, stoats and possums. Without protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage and biodiversity within this operational area.

How are we going to achieve this

The safest and most effective method to control introduced predators over large areas is to use biodegradable bait pellets containing 1080. This bait targets rodents and possums. Stoats are also controlled through secondary poisoning as they feed on the carcasses of the dead rodents.

Helicopters will accurately distribute bait across 13,501 ha of the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is the safest and most effective way to control predators in Roaring Meg due to the vast and rugged terrain.

In addition to the aerial operation, both the Department and the Paparoa Wildlife Trust have traps operating continuously throughout the treatment area, continuously for reducing the population of predators to protect native species.



Great Spotted kiwi. Photo: Rod Morris

Consultation and consent outcome

DOC and VCS have consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area. This involved discussing the operational plan, listening to any concerns and considering ways to mitigate them.

DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC. Permission has been granted for this operation. VCS has also received the required permission from the Ministry of Health.

Next steps

Adjoining landowners and other stakeholders are being notified and there will be a public notice in the local newspapers. There will also be warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

After the operation, DOC will contact iwi, hapū, and stakeholders about the results of the operation. We also aim to share insights about the outcomes for native species overtime.

Timeframe

The operation is planned for the first clear weather window between August and October 2024.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets to prepare possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (dyed green) that is applied afterwards. Both baits are about 16 mm in diameter and cylindrical shaped.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer.

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

DO NOT touch bait

WATCH children at all times

DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary.

The standard buffer zone is 2 km for deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, tahr, wallabies and possums.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Always report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- Your local doctor or hospital
- The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 or dial 111
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals

Map of predator control area

The map on the next page shows the confirmed area of 13,501 hectares for predator control.

For more information

Please contact:

Vector Control Services

Ph: 0508 141 268

Email: info@vcs.net.nz

OR

Operational planner DOC Greymouth Office

Ph: 03 788 8008

Email: greymouth@doc.govt.nz

Visit the DOC website:

See more information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme

www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

See operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries

See updates about track access and safety

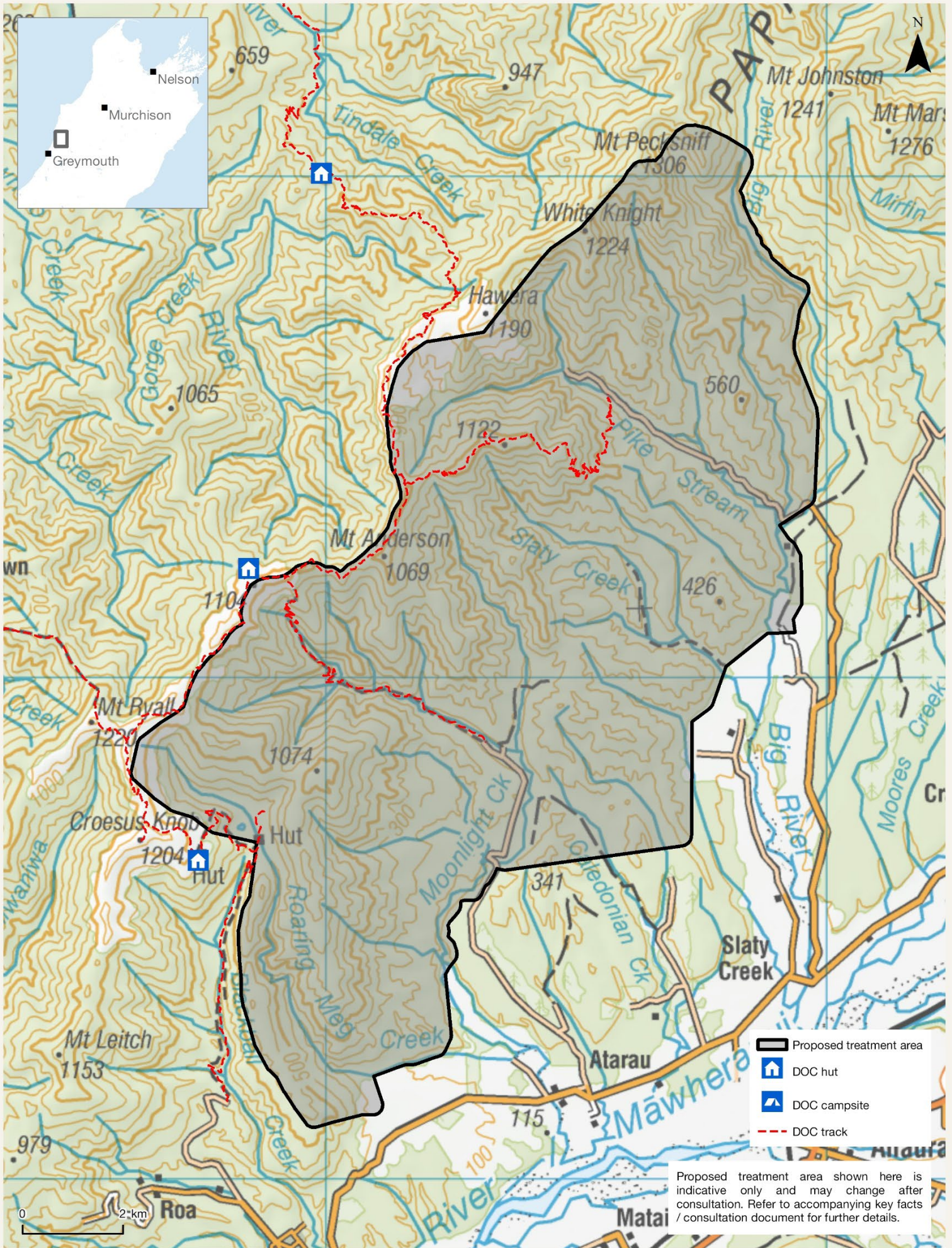
www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts

Learn more about why we use 1080 to control introduced predators

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080

Learn more about Predator Free 2050

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050



-  Proposed treatment area
-  DOC hut
-  DOC campsite
-  DOC track

Proposed treatment area shown here is indicative only and may change after consultation. Refer to accompanying key facts / consultation document for further details.