

MOLESWORTH STATION THE ROAD TO TB ERADICATION

NEWSLETTER #2 | SUMMER 2017

The summer 2017 edition of the Molesworth Station newsletter gives an overview of recent TB control activities on Molesworth Station as the nine-year programme to eradicate TB gets underway.



PEST MANAGEMENT

OSPRI has contracted **Vector Free Marlborough Limited** (VFM) and **Central Districts Pest Control** (CDPC) to undertake pest control operations on Molesworth Station on behalf of the TBfree programme.

- VFM is responsible for aerial operations on Molesworth Station for the next three years

- CDPC is responsible for ground control and ferret survey work for the Molesworth Clarence TMA until 30 June 2018

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

12-13 October 2017

- Aerial application of non-toxic 6 gram cereal baits at 1 kilogram per hectare over 60,000 hectares of the station
- 2,000ha of this area identified through consultation with hunting

groups received non-toxic baits coated in deer repellent.

28-29 October 2017

- Aerial application of toxic 6g cereal baits (containing biodegradable sodium fluoroacetate, commonly known as 1080) at 2kg per hectare over the same 60,000ha of the Station
- The same 2,000ha area received toxic baits coated in deer repellent (see map).

SIGNAGE AND CAUTION

Warning signs are in place at the main access points to the operation area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs to ensure the safety of people and animals.

Warning signs indicate that toxic residues are still present in baits or animals. When the signs are officially removed, normal activities can be resumed in the area (in accordance with Department of Conservation and Molesworth Station requirements and permissions).

If hunting within three kilometres of the operational area, please adhere to food safety guidance from authoritative sources such as Ministry for Primary Industries or Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

www.mpi.govt.nz/travel-and-recreation/outdoor-activities/hunting-and-gathering/food-safety-for-hunters

POST-OPERATION MONITORING

To assess the breakdown and degradation of the toxic baits used in this operation, contractor VFM is undertaking post operational monitoring of baits and carcasses to assess toxicity levels. To make this assessment, VFM has set up three monitoring sites across the operational area to provide a representative sample. Each monitoring site contains a possum carcass and a number of 1080 baits within a wire cage.

Following at least 100mm of rain, baits are sampled for toxic loadings



A toxicity monitor (not on Molesworth Station).

and carcasses are visually assessed for decomposition.

Warning signs erected before the toxic application will remain in place for the duration of the caution period until residues of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) are below detectable levels in bait and the carcasses are skin and bone.

PROPOSED OPERATIONS

The Molesworth Bovine TB Control Operation (Year 1) operational notice is available online at ospri.co.nz or by clicking [here](#).

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

TB TESTING UPDATE

A tailored TB testing plan for livestock on Molesworth Station started in September. To reach a clear status OSPRI requires at least two clear whole-herd skin tests no less than six months apart, and at least one clear whole-herd parallel blood test.

CONSULTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

OSPRI hosted two publically advertised meetings in Hanmer Springs (9 August) and Blenheim (10 August) to give interested parties an opportunity to learn, ask questions and provide feedback on OSPRI's plan to achieve TB freedom in livestock and possums on Molesworth Station.

More information is available online at ospri.co.nz, and interested parties are welcome to phone the OSPRI Contact Centre on 0800 482 463 or submit feedback to info@ospri.co.nz

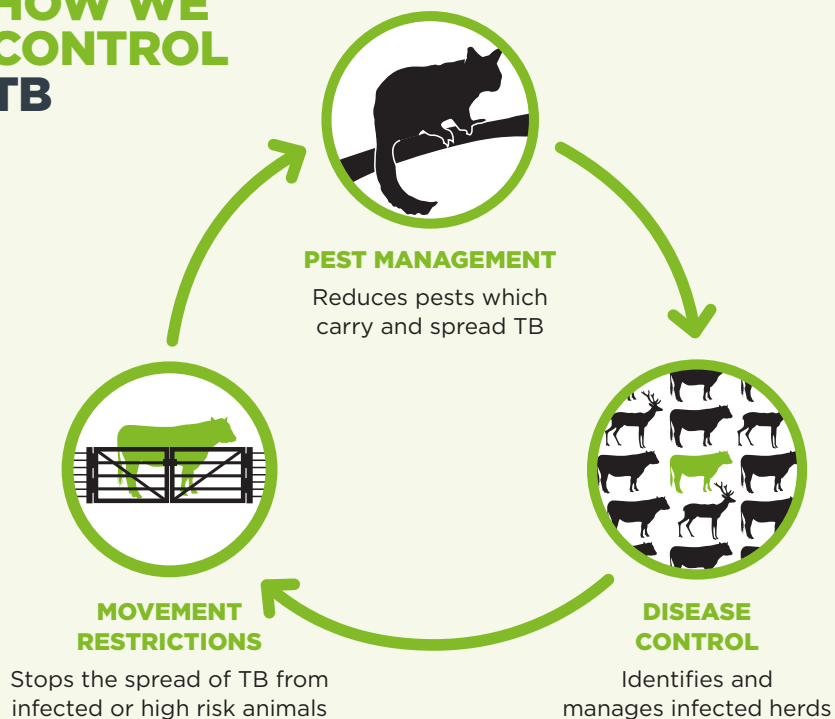
2018 TBfree Pest Control Operations consultation document and submission:

The purpose of the national consultation document is to support engagement with the community, landowners, land-users and all other interested parties by providing information in relation to aerial and ground-based operations proposed for 2018. OSPRI welcomed interested parties to submit on the proposed plans between 2 August and 29 September. All submissions received have been individually responded to and considered by the OSPRI operations team.





HOW WE CONTROL TB



WIDER HIGH COUNTRY TB CONTROL

A successful TB eradication programme on Molesworth Station relies on ongoing TB control of the surrounding TB Management Areas (TMA) to ensure there is no risk of TB infection from uncontrolled areas. The **Clarence Reserve TMA** runs along the eastern boundary of the Molesworth Station/Clarence Reserve TMA and aims to achieve TB freedom in possums by 2026.

Clarence Reserve update:

- Consultation in relation to the Goose Flat (1,303ha) aerial operation is complete and the operation is set to be undertaken in early December.
- Consultation is currently underway for the Clarence Reserve/Clarence-mid aerial operation (51, 442ha). This aerial is planned to take place in 2018.

For maps and more information on upcoming operations in the Clarence Reserve please refer to the Clarence Reserve TMA notice and the **Clarence Reserve and Goose Flat Aerial** Bovine TB Control Operations Notice available on the OSPRI website.

MOLESWORTH STATION ONLINE INFORMATION HUB

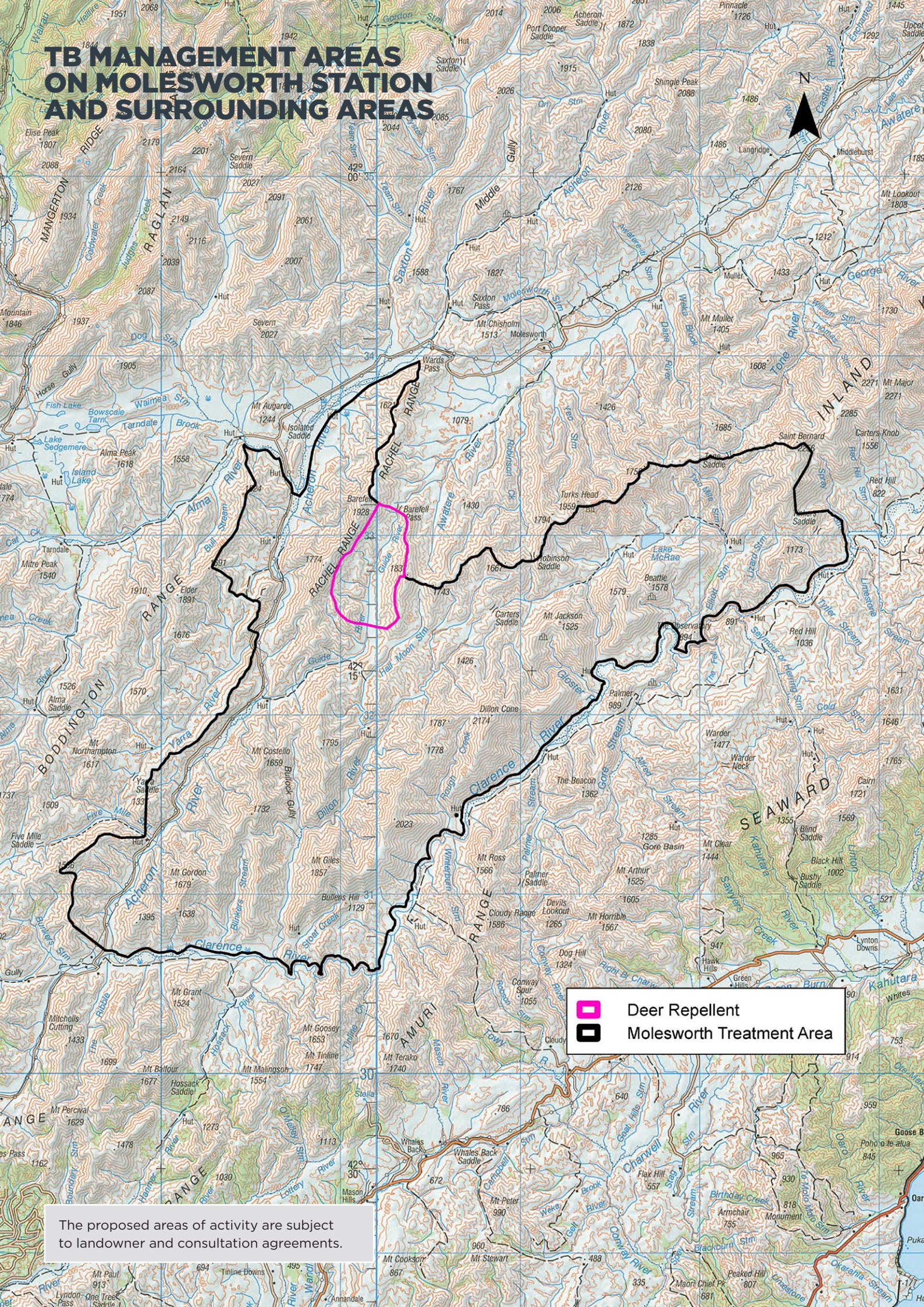
OSPRI is committed to making information about the TBfree programme and progress on Molesworth Station accessible and readily available to all interested parties. All information on Molesworth Station's TB eradication programme can be found on the OSPRI website or by clicking [here](#).



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Molesworth's pest control programme please see OSPRI's 'Molesworth bovine TB control operation' and the 'Molesworth/Clarence Reserve' and 'Clarence Catchment' TB Management Area (TMA) notices available online at ospri.co.nz

TB MANAGEMENT AREAS ON MOLESWORTH STATION AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Deer Repellent

Molesworth Treatment Area

The proposed areas of activity are subject to landowner and consultation agreements.