



Bellbird. © Richard Ashurst.

THE METHOD

The vast majority of possum control work in the Manawatu-Wanganui region is done by local contractors, using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins. The remaining control work – including the proposed Tongariro North operation – involves the aerial application of biodegradable 1080 cereal bait.

Aerial application is the preferred control method for areas such as this, given its size, approx. 33,000 hectares, and the rugged nature of the terrain. It is a highly-efficient, cost-effective and has historically been extremely successful in knocking possum numbers down to very low levels. The independent Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment completed an extensive review into the use of 1080 and strongly endorsed its continued use in New Zealand.

Please visit pce.parliament.nz to read this report.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW

Consultation will begin with Iwi, Landowners and User Groups over the next months. Details of the proposed operation will be discussed and potential mitigations put in place around areas of significance and high use areas.

All landowners/occupiers within and adjacent to the proposed control area will be contacted and visited by TBfree contractors or DOC staff well ahead of the operation to discuss boundary issues, water supply safety and the management of any risks to dogs and livestock. Dog muzzles will be provided upon request to TBfree.

Consents from the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Health are required for this operation.

Affected landowners/occupiers will be contacted again before the operation starts, notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all likely access points to the operational area.

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

The operation will have additional conservation benefits for native birds and bush. Possums eat the forest canopy and are predators of native birdlife, preying on eggs and chicks. Biodegradable 1080 is very effective at controlling the other two major introduced predators – ship rats and stoats.

In the absence of stoat control wild kiwi chicks survival is at best 15%. When aerial 1080 is used over large areas (in excess of 10,000ha) wild hatched kiwi survival is as high as 65% in the first season after application.



North Island Kaka. © Tomas Sobek.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Warning signs will be placed at all main access points to the operational area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs. There's no health risk when using this area as long you follow these instructions:

Do not handle any bait or allow children to wander unsupervised. Cereal baits containing 1080 are dyed green.

Do not hunt or take game from within a two kilometre radius of the operational area for human or pet consumption. It's an offence

to sell meat products that have been exposed to 1080. Hunting can resume approximately four months following the control work, or two months if 100mm of rain has fallen.

Please observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about the pesticide. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. When the signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area. Free dog muzzles will be provided on request. Please contact OSPRI's North Island office on 06 353 2710 to obtain a muzzle.



Do not bring dogs into the area until the warning signs have been officially removed.

Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080. They must not be allowed access to bait or poisoned carcasses which remain toxic to dogs until they have fully decomposed.



THERE IS NO RISK TO PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

Biodegradable 1080 is highly soluble and does not persist in water or soil. Local health authorities apply strict conditions to aerial operations so that drinking water supplies are not contaminated. Safety has been confirmed by tests on several thousand water samples taken after aerial 1080 operations over many years.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT POISONING

Contact your local hospital or doctor, or **dial 111**

National Poisons Centre
0800 POISON (764 766)

If a domestic animal is poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.



FURTHER INFORMATION

OSPRI

North Island office,
Palmerston North
P 06 353 2710
E Vector.SNI@ospri.co.nz
tbfree.co.nz | ospri.co.nz

Department of Conservation Tongariro National Park

State Highway 48 Whakapapa,
Tongariro National Park 3938.
P 07 892 3729
www.doc.govt.nz/tongariro

Contractor

Epro Ltd, Operations Controller
P 07 378 4852
E control@epro.co.nz

For more information on controlling bovine TB and why 1080 is used in New Zealand, visit 1080facts.co.nz



TONGARIRO NORTH AERIAL PEST CONTROL OPERATION

The Tongariro North aerial pest control operation is planned for spring 2017, weather dependant. This operation will cover approximately 33,000 hectares and is a collaboration project between the Department of Conservation (DOC) and OSPRI's TBfree programme.

The Department of Conservation has completed aerial application operations in the Tongariro DOC area previously in 2014 and 2010 for the purposes of kiwi, whio and other bird protection and forest health.

TBfree has also completed an aerial control operation across a portion of the Mangaetopopo area during 2012.

TB ERADICATION

OSPRI's TBfree programme aims to control and eradicate bovine TB from New Zealand. This work is determined by the National Pest Management Plan (TB plan). The TB plan was reviewed in 2015 by an independent group, the Plan Governance Group. This group was made up with members from DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, Deer Industry NZ, Federated Farmers, the Ministry for Primary Industries and OSPRI. The outcome of the review was that OSPRI has been tasked with achieving total eradication of TB from New Zealand.

Under the new plan, our goals are to:

1. Eradicate TB from New Zealand

HOW WE CONTROL TB



- TB freedom from cattle and deer herds by 2026
- TB freedom from possums by 2040
- Biological eradication by 2055

2. Maintain period prevalence below 0.2% (no more than 0.2% of New Zealand's herds infected) while achieving eradication

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DOC is collaborating with OSPRI to maintain a viable population of North Island Brown Kiwi in Tongariro Forest by protecting the whole ecosystem. The operation is an integral part of DOC's Battle for our Birds.

Tongariro Forest Kiwi Sanctuary (19,500 ha) contains important native





species and nationally significant populations of North Island brown kiwi and blue ducks (whio). It is one of five national kiwi sanctuaries. Nationally rare plants, such as *Dactylanthus taylori* are also present. The forest is bounded by the Whakapapa River in the west and the Mangatepopo and Whanganui Rivers on the eastern and northern edges providing a security site for whio.



- Four primary outcomes for DOC are to continually:
1. improve health of Tongariro Forest
 2. test effectiveness of 1080 to improve kiwi chick survival
 3. contribute to a viable population of whio on Mangatepopo and Whanganui Rivers
 4. maintain a viable population of *Dactylanthus taylori* (*Dactylanthus*).

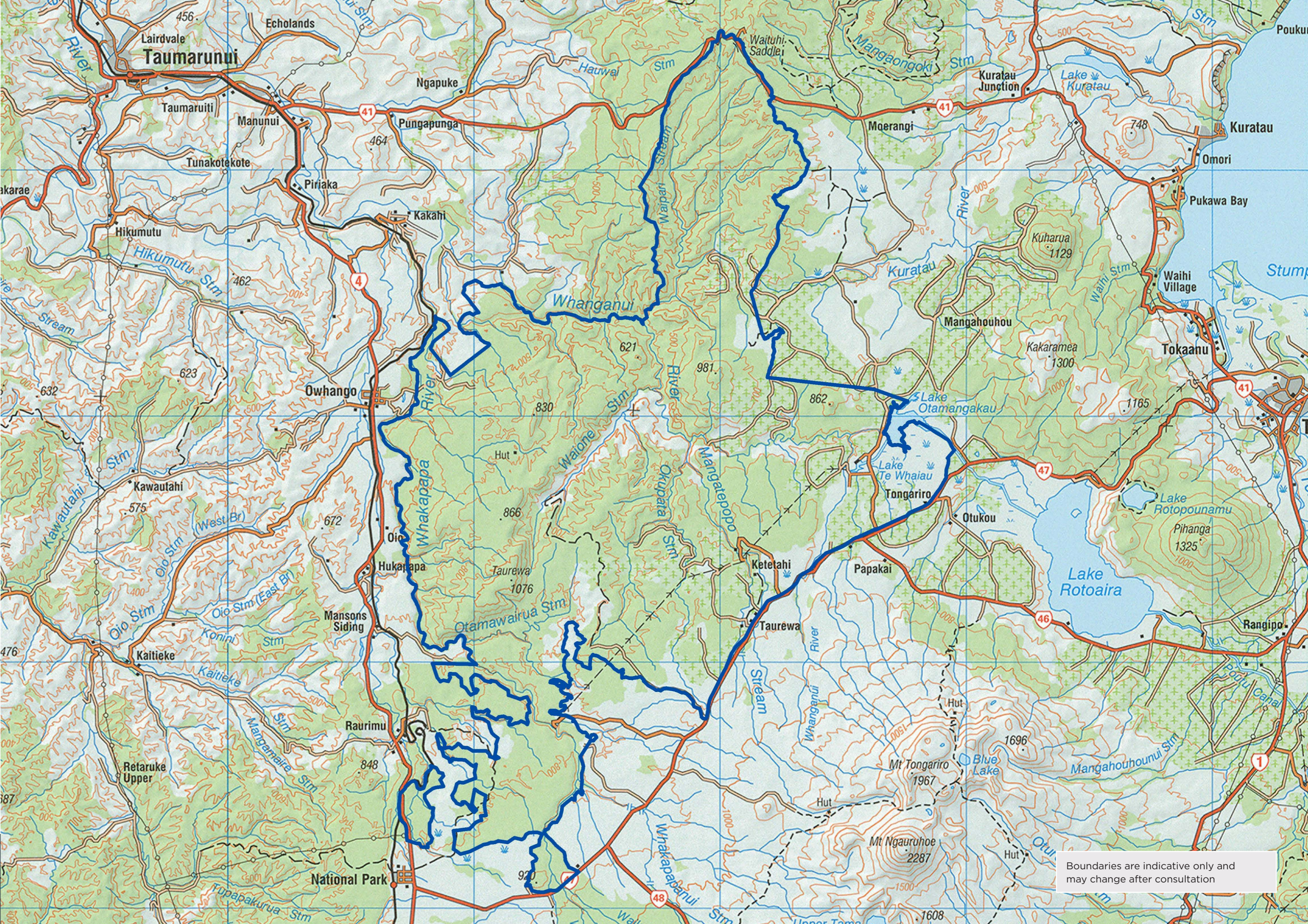
WHAT TO EXPECT

The operation will begin with the distribution by helicopter of non-toxic, tan-coloured cereal pellets. This “pre-feed” gives possums a taste for the pellets and overcomes any bait shyness. This will be applied at a rate of one kilogram per hectare. About one to two weeks later, toxic, green cereal pellets, each containing 0.15 per cent biodegradable sodium fluoroacetate (also known as 1080), will be applied by helicopter at a rate of one to one and a half kilograms per hectare over the entire area.

Deer repellent will be used over a portion of the operational area. That is roughly one bait to every 120 square metres at a rate of one kilogram per hectare or one bait to every 90 square metres at a rate of 1.5 kilogram per hectare. This operation will be subject to strict safety, quality-assurance and monitoring requirements. Advanced GPS navigational equipment will be used to ensure the pellets are accurately placed and identified exclusion zones avoided.



Baits covered in deer repellent. The non-toxic pre-feed pellets are brownish-tan while the toxic baits are green.



Boundaries are indicative only and may change after consultation