



# Waihora

## Post initial predator control report for 2008/09

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# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Greater Wellington	5
<b>3.</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Operational area</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Operational history</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Operational procedures</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Operational results</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Schedule 2</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1. Executive summary

This is an updated report for Waihora for the year 2008/09. This report follows on from the 2007/08 report (publication No. GW/BIO-G-08/154).

The operational area remains the same at 1,030ha. Waihora is located in the Tuhitarata area and is situated at the north western side of the Haurangi State Forest Park. The Waihora catchment stream exits the forest within the KNEMA (Key Native Ecosystems Management Area) and this is what the operational area is named after.

Topography is mainly moderate to rolling hill country comprised of gullies of mature beech forest, modified native remnants, stands of kanuka and regenerating natives.

Bovine Tb vector control work is ongoing throughout the Pirinoa district with possum populations at very low levels.



## 2. Recommendations

### 2.1 Greater Wellington

- Continue to carry out monthly servicing of all control sites at Waihora and record all details on predators killed and bait usage through the services of an external service provider employed under a prescriptive contract.
- Continue to carry out bird count monitoring as a means of measuring biodiversity changes over time through predator control.
- Annually let the predator control to a suitable preferred service provider.
- Over time promote community involvement with self help, volunteer and care groups.

## 3. Objective

- To maintain possum populations at less than 5% residual trap catch (RTC) therefore allowing the forest ecosystem to thrive.
- To reduce predator populations to low levels that enhances the areas' biodiversity.

#### **4. Operational area**

The operational area remains the same at 1,030ha in total and is situated at the north eastern corner of the Haurangi Forest Park and running west to the Martinborough-Lake Ferry Road generally referred to as Tuhitarata.

Topography is mainly moderate to rolling hill country comprised of gullies of mature beech forest, modified native remnants, stands of kanuka and regenerating native bush.



#### **5. Operational history**

Past operational history at this KNEMA has been primarily bovine Tb focused with years of intensive possum control carried out either annually or bi-annually. There is still a maintenance programme in place throughout this operational area. A further round of bovine Tb possum control has been completed during the financial year just gone.

#### **6. Operational procedures**

Operational procedures remain unchanged. At each site a Sentry bait station was erected above the reach of grazing animals and filled with waxed Pestoff 20P possum pellets. Also a Timms possum trap was set using meat baits combined with a Fenn No. 4 under a Philproof tunnel that has meat baits placed under the tunnel and around the trap.

There are 197 predator control sites established in the Waihora operation.

#### **7. Operational results**

The monthly predator catch results for the 2008/09 year to the end of June are listed below and a total of 280kg of Pestoff was used:

Month	Cats	Rats	Hedgehogs	Ferrets	Rabbits	Magpies	Weasels	Stoats	Possums
July	1	7	2	0	0	4	0	1	0
August	3	6	5	0	0	5	1	1	0
September	1	9	4	0	0	9	0	0	0
October	0	4	8	0	0	5	0	0	0
November	0	2	15	0	1	4	0	0	0
December	0	2	15	0	1	7	0	0	0
January	2	7	39	0	0	27	0	0	0
February	5	3	18	4	0	14	0	2	1
March	2	4	22	0	0	7	0	0	0
April	7	7	30	2	0	11	0	1	1
May	8	14	18	0	0	7	0	0	0
June	4	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

## 8. Discussion

J G McCaslin Trappers continue to be the service provider for the maintenance of this operation. John McCaslin has an excellent working relationship with all of the landowners involved in the Waihora operation.

There was another round of maintenance possum control completed at Waihora for 2008/09 for bovine Tb control. This work was undertaken by Greater Wellington's business unit BioWorks. Refer to the attached RTC result and map as Schedule 1 and 2 at the back of this report. A pre-control trend monitor will occur in 2009/10.

## 9. Monitoring

Bird count monitoring lines were established at Waihora in the summer of 2006. There are three lines within the operational area. Bird count monitoring was undertaken again at Waihora during the 2008/09 year by a member of the Pest Animals staff who has the necessary skills required to do this monitoring. Later the field data was submitted and a report was prepared on these outcomes.

## 10. Costs

Below is a breakdown of costs for 2008/09.

	\$
<b>Labour:</b>	1,645.00
<b>Vehicle/plant:</b>	444.28
<b>Materials/supplies</b>	3,035.81
<b>Contractors/consultants</b>	11,720.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16,845.09</b>

  
**Steve Playle**  
 Biosecurity Officer (Animals)

  
**Ray Clarey**  
 Senior Biosecurity Officer (Animals)



Monitoring - Trap Catch

<b>Activity Name:</b> Kahutara Pirinoa-HR 1	<b>Activity Id:</b> 11711
<b>Operation:</b> Kahutara Pirinoa	<b>Project Code:</b> 12212
<b>TMA:</b> Lower Valley	<b>Organisation:</b> Contract Monitoring Partnership
<b>Region:</b> Wellington	<b>Activity Type:</b> Performance monitor
<b>Region Type:</b> Vector Manager Region	<b>Start Date:</b> 12/05/2009
<b>Financial Year:</b> 08/09	<b>Finish Date:</b> 16/05/2009

**PASS**

**Results Summary**

<b>Number of fine nights:</b> 3	<b>Number of monitor lines measured:</b> 11
<b>Number of traps per line:</b> 10	<b>Number of contingency lines used:</b> 4
	<b>Number of additional lines used:</b> 0

**Activity Specifications**

Target RTC 2.00%  
No lines over 3 possums

**Results**

Measured RTC: 0.30% PASS  
SE: 0.30  
95% CI ±: 0.60  
0 line(s) caught over 3 possums PASS

# Schedule 2

