

## Water Supply, Parks & Forests Division Update for period ending 30 April 2007

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### **Reserve Forests**

#### **Tauanui Logging**

The logging contractor returned to Tauanui at the end of March. 190 tonnes of logs were produced from the trees extracted during the course of road formation.

Logging during April was interrupted while the contractor was elsewhere. Now that he has returned, he has been logging alongside the new road in very large trees. Some are around 10 tonnes in weight (compared with the usual 2.5 – 3 tonne average tree size).

April production figures are not yet available.

The availability of logging trucks when required has improved now that a Masterton based firm has been engaged as the primary contractor.

Options are being considered to identify the most suitable and cost efficient crossing of the Tauanui River to access the 70 hectares of trees planted on the Northern side. Options range from a ford, which would limit access to low flow periods, to some form of bridge that could be dismantled and reused at Hiwinui. The bridge option would ensure access and prevent workers and equipment being isolated when the river floods.

#### **Lincoln Students**

A day was spent with 65 Lincoln University Agricultural Science/Commerce students using the Stoney Creek DVD to provide an introduction to Erosion Control Forestry and then visiting several Forestry projects on the way to the Pottinger property at Tinui.

This is an annual field trip where students tour a number of hill country farms to learn about farming and land management options. Forestry input has been requested and provided for the last 10 years.

Sites along the route are visited so that the students can gain an appreciation of general Forestry Management and see the impact of variation of timing and quality of management on the final crop.

#### **Rural Fire**

With the recent rain, the prohibited fire season within the Wairarapa has been reduced to a restricted season (permits required for lighting fires in the open).

This has led to a hectic week of Rural Fire Duty as those holding permits for some time ring to advise that they are going to burn.

High fuel loadings and the need for extreme caution have been highlighted in two fires that have required Fire Service urban and rural multiple appliance turn out this week. In addition numerous 111 calls as a result of smoke sightings have occurred with the change of fire season status.

### **Stoney Creek Wind Farm Proposal**

The first prospective tenderers are scheduled to inspect the proposed site on Monday 30 April.

### **Rough Hill Fence**

Slow progress is being made with the clearing of the agreed fence line between Rough Hill and Wairangi. Two breakdowns of Mr Franks bulldozer have resulted in this phase of the project taking longer than anticipated.

The need for a speedy completion of this clearing has been communicated to Mr Franks and his staff. Once cleared, the fence line will be re measured to obtain independent quotes for a fence to the agreed specification.