

Protect our species *in* Fiordland National Park



Pest control to protect native species from widespread predator plagues

A heavy seeding (mast) will occur in many forests this year. This natural event, that should benefit native species, will be hijacked by introduced predators as rodent and stoat numbers will skyrocket. Seedfall and rodent levels will be monitored at sites where rare and endangered native species are under greatest threat. When rodent numbers meet critical levels, that will trigger predator control. Without predator control some species such as yellowhead/mohua, kākā, orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki karaka, rock wren/pīwauwau and bats/pekapeka will suffer heavy losses.

Predicting increased rodent populations – 2014 and 2016

A widespread heavy seedfall in South Island beech forests in early 2014 and again in 2016 led to escalating rat and mice numbers. Two events of such magnitude in quick succession was thought to be unusual. DOC, with the help of NIWA, is getting better at predicting these mast events.

Pest control works

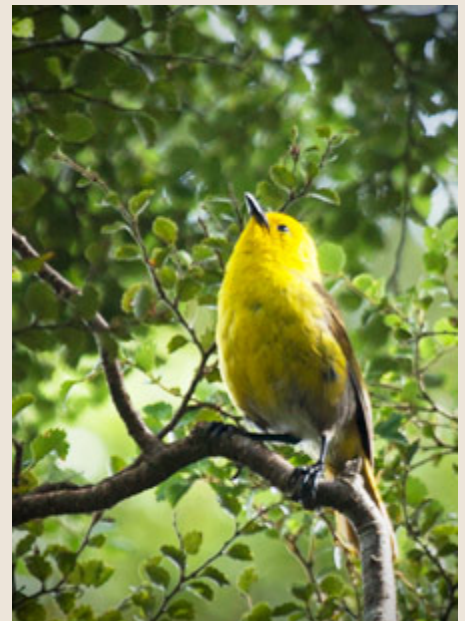
DOC carried out aerial 1080 pest control in the winters following the prolific forest flowering over more than 600,000 hectares each season. Monitoring showed an average rat kill of about 95%, which reduced rodents to undetectable levels at most sites and stoat plagues were avoided.

Outcomes

Intensive species monitoring showed the nesting success of rock wren, mohua, robin and rifleman was significantly higher within pest control areas than outside. Go to doc.govt.nz/our-work/battle-for-our-birds.

2019 – the battle continues

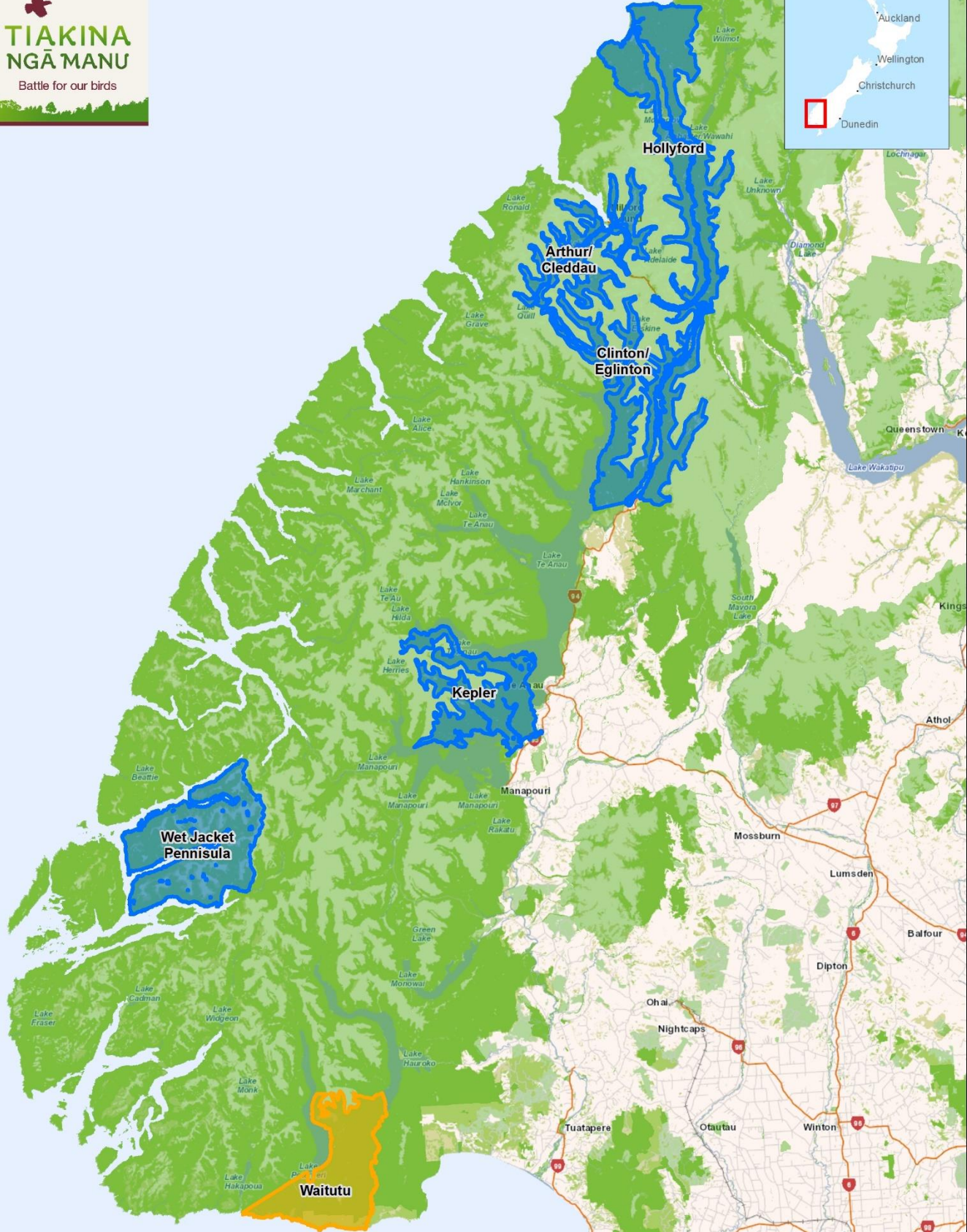
Extensive seeding is occurring again in 2019 but on an even larger scale. This is likely to be the biggest mast in decades. We will have a major pest problem on our hands.



Mohua/yellowhead. Photo: Sabine Barnert



Short-tailed bat/pekapeka. Photo: Colin O'Donnell DOC



- Confirmed aerial operation
- Proposed aerial operation
- Public conservation land

Proposed treatment areas shown here are indicative only and may change after consultation

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Fiordland National Park
 Aerial Predator Control 2019/20
Treatment areas



New Zealand Government

Fiordland National Park: sites and values

Where heavy seedfall occurs, we can expect predator numbers to soar. To be ready to protect native species at risk, DOC is planning predator control at the following sites:

Arthur/Cleddau/Sinbad

- 17,924 ha in the Arthur, Sinbad and Cleddau valleys to protect whio (blue duck) and pateke (brown teal)
- Part of northern Fiordland whio security site, one of only two sites for re-introduction of pateke in the South Island.
- Proposed timing: From Aug 1st 2019

Eglinton/Clinton

- Protection of mohua, southern tokoeka/kiwi, whio/blue duck as well as short-tailed and long-tailed bats
- 35,625 ha comprising the Eglinton and Clinton valleys along with the adjoining lake side forest
- Proposed timing: From Aug 1st 2019

Hollyford

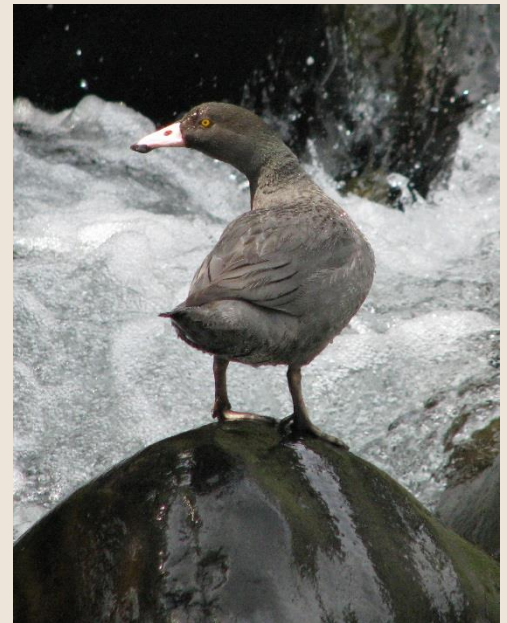
- Protection of many forest species including kaka, falcon, yellow crowned parakeets, mohua (yellowhead) and kea, as well as fernbirds and whio (blue duck)
- 40,585 ha covering the upper and lower valley, from Martins Bay up to the Milford Highway
- Proposed timing: From Aug 1st 2019

Kepler

- Protection of pekapeka (long-tailed bats) and whio (blue duck) alongside other native forest flora & fauna
- 24,168 ha plus a 50m buffer strip of bait stations along the Kepler track/edge of Lake Te Anau
- Proposed timing: From Aug 1st 2019

Wet Jacket

- Planned aerial 1080 operation aims to reverse the decline in the Fiordland tokoeka (kiwi) population by protecting vulnerable kiwi chicks from predation
- The planned operation should also benefit kākā, kea, rock wren/pīwauwau and native vegetation vulnerable to possum browse such as rata and mistletoes
- 39,707 ha to be treated between May 2019 – April 2020



Whio. Photo: Herb Christophers



Fiordland tokoeka Photo: James Reardon

A range of pest control methods will be used including traps and toxins

Aerial application of 1080 baits is the most cost-effective predator control method over large areas. It is the only viable method in remote or rugged terrain. In more accessible areas, traps or bait stations will be laid, depending on the density of pest populations. High predator numbers can overwhelm trapping networks in some areas. In those cases, aerial 1080 pest control will supplement existing trapping.

Aerial 1080 pest control will target rats, but stoats will also be killed through eating poisoned rodent carcasses. Operations begin with an aerial pre-feed of non-toxic baits to encourage rats to eat the 1080 baits that are applied later.

Time frame

Operations will be triggered as rodent populations reach monitored thresholds. Operations, which are weather dependent, will take place when they are most effective between May and November. Dates will vary between sites and will be confirmed closer to operations taking place.

Planning

DOC is working closely with iwi and consulting with key stakeholders before finalising details. Before operations begin, DOC will contact affected neighbors, put up warning signs and advertise in local newspapers. Use of 1080 requires the consent of the Environmental Protection Authority, and permission from the Ministry of Health. The process includes an assessment of environmental effects (AEE) to safeguard the public and the environment.

What you need to know

The Department of Conservation complies with all relevant regulations and takes a precautionary approach to the aerial application of pesticides.

- *The 1080 cereal baits are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped and are dyed **green**.*
- *Non-toxic pre-feed cereal pellets are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped but are **fawn-coloured** (not dyed).*

Managing risk

Dogs, in particular, are highly susceptible to 1080. The risk to dogs from poisoned carcasses will remain until they have completely rotted, perhaps for more than 6 months.

Precautionary approach

Risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- *DO NOT touch bait*
- *WATCH CHILDREN at all times*
- *DO NOT EAT animals from this area*
- *Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS*

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. Warning signs indicate pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with your local DOC office.

More information

Nedra Burns
Operations Manager
Department of Conservation Te Anau
Lakefront Drive, Te Anau 9600
Phone: 03 249 0200

What to do if you suspect poisoning

Contact emergency services: **111**

National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766

15/03/19

Also see doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai