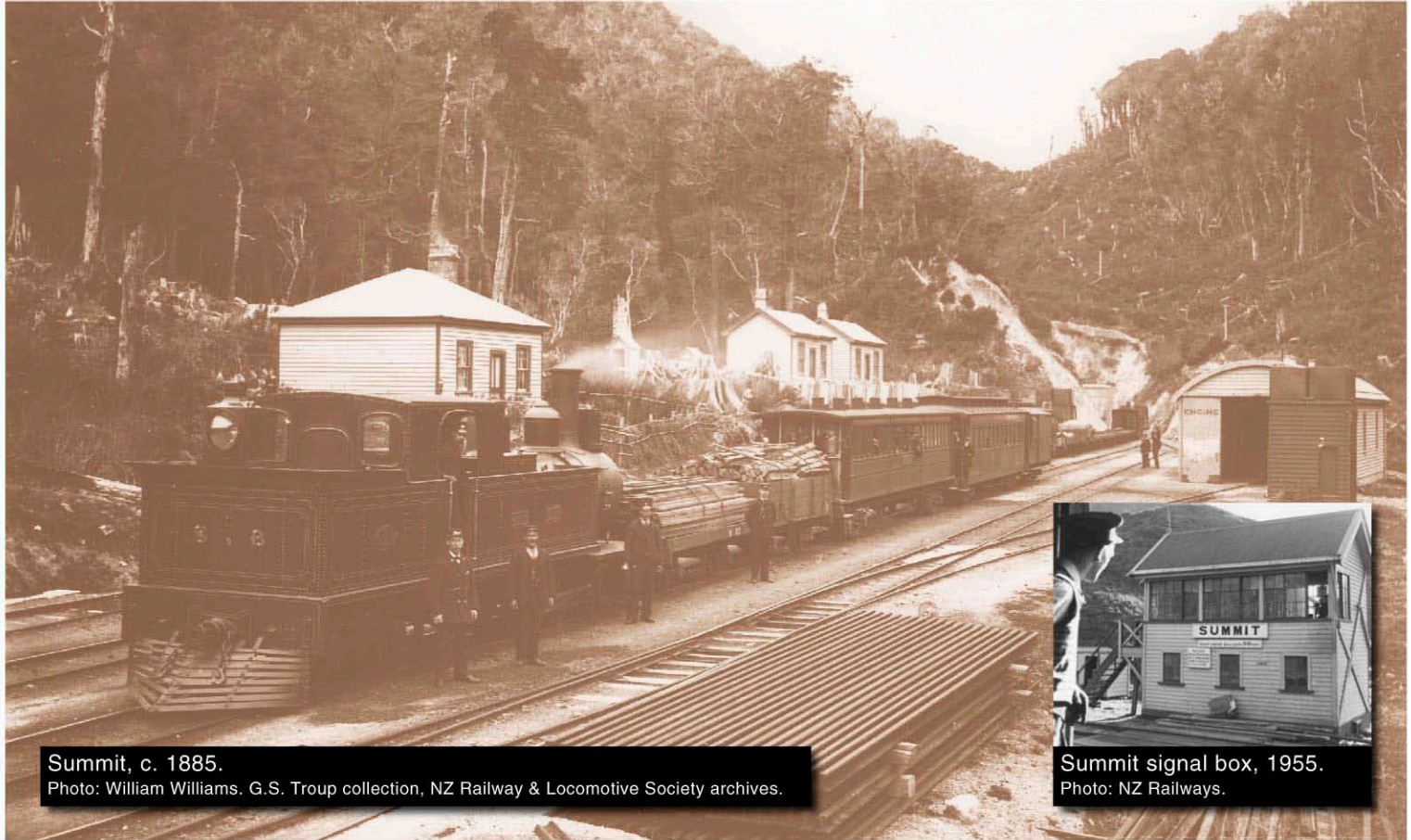


# 4. Summit – then and now



Summit, c. 1885.

Photo: William Williams. G.S. Troup collection, NZ Railway & Locomotive Society archives.



Summit signal box, 1955.

Photo: NZ Railways.

# 4. Summit – then and now

This was where the engines had to be changed from one end of the train to the other before the descent to Cross Creek or Kaitoke.

Look at the photos of the summit on this card and compare the vegetation cover with what is here now. The bush around the summit area was removed by land-clearing and fires. Fires were often started by sparks from the steam engines. In your group discuss:

- What happens to the land and the wildlife when the bush cover is removed?

When left alone the forest will eventually grow again (regenerate) but this area had high numbers of goats and possums.

- As a goat or a possum living in this area, what would you feed on and what effect would this have on a regenerating forest?
- As a park manager how might you deal with problems caused by animal pests?

Possums munch through a container load of native bush in New Zealand every night.



Summit, c. 1903.

Photo: A.P. Godber. NZ Railway & Locomotive Society archives.