



FINAL REPORT

Goat control
Ruahine forest park

2020-2021

Submitted by:

s9(2)(a)

Kiwi Field Crew Ltd

s9(2)(a)

INTRODUCTION

The Ruahine Ranges are home to two concerning populations of goats. One is at the southern end between Saddle Road and Takapari Road. Goat numbers are moderate at the southern end around Wharite but dwindle down to very low density North of here. To stop the goats spreading North we pay careful attention to their favoured spots above Opawe Road and over in to forks creek. The other population is at the north eastern end from Ruahine hut area south to Golden crown ridge area.

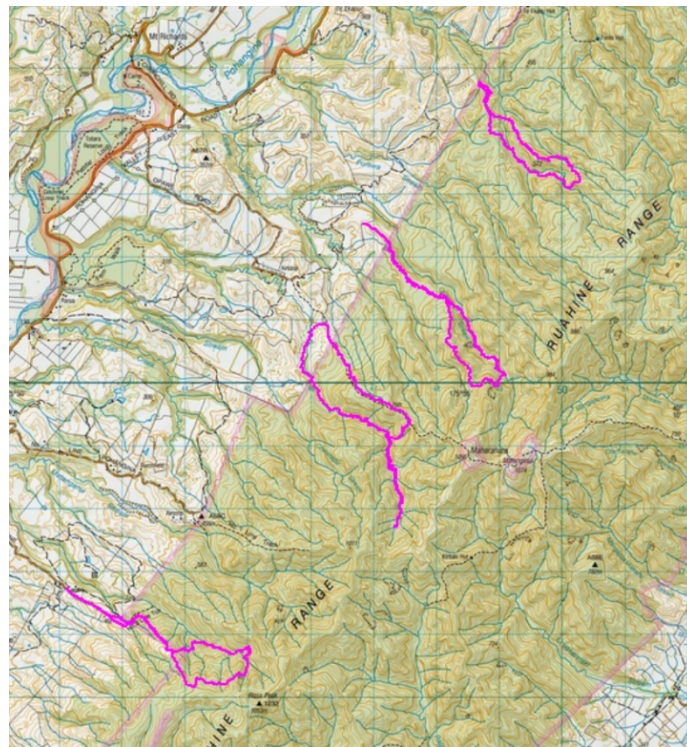
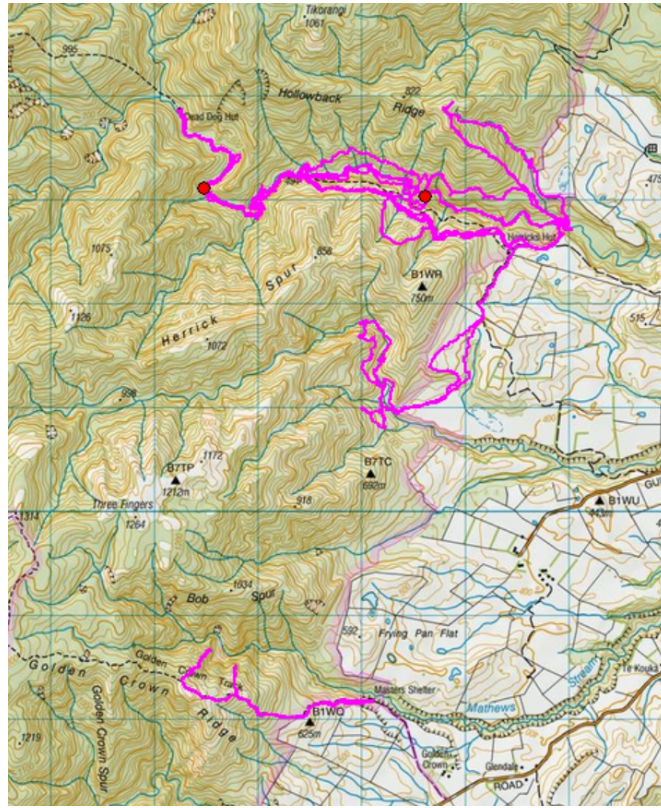
MANAGEMENT

Kiwi Field Crew Ltd were tasked with 120 hours of goat control in the Ruahine Ranges in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. 80 hours were spent in the North Eastern end around Herricks creek and 40 hours in the southern end between Te Ekou creek and No2 line.

METHODS

KFCLs Goat removal methods consisted of one hunter and dog checking "hot spots" in the Opawe/ no2 line area. Fly camps were utilized to achieve maximum coverage in the short time allocated. These camp sites are positioned so as the hunter can glass with binoculars the many slips and clearings the goats like to live near. The other method used in the northern end was team hunting with two men and dogs, one hunting each side of the main creeks etc enabling the hunters to glass into each others sides and guide each other in when targets were spotted.

MAPS



OBSERVATIONS

The bird life was plentiful with a very strong dawn chorus. Deer numbers were moderate to high in the south and low in the north. No goat sign was found in the southern end however in the northern end goat sign was evident along both sides of herricks creek right up to dead dog hut as well as below herricks hut on the edge of the private land.

RESULTS

Hours hunted equaled 120

Goat kills equaled 8 (herricks creek)

= 0.66 goats per hunter day.

SUMMARY AND FUTURE CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS

The goat control operations in the Ruahine forest park have significantly reduced the goat population over the last 15 + years. Continuation of hunting efforts in this park will reduce the population further as long as enough effort is put in on a regular basis so as to keep up with the breeding and re invasion.

RUAHINE RANGES



**UNGULATE CONTROL
2021-22**

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- **Methods used**
- **Results**
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Overveiw

This year KFCL Were tasked with 108 hours of goat control work in the southern Ruahines, 24 hours in the Gorge and 50 hours in the Northern Ruahines/ Herricks creek area.

Method

Two hunters worked from home, day hunting known hot spots and likely areas using purpose specific goat bailer dogs. Thermal imaging and binoculars were used to glass slips/ clearings etc to detect goats late evening and early morning. Fly camps were utilized for some areas where it is to far to hunt properly in one day eg the heads of Opawe and Porewa. These areas have many slips on the edge of the leatherwood worth glassing late evening. For the Herricks area Herricks hut was used as base camp.

Results

SWR

Goats destroyed = 14

Days = 12.5

HERRICKS

Goats destroyed = 15

Days = 5

GORGE

Goats destroyed = 0 no sign found

Days = 2.5

Health and safety

KIWI FIELD CREW LTD adhere to their own extensive tailored health and safety system. Prior to commencement of each contract a pre operational plan incorporated into our S.O.P and check list was sent to each hunter as well as the contract manager so everyone relevant knew exactly where each other would be, a sched time for each day and any additional PPE required. Each of KFCLs staff carry an in-reach device which is tracked by our administration manager. During this operation there was no accidents or near misses to report.

Observations

There have been no reported goat sightings in the southern Ruahines, north of No3 line for the last two years.

Reinvasion is very evident from the south west around wharite. Multiple goats are commonly witnessed on Moar's property where we have no access and travelling between there and the park. Most of these are white but this year a few colored goats were seen.

Deer browse is very heavy throughout the entire area.

No goat sign was found anywhere that goats were not killed.

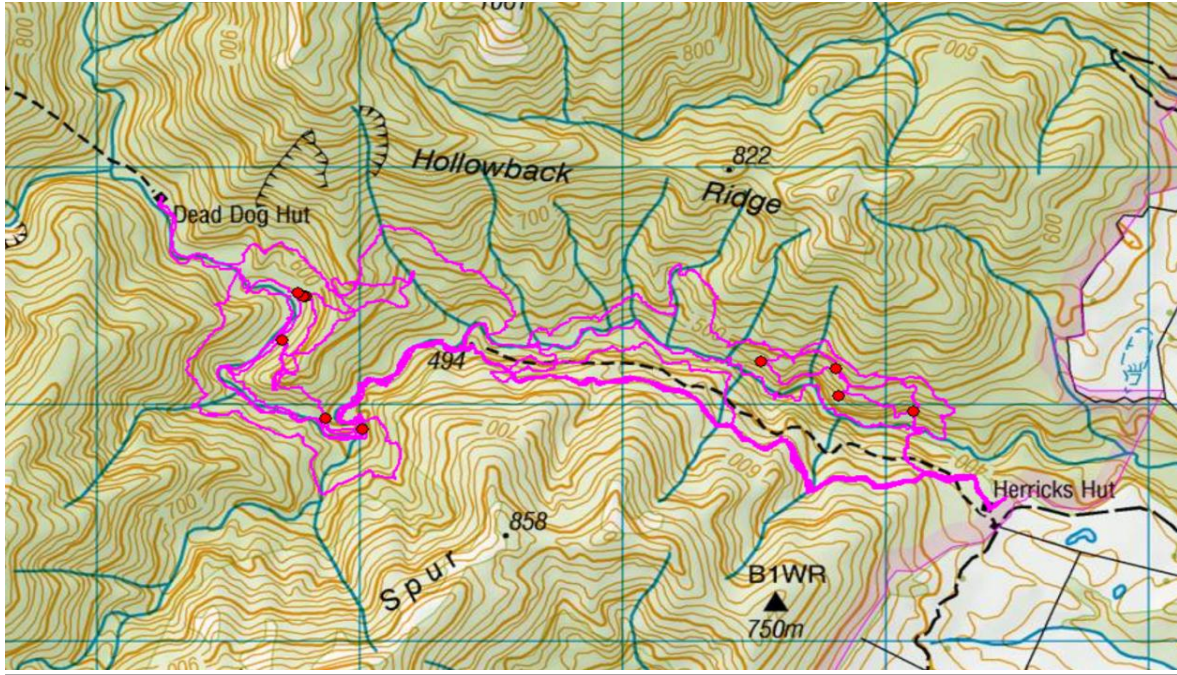
Bird life throughout the block was moderate.

Daily records

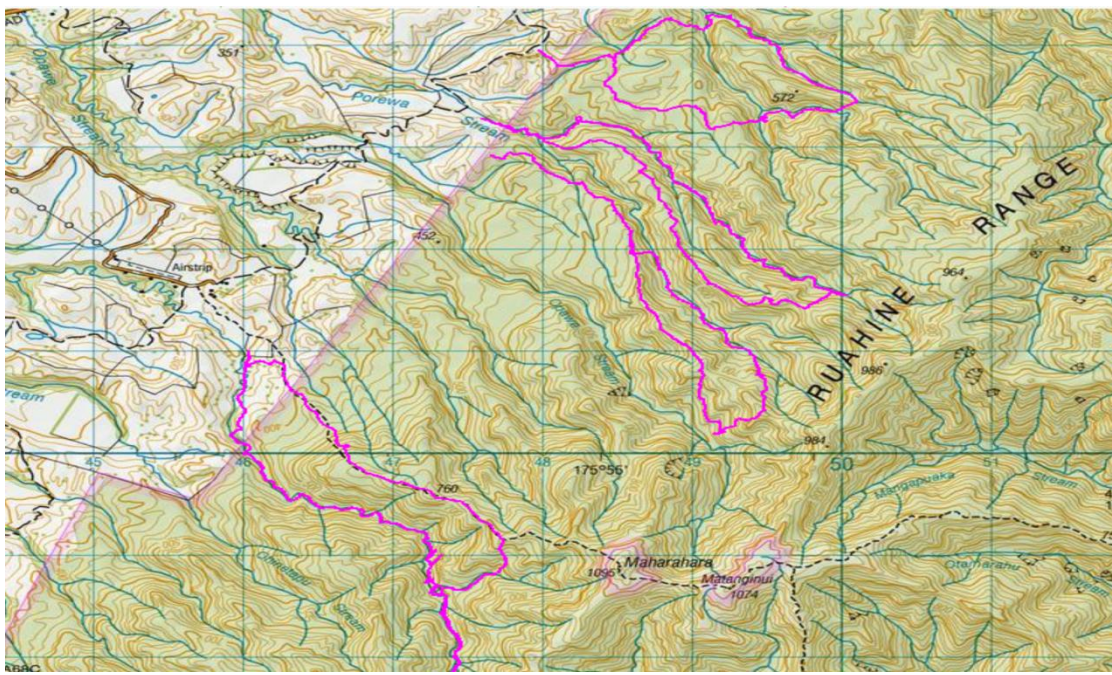
DATE	BLOCK	DAYS	AM	AF	JM	JF	DEER PIG	COMMENTS
7/12/21	Herricks creek	1	3	3		2		Goats camping up on true left above bluffs
8/12/21	Herricks creek	1	1	1				Goats heard down stream from camp on private land
9/12/21	Herricks Creek	1	2	3				AM off bluff
10/12/21	Herricks Creek	1						No sign
11/12/21	Herricks Creek	1						No sign
7/11/21	no3 sugar bowl	1	1	3				No other sign
8/11/21	No3 TL	1	1	1				7 goats seen over boundary/ Moars block
30/01/22	Paco's creek	1						No sign
15/02/22	No3 north B	1						No sign
16/02/22	Wharite S	1		6				4 more seen on farmland/ Moars
17/02/22	Wharite M	1		2				7 Goats glassed again out of block/ Moars
21/02/22	Hallblock	2						No sign/ Glassed/ thermal all edges late evening, no deer or goats seen
22/02/22	Hallblock	1						No sign/ Glassed/ thermal all edges late evening, no deer or goats seen
09/03/22	Opawe	1						Glassed/ thermal slips till dark then again at dawn, no sign
10/03/22	Porewa S	1						No sign
11/03/22	Porewa N	1						No sign
12/03/22	Te Ekou	1						No sign
29/03/22	Wharite N	1						Bad wx, no sign
30/03/22	No3 H	1						No sign
TOTAL		20	8	19		2		Total = 29

Track and kill site maps

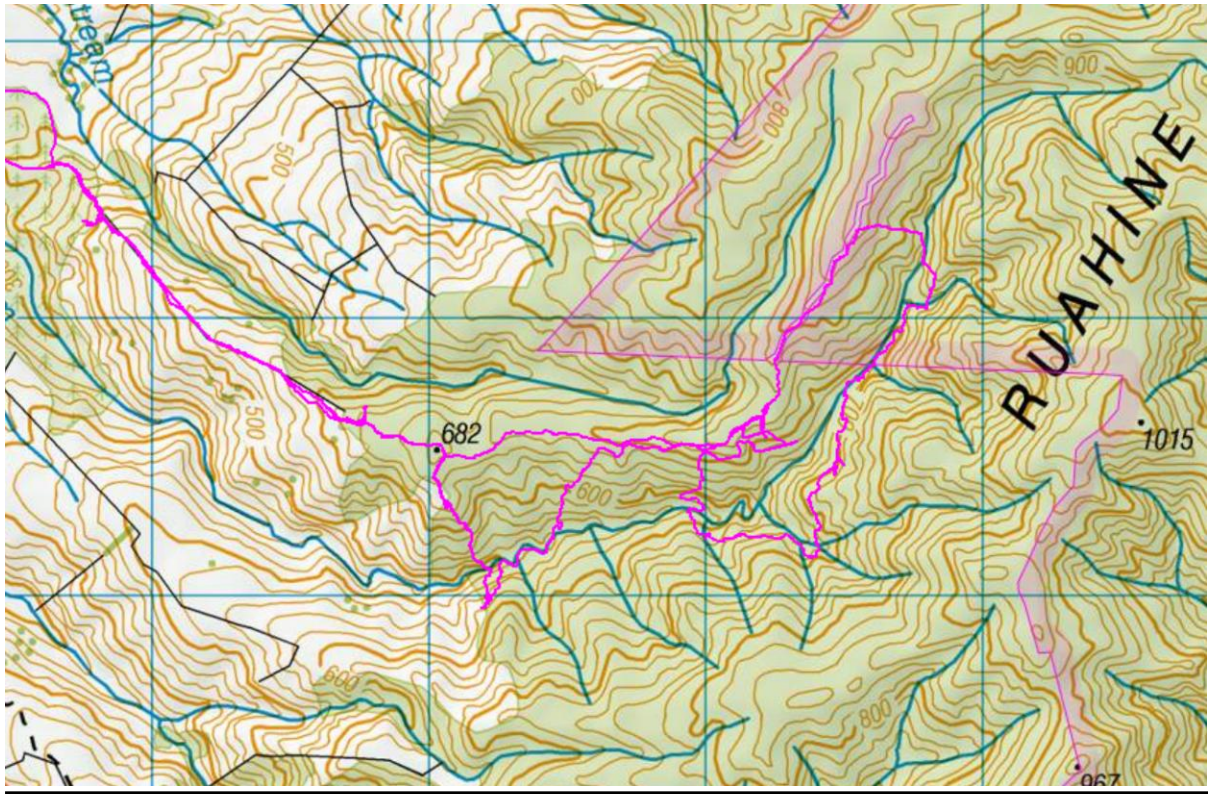
North eastern Ruahines



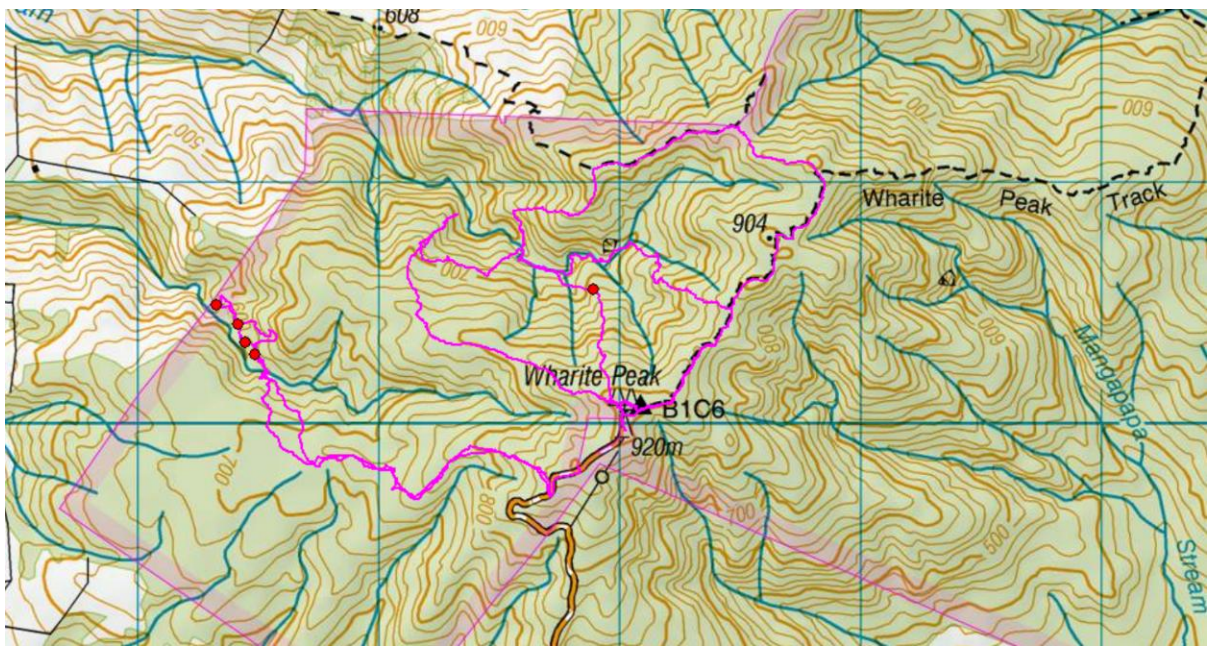
Opawe



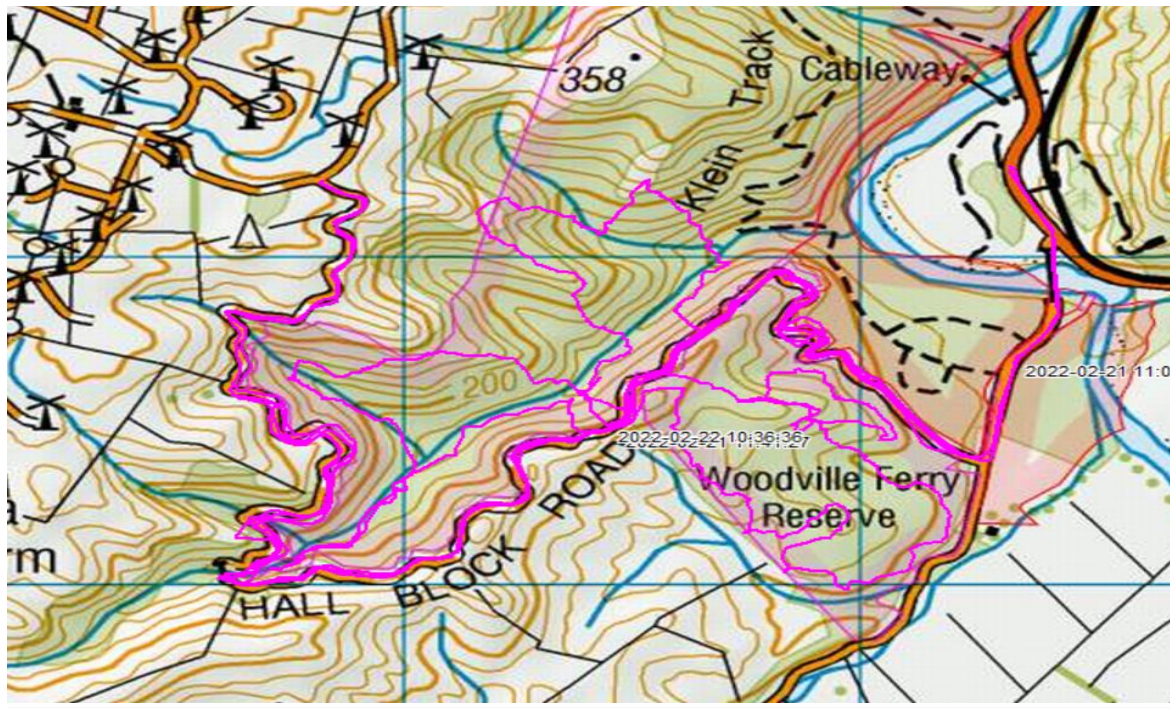
No 3 Line



Wharite



Gorge



Report written by:

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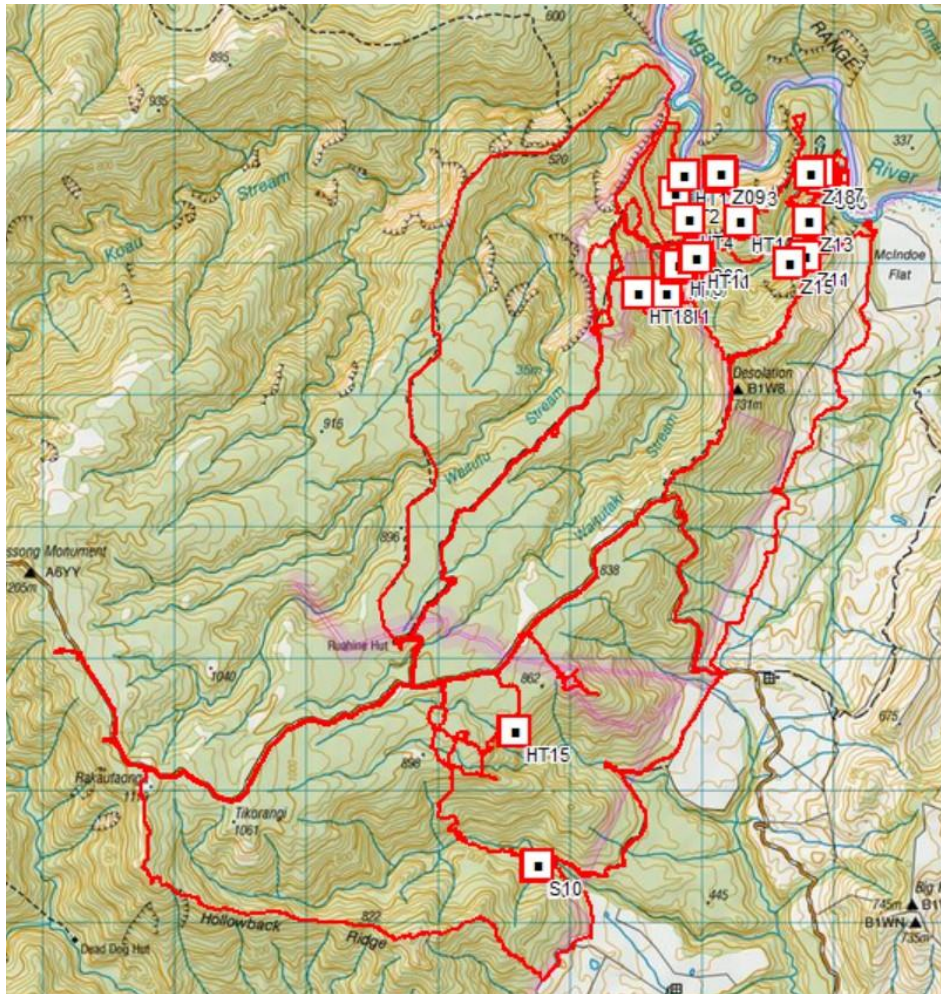
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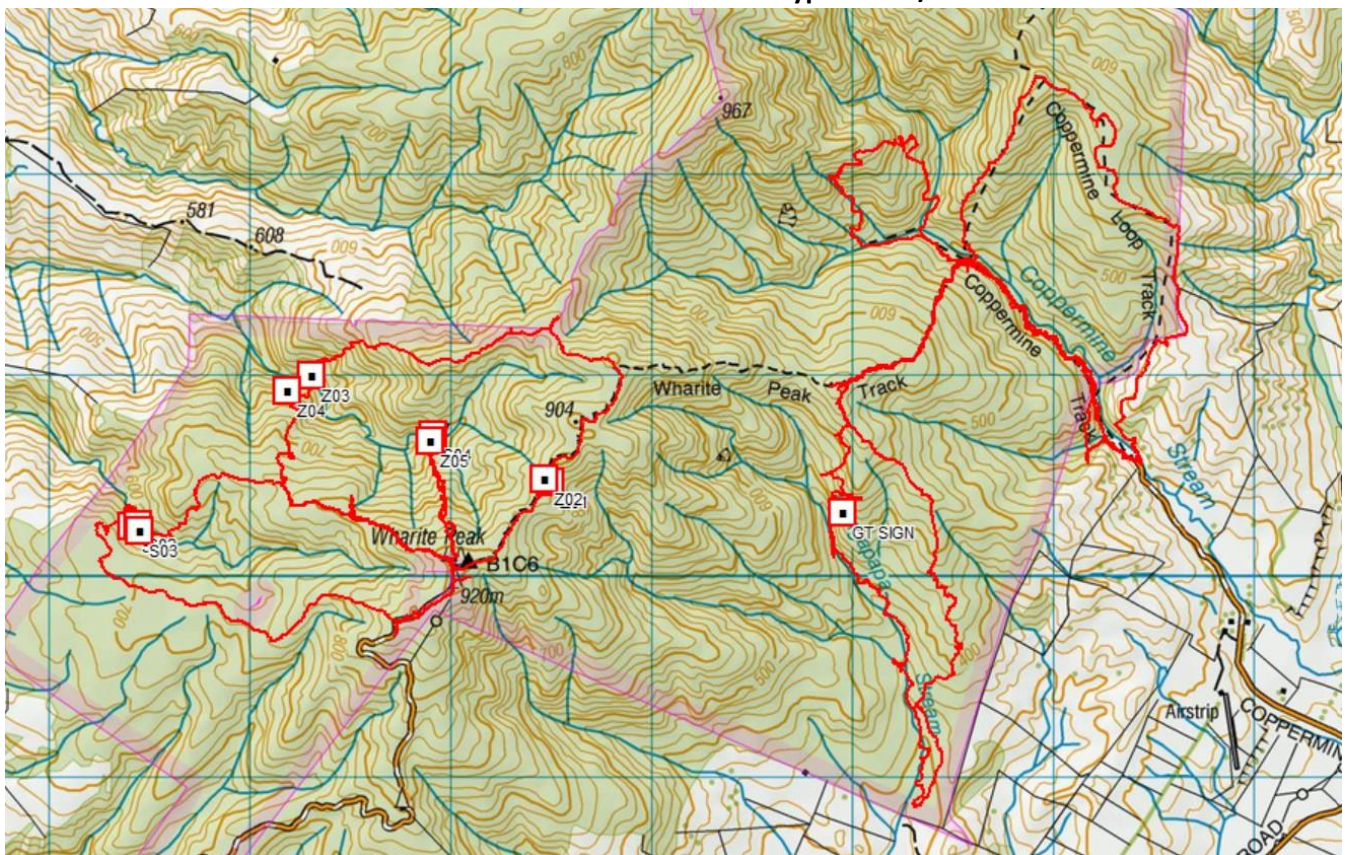
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Silver Bullet Contracting Ruahine Report 21/22

Northern Ruahine Tracks and Waypoints 21/22

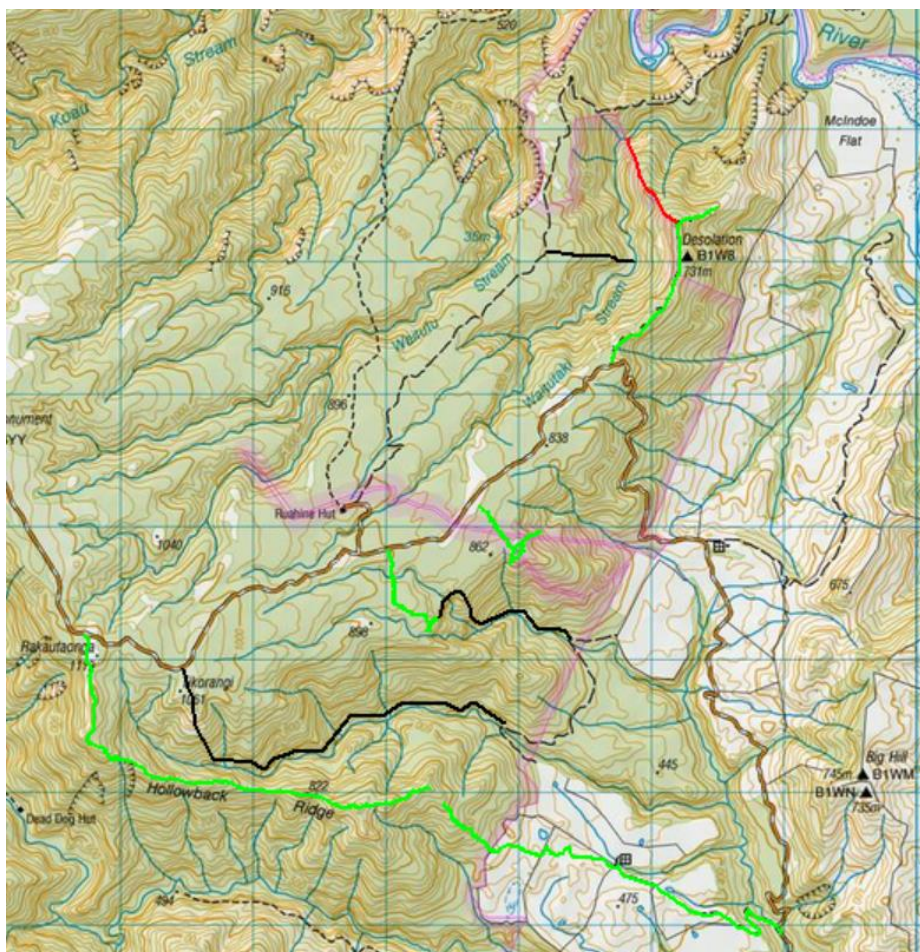


Southern Ruahine Tracks and Waypoints 21/22



Hunting was conducted between the 14th and 19th of February by s9(2)(a). A total of 160 hours were completed with 120 hours being in the Northern End from Ruahine Hut and 40 being in the Southern End from Coppermine and Wharite Road Ends. A total of 38 goat were killed in the Northern End (0.32 goat/hr) and 9 in the Southern End (0.23 goat/hr).

There does not seem to be a huge number of goats in the Northern Block but the terrain is steep and bush thick so it makes it slow to hunt them effectively. The most effective way of increasing productivity in the Northern Block will be to open the old tracks and cut some more in key locations. All the existing tracks are overgrown. I have added a map with extra tracks on that I feel may be useful. The one in red I feel should be done. The ones in black would need more investigation but it would entirely depend on funding and gaining more experience hunting in the area to decide where would be the most effective.



Initially in the Southern End there are probably not too many more improvements that can be done apart from increasing the hunting hours significantly. I believe 180 hours should be allocated for the Coppermine, Mangapapa and Wharite areas as a good starting point.

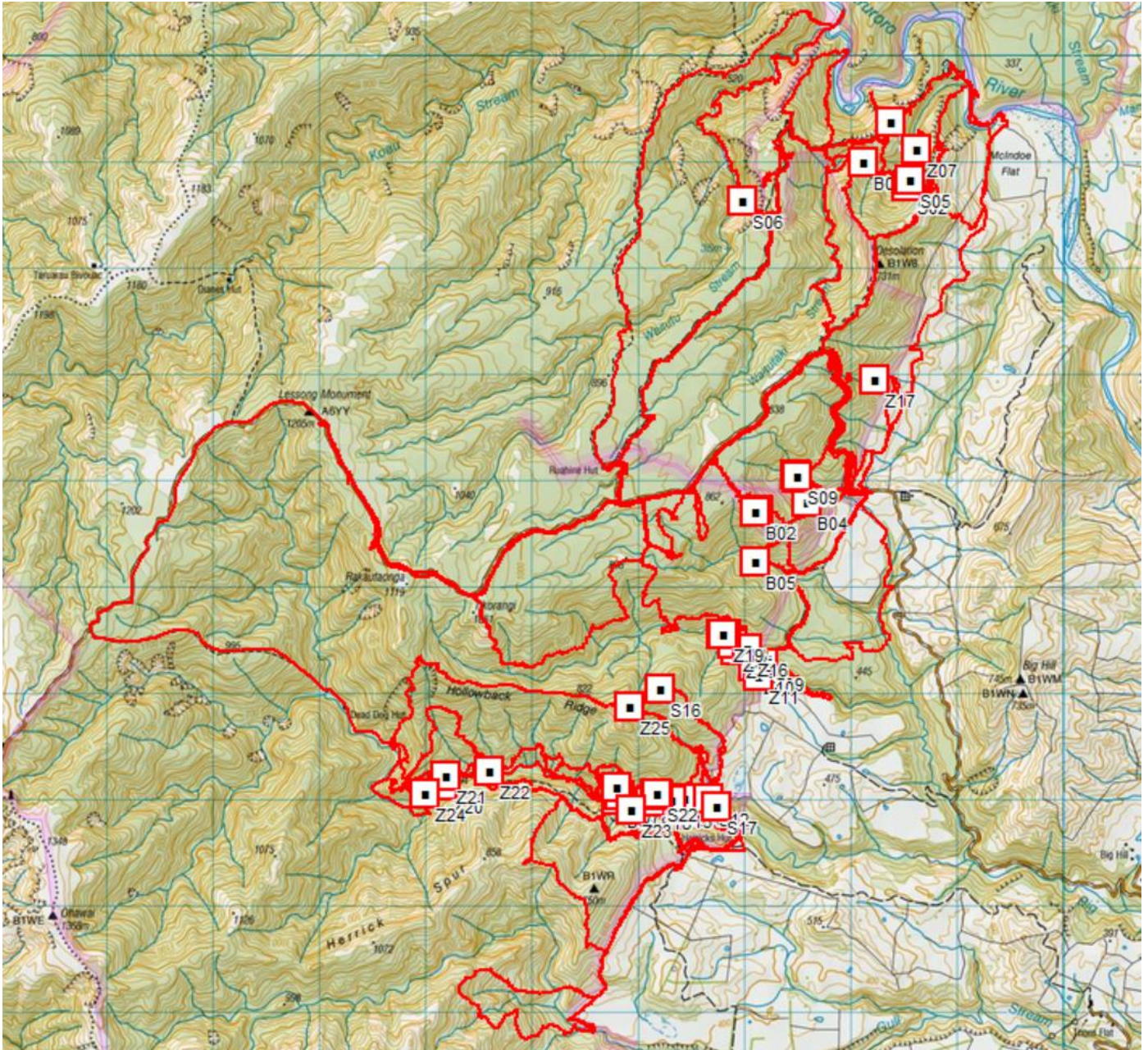
The Ruahine Hut Deer numbers seem to have increased since I last hunted the area approximately 8 years ago. At this stage I don't believe they are a huge problem given the amount of recreational hunting that the area seems to receive. However, the Deer in the Southern End are having a significant impact on the bush, far more than the goats. It is interesting that recreational hunting in one of the more frequently used areas in the Ruahine is not controlling the deer numbers.

Date of Vehicle Use	Type of Vehicle Used	Km Travelled or Hours Used
13/02/22	LUW304 4wd Ute	229km
14/02/22	LUW304 4wd Ute	201km
15/02/22	LUW304 4wd Ute	7km
17/02/22	LUW304 4wd Ute	14km
18/02/22	LUW304 4wd Ute	14km
19/02/22	LUW304 4wd Ute	355km

Silver Bullet Contracting Ltd Ruahine Report 22/23



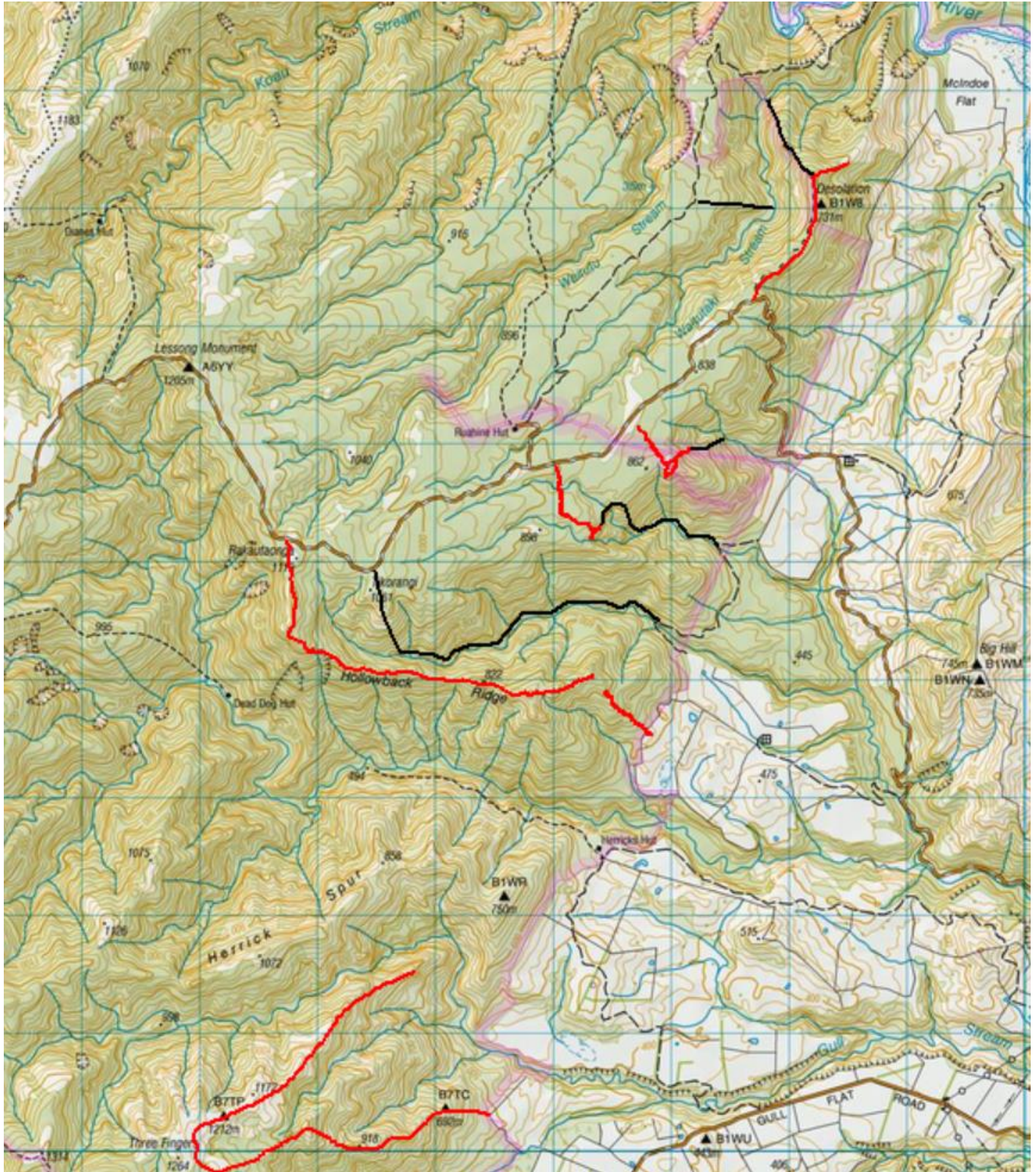
SBCL Northern Ruahine Tracks and Waypoints 22/23



Hunting was completed between the 3rd and 11th of November by s9(2)(a). A mixture of Indicator/Bailer and Bailing dogs were used. A total of 250 hours were completed, with 150 hours being from the Ruahine Hut and 100 being from the Herricks Hut. A total of 49 goat were killed at the rate of (0.20 goat/hr) and 6 sheep that the landowner had asked to be culled as they had got away from the farm and now unable to be mustered from his bush block.

There does not seem to be a huge number of goats in the Northern Block, but the terrain is steep and bush thick, so it makes it slow to hunt them effectively. The most effective way of increasing productivity in the Northern Block will be to open the old tracks and cut some more in key locations. All the existing tracks are in need of varying degrees of maintenance. I have added a map with extra tracks on that I feel may be useful. The ones in red are existing, and the ones in black would need more investigation, but it would entirely depend on funding and gaining more experience hunting in the area to decide where would be the most effective.

Northern Ruahine Existing Tracks and Proposed New Tracks



From my observations over the past year, it seems that there is reinvasion happening from all the bush leading down into the farms from Big Hill Stream. I believe it may be beneficial if some hunting effort was directed at these areas. We have been building a good working relationship with s9(2)(a) and I am confident that s9(2)(a) would allow the hunting to be done. s9(2)(a) Access may be more difficult to obtain, as they like to keep a bit of goat hunting for the shepherds working on the station. However, I believe it will likely be possible if more liaison is done and work only completed in the river gully itself down to the forks.

From the historical data I have available, I believe that the current funding seems to be just holding the overall population from increasing. In fact, it seems the numbers in the Herricks Hut area have dramatically increased since I was last working in the area in 2019. I would suggest an extra 50 hours initially be allocated to hunting the Big Hill Stream private land gulleys and areas directly adjacent to the park. It is also worth noting that there has been very

little or no hunting effort that I know of around the Three Fingers area for some time. I believe these areas historically held goats and may be worth some monitoring. An extra 50 hours would not go astray here just to make sure the goat populations have not unknowingly been multiplying in these areas. Some track maintenance in this area may be necessary to complete this though as I suspect they have not been used for a while.

Deer numbers in the northern end from my observations, are at a level that may be sustainable as there is a lot of feed available and numbers are not high. It is possible that there is a balance being achieved in this block that can meet the needs of recreational hunters and still allow the bush to regenerate, but further monitoring would be needed to confirm this. I am unsure why the deer numbers have not exploded in the area but would assume that it will be coming if they are not kept in check. It should also be considered that the areas targeted for goats are not typically the best deer areas, so what we have seen may not be a true indication of what deer numbers are like in the wider area.

Possum numbers in the area seem to be high compared to most blocks that we work, however most areas we work do receive regular 1080 control.

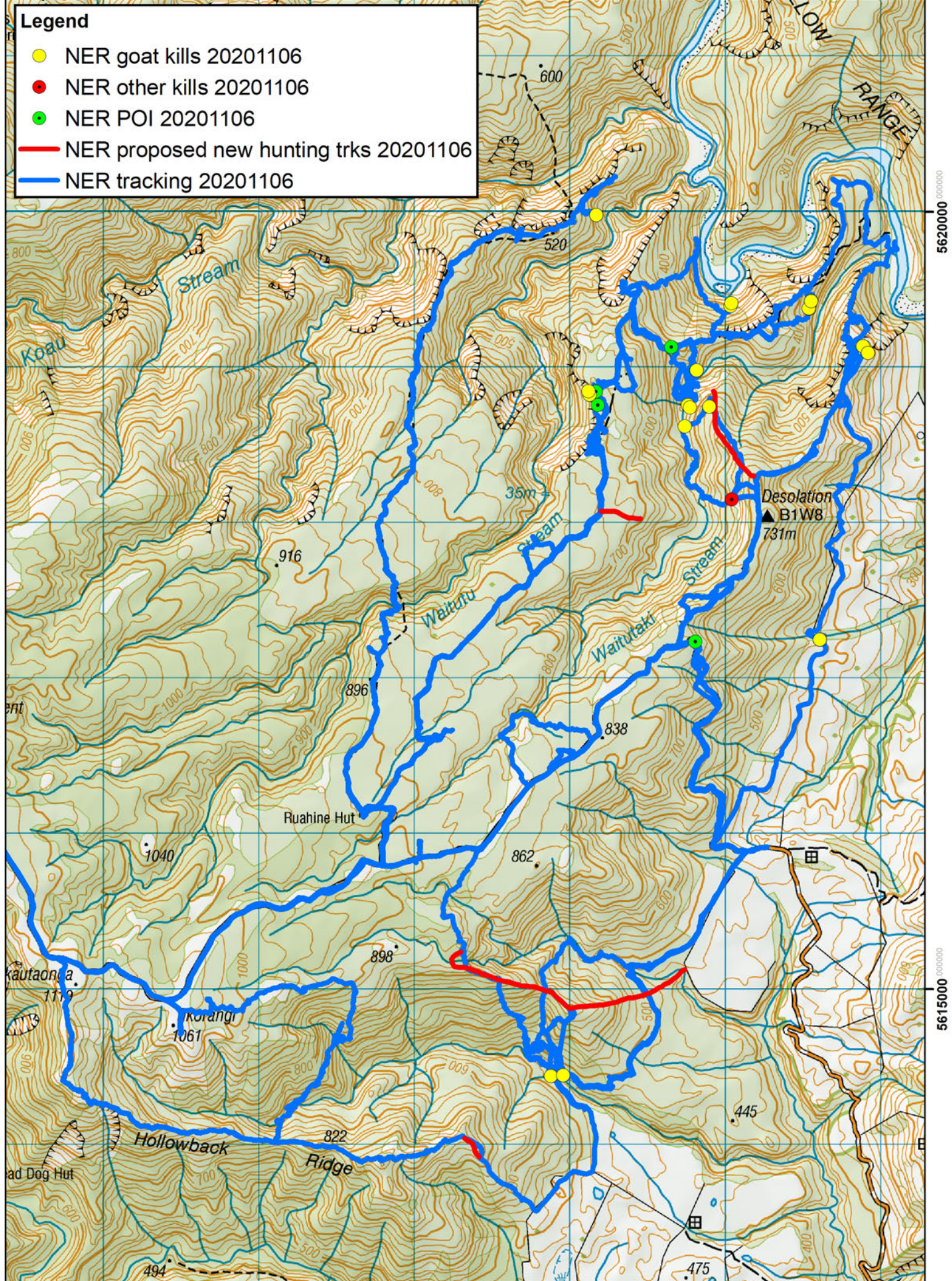
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15/11/22



Legend

- NER goat kills 20201106
- NER other kills 20201106
- NER POI 20201106
- NER proposed new hunting trks 20201106
- NER tracking 20201106



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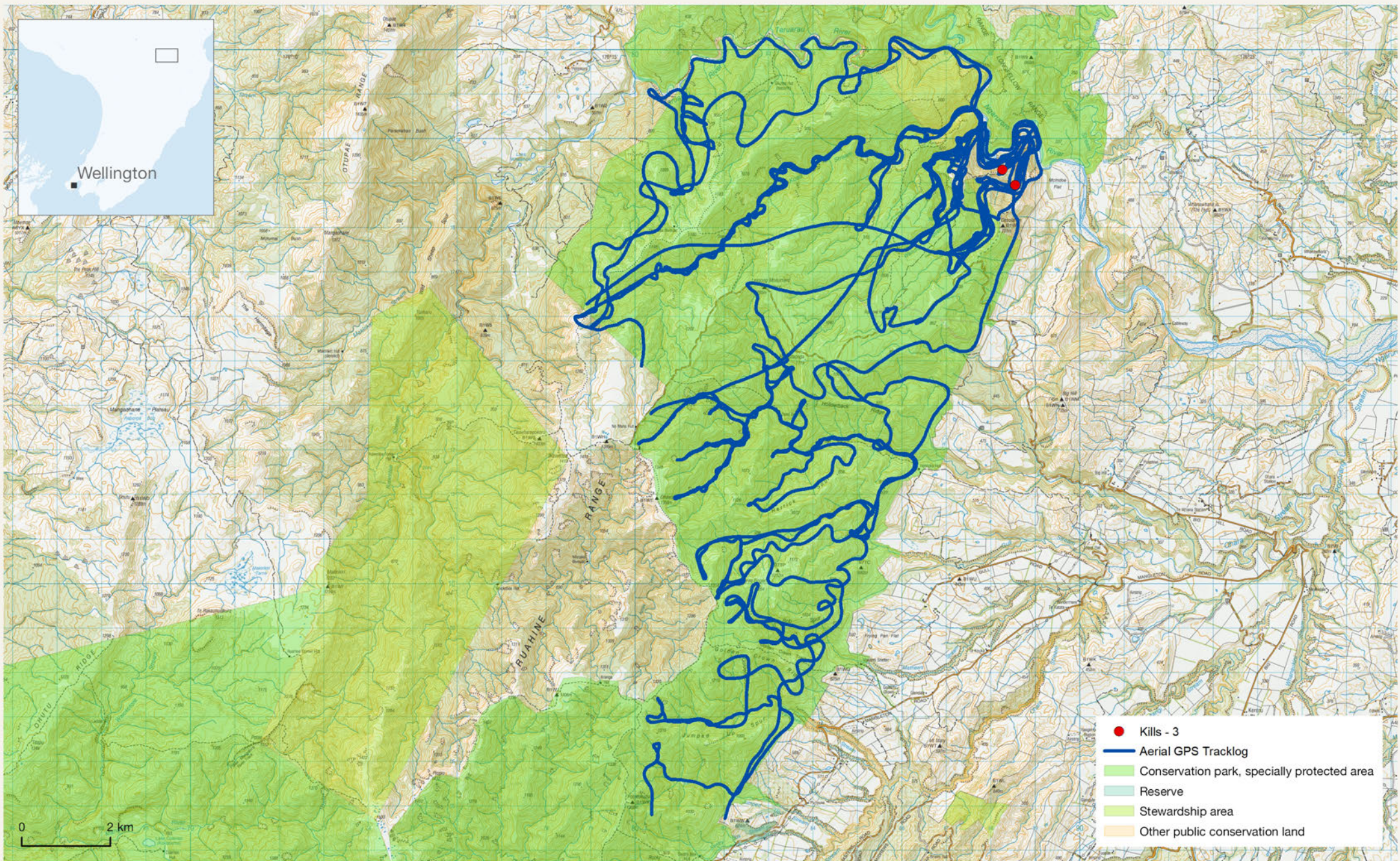
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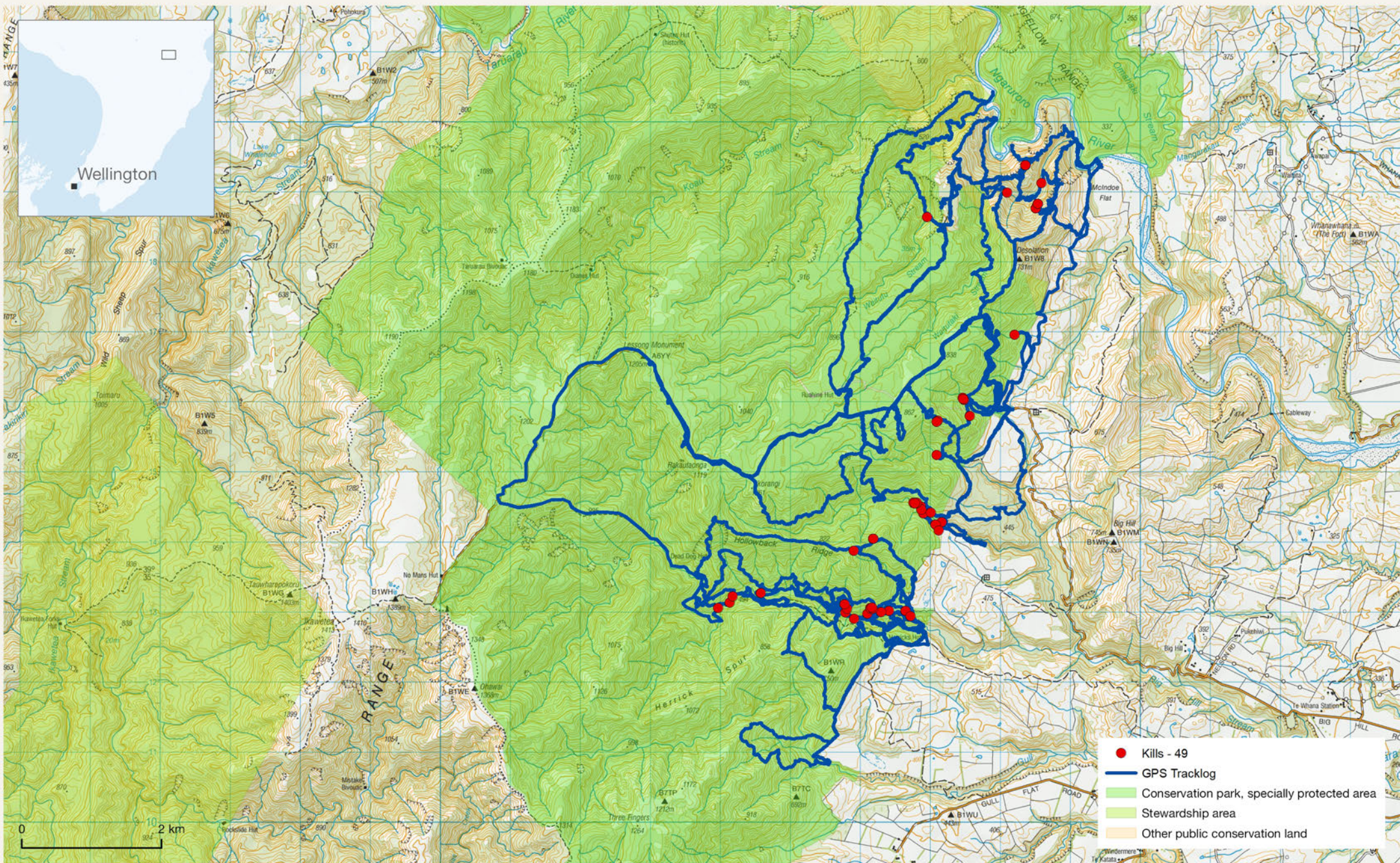
**NE RUAHINE GOAT CONTROL
2020-21**

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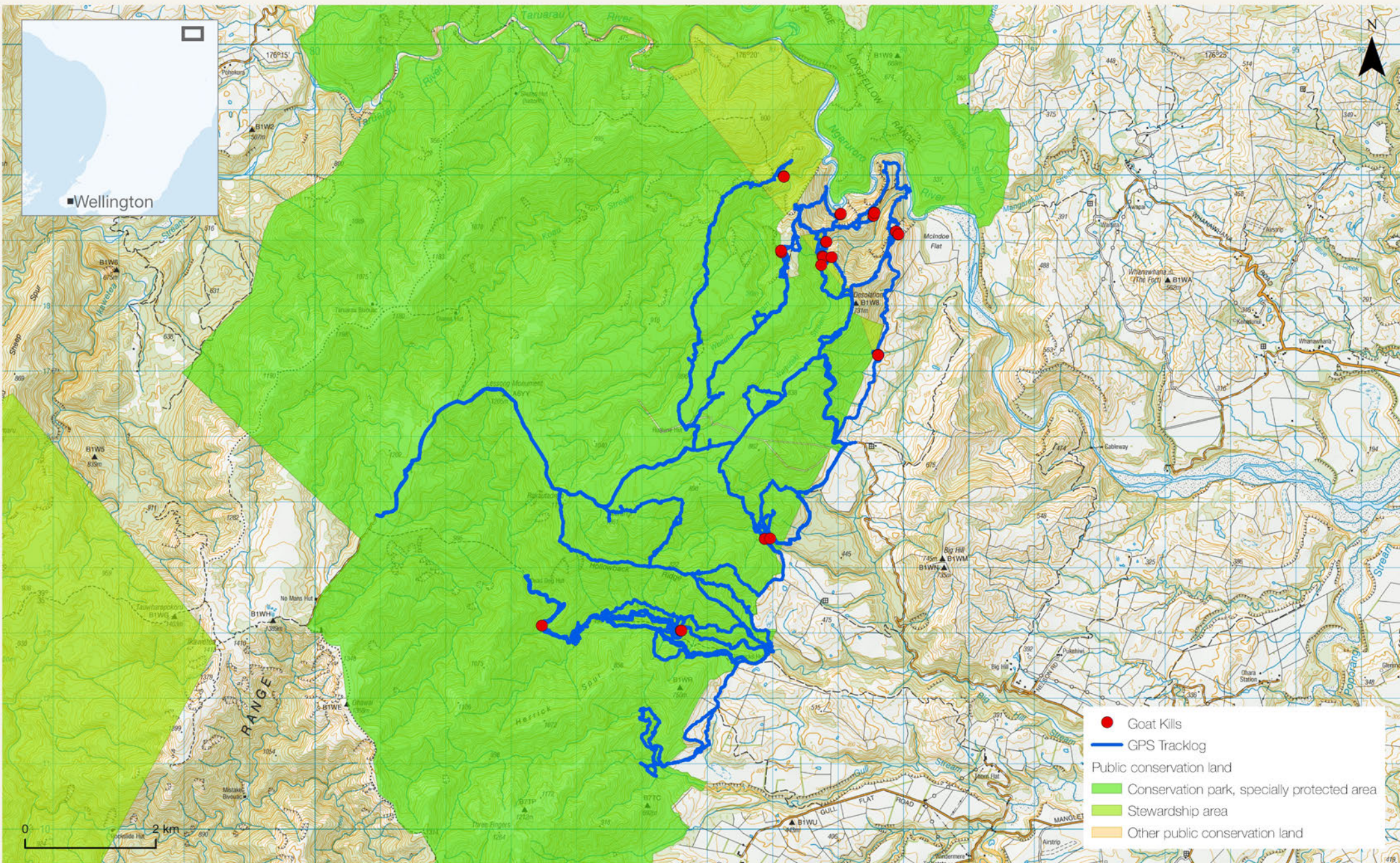




Ruahine Forest Park Northern Ruahine Aerial Goat Control 2022/23



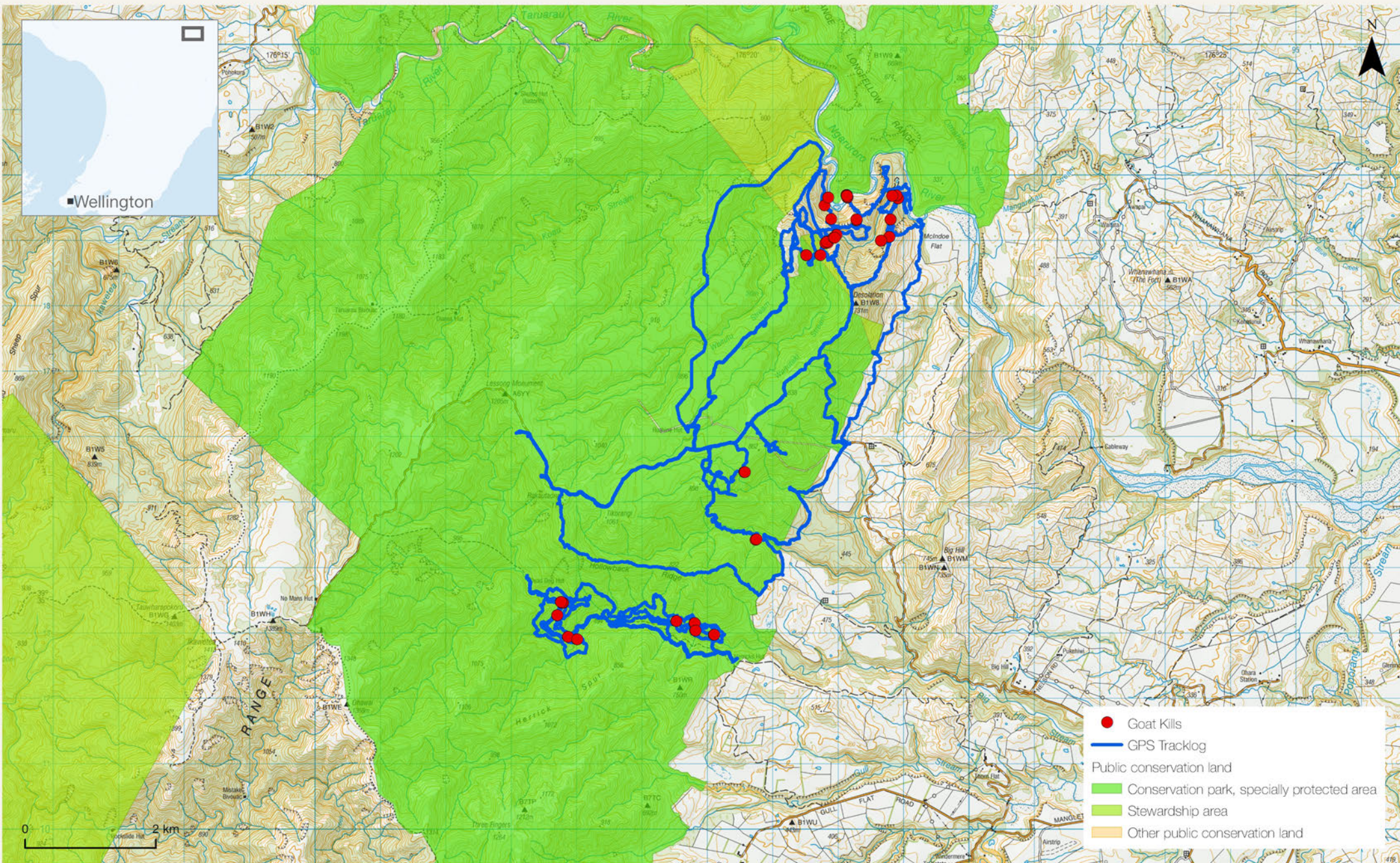
Ruahine Forest Park Northern Ruahine Goat Control 2022/23



Northern Ruahine Forest Park

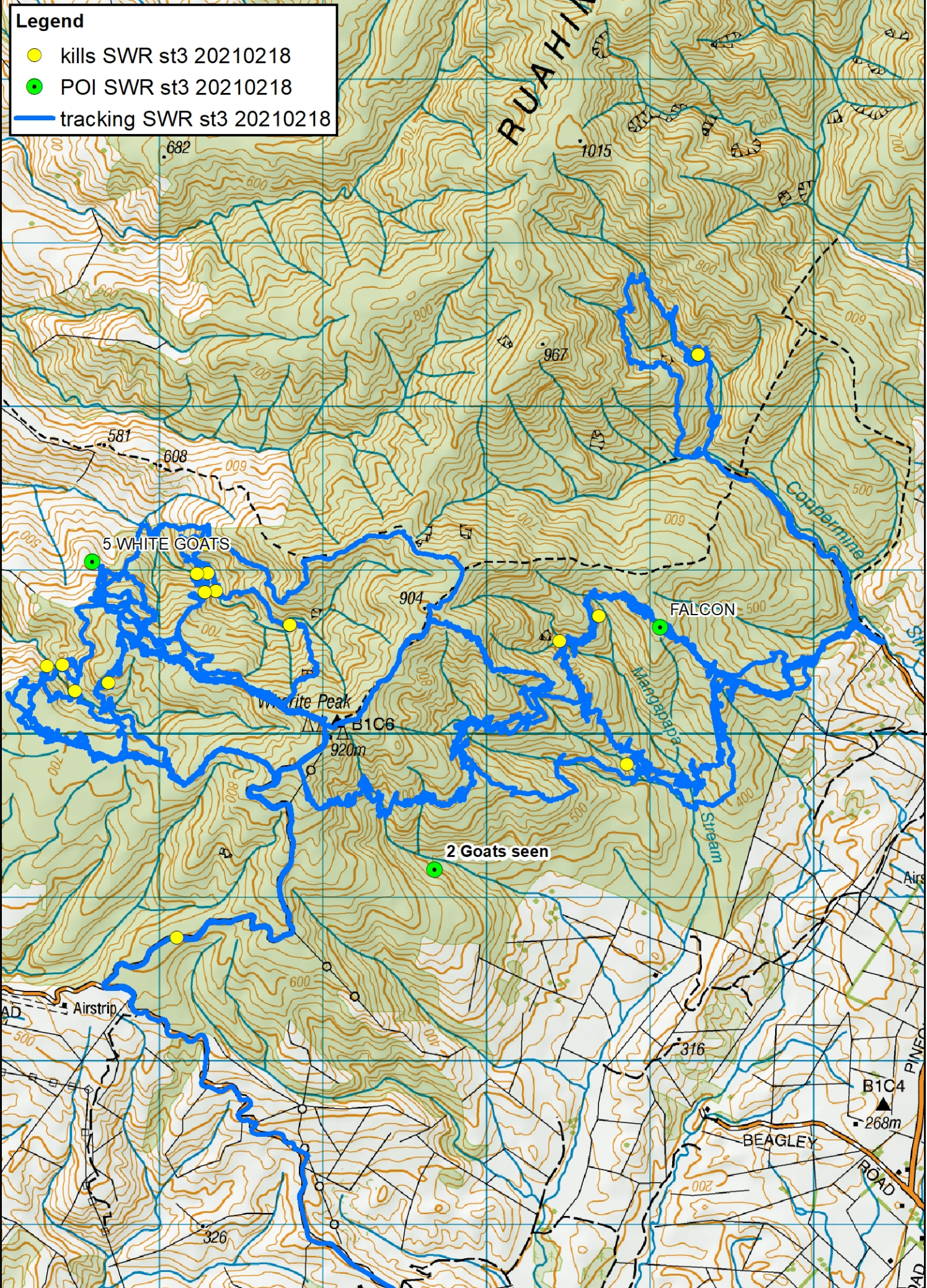
Ground Ungulate Control

2020 - 2021



Northern Ruahine Forest Park Ground Ungulate Control 2021 - 2022

- Legend**
- kills SWR st3 20210218
 - POI SWR st3 20210218
 - tracking SWR st3 20210218

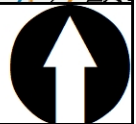


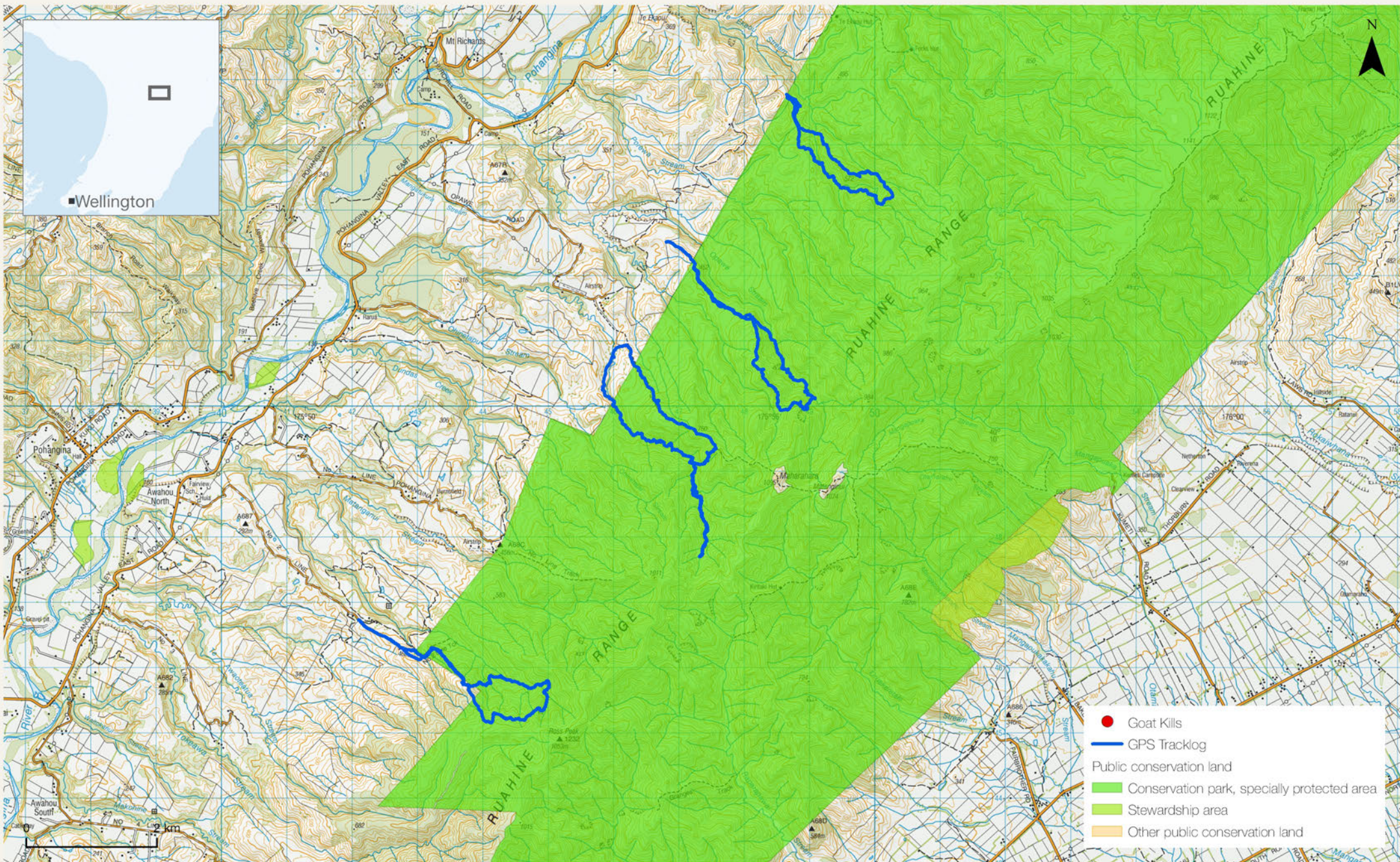
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2020-21

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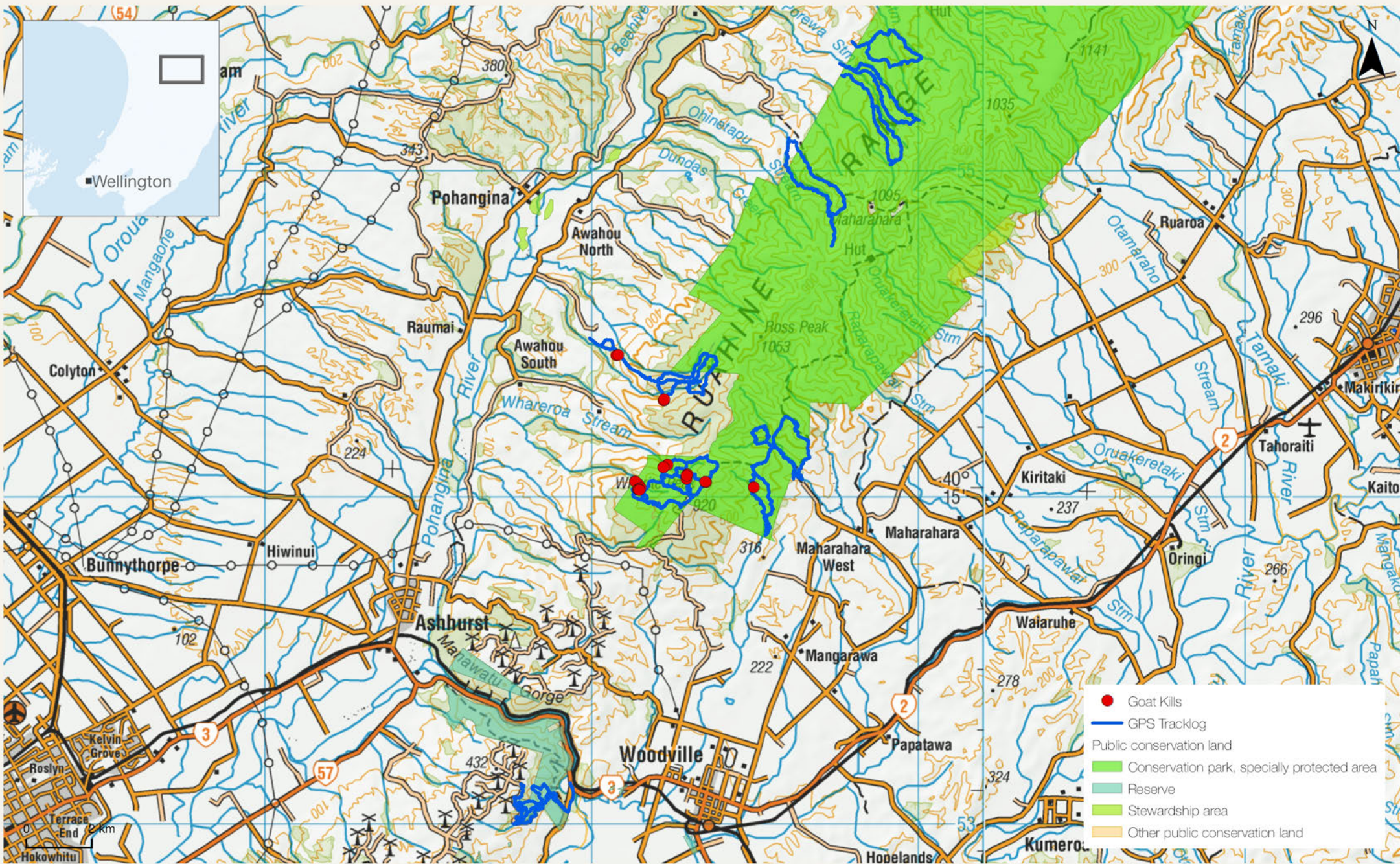


Southern Ruahine Forest Park

Ground Ungulate Control

2020 - 2021





- Goat Kills
- GPS Tracklog
- Public conservation land
- Conservation park, specially protected area
- Reserve
- Stewardship area
- Other public conservation land

Southern Ruahine Forest Park Ground Ungulate Control 2021 - 2022

