

## Arthur's Pass consultation

### Consultation on possible control methods

As there was no feasible alternative to aerial 1080 (as the species to be controlled was rats, and the area is inaccessible) consultation on possible control methods was undertaken with iwi groups only.

Consultation was carried out by DOC between December 2018 and May 2019, in-person and by phone.

The following table shows the number of iwi consulted.

Type of stakeholder	Number consulted	Consultant	Reason for consultation	Method of consultation
Iwi	4	DOC	To determine iwi views on the proposed control method and effects of operations on tangata whenua values	Visit/phone call

### Consultation on effects

Consultation with all adjoining landowners and other parties that may be affected was carried out by DOC and Vector Control Services (VCS) between January and May 2019.

This operation expanded on the regular Hawdon Valley, Andrews Valley, Poulter Valley and South Branch Hurunui 1080 area where consultation has occurred over several years.

Examples of consultation letters and fact sheets can be found below:

*Iwi consultation letter*

The following table shows the number of each type of stakeholder consulted.

Type of stakeholder	Number consulted	Consultant	Reason for consultation	Method of consultation
Concessionaire	2	VCS	Effects of proposed operations on adjoining property, farming operations, and risk to stock	Phone
Government	1	DOC	Effects of proposed operation on LINZ-administered adjoining property	Email and phone call
Hunting and fishing groups	2	DOC	Use of 1080 in the Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) and its implication on the ungulate population.	Meeting and email
Adjoining landowners	7	VCS/DOC	Effects of proposed operations on adjoining property, farming operations, and risk to stock	Visit
Landowners – consent required	5	DOC	Effects of proposed operations on adjoining property, farming operations, and risk to stock	Visit, email, phone

Local government	2	DOC	Request for consent to sow 1080 over legal paper roads within treatment boundary	Email
Police	2	DOC	To discuss what support may be needed throughout the operation	Email, phone, visit

## Consultation outcomes

### Iwi

Three iwi groups expressed their support for the operation. DOC agreed to provide updates on the operation.

### Landowners

Consent was received from all 5 landowners within the boundary.

Arrangements were made in some cases to keep stock out of the drop zone, including fencing and mustering arrangements, and in other cases to shift the boundary to exclude stock areas.

Due to the concerns of several landowners, a change was made to the initial proposed boundary.

### Hunting organisations

Agreement was reached to use deer repellent in part of the operation area.

### Local government

Consent was granted to use 1080 over roads.

## Notification

Pre-operation notification was carried out by VCS in June. Examples of the notification documentation can be found below:

*Key fact sheet*  
*Notification email*  
*Public notice*

The following table shows the parties additional to those involved in consultation who received a pre-operation notification.

Type of stakeholder	Number notified	Notifier	Reason for notification
Animal care	4	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Concessionaire	130	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Media	4	VCS	Public notice
Community centres	1	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information

Conservation group	7	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
DOC office	9	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Schools	4	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Fish and Game councils	2	VCS	Effect of proposed operations freshwater fishery/game bird values
Hunting groups	7	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Local government	7	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Medical	5	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Police	4	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information
Recreation groups	3	VCS	To inform of what is going to be done and risk information

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# Protect our species

## *Targeted predator control for roroa and orange-fronted kākāriki protection*



### Pest control to protect native species from widespread predator plagues

A heavy seeding (mast) will occur in many New Zealand forests this year. This natural event, that will benefit native species, may be hijacked by introduced predators, as rodent and stoat numbers can also 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, predator control will be triggered. Without predator control, some species such as yellowhead/mohua, kākā, orange-fronted kākāriki, great spotted kiwi/roroa, rock wren/pīwauwau and bats/pekapeka will suffer heavy losses.

### Predicting increased rodent abundance – 2014 and 2016

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

### Predator control works

DOC carried out aerial 1080 predator control in the winters of 2014 and 2016 following the prolific mast events over more than 600,000 hectares during each season. Monitoring showed rodents were reduced to undetectable levels at most sites and stoat plagues were avoided.

### Outcomes

Intensive species monitoring showed that nesting success of rock wren/pīwauwau, yellowhead/mohua, and robin were significantly higher within areas that received aerial 1080 predator control than areas that did not. For more information go to [doc.govt.nz/our-work/battle-for-our-birds](http://doc.govt.nz/our-work/battle-for-our-birds).

### 2019 – the battle continues

A mast event is occurring again in 2019 but on an even larger scale than what was seen in 2014 and 2016. This is likely to be the biggest mast seen in decades. We will have a major predator problem on our hands and our native species will suffer if we do not act.



Photo Great spotted kiwi/roroa. Photo: DOC

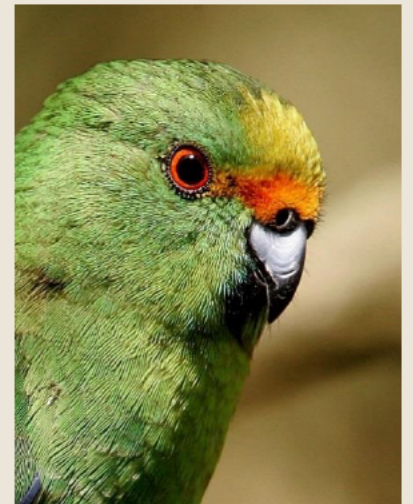
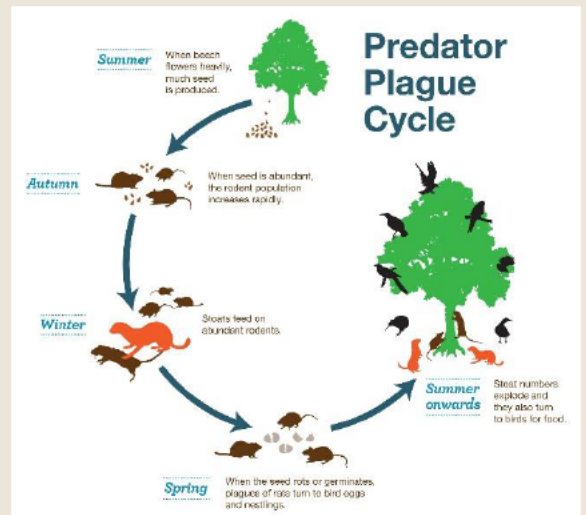


Photo Orange-fronted kākāriki. Photo: DOC



Predator plague cycle. John Innes, Landcare Research

## What's at risk?

Arthur's Pass National Park, Lake Sumner Forest Park and Oira-Kopara Conservation Area hold valuable populations of relatively untouched native species and forest, including the nationally critical orange-fronted kākāriki, rock wren/pīwauwau and grey duck; the nationally endangered kea; nationally vulnerable great spotted kiwi/rooroa, kākā, blue duck/whio, and banded dotterel; the threatened yellowhead/mohua; and declining red and scarlet mistletoes, fuchsia and other palatable plants.

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



Proposed aerial 1080 treatment covering parts of Arthur's Pass National Park, Lake Sumner Forest Park and Oira-kopara Conservation Area. Department of Conservation



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

New Zealand Government

## A range of predator control methods will be used in this mast year

The aerial application of 1080 baits is the most cost-effective predator control method over large areas. It is the only viable method in remote and/or rugged terrain. In orange-fronted kākāriki valleys trapping networks exist, however in mast years, soaring predator numbers can overwhelm these networks. In these cases, aerial 1080 is used in combination with existing trap networks to control predators to the low levels needed to sustain our endangered species.

Aerial 1080 predator control will target rodents with stoats being killed through scavenging poisoned rodent carcasses. Operations begin with an aerial pre-feed of non-toxic bait. This encourages rodents to eat the 1080 baits when they are dropped one to four weeks later.

### Time frame

Aerial 1080 operations will be triggered when 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 this operation begins, DOC will contact affected neighbours, put up warning signs and advertise in local newspapers. The 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

Department of Conservation, Rangiora  
Project Manager  
03 313 0820

### What to do if you suspect poisoning

Contact emergency services: 111

National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766

March 2019

Also see [doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds](http://doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds)



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



08 February 2019

[Name and address]

Tēnā koe [name]

**Arthur's Pass National Park and Lake Sumner Forest Park Predator Control 2019**

Following on from our telephone conversation, I am sending information regarding the Department of Conservation's intention to aerially apply 1080 to control rodents in Arthur's Pass National Park and Lake Sumner Forest Park.

This operation is being planned for May 2019 in response to a beech mast induced predator irruption, targeting rodents and mustelids. The proposed treatment area is 125,800 hectares, covering critically endangered orange-fronted kākārīki habitat as well as providing protection to a large area of roroa habitat. In addition, the scale of this predator control operation will benefit other threatened species in the area, such as kea, kākā, mohua, and rock wren/pīwauwau.

I have included details of the operation, including a map of the treatment area, proposed sowing rates and loading sites. As consultation progresses in the coming months, the treatment area will alter. The bait will be spread at a rate of 3kg/ha in the orange-fronted kākārīki valleys (approx. 30,000 hectares) and at a rate of 1.5kg/ha in the remaining areas (approx. 95,800 hectares). Predator numbers are monitored throughout the treatment area. Following the operation, the monitoring of predators will continue to ensure we understand the full effect of the predator control operation within this area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any part of our plan that you would like to discuss. In any case, I will contact you again to let you know the confirmed treatment boundaries and the confirmed schedules for the prefeed and toxic bait applications.

Ngā mihi mahana,

s 9(2)(a)



Save Our Iconic Kiwi

M: s 9(2)(a) E: s 9(2)(a)

**From:** VCS Office

**Sent:** Friday, 3 May 2019 11:20 AM

**Subject:** Notification of aerial pest control operation - Arthurs Pass

On behalf of the Department of Conservation, Vector Control Services wish to advise that the Arthurs Pass aerial pest control operation will commence in the first available weather window from the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

You will receive a 24 hour notification prior to bait application. If you do not wish to receive notification please opt out by return email.

If you have any queries please contact VCS on 0508 141 268

Kind regards,  
Vector Control Services

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## ARTHURS PASS PREDATOR CONTROL OPERATION

The Department of Conservation (DOC) intends to aerielly apply cereal pellet baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080). This predator control operation is being undertaken to protect the nationally critical orange-fronted kākāriki and the nationally vulnerable great spotted kiwi.

### Description of the area.

The Arthurs Pass operational area is located between Arthurs Pass and Lake Sumner and is made of parts of Arthurs Pass National Park and, Lake Sumner and Otira-Kopara Forest Parks. It includes the headwater catchments of the Taramakau, Trent and Tutaekuri Rivers on the West Coast from near Aitkens and extends to the edges of Lakes Sumner and Mason in the northwest in the Hurunui River. The boundary then extends south eastward to include the Hurunui South Branch, North Esk, Poulter and Hawdon Rivers near Bealey Spur.

It encompasses parts of, or all of, the Kaimata and Aicken Ranges on the West Coast and the Savannah, Poulter, Dampier, Polar and Crawford Ranges on the East Coast.

### Method of control

Cereal baits containing the pesticide 1080 will be distributed by helicopter over the above area. The 1080 baits are cylindrical pellets approximately 2-3 cm long, cinnamon-lured and *dyed green*. The 1080 operation will be preceded by an application of non-toxic prefeed baits. The non-toxic prefeed baits are 2 cm long and are *not dyed*.

Warning signs will be placed at all normal entry points to the area and all huts within the area immediately prior to the 1080 operation. Always remember when in the area:

- DO NOT touch bait
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times
- DO NOT eat animals from this area
- DO NOT allow DOGS access to animal carcasses

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs placed at the public access ways in the above area.

Please call the National Poisons Centre for details regarding sodium fluoroacetate (1080) – Ph. 0800 764 766.

### Commencement Date

Application of non-toxic pre-feed bait is followed by application of 1080 bait. Toxic bait application will take place on or after 8 May 2019. The actual date of bait application will depend on the availability of periods of suitable weather.

For further information contact Vector Control Services 03 768 9327 during business hours.

A detailed map of the treatment area may be viewed at the Department of Conservation Rangiora office (8 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday) or viewed online:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/>

and

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/pesticides/>