

Waitutu Field Trip Summary

February 2019



Terry Greene

February 2019

Summary:

This report summarises the latest (Feb 2019) in a long-term series of quarterly monitoring trips at five sites (Poteriteri, Crombie, Waitutu, Slaughter Burn and Grant Burn) within Waitutu Forest. Rodent and mustelid monitoring was carried out, seed fall collected, and all traps checked, cleared if necessary and rebaited. At Slaughter Burn traps were installed and activated on the two new traplines; Slaughter Burn and After Burn. This increases the total trap network in the Waitutu-Poteriteri area to 314 traps protecting 4657ha.

Weather:

The weather began warm and muggy, then a day of moderate rain on the third day with two wet nights during the mustelid tracking tunnel monitor. Otherwise clear warm weather.

Personnel:

Poteriteri Hut: Andrew Grant, Mark MacCaughn (vol)

Slaughter Burn Hut: Jenny Rickett, Stef Kirk

Grant Burn Biv: Hamish Edwards (vol)

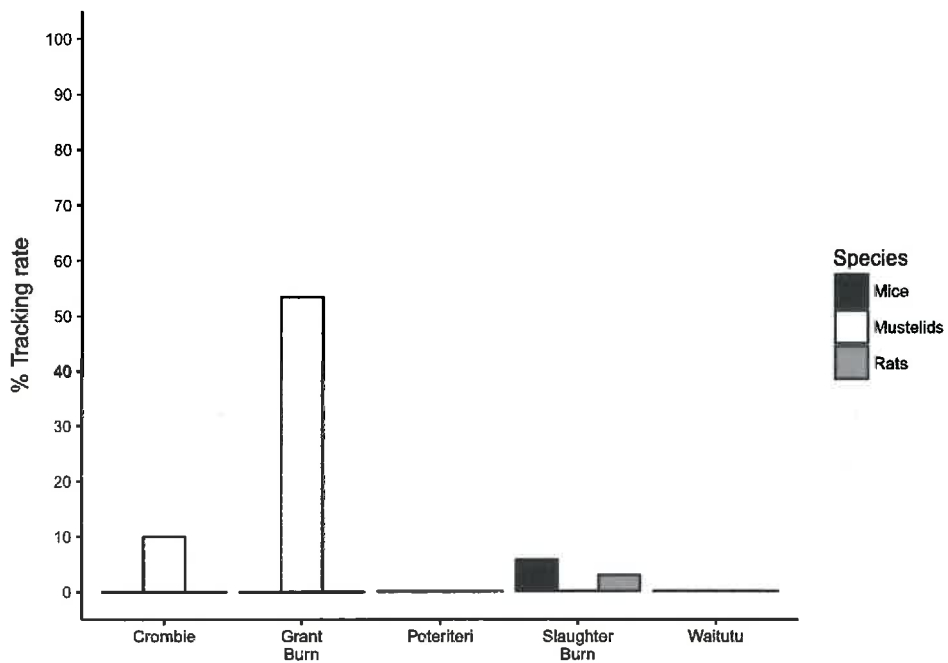
Waitutu Hut: Bex Jackson, Crystal Brindle

Crombie Biv: Erina Loe

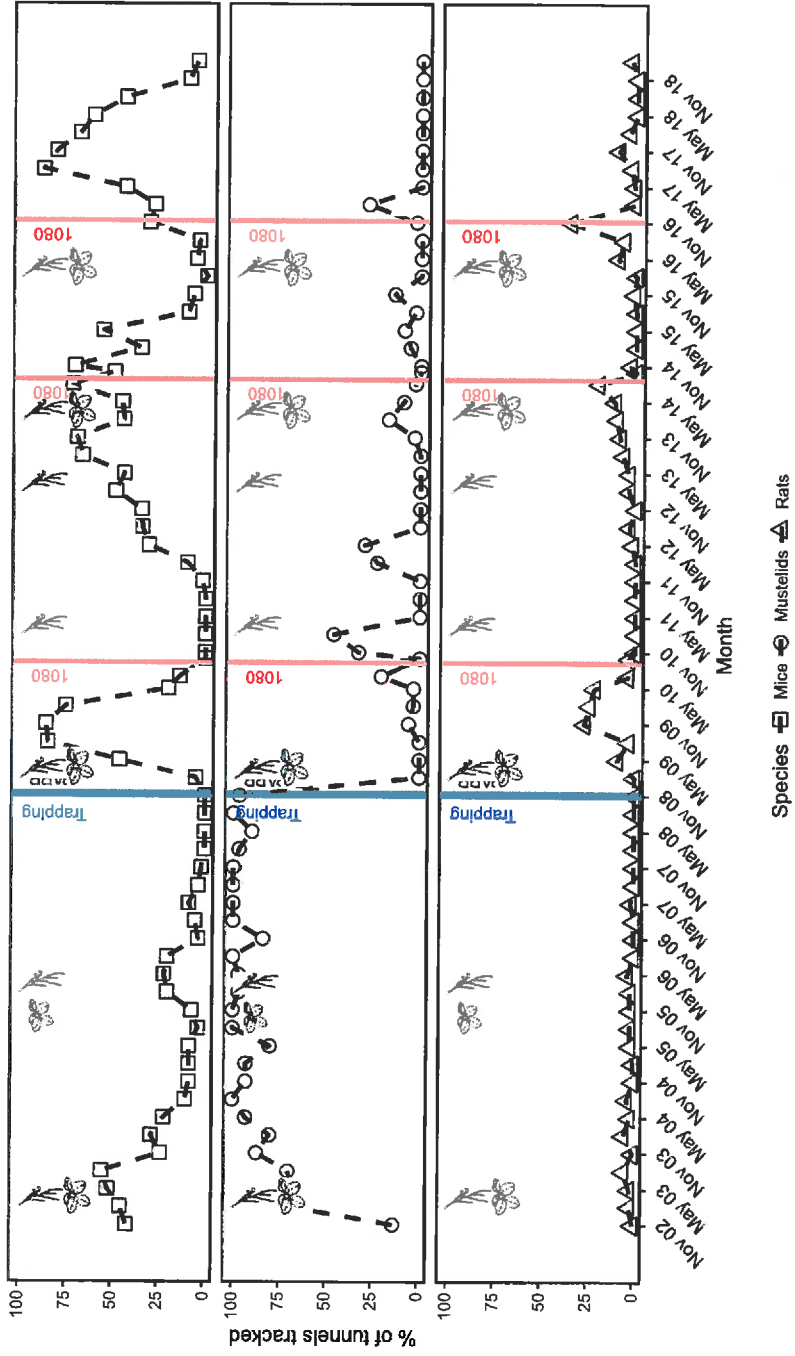
Tracking Tunnels:

No tracking activity for any species was recorded at all at Poteriteri. Mustelids were only detected at Grant-burn where they remained high at 53% and tracked on all lines. Mouse tracking remains very low, only detectable at Waitutu and Slaughter-burn. Rats remained at low levels at Crombie, Slaughter-burn and Grant-burn.

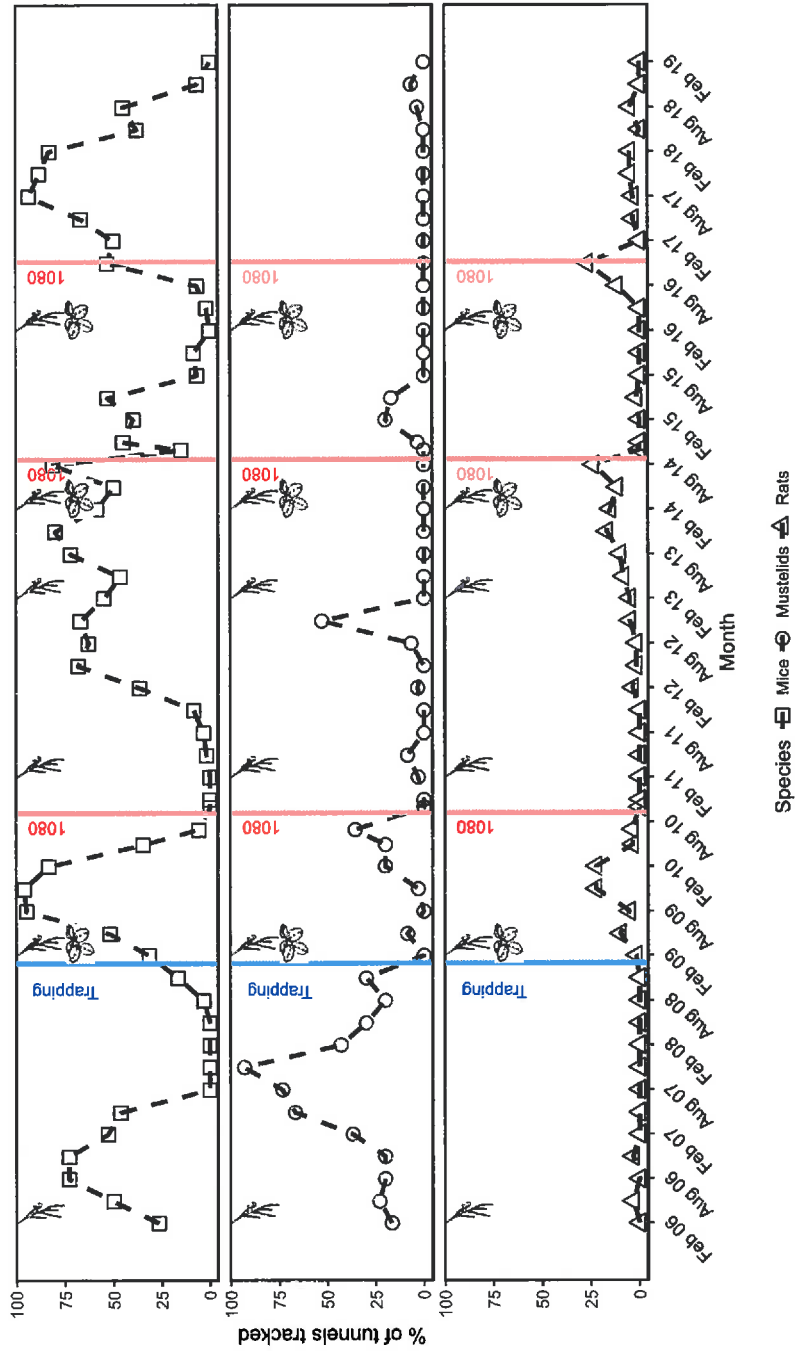
February 2019 - All areas - % of tunnels tracked



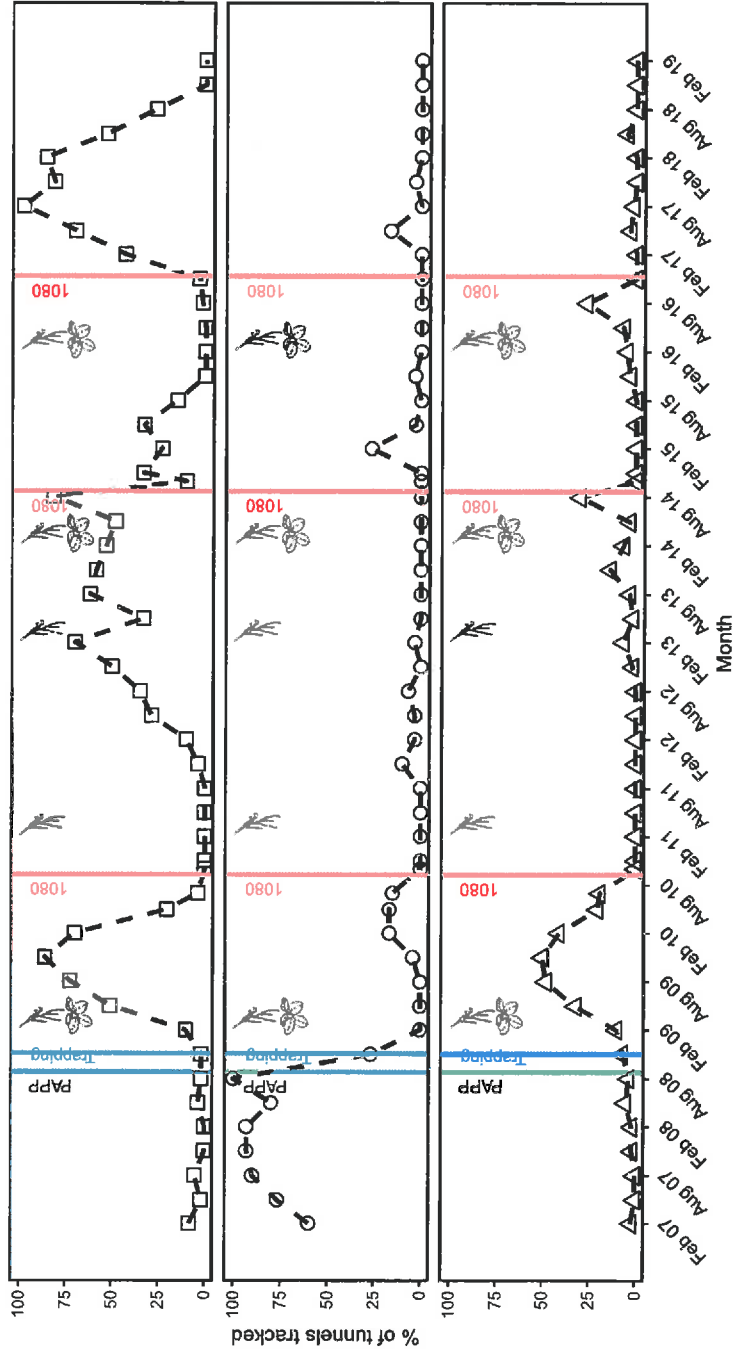
Slaughter Burn - % of tunnels tracked



Poteriteri - % of tunnels tracked

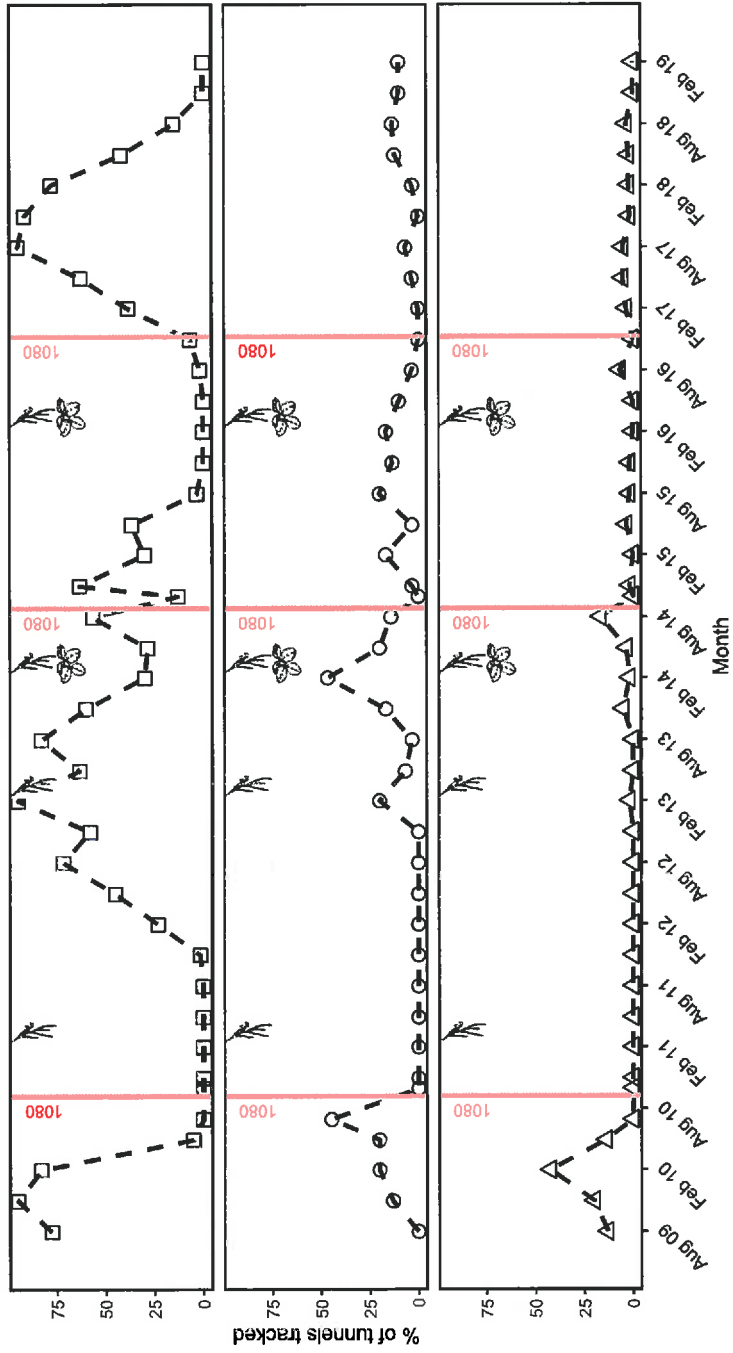


Waitutu - % of tunnels tracked



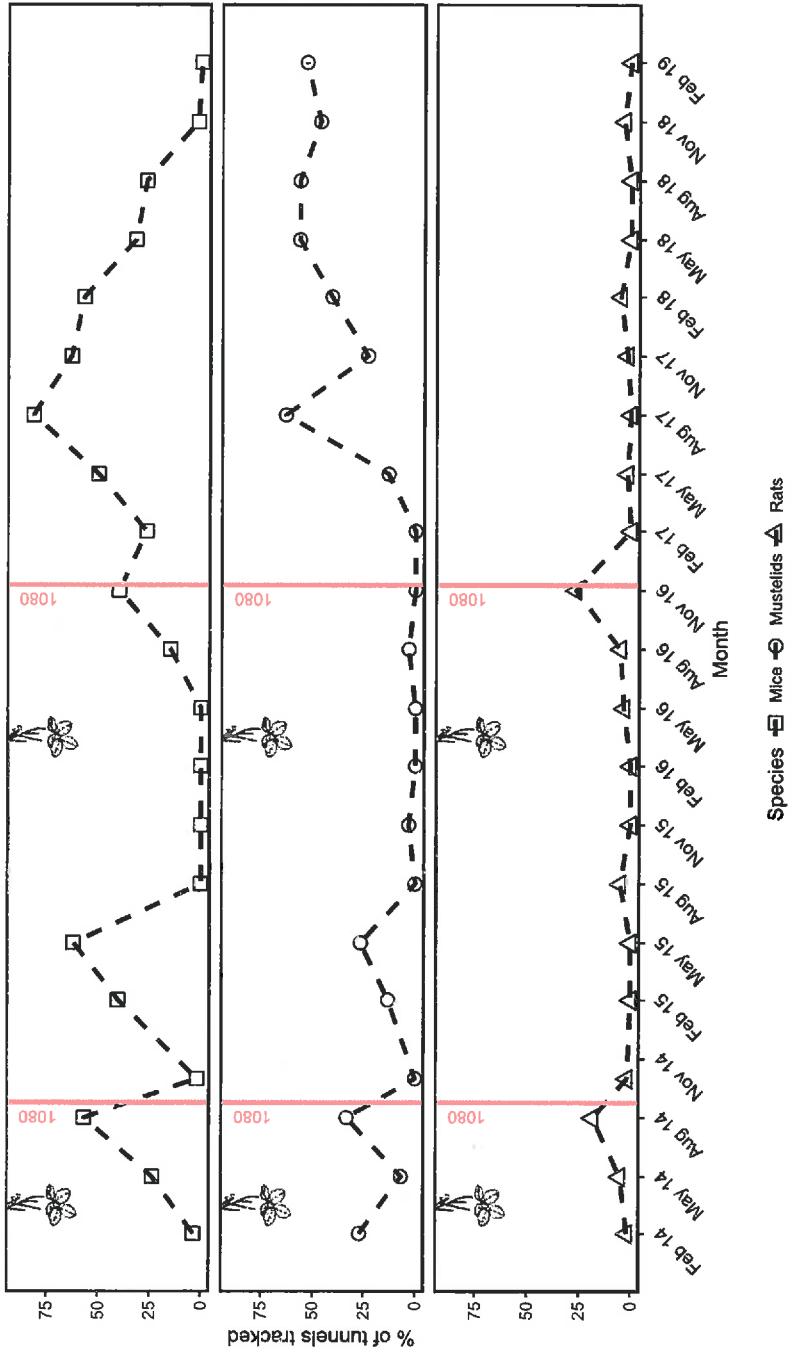
Crombie - % of tunnels tracked

Error in seq.int(r1\$mon, 12 * (to0\$year - r1\$year) + to0\$mon, by): wrong sign in 'by' argument



Species \square Mice \circ Mustelids \triangle Rats

Grant Burn - % of tunnels tracked



Stoat traps:

Table 1: Animals trapped in this and previous quarterly check.

| | Nov 2018 | | | Feb 2019 | | |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|-------|----------|------------|-------|
| | Waitutu | Poteriteri | Total | Waitutu | Poteriteri | Total |
| No. of trap boxes checked | 200 | 58 | 258 | 200 | 58 | 258 |
| Mice | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rats | 13 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Stoats | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Weasels | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 17 | 5 | 22 | 10 | 4 | 14 |

All stoat traps were checked, cleared and rebaited with salted rabbit. Trap catches are indicated on the below maps via the blue circles (Figures 1 & 2 below). Mouse and weasel captures have stayed at low levels at both sites. Rat captures have remained about the same and stoat captures have increased slightly over the 3 months between Nov and Feb.

The new Slaughterburn (SB 1-29 traps) and Afterburn (AF 1-24 traps) lines were completed with all traps flown in, placed and set and track marking completed (Fig. 3). Three traps were also added to the TCE line at the Northern end to link the traps through to the hut. This brings the total trapping network in Waitutu and Poteriteri to 314 traps protecting 4657ha.

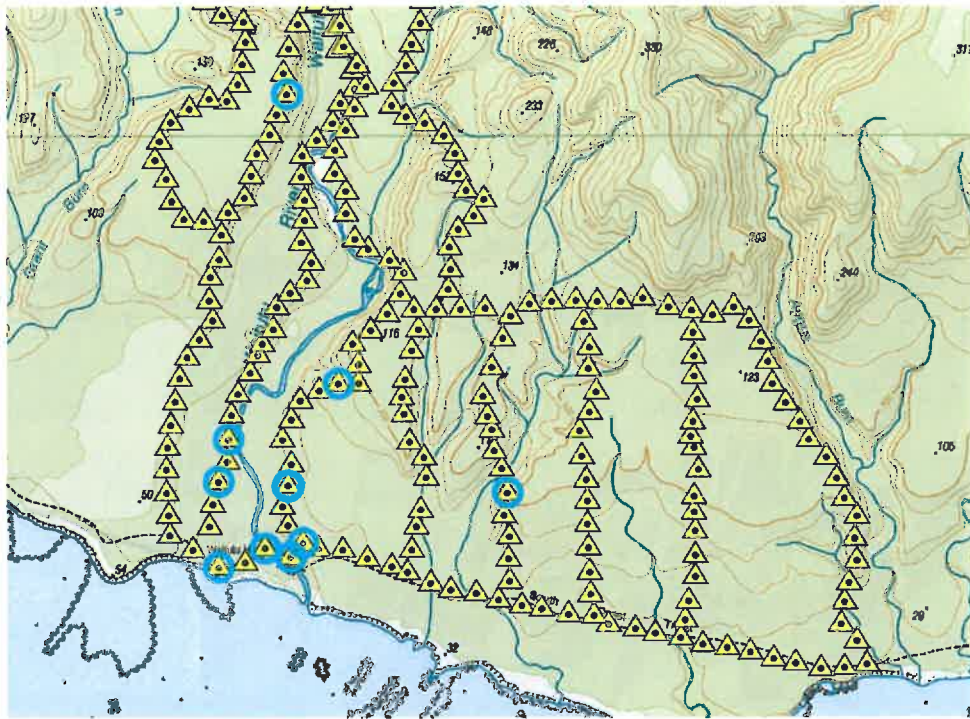


Figure 1: Waitutu trap catches (blue circles) Feb 2019



Figure 2: Poteriteri trap catches (blue circles) Feb 2019

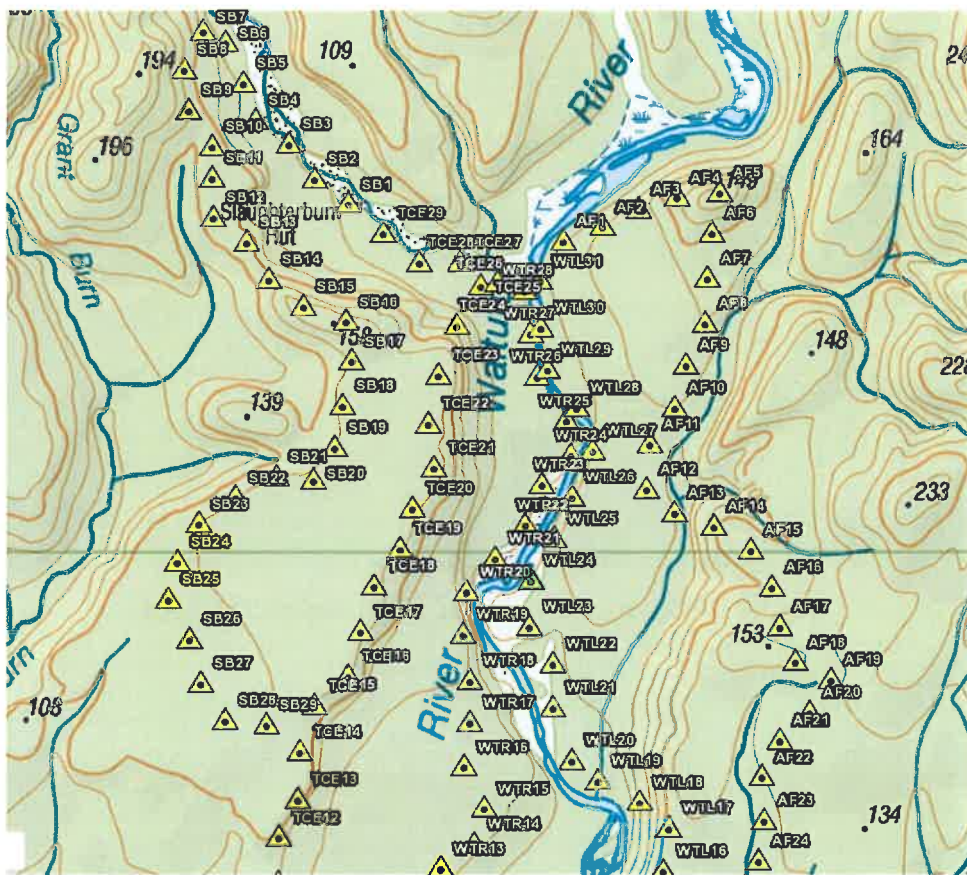


Figure 3: New Slaughterburn (SB) and Afterburn (AF) traplines

Bird lists:

Robins, tomtit, kereru, bellbird, warbler, tui and brown creeper heard regularly everywhere. 1 kea heard in the Slaughter-burn area. Lot's of kaka heard at all sites. Canadian geese where again seen on Lake Poteriteri (8 seen) and 11 seen downstream from Slaughter-burn hut (see Table 2 below).

Other/Maintenance required etc.....

Slaughter Burn

- All TT lines need extra marking with more pink triangles and tunnels themselves with blue triangles
- Seedfall plot WWA needs a lot of work. Feb trip some trays weren't located after several hours. Probably at least a half day marking a trail between the trays, adding/reinforcing tall flags at the trays, slashing back the crown fern. Recommend that the Grant-burn person spends morning trapping up WTR to the WWA plot, spends afternoon working on it, continues on to Slaughter-burn hut for a night and then returns trapping back down TCE the following day
- Seedfall plot SBA also needs some re-marking however moving around is easier as the pigs have trashed this area

Poteriteri

- S3 trap box lid split in two. Needs replacing, measurements: 600x200mm

Waitutu

- Nothing of significance to report

Crombie

- Large dead standing spar above the dunny

- Needs track cutting and marking equipment, marking higher priority than cutting. Worst section between TT 21 & 40
- Needs warning sign re gas use in the hut/carbon monoxide poisoning

Grant Burn

- Nothing of significance to report

Table 2: Birds seen at each site - Aug 2018

| Species | Poteriteri | Crombie | SB | Y22 | GB | Comment |
|-----------------|------------|---------|----|-----|----|-------------------------------|
| SIPO | | | | | | |
| VOC | | | | | Y | |
| Grey Duck | | | | | | |
| Par. Shelduck | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Black Shag | Y | | | | | |
| WF Heron | | | | | | |
| NZ Falcon | | Y | Y | | | |
| Kereru | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Kea | Y | | Y | | | |
| Kaka | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| YCP | Y | | | | | |
| Parakeet sp | | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Ruru | Y | Y | Y | | Y | |
| Rifleman | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Grey Warbler | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Bellbird | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Tui | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Mohua | | Y | | | | 2 seen 400-500m Sth of Biv |
| B Creeper | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Fantail | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Tomtit | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| SI Robin | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Silvereye | Y | Y | | | | |
| Blackbird | Y | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Song Thrush | Y | | | | | |
| Starling | | | | | | |
| Chaffinch | Y | | | | Y | |
| Greenfinch | | | | | | |
| Redpoll | Y | | | Y | | |
| SBBG | | | | | Y | |
| Pied Shag | | | | Y | Y | |
| LT cuckoo | | Y | | | | |
| Fernbird | | | | | | |
| Dunnock | | | | Y | | |
| Black Swan | | | | | | |
| Pipit | | | | | | |
| Shining cuckoo | | | | | | |
| Welcome swallow | | 13 | | | | |
| Scaup | | | | | | |
| Canada Goose | Y | | | Y | | Lots in SB, 8 Lake Poteriteri |

