

## Waitutu Field Trip May 2014

The quarterly monitoring trip was carried out between 27<sup>h</sup> May & 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### Personal:

- Poteriteri Hut – Richard Earl & Nelson Chant
- Slaughter Burn Hut – Peter Dilks
- Waitutu Hut – Terry Greene
- Crombie Bivy – Darren Scott
- Grant Burn Bivy – Colin Bishop

### Tasks:

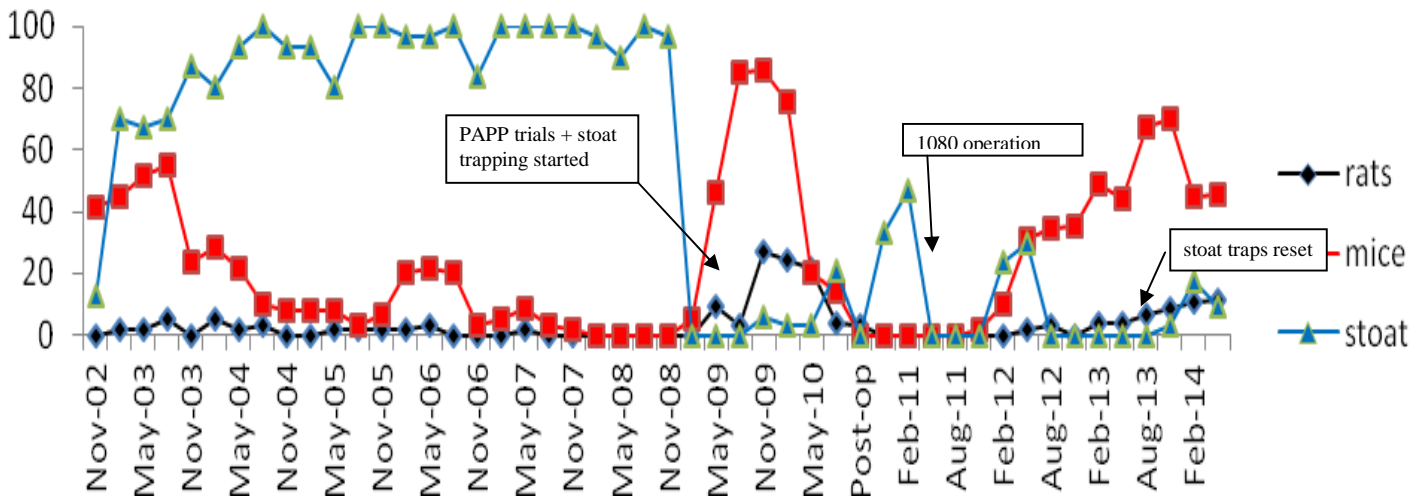
- Run stoat & rodent monitoring lines
- Collect seed rain
- Track & general maintenance
- Mark route around the Grant Burn tracking lines.

Weather for the trip was fine and warm for most of the first day; then turned very wet and extremely windy, followed by showers. The Crombie came up into raging high flood on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> resulting in tunnel checking and re-baiting with meat needing to be delayed a day until the water subsided. Lake Poteriteri rose to an extremely high level (almost completely surrounding the hut) and the Waitutu River was the highest we had ever seen it. In all areas diversions were required at times to cross streams and avoid lakes that were normally not present. The extremely strong NW winds on the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> blew the possum gate on the top Waitutu Bridge open and made for “interesting” walking in the forest – I’d not encountered water spouts on the Slaughter Burn River before!

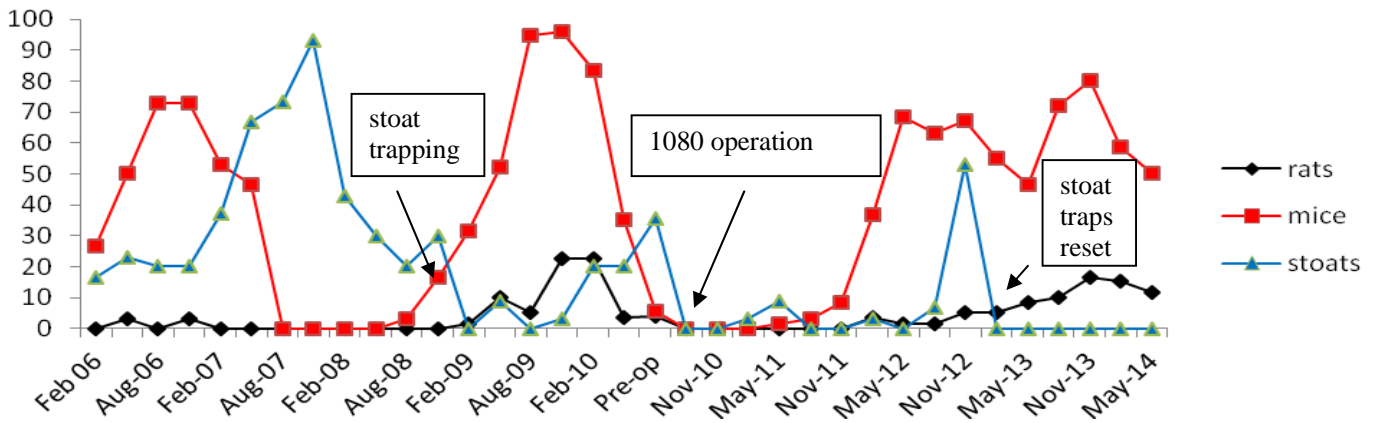
### Tracking Tunnels

Mouse tracking rates have declined slightly apart from Grant Burn. However the rodent monitoring night had very wet and windy weather so tracking rates may possibly be much the same as previous, or slightly higher. Rats were present in all areas and had increased slightly at Slaughter Burn, Crombie & Grant Burn. Stoat tracking rates were low in all areas.

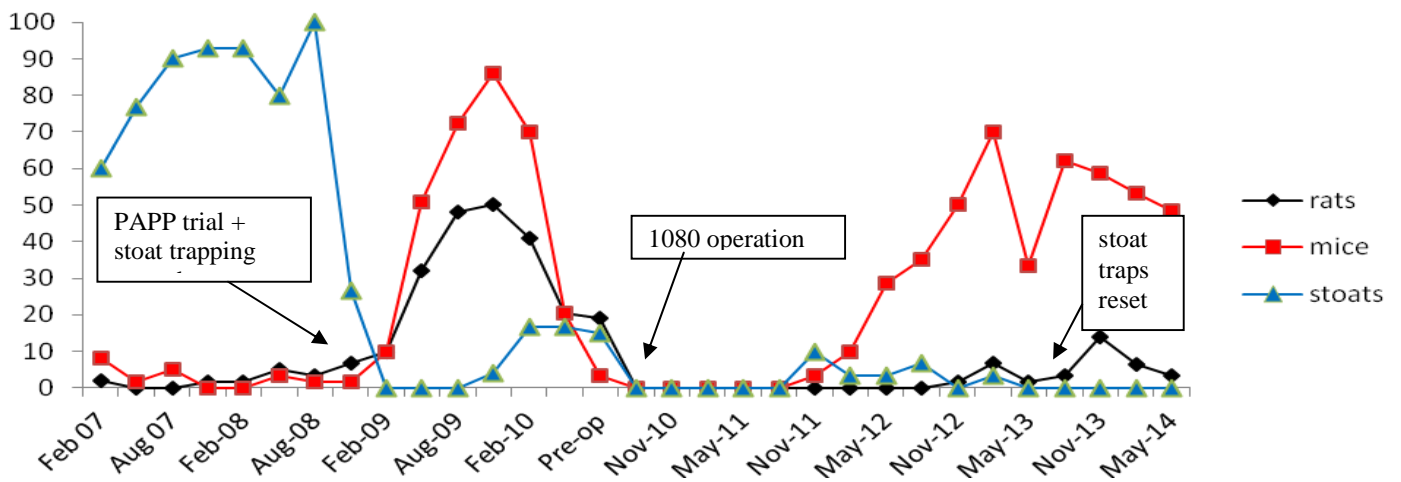
Slaughter Burn - % of tunnels tracked



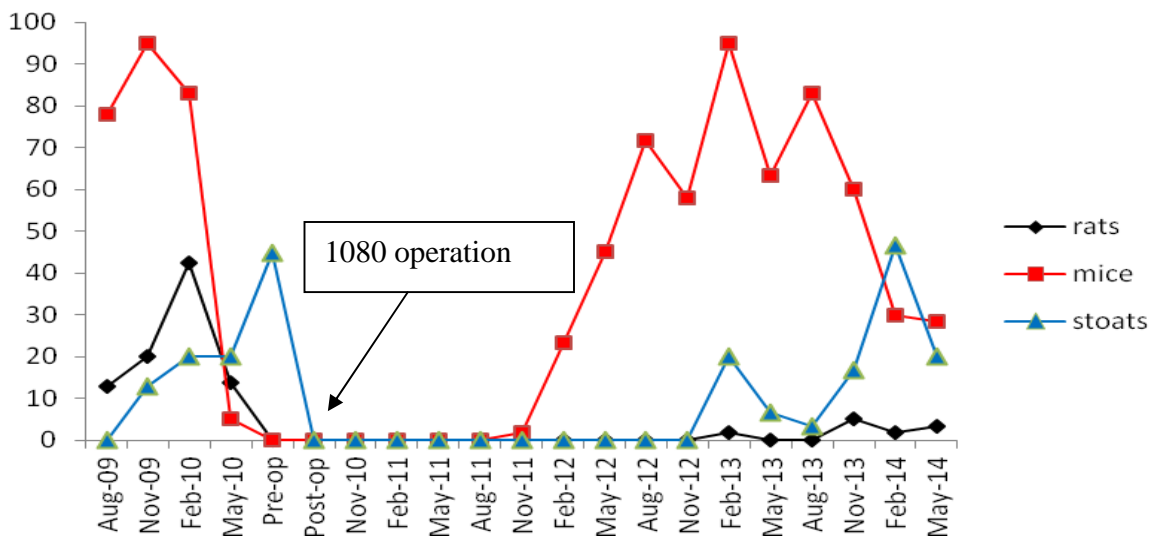
Poteriteri - % of tunnels tracked



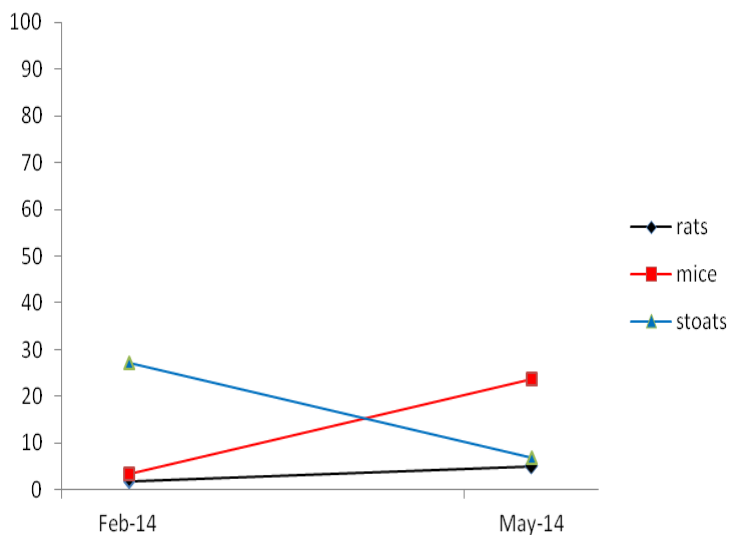
Waitutu - % of tunnels tracked



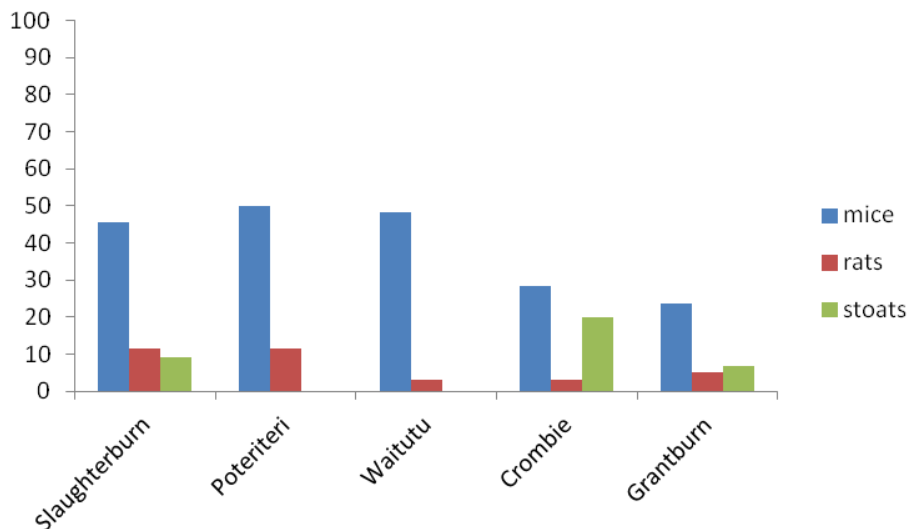
Crombie - % of tunnels tracked



Grant Burn - % of tunnels tracked



May 2014 – all areas - % of tunnels tracked



**Stoat traps** – stoat traps had been unset in advance of 1080 operation so no checking required. The few at Poteriteri north of the Brown burn that had been inaccessible due to high river levels were unset this trip.

**Other stuff....**

**Waitutu –**

- Some fresh pig sign along WTL and deer scattered throughout
- Bellbirds, fantails, tomtits, warblers and silvereyes common throughout. Rifleman, tui, robins and kereru much more patchy. Very few brown creepers, kaka, parakeets and falcon seen or heard.
- Netting on Enclosure 3 needs reattachment to post and tensioning where fallen branch removed (track side of enclosure)

- Route from South Coast track to MP1 needs re-marking. Label tags on trays need checking and re-attaching in some cases.
- Most markers that label track/routes are badly faded and need re-inking with tag pen.

### **Slaughter Burn**

- Couldn't receive a signal from either of the radio-tagged kereru; will try from air next time.
- Bellbirds, fantail, tomtits, warblers & silvereye were really abundant. No kaka heard or seen. Robins about but not common. One falcon seen.
- Deer exclosures checked on Landcare grids – fences all ok.
- Line 7 tunnel 5 buried under huge tree fall, tunnel replaced and is marked with yellow triangle.
- No fresh pig sign seen, little deer sign.
- Erosion of the old helipad seems to have stopped and gravel has built up against the bank. The big log jam that had deflected the river has partly broken up and the river formed a deep channel away from south bank.
- Lots of possum interference with tracking lines.
- Mistletoes near hut continue to be browsed heavily by possums





All foliage has been eaten apart from at the bottom of the plant where branches are too thin for possums to climb out on.

- Some recent positive comments re birdlife in the hut book from hunters there during the roar.



Hunting all over in 3 hours.	Hunting	Great hut 5 deer, TRACER CUT TO GRANT CLEARING BEST ROUTE TO LAKE IS TIGHT TO RIVER IF WATER LEVEL IS DOWN.
Hunting all over area from hut, 6 days. Perfect weather -	Hunting - armed trapping	2 deer. No roaring Amazing bird life. Kaka seen x 3 Nice wee hut - left a bit tidier than we found it - filled woodshed
Nice work DOC with falcon, Kaka, wood pigeon, tui,	trapping - best	bird life ever seen!!!
Bellbird, fantail, Native Shags, + heaps we can't identify.		

To be done.....

- Tunnel 5/Line 7 – replace yellow tunnel marker with pink triangle.
- A few more pink triangles needed on TCE line
- WTL track from top bridge down to WTL18 needs a good trim and a few more yellow triangles.
- More triangles needed on route between line 1 tunnel 10 and line 2 tunnel 9.
- Mark track from end of Hut Clearing to next flat upstream (line 7 starts).

#### Poteriteri

- Bellbirds, fantails, tits, rifleman, warblers, tui, kakariki and robins abundant. Kaka heard constantly. Few brown creepers.
- Weasel seen on beach outside hut on 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Lake extremely high – track from hut to loo under water.

To be done.....

- S9-S10 needs some more yellow markers
- BL5-BL6 needs finishing – cut & mark yellow
- BL2-BL4 needs marking and a better route found through scrubby bits

#### Crombie

- Pig rooting north & south of Bivy.
- Deer seen regularly
- Mohua heard on true right of Crombie c1km from Bivy. Kereru feeding low down on horopito fruit, only 3 kaka heard/1 seen, tomtits and fantail common. Brown Creepers seen.
- Track cut from Bivy, north to Crombie crossing & south to Line 2.
- Some extra triangles put up around circuit and track given a trim; routes cut around new tree falls.

To be done:

- Tidy between Lines 3 & 4, and a few more markers needed.
- Could GPS good natural bridge crossings of the Crombie

### **Grant Burn**

- Fantail common, also ruru, kereru, kakariki, bellbird, tomtit, warbler, kaka, tui.
- Marked some of circuit route but ran out of blue triangles.

To be done:

- Mark route with blue markers from near line 4 (coming from line 5) all the way around to Line 1.
- Mark Line 2 with blue markers
- Mark actual tracking tunnel sites with a pink triangle.
- Cut circuit track (Line 1 & 2 done; track between 1 & 2
- Need lots of blue markers and 60 pink; lots of nails (small box in hut)