

# Waitutu Field Trip Summary

May 2019



*Terry Greene*

*June 2019*

## Summary:

This report summarises the latest (May 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 the new traplines were cleared for the first time.

## Weather:

The weather was unseasonably mild for May trips with northerlies dominating. Showers and drizzle mainly restricted to late afternoon and overnight the exception being the afternoon of the 26th when persistent rain started from about 2:00 pm. Several showers of rain occurred during the rodent tracking night of 22-23 May but the three subsequent nights of mustelid tracking were largely fine.

## Personnel:

**Poteriteri Hut:** Michael Jones, Alasdair Burns

**Slaughter Burn Hut:** Terry Greene, Peter Dilks

**Grant Burn Biv:** Penelope Gillette

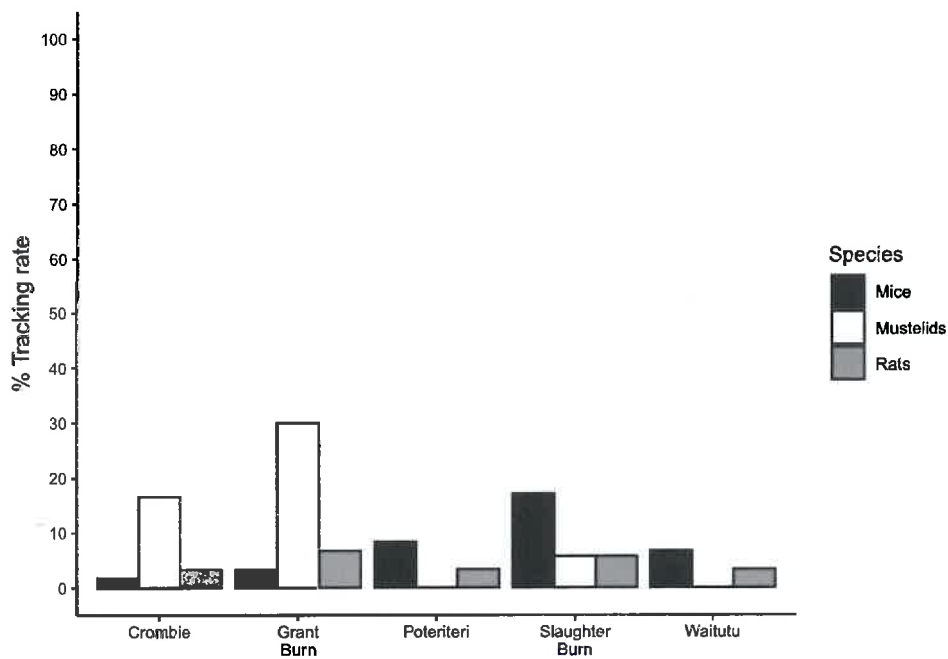
**Waitutu Hut:** Rose Collen, Susan Newell

**Crombie Biv:** Stephen Bowler

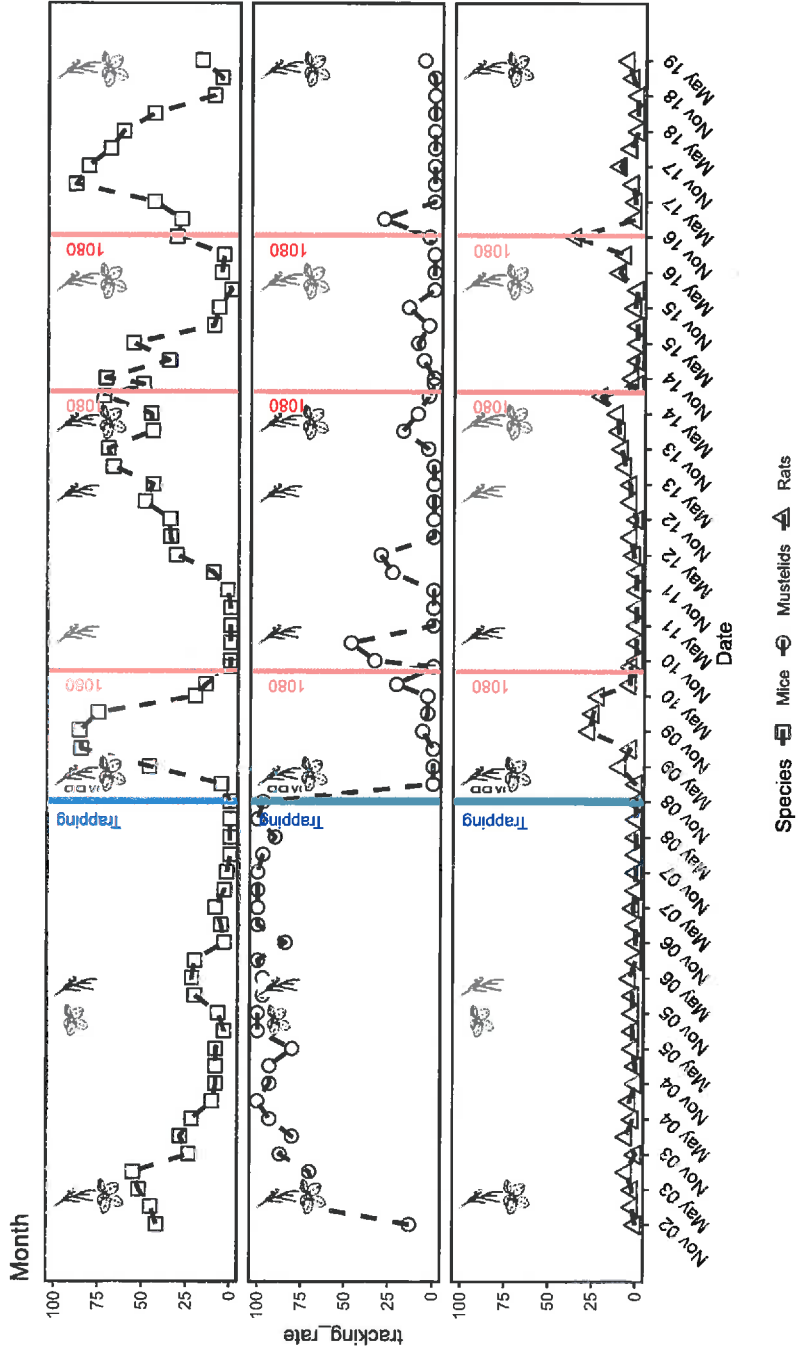
## Tracking Tunnels:

Rats and mice were tracked at all 5 sites but their presence within each site was generally patchy and localised - over half of the tunnels did not record any rodent tracks. Despite this localised distribution rodent numbers had increased markedly over that recorded in February. Like February 2019 no mustelid activity was recorded on the Poteriteri and Waitutu tracking tunnel lines. Mustelid tracking rates at the other three sites were similar to February with increases at Crombie and Slaughter Burn and a decrease at Grant Burn. Possum interference had also increased markedly on the Slaughter Burn, Grant Burn and Waitutu lines (i.e. both sides of the Waitutu River).

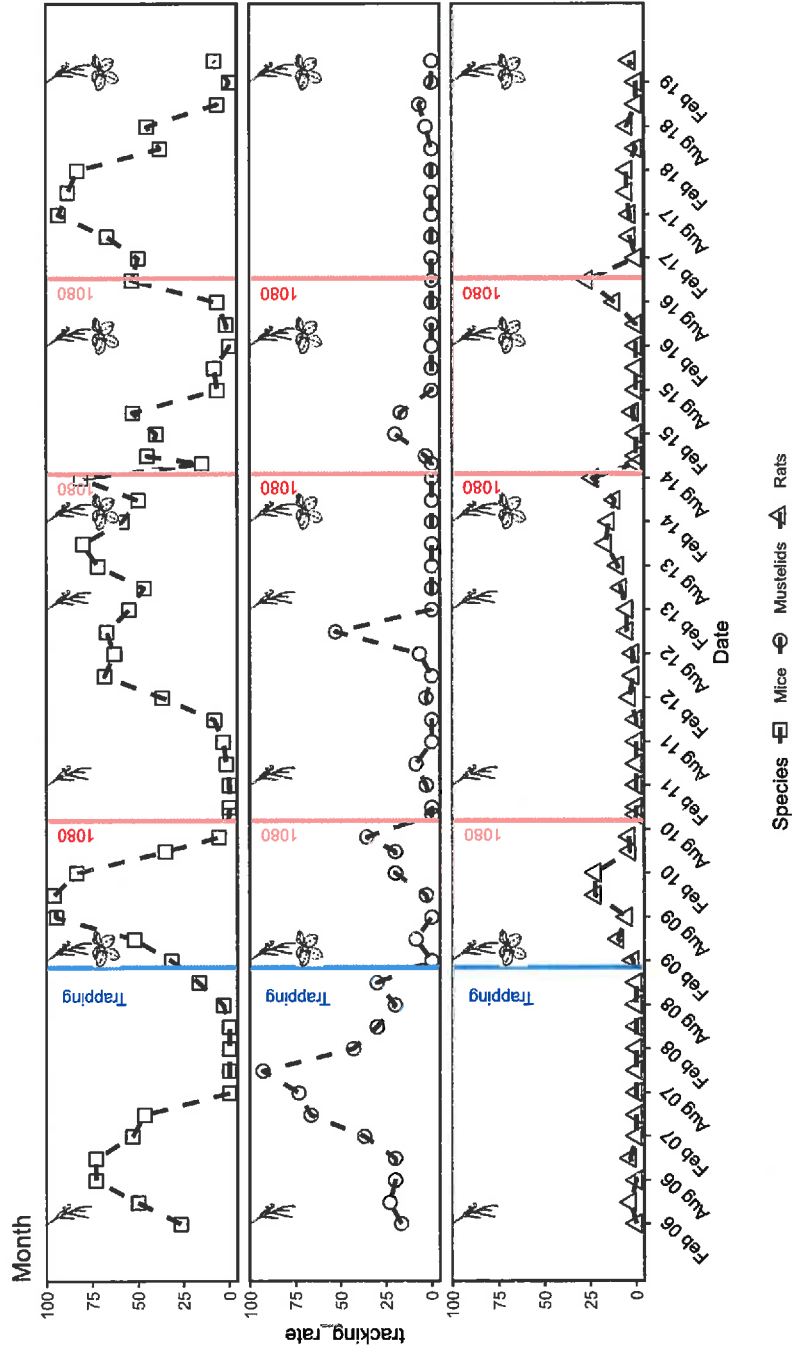
## May 2019 - All areas - % of tunnels tracked



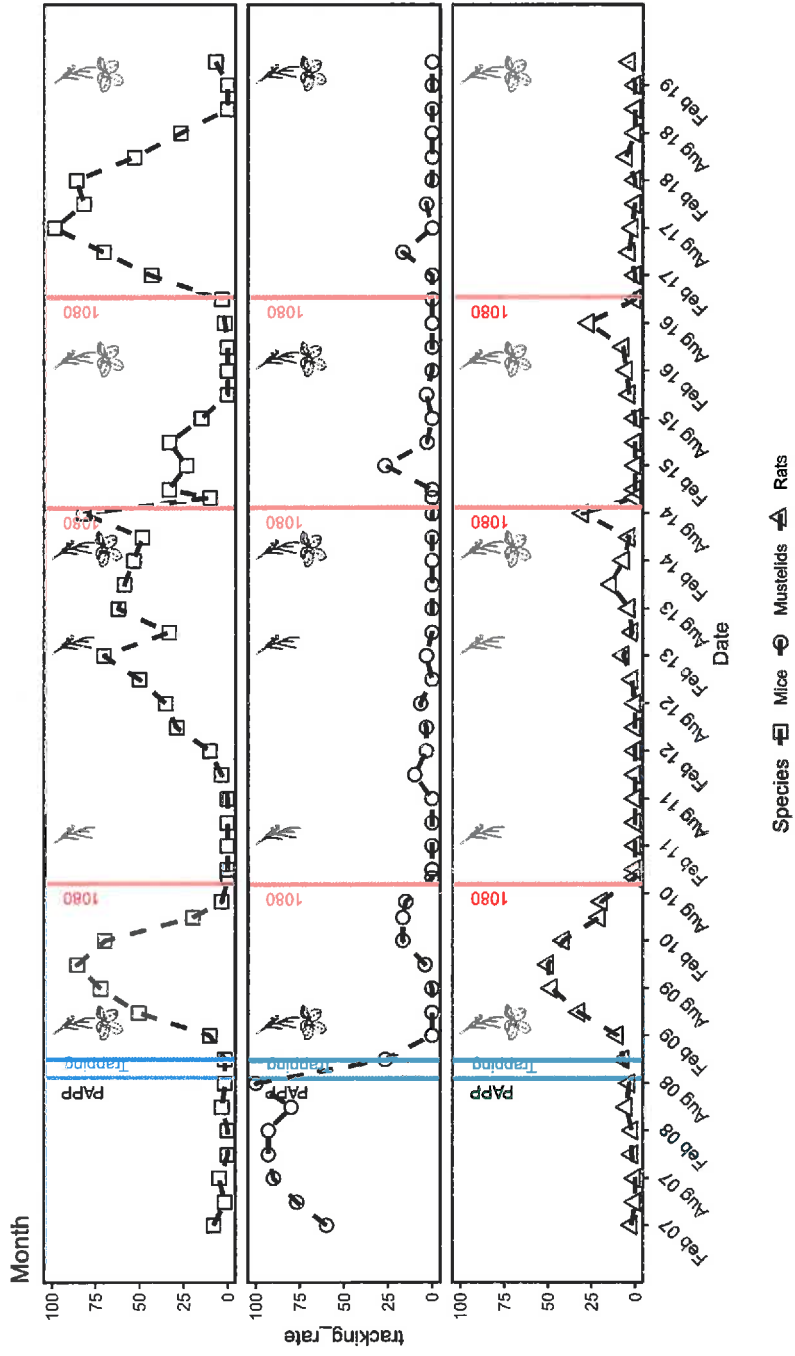
# Slaughter Burn - % of tunnels tracked



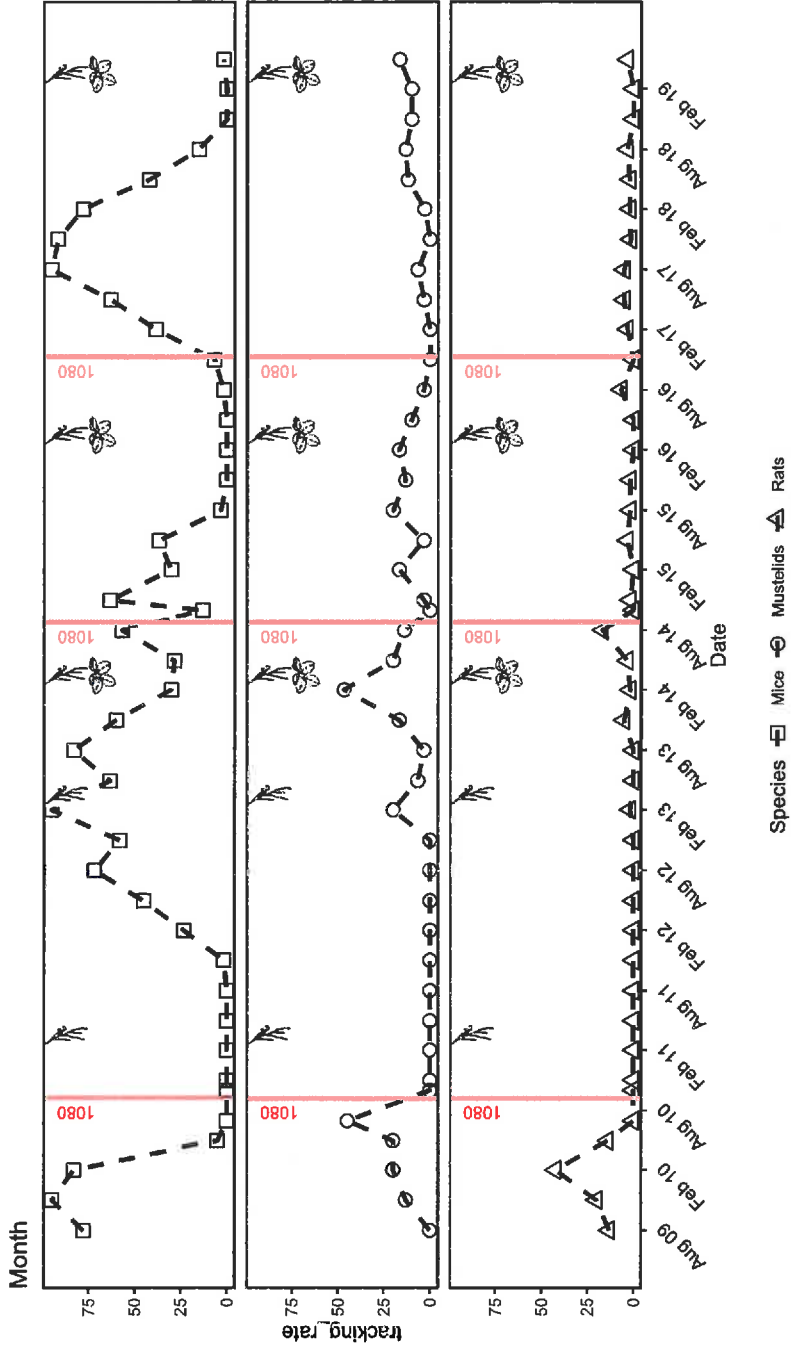
# Poteriteri - % of tunnels tracked



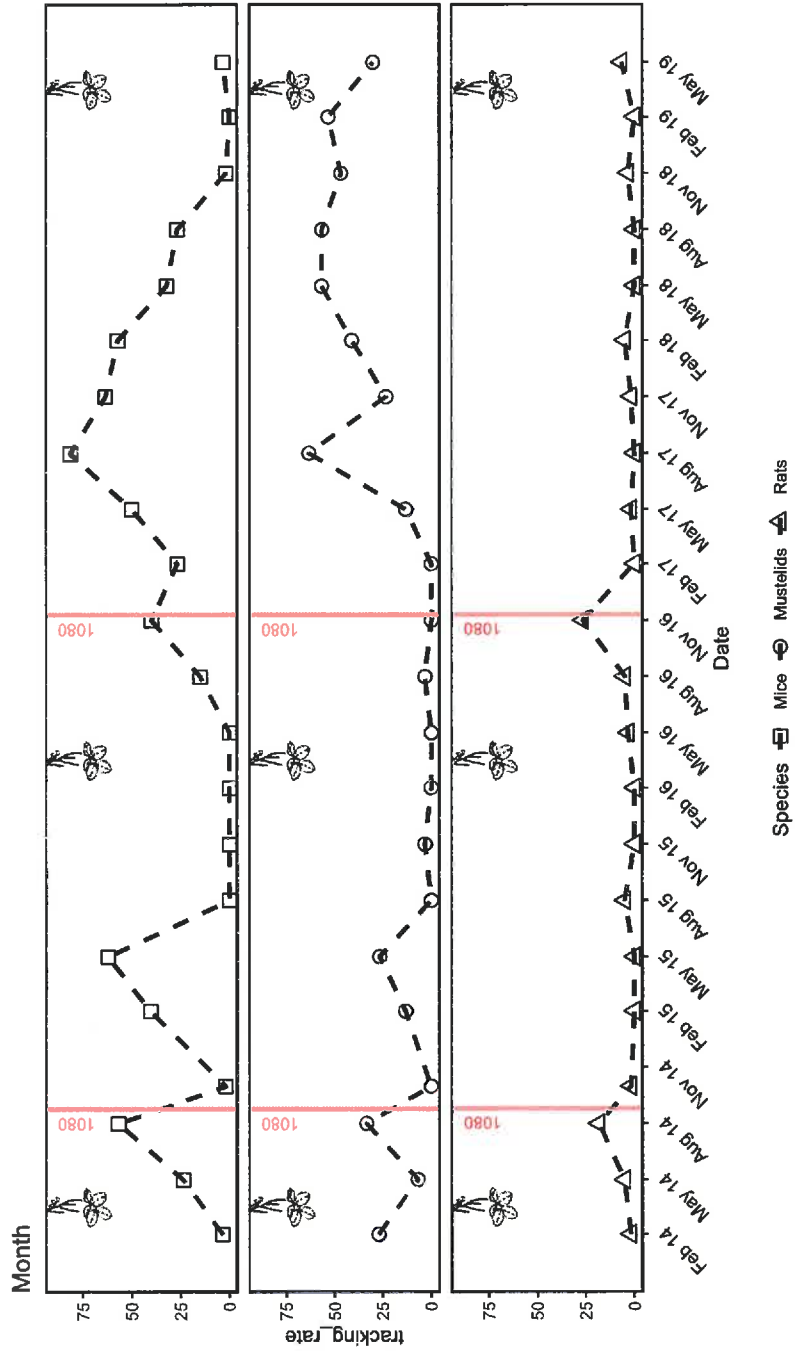
# Waitutu - % of tunnels tracked



# Crombie - % of tunnels tracked



# Grant Burn - % of tunnels tracked



## Stoat traps:

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

	Feb 2019			May 2019		
	Waitutu	Poteriteri	Total	Waitutu	Poteriteri	Total
No. of trap boxes checked	200	58	258	256	58	314
Mice	0	0	0	2	0	2
Rats	4	1	5	52	7	59
Stoats	4	3	7	5	0	5
Weasels	2	0	2	2	0	2
TOTAL	10	4	14	61	7	68

All stoat traps were checked, cleared and rebaited with salted rabbit. Mouse and weasel captures have stayed at low levels at both sites. In contrast rat captures have increased markedly within the Waitutu and Slaughter Burn trapping network and to a much lesser extent at Poteriteri. Although there has been an increase in the number of traps in the Slaughter Burn area this increase would still appear to be significant with many of these animals being caught to the east of the Waitutu River. Stoat captures are similar to that seen in February although we anticipate increasing captures by August. The total trapping network in Waitutu and Poteriteri now includes 314 traps and protects some 4657ha.



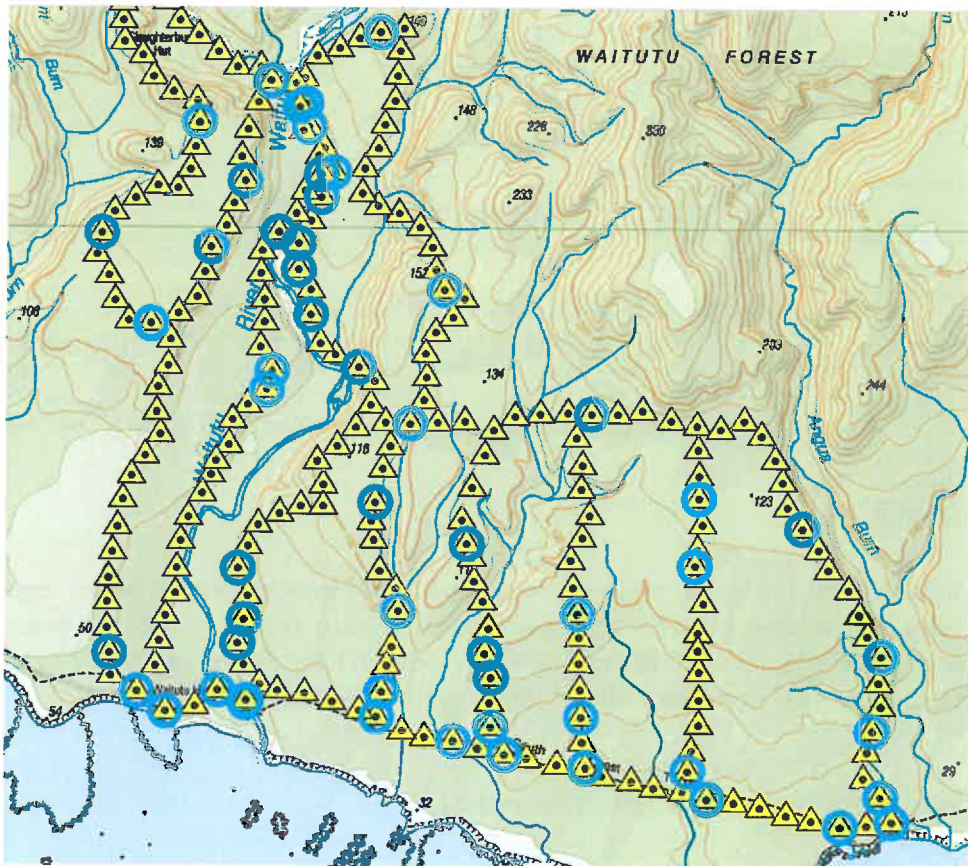


Figure 1: Waitutu trap catches (blue circles) Feb 2019

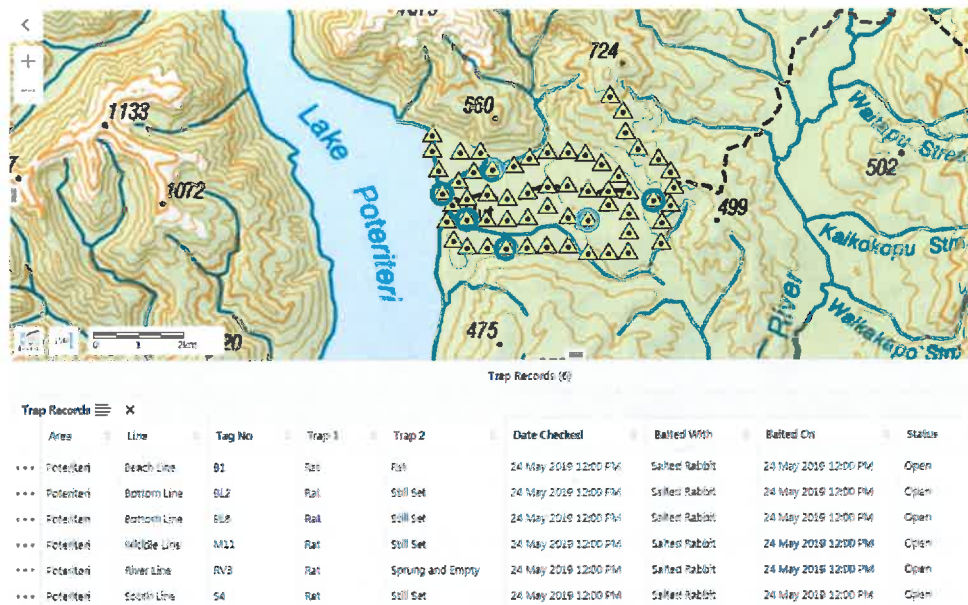


Figure 2: Poteriteri trap catches (blue circles) Feb 2019

### 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

- Deer: 2x seen TTL1, Seen at TCE22, TCE 19, 4 on L1 & 2, 3 x on AF line, 3x seen whilst hunting beyond bridge
- Pigs: 3x seen whilst hunting beyond bridge
- Check GPS location of traps SB7 & 8 - may need remarking and files updating
- WWA12 seedrain marked incorrectly - has this been corrected?

- Track remarking needed at beginning of L6, track to L4, L4 to WTR.
- SB line needs trimming

### Poteriteri

- Deer sign; lots along ridge, 3x spooked between TT lines 1-3, wallows and lots of sign nr BL4, spooked 1x 20m from hut on main track, 1x between RV6 & TT30, hind & yearling seen at RV4, spotty fawn by itself at RV3, wallow between lake and N1
- Pig sign; rooting from BL5-2 near Blackburn, lots of rooting from lake to N1
- Trap N1 destroyed by treefall. Sent out, needs new trap in Aug. Used lid from this broken trap to fix S3.
- Aerial plug at hut playing up - needs replacing?

### Waitutu

- Deer: 3x seen nr 55L8, 1 seen on SC track nr 56L
- Pigs: 1x v.large nr 55L8
- Heaps of birdlife and rimu/miro fruit on the ground

### Crombie

- Nothing to report

### Grant Burn

- Deer: 2 + 1 stag on TT line 4 between 57 & 58. Stag roaring.
- Pigs: 1 boar seen near TT49
- Birds: 2x kaka seen near TT4/5, yellow crowns, rifleman and ruru seen. Group of 13 tui seen together. Kaka and ruru heard each night at the hut.
- Saw 2x possum at TT21 & 11
- Lots of pig, deer, possum sign
- Lot's of mice at bivvy

## Health and Safety

- Ensure all GPS's used have new files on them. Problem with a file with old bridge site at Waitutu used.
- Couple of issues with PMR radios, 1x batteries show flat when are not, struggles to trigger repeater. Another can't make cellphone calls.

### SPECIES LIST – Waitutu Ecological District

Covers the lowland terraces and basins east and west of the Hump Ridge in western Southland: the district is dominated by broad alluvial terraces of the lower Waitutu, Wairaurahiri, and Waikoau Rivers, and a series of marine terraces rising to an altitude of 400m. Terraces support a series of dense podocarp forest and silver beech-podocarp forest at lower altitudes, to mountain beech-silver beech forest and mountain beech-podocarp forest at higher altitudes, and manuka-podocarp shrubland on poorly drained older terraces. The geology is comprised of Tertiary conglomerate, sandstone, and mudstone, including the glaciated Hump Ridge at over 1,000 m altitude (McEwen, 1987).

#### FUNGI:

<i>Amanita pareparina</i>	<i>Hypholoma brunneum</i>
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i>	<i>Inocybe calamistratoides</i>
<i>Beenakia dacostae</i>	<i>Laccaria glabripes</i>
<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	<i>Laccaria masoniae</i>
<i>Cladia aggregata</i>	<i>Lactifluus clarkeae</i> var. <i>aurantioruber</i>
<i>Cladia retipora</i>	<i>Leifidium tenerum</i>
<i>Cladonia cervicornis</i>	<i>Leotia lubrica</i>
<i>Cladonia confusa</i>	<i>Leratiomyces erythrocephalus</i>
<i>Cortinarius beeverorum</i>	<i>Lycoperdon compactum</i>
<i>Cortinarius bellus</i>	<i>Lycoperdon</i> aff. <i>perlatum</i>
<i>Cortinarius collybianus</i>	<i>Mycena clarkeana</i>
<i>Cortinarius malosinae</i>	<i>Mycena interrupta</i>
<i>Cortinarius papaver</i>	<i>Mycena ura</i>
<i>Cortinarius porphyroideus</i>	<i>Phellodon sinclairii</i>
<i>Clavaria novo-zealandica</i>	<i>Plectantia rhytidia</i>
<i>Clavogaster virescens</i>	<i>Pluteus perroseus</i>
<i>Clavulina floridana</i>	<i>Pluteus readoreorum</i>
<i>Descotea gummii</i>	<i>Polyporus dictyopus</i>
<i>Entoloma</i> cf. <i>translucidum</i>	<i>Porphyrellus formosus</i>
<i>Fomes hemitephrus</i>	<i>Postia caesia</i>
<i>Fomitiporia robusta</i>	<i>Rhodocolybia incarnata</i>
<i>Galerina patagonica</i>	<i>Roridomyces austrororidis</i>
<i>Gliophorus graminicolor</i>	<i>Rossbeevera pachydermis</i>
<i>Gliophorus lilacipes</i>	<i>Russula grisea</i>
<i>Gymnopilus austropicreus</i>	<i>Russula griseoviridis</i>
<i>Gymnopus ceraceicola</i>	<i>Russula kermesina</i>
<i>Hericium coralloides</i>	<i>Russula miniata</i>
<i>Humidicutis mavis</i>	<i>Russula roseopileata</i>
<i>Humidicutis multicolor</i>	<i>Russula tricholomopsis</i>
<i>Hydnum crocidens</i>	<i>Russula umerensis</i>
<i>Hygrocybe astatagala</i>	<i>Scytinotus longinquus</i>
<i>Hygrocybe</i> aff. <i>firma</i>	<i>Stereum ostrea</i>
<i>Hygrocybe miniceps</i>	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Hypholoma australe</i>	<i>Tubaria fuifurea</i>

Table 2: Birds seen at each site - May 2019

Species	Poteriteri	Crombie	SB	Y22	GB	Comment
SIPO						
VOC					Y	2 on beach
Grey Duck						
Par. Shelduck	Y		Y			3 pairs
Black Shag			Y	Y		Single flying birds
WF Heron						
NZ Falcon						
Kereru	Y		Y	Y	Y	Common throughout
Kea	Y					
Kaka	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Seen, heard throughout
YCP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Parakeet sp					Y	
Ruru	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Rifleman	Y		Y		Y	Scattered
Grey Warbler	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Bellbird	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Tui	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
Mohua		Y			Y	Two at Crombie; GB=?
B Creeper	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Fantail	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
Tomtit	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
SI Robin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
Silvereye		Y	Y	Y	Y	Small flocks
Blackbird		Y	Y	Y	Y	
Song Thrush						
Starling						
Chaffinch			Y	Y	Y	
Greenfinch						
Redpoll				Y		
SBBG					Y	
Pied Shag			Y	Y		
LT cuckoo						
Fernbird						
Dunnock				Y		
Black Swan						
Pipit	Y					On beach
Mallard	Y					