TIAKINA NGĀ MANU

Battle for our birds

Western South Island update as at September 2020

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Landscape Scale Predator Control on the West Coast 2020 to 2021

Pororari River, Punakaiki

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Look after the birds and the forest will look after itself.

Disappearing songbirds and the places where they live

-Tui
-Bellbird
-Fantail
-Robin
-Tomtit, etc.

Plus ‘iconic’ birds including kiwi, whio, mohua, kea and kaka.

Predator Free 2050

Possums, rats and stoats eradicated from NZ by 2050

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Nga Manu Images

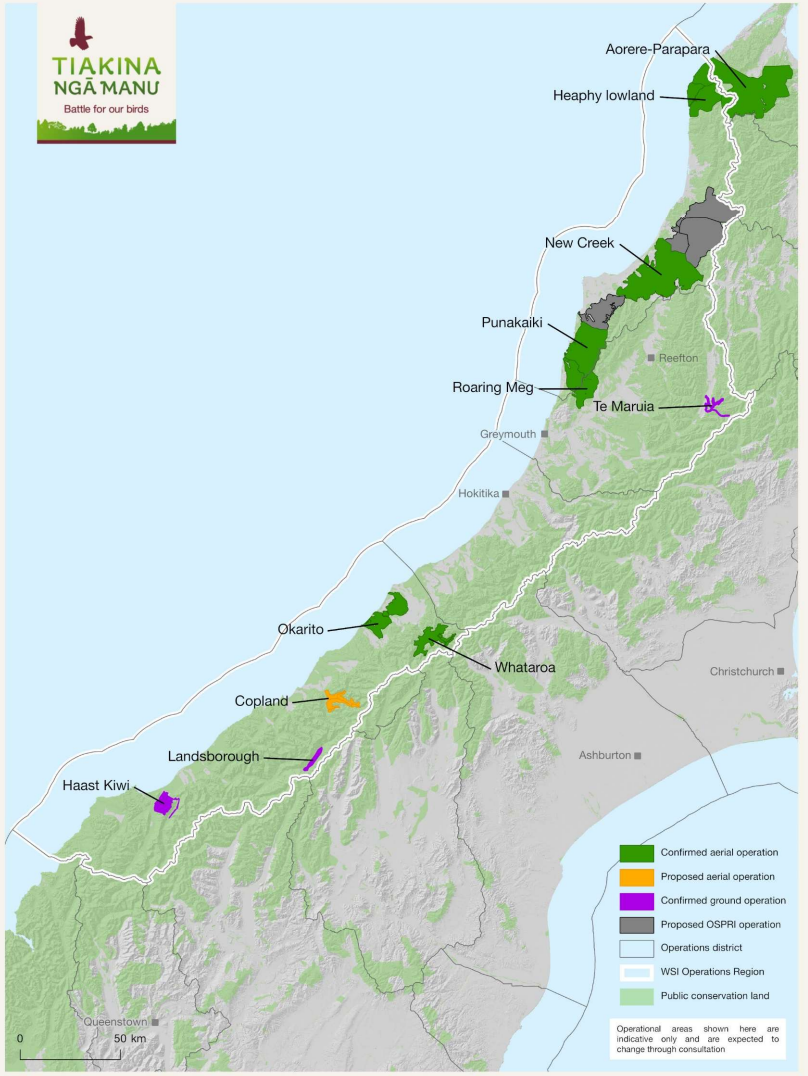
Do nothing is not an option

Invasive predators are killing vulnerable native wildlife

Hard choices have to be made

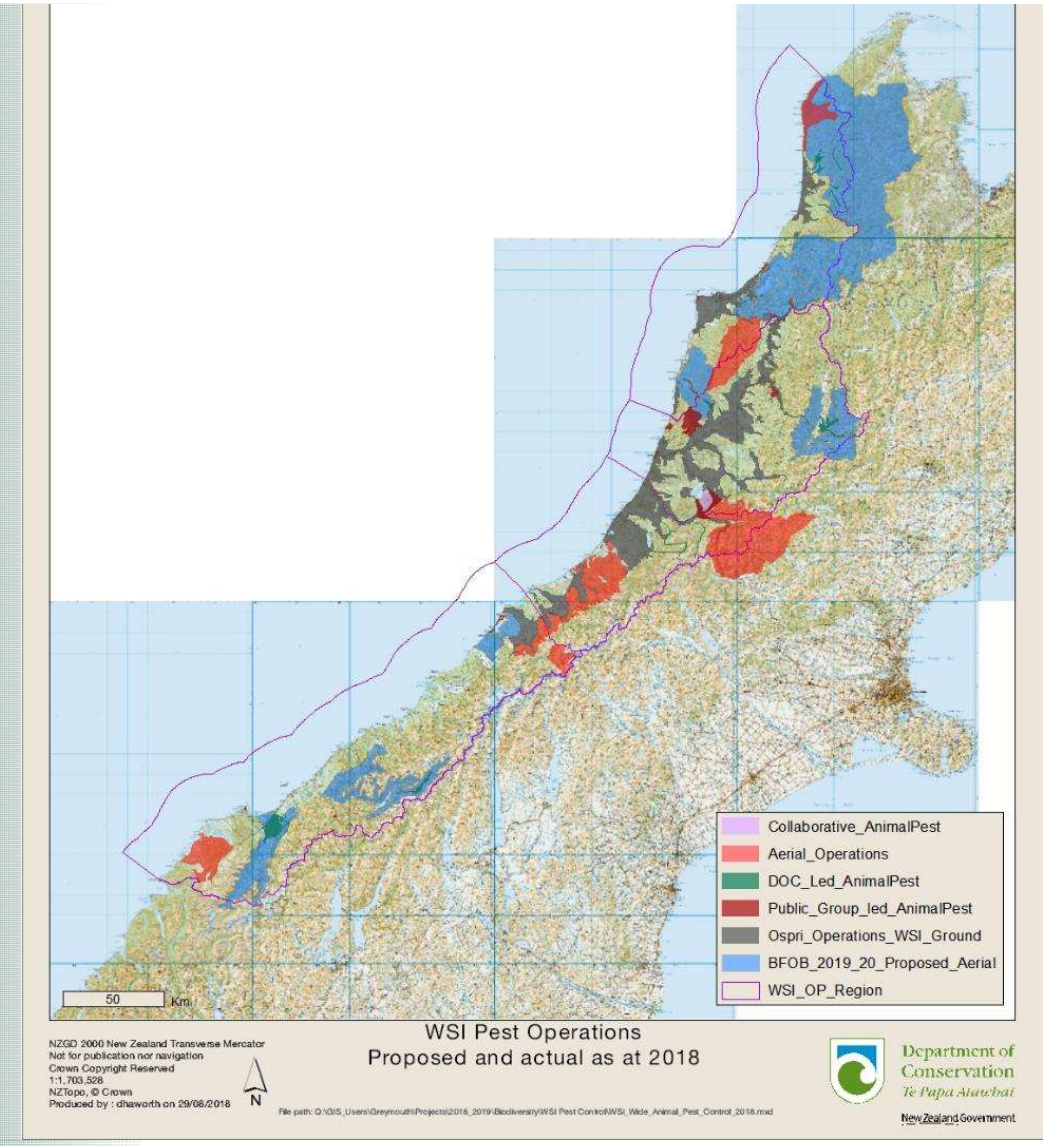
West Coast sites 2020-2021

Photo: David Hallett



West Coast sites

including other agencies & groups

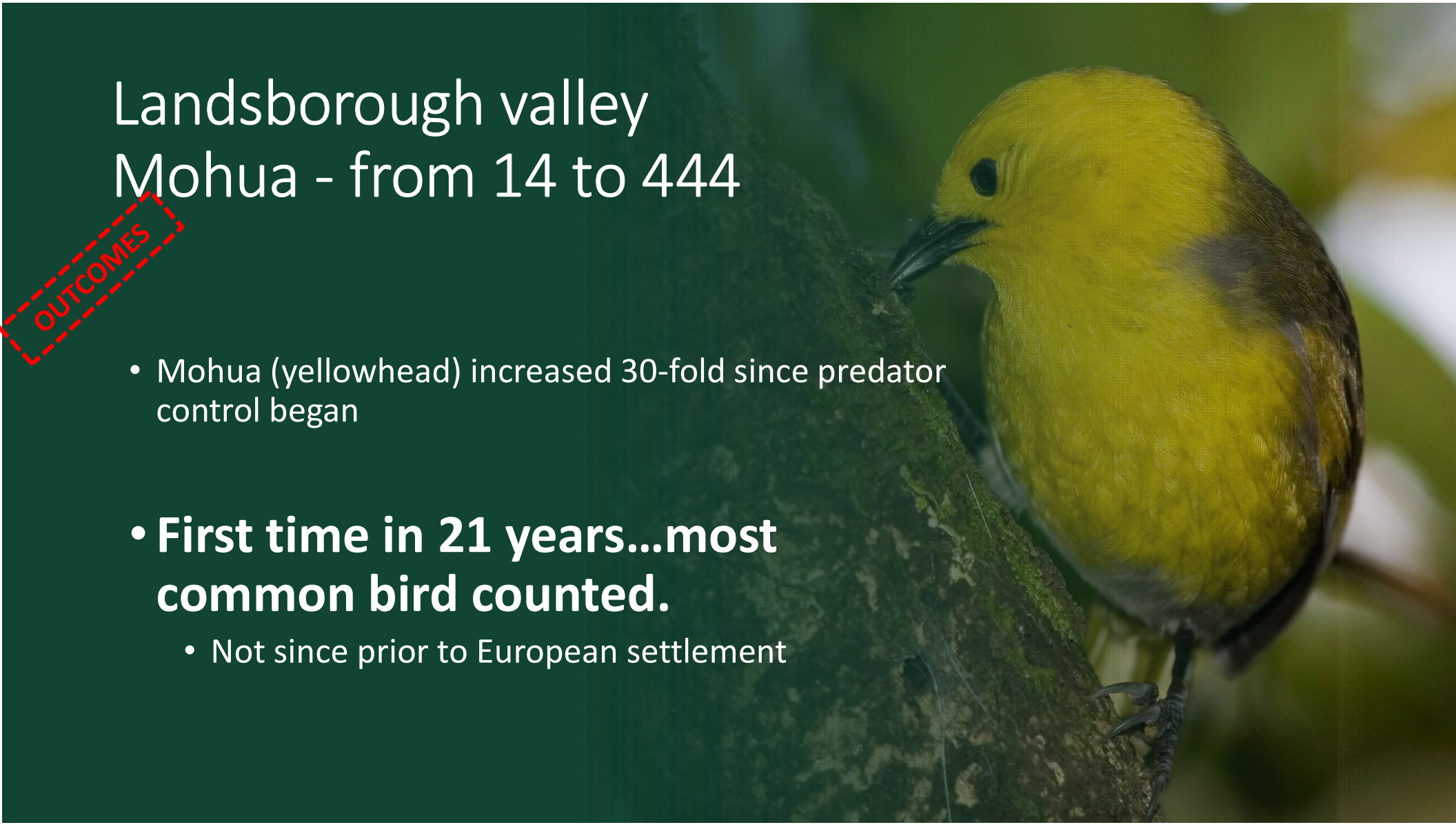


Landsborough valley Mohua - from 14 to 444

OUTCOMES

- Mohua (yellowhead) increased 30-fold since predator control began

- **First time in 21 years…most common bird counted.**
  - Not since prior to European settlement



Tongariro Forest
20,000Ha

OUTCOMES

One of eight priority management sites

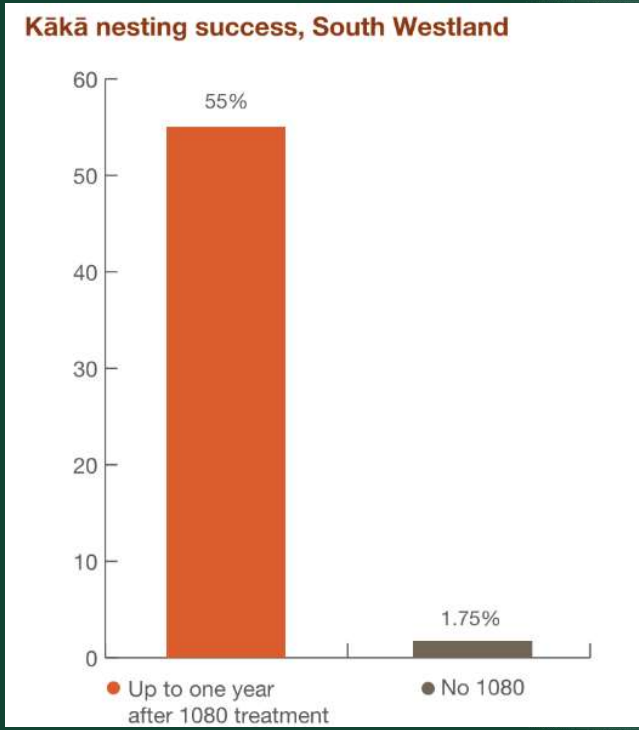
- Predator trapping along rivers
- Aerial 1080 operations
- **Whio pairs jumped from 30 to 109**

Benefits

- 55% kākā nests successful a year after 1080
- 2% nests produced chicks in non treatment

OUTCOMES

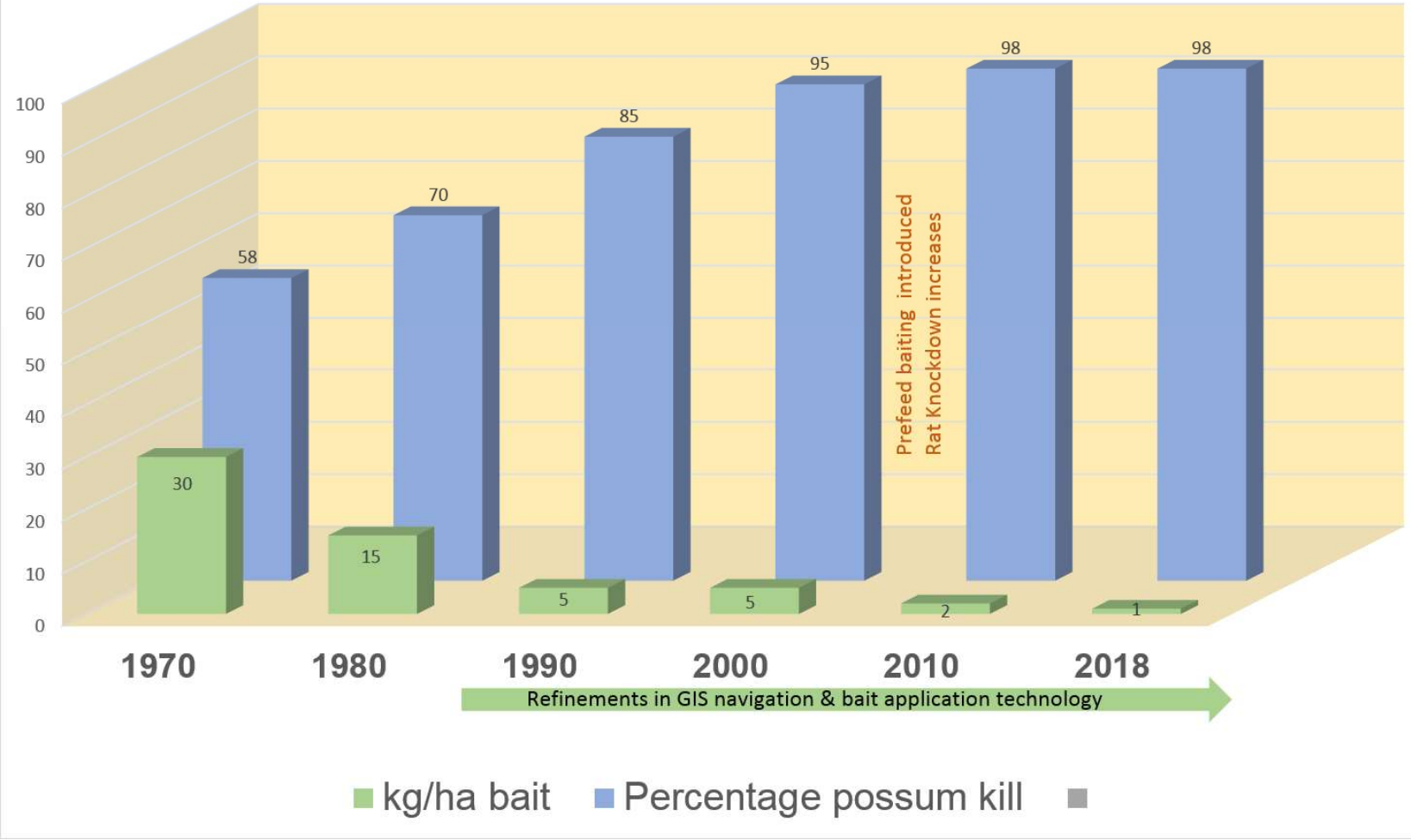
- 30 times as many kākā chicks produced after 1080
- Adult bird death rate
  - ❑ in treatment area = 3%
  - ❑ non treatment area = 20%



Expected Outcomes

Reduced rodent & mustelid numbers allows native species to thrive.

Continual Improvements
Reduced sowing rates & increased efficiencies



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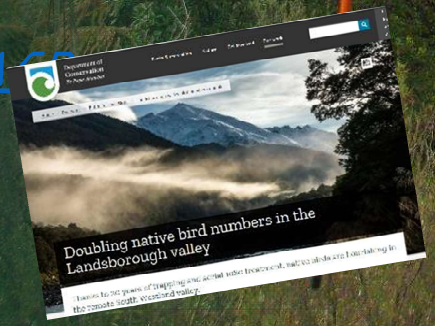
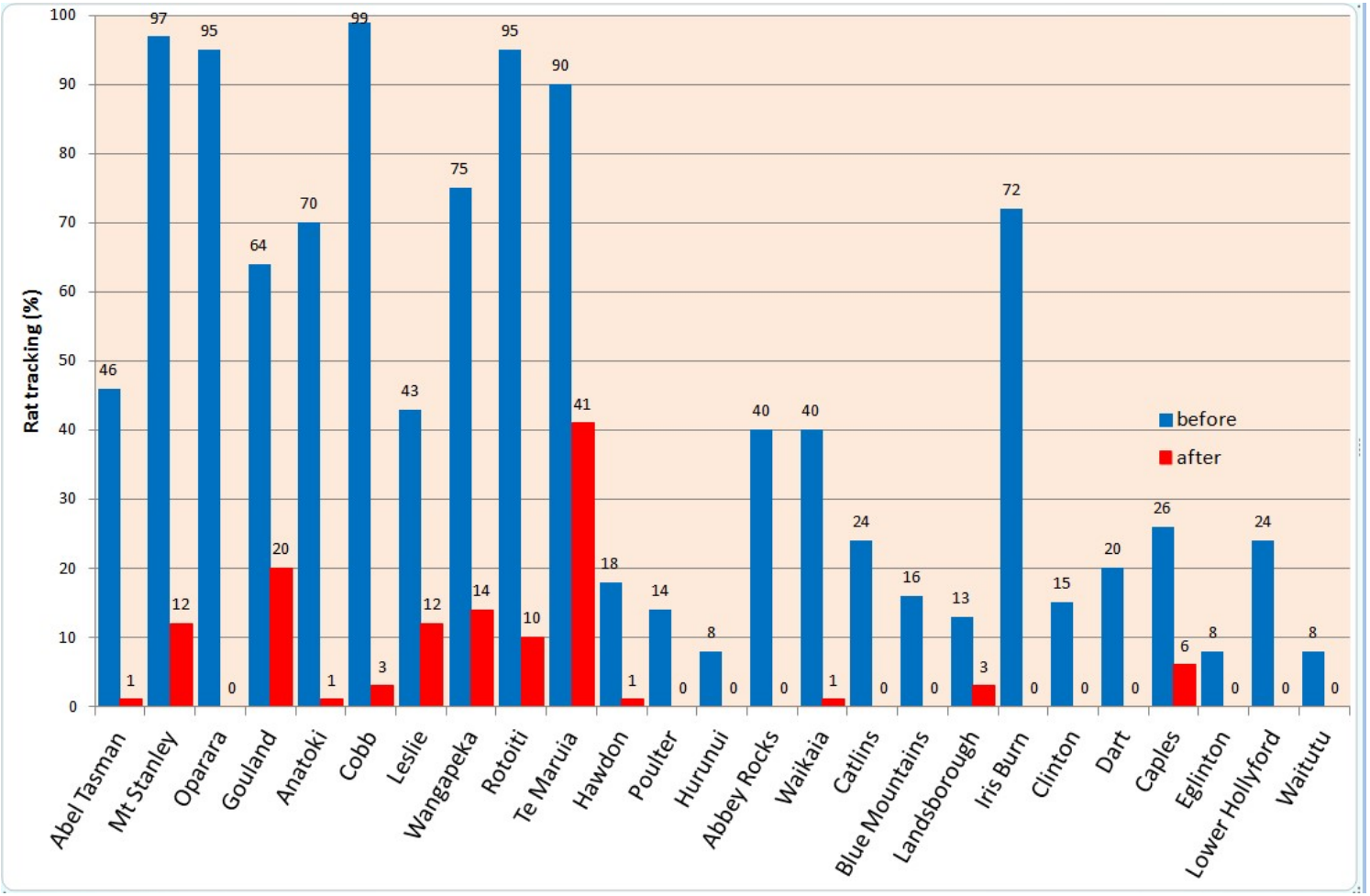
Monitoring.

Long term studies in areas under predator control help to refine control methods.

e.g.
https://youtu.be/YrAUlfA-gY
Landsborough success



Rat Population Indices
Before & After aerial 1080



People's valid concerns
Values & Science

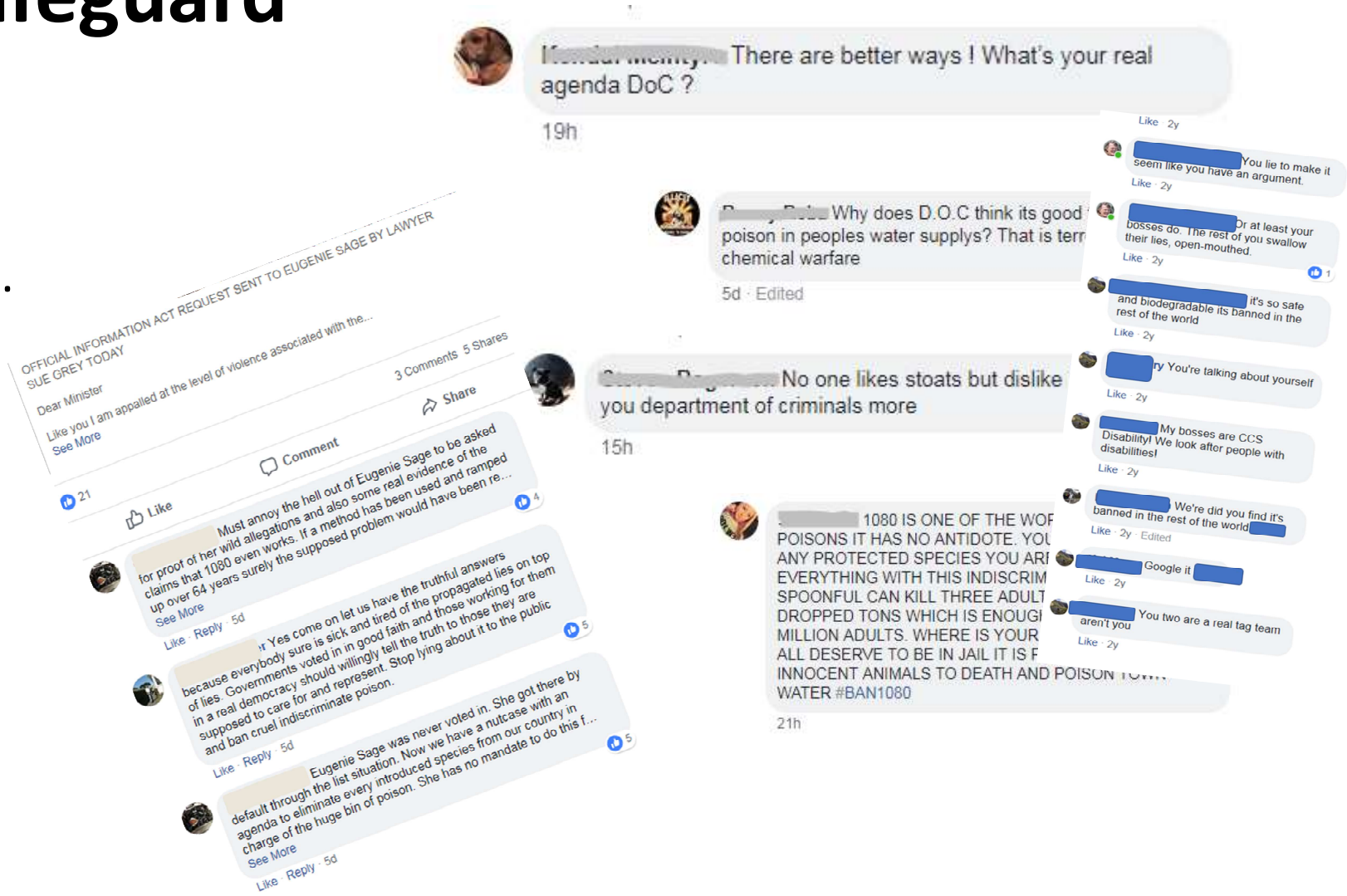
1. **Environment** — Wildlife/Water/soil/plants/pathways
2. **Hunting** — Affect my ability to hunt? Deer? Pigs?
3. **Animal Rights** — Pests deserve to live
4. **Animal Welfare** — How are you killing the pests?
5. **By-kill** — Native species at threat?

Beliefs, Passion, emotion, facts.

Social/economic Issues

Project Safeguard

The most toxic environment is on social media.



ZIP ZERO INVASIVE PREDATORS
Enabling a new future

Completely remove possums, rats & stoats from large mainland areas. Prevent these predators re-establishing

Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP)

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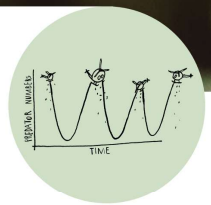
From this...

Repeated, large-scale operations, every 3-5 years

Surviving possums (and rats) re-establish populations over time



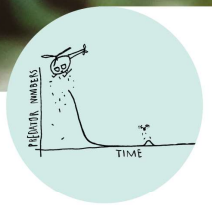
Invasion from surrounding areas is unchecked

Farmers lose **millions of dollars every year** due to diseases spread by predators, including bovine tuberculosis (TB), leptospirosis, salmonella and giardia.

Regular, labour intensive monitoring

Native biodiversity under pressure from predators

...to this



One large-scale operation

Then, remove possums (and rats) that remain or re-invade before they establish populations

Protection of the area minimises re-invasion

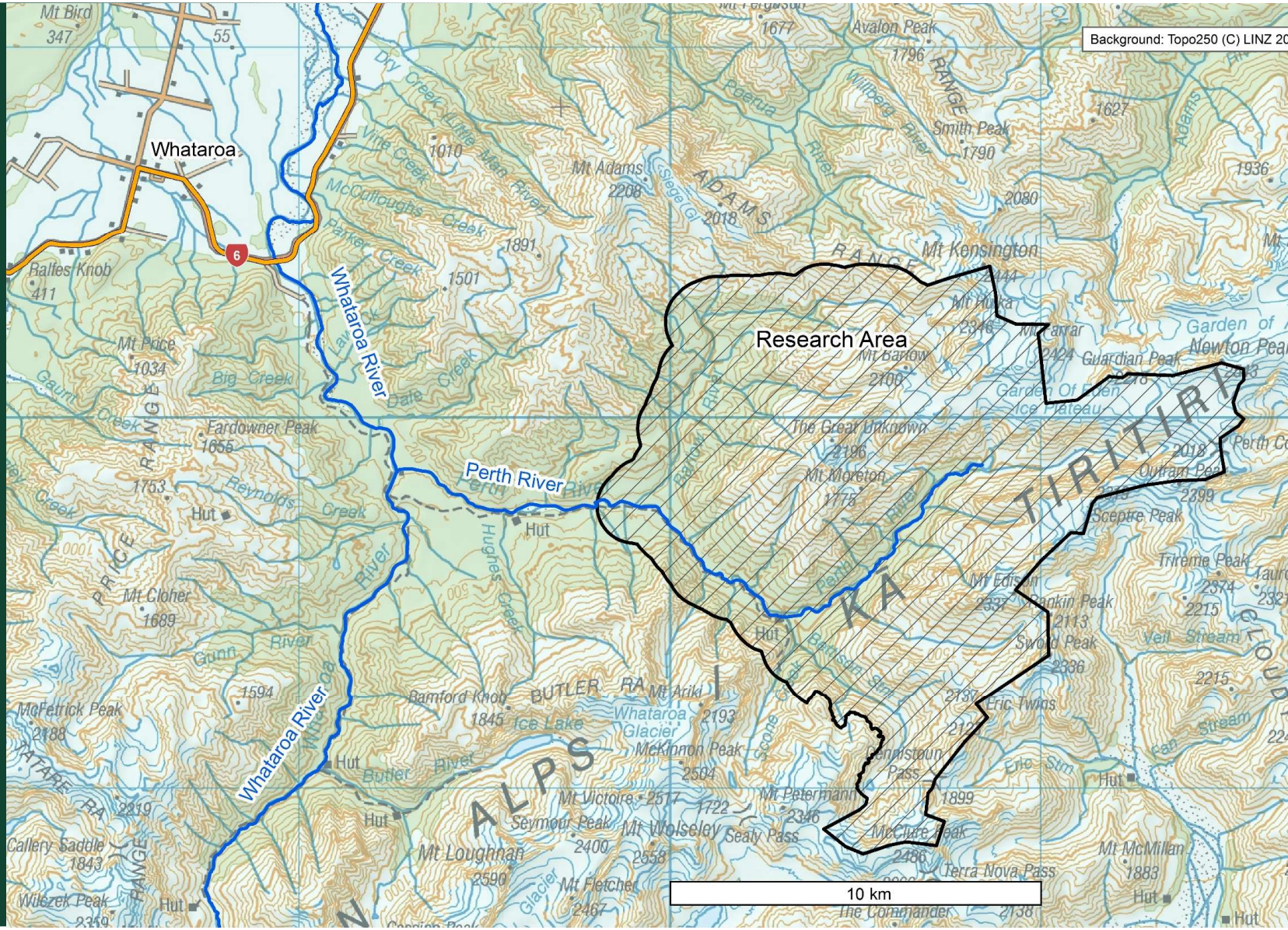
Elimination of, or at least a **significant reduction** in, the impacts of these diseases

Remote detection devices provide real-time notification of incursions, enabling timely response

Native biodiversity flourishes in a predator-free environment, over progressively larger landscapes

Perth Valley Project Area

- 4,000 ha Rātā/ Kāmahi & subalpine forest
- 12,000 ha in total
- Defend 25 km of river boundary




25.90 inHg - -8℃ 07/03/2018 05:19PM K350R

Trapping and/or aerial 1080

Landscape scale operations

Aerial 1080 Costs = $33/hectare

The Triple Hit - Possums/rats/stoats

Ground based

best practice costs could exceed $1000/ha

- Stoats
  - 1 trap /10Ha
- Rats
  - 1 Trap/Ha
- Possums
  - 1 Trap/Ha

Tracks/bait/clear & set/repeat

- Self resetting traps
- DOC 200

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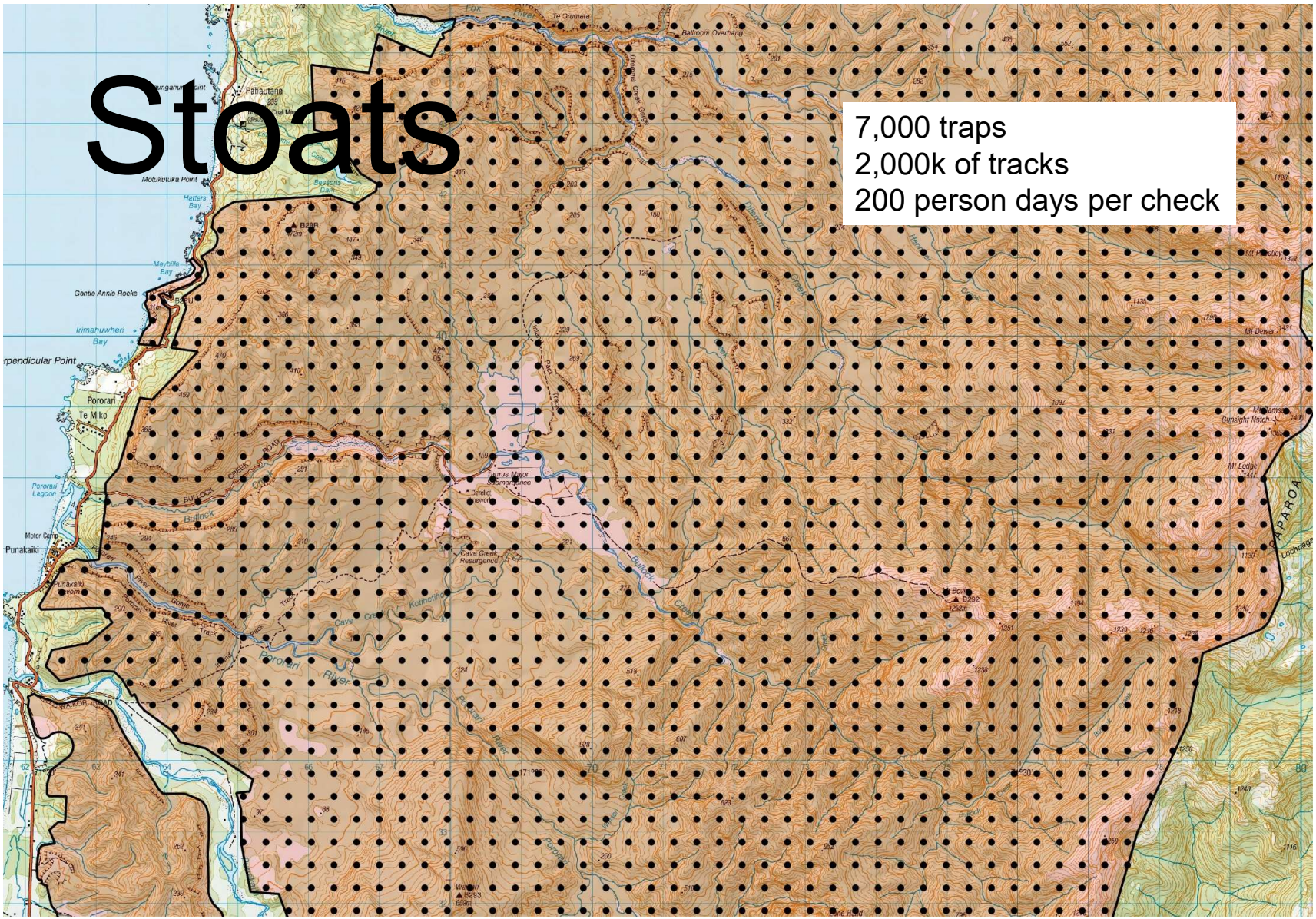
PUNAKAIKI

70,000ha


Stoats
7,000 traps
2,000k of tracks
200 person days per check

Questions?

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