

# Wilmot Road Restoration Project

Annual report



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# 1. Background

In 2007, Nigel and Paula Lamb the owners of local tourism operation (Doubtful Cruises) wanted to do something to protect the native species in the area and started pest control between West Arm and Deep Cove. They installed stoat traps along the Wilmot Pass Road and over time added more traps to the network, including the Spey River, Percy Pass Road and around the Deep Cove wharf. The Lambs have also funded possum control around Deep Cove.

In 2012, Nigel and Paula Lamb sold Doubtful Cruises, and control was passed over to the Fiordland Conservation Trust. The principal funder for the project is the Wilmot Pass Road Users Group. All users of the Wilmot pass road pay a fee to use the road, including Meridian Energy, all tourism operators, recreation and other commercial operators. A portion of this fee is being used to sponsor this trapping programme.

The reduction in stoats is expected to benefit kiwi, weka, and whio. The rat control in the Deep Cove area contributes to reducing the biosecurity risk posed by rats boarding boats that may visit pest free or rodent free islands.

The stoat/rat trapping is undertaken by a trapping contractor called Erminators with the main trapper being Adrian Braaksma. Erminators are under contract with the Department of Conservation to undertake this work and the supervisor of this work is Peter McMurtrie. Funding however, is provided by the Wilmot Road User Group via the Fiordland Conservation Trust.

## 2. Pest Control

This report covers the results of the trapping programme in the West Arm- Deep Cove Area from July 2014 to January 2015. This covers 6 of the 9 trapping periods in August, October, November, January and February.

### 2.1 Stoat and Rat trapping results

The August check results were 12 rats caught around the Deep Cove Area and 2 stoats at West Arm. The October check caught 7 rats and 4 stoats. The November check caught 3 stoats and 10 rats throughout the trapping network. The December check caught 7 stoats and 12 rats again spread throughout the area. The January revealed 8 stoat captures, but these seemed to be located close to the boundaries of the trapped area. Surprisingly, for this time of year, no stoats were caught in the Spey valley on the Dusky track. The 15 rats caught in January were spread throughout the area. A total of 10 stoats and 5 rats were caught over the February check.

These capture results indicates an low rat and stoat levels compared with previous seasons.

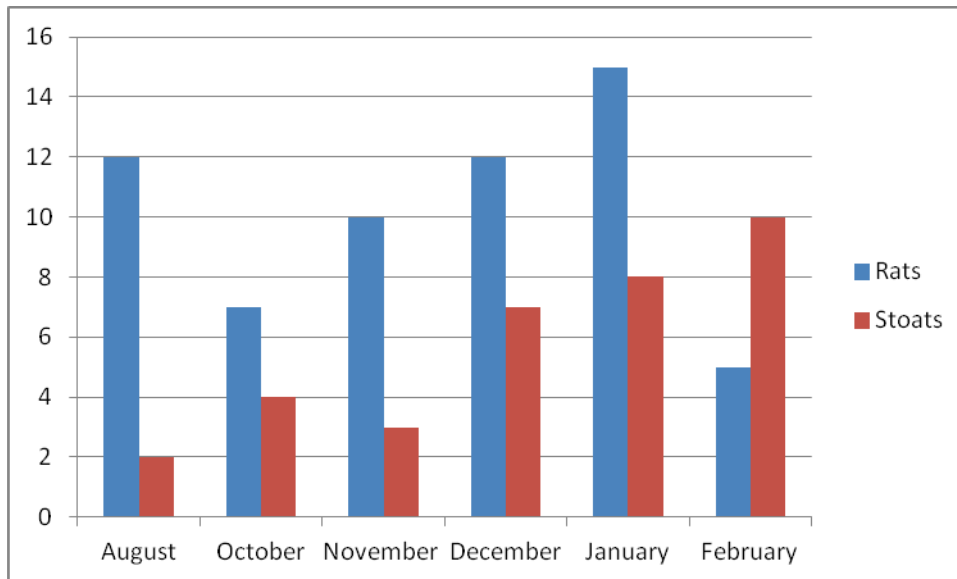


Table 1: Pest captures in the Wilmot area from August to February 2015.

The next trap servicing trips are due in March, April and May.

## 2.2 Traps replacement

Many of the traps within the trapping network were older style Fenn and were becoming degraded in condition so Adrian Braaksma submitted a funding application to the Meridian Community Fund through the Fiordland Conservation Trust to replace the traps with stainless steel DOC 150 series traps. These traps do not require to be removed for maintenance and are the current best practise trap. The Meridian bid was successful and \$13,000 was supplied to replace the traps. The cost of the traps and freight was \$13,680.

Adrian finished replacing all of the traps with the new stainless steel traps in the project area during the October and November trap checks. Adrian has paid for a few tunnel replacements (stainless ends supplied by DOC) and plans to remark the tunnels on the road after the vegetation on the road is cut. In the future stainless steel tunnels ends will be required to replace the current galvanised wire mesh ends.

## 2.3 General Wildlife Observations

During the December check that trapping contractors observe two mohua/yellowheads and two whio/blue ducks in the Spey Valley. Adrian also report two mohua close to the Spey Hut in January. The Department of Conservation plans to undertake a whio survey on the Spey River with a dog within the next month.

## 2.4 Possum Control

The contractor, Erminators is planning on undertaking possum control in the Deep Cove area in July 2015.

## 3. Budgets

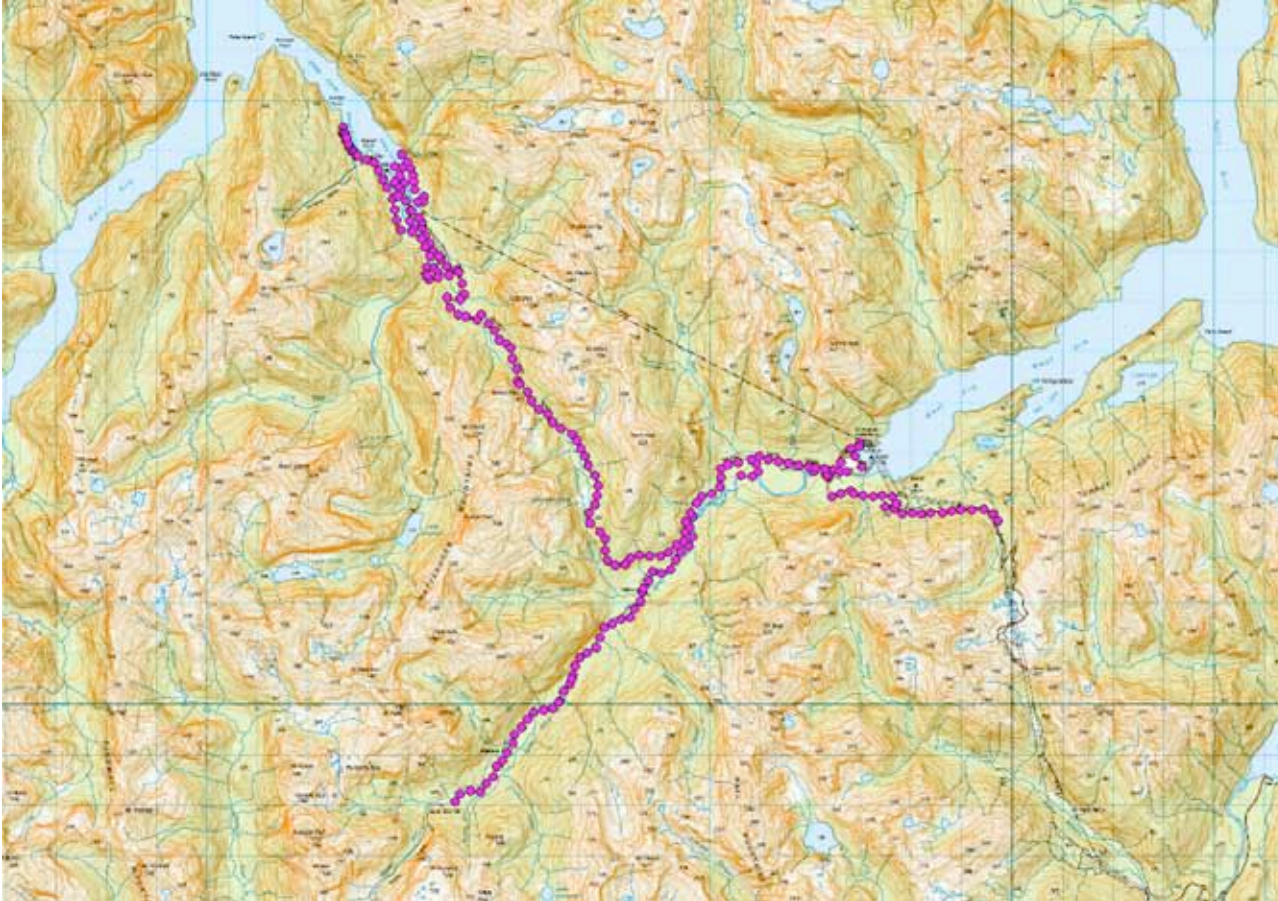
### 3.1 Budget required for 2014/15

Item	Units	Cost per unit	One Off cost	Annual cost
Project Management	5.5 days	Free		Free
Possum Control fund for 2015/16	2 weeks for 2 people every 2 years	\$250 per day every 2 years		\$1,953
Stoat trap checks (including providing bait)	9 per year	\$1,050 per check		\$9,450
Transport across Lake	9 per year	Free		Free
Vehicle running costs	9 per year	Free		Free
Accommodation at West Arm Lodge	9 per year	Free		Free
Stoat traps Stainless Steel			\$13,680	
Fiordland Conservation Trust management, admin Fee, contribution to overheads				\$1,267
		SubTotal	\$13,680	
		Less DOC contribution	\$680	
		Total	\$13,000	\$12,670
		DOC to invoice FCT	\$13,000	\$9,450
		WRUG Payments to FCT		\$12,670

### 3.2 Budget required for 2015/16

Item	Units	Cost per unit	Annual cost Stoats
Project Management	5.5 days	Free	Free
Possum Control	2 weeks for 2 people every 2 years	\$250 per day every 2 years	\$3,047
Stoat trap checks (including providing bait)	9 per year	\$1,050 per check	\$9,450
Transport across Lake	9 per year	Free	Free
Vehicle running costs	9 per year	Free	Free
Accommodation at West Arm Lodge	9 per year	Free	Free
Stoat traps Stainless Steel			
Fiordland Conservation Trust management, admin Fee, contribution to overheads			\$1,249
DOC to invoice FCT			\$12,497
Cost to WRUG for pest control 2015/16 total			\$13,746
Possum money from last year held by FCT			\$1,953
Total			\$15,699

## 4. Map



Map 1: Map of Trapping Network for the Wilmot Pass Restoration project. Pint points indicate trap points.

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