

Pest Management Plan

Revised: 21 December 2025

Overview

The Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust (APWT) is charged with eradicating pest animal and vegetation species in designated areas of Arthur's Pass National Park, and parts of Craigieburn Forest Park. The current boundaries of this activity include the catchments of the Bealey, Crow, Edwards, Mingha, Upper Waimakariri, White, and mid Poulter Rivers; it also includes some areas around Bealey Spur, Lagoon Saddle, and the Hawdon Valley.

This plan has been patterned from the Pest Management Plan implemented by Environment Canterbury (also utilised by Selwyn District Council), and the Upper Waimakariri River Weed Control Strategy 2022-2032 authored by the Upper Waimakariri Weed Working Group.

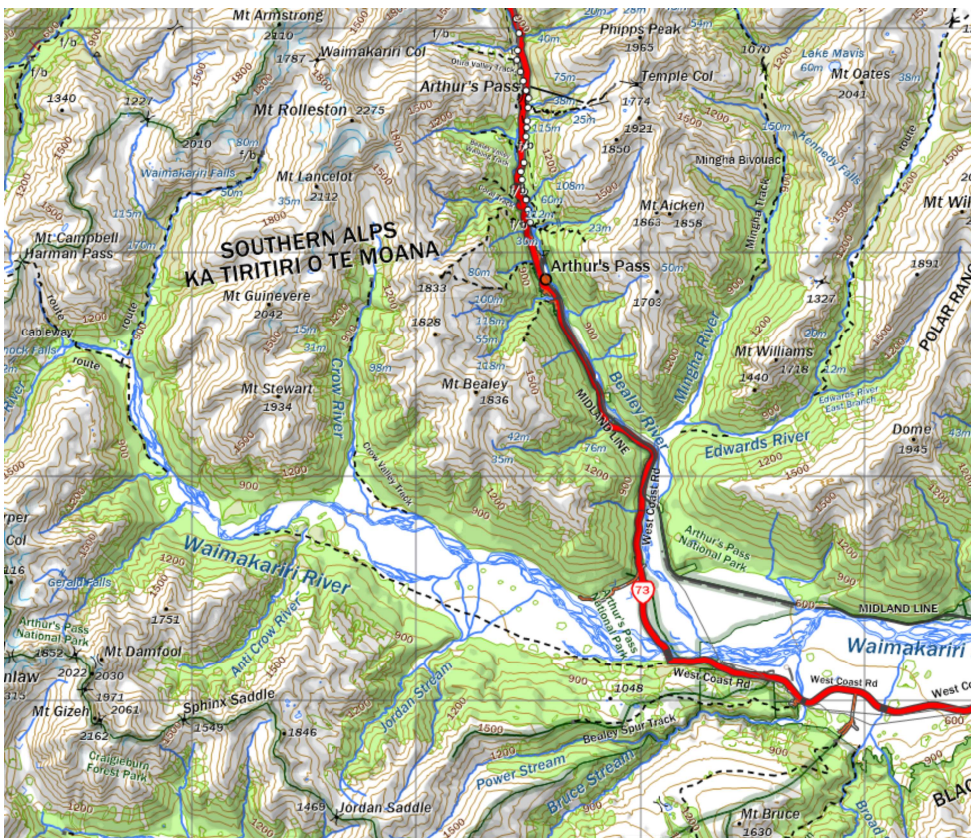
ECAN PMP: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=3420918>

UWWWG: https://www.apwt.org.nz/document/UWWCS_202206021_compressed.pdf

Purpose of the Plan

- to aid the APWT in its forward planning and actions taken in respect of pest organism eradication or control.
- allow the APWT to coordinate its pest organism control activities with other organisations working in the same geographical location (ie. DOC, ECAN, SDC).

Geographic coverage of this Plan



The area is bounded by Campbell Pass and Kilmarnock Falls in the west, Taruahuna Pass in the east, Lagoon Saddle in the south and the Otira Viaduct in the north. The area includes all side catchments within the area designated.

Review of the Plan

This plan will be reviewed every 2 years.

Best Practice

All pest control (animal & plant) will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines and rules as laid down by national and local authorities (DOC, ECAN). This will also include all criteria held within the APWT Community Agreement with DOC, and the APWT Safety Plan.

Organisms declared as pests

The lists below account for those animal and invasive plant species designated as primary threats to natural wildlife and ecosystems present in the APWT geographic area of operation. It is not an exhaustive list and other organisms may be added if their threat level is determined to be unacceptable in any localised area, or they are contained within the ECAN Pest Management Plan as a species of threat.

Animal Pests

Common Name	Scientific Name	Programme	Threat to...
Ferret	<i>Mustela furo</i>	Eradication	Kiwi
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Eradication	Kiwi, Kea, all forest & braided river birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Eradication	All forest & braided river birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
Feral Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	Eradication	Kiwi, Kea, all forest & braided river birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Eradication	Native vegetation, all forest bird eggs & chicks. Potentially kiwi eggs.
Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Eradication	Native vegetation, invertebrates, all ground nesting birds.
Ship Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Eradication	All forest & braided river birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Eradication	All forest & braided river birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
Kiore	<i>Rattus exulans</i>	Eradication	All forest & braided river birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Progressive Containment	Rock Wren
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Progressive Containment	All braided river birds eggs & chicks.
Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus occidentalis</i>	Progressive Containment	Native vegetation.
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Progressive Containment	Native vegetation.

Plant Pests

Common Name	Scientific Name	Programme	Known Locations
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Progressive Containment	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Sustained Control	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Mingha Valley
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Dock, Broad Leaf	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Progressive Containment	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
False Tamarisk	<i>Myricaria germanica</i>	Eradication	Lower Sudden Valley
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Sustained Control	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Eradication	Otira Valley, Klondyke Corner, Bealey Spur
Heather, Bell	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Eradication	
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla Mollis</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley
Loosestrife, Purple	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Eradication	Bruce Stream
Lupin, Russell	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	Sustained Control, Progressive Containment	Bealey Valley, Waimakariri Valley, Lower Mingha Valley, Lower Hawdon Valley
Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley
Monkey Musk	<i>Erythranthe guttata</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley
Oak	<i>Quercus spp.</i>	Eradication	
Penny Royal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Purple Toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Eradication	
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Eradication, Progressive Containment	Arthur's Pass Village
Rosehip	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur, Waimakariri Valley
Spanish Heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Eradication	Bealey Spur, Lagoon Saddle
Steeplebush	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Eradication	Arthur's Pass Village
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur
Thistle	<i>Cirsium spp.</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur, Sudden Valley, Lower Hawdon Valley, Walker Pass, Mid Crow Valley
Tradescantia	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Eradication	
Tree Lupin	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Mid Waimakariri Valley
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Lower Mingha Valley, Waimakariri Valley
Wild Mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Eradication, Progressive Containment	Arthur's Pass Village, Klondyke Corner

Wilding Cherry	Prunus spp.	Eradication	Lower Bealey Spur
Wilding Pine (Douglas Fir)	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Eradication	Bealey Spur, Lagoon Saddle
Willow	Salix spp.	Progressive Containment	Bealey Valley, Mid Waimakariri Valley
Woolly Mullien	Verbascum thapsus	Eradication	Bealey Valley, Bealey Spur, Waimakariri Valley
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	Progressive Containment	All valleys

Pest management programmes

1. Eradication Programme: to reduce the infestation level of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term.
2. Progressive Containment Programme: to contain or reduce the geographic distribution of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to an area over time.
3. Sustained Control Programme: to provide for ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Management Practices & Tools

Trapping

Note: Toxins are not permitted for animal pest control within a 15km radius of Arthur's Pass village to protect scrounging kea populations!

Pest Animal	Tool/s	Planned Distribution	Notes
Stoat	DOC150 trap, DOC200 trap	Traps to be placed at a minimum 50m spacing in lateral lines where practical to do so (1 trap per hectare for broad area deployment).	All new trap-lines will be deployed at 50m spacing. Older lines at 100m spacing may have 2 traps deployed at specific locations along the line.
Weasel	DOC150 trap, DOC200 trap	Traps to be placed at a minimum 50m spacing in lateral lines where practical to do so (1 trap per hectare for broad area deployment).	All new trap-lines will be deployed at 50m spacing. Older lines at 100m spacing may have 2 traps deployed at specific locations along the line.
Ferret	DOC250 trap, Large cage (live capture) - monitored	Traps to be placed in Ferret habitat at 50m spacing. (1 trap per hectare for broad area deployment)	DOC250 traps will be placed in matagouri, lowland tussock areas as required. No live capture traps will be deployed specifically for the capture of ferrets, however will rely on the distribution of traps

			targeting feral cats.
Rats (all species)	DOC150 trap, DOC200 trap	Traps to be placed at a minimum 100m spacing in lateral lines where practical to do so (1 trap per hectare for broad area deployment).	Generally no rat specific lines will be deployed in the APWT operational area, instead relying on the mustelid trap network, and co-baiting traps with both mustelid and rat lure types.
Feral Cats	Large cage (live capture) - monitored	Traps to be deployed at a density of 1 trap per 100 Ha. However traps may be deployed on a site determined, or predator density basis.	All traps not within easy walking distance of the Arthur's Pass village will be electronically monitored using nodes, and the Celium system deployed by APWT. All unmonitored traps must be checked twice daily when active. Pest animals captured will be euthanised by certified persons using firearms.
Wild Pigs	Large corral trap - monitored	1 trap only in a high density area of pigs.	This trap will be deployed in the Bealey Spur area. It will be monitored 24/7. The trap will be remotely activated when required. Pest animals captured will be euthanised by certified persons using firearms.
Possum	Trapinator possum trap, Large cage (live capture) - monitored	Trapinator traps will be placed in movable lines of 10-20 traps at 25m spacing. Large cage traps will be deployed as is required, but otherwise rely on the feral cat trapping network of traps.	50% of Trapinator traps will be monitored using the APWT Celium network and nodes attached. Traps will be progressively moved throughout forested areas of the Bealey Valley & Bealey Spur when reinvasion numbers are determined to be minimal (ie. 7 days without any activity on the trap-line).
Hedgehogs	DOC250 trap, Large cage (live capture) - monitored	Not specifically deployed.	Capture of this animal will rely on the deployment of DOC250 traps for ferrets, and large cage traps for feral cats.
Rabbits, Hares	Large cage (live	Not specifically	At present rabbits and

	capture) - monitored	deployed.	hares are captured as a by-catch in the feral cat trap network.
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Note: The APWT maintains 107km of trap-lines within its operational area. This currently consists of 1500+ traps, with the majority being for mustelids and rats. Expansion of this trapping network is based on site determined need (eg. New kiwi habitat identified etc).

Invasive Weed Control

Species (Common Name)	Method	When	Notes
Blackberry, Broom, Coltsfoot, Cotoneaster, Gorse, Raspberry, Rosehip	Herbicide – Triclopyr (60ml/10L)	Summer	Knapsack spray.
False Tamarisk, Foxglove, Penny Royal, Purple Toadflax, Ragwort, Russell Lupin, Tradescantia, Tree Lupin, Male Fern, Viper's Bugloss, Woolly Mullien	Herbicide – Triclopyr (60ml/10L)	Late Spring – Early Autumn	Knapsack spray.
Dock, Heather, Lady's Mantle, Loosestrife, Steeplebush, Stonecrop, Wild Mint, Willow (small), Yarrow	Herbicide – Triclopyr (60ml/10L)	Late Spring - Summer	Knapsack spray.
Monkey Musk	Herbicide – Triclopyr (60ml/10L), Handpull	Late Spring - Summer	Knapsack spray. Do not spray when found in water, hand pull only in this circumstance (bag & dispose).
Oak, Wilding Pine, Wilding Cherry, Willow	Stump and paste smaller trees with herbicide Picloram gel. Drill lower trunks of larger trees and fill with herbicide Glyphosate 540 (50/50 water).	Late Spring - Summer	Do not fell any tree that is coning or seeding, drill & fill only!
Spanish Heath	Herbicide – 2,4-D Ester 680 (50ml/10L). Cut & paste plants within native vegetation with herbicide Picloram gel.	Late Spring - Summer	Knapsack spray.
Thistle	Herbicide - MCPA 750 (80ml/10L)	Late Spring - Summer	Knapsack spray. Smaller or early season plants can be treated with 50ml/10L herbicide ratio.

Note: All APWT invasive weed control utilising herbicides must be carried out by persons holding a Standard or Basic GrowSafe certificate.

Monitoring

Pest Animals

Pest Animal	Method	Notes
Stoat, Weasel, Rats, Mice	Tracking tunnel, trap capture logs.	The APWT operates 10 tracking tunnel lines in the Bealey Valley. These will be utilised in mid-Spring on a bi-annual basis (3 night observation). Before a new trap-line is deployed a tracking tunnel line baited for mustelids and rats will be deployed in the area first (5 night observation).
Ferret	Trail camera, trap capture logs	
Feral cats	Trail camera, trap capture logs	
Wild pigs	Trail camera, live video camera, trap capture logs, digital sound recorders	
Possums	Chew cards, trail camera, trap capture logs	
Hedgehogs	Trail camera, trap capture logs	
Rabbits, Hares	Not purposely monitored	

Invasive Weeds

All weed control will be monitored by comparing weed density data obtained as part of the control operation and compared to data from previous seasons. Some aerial (drone) or satellite photography may also be used from time to time to monitor or find infestations.

“Walk throughs” will take place, time to time, to search for possible outlier or new infestations.

Reporting

Pest Animals

All pest capture data will be logged to both the APWT website, and to the TrapNZ online database. The latter is monitored by DOC for our project area.

Invasive Weeds

All treatment of invasive weeds will be logged on the APWT website, and spray logs & GPS tracks will be sent to DOC Rangiora on regular basis. ECAN monitor the control via the APWT website.

Funding

External funds will be sought to enable the programmes for both pest animal and invasive weeds to take place. Where possible the Trust will seek to use 100% volunteer labour to service trap-lines, or control invasive weeds, however due to time, distance and volunteer restraints some remote trapping lines will be managed wholly by paid contractors, and weed control may allow for 30 - 50% in-kind donations of volunteer labour or monies, or as required by the funder of a specific programme.