

Attendance: John Beech FMC/MTSC, Janet Wilson RWP/PNTMC, Julia Mackie NTC, Warren Wheeler PNTMC, Gordon Kuggelejn Ruahine NZDA, Pete Meredith F&B, Sheryl Bayliss, Dan Elderkamp CHB F&B, John Montgomerie HTC, Ben Douglas Ruahine Whio, Mike Charlton Ruahine NZDA, Stephen Robson DOC, Ian Patterson NZDA Manawatu/LNIRDF, Mike Long Ruahine NZDA, Moana Smith-Dunlop DOC, Vince Payne Ruahine NZDA.

1. Welcome & introductions

2. Apologies: Nil.

3. Minutes from previous meetings & actions arising

- a. **Action DOC:** John and Shaun to catch up over Stewardship Land Status.
- b. **Action DOC: Action: DOC** Shaun to check if the alert is current at Smiths Stream.

4. Huts and Shelters – work undertaken and planned

- a. DOC managed
 - i. Completed
 - Pourangaki Anchor replacement completed, and load tested
 - Sunrise, Rangiwhia and Longview huts had monthly checks.
 - Iron Gate Hut. Pushed out to Sept/Oct 19. Due to NZDF having other commitments.
 - ii. Planned next 3-4 Months
 - Parks Peak roof leak, taps/hoses from tank and general hut work,
 - Barlow Hut. Replacement Door, replace skylights, fix flue bracing, general hut work,
 - Iron Gate Hut build with NZDF.
- b. Community managed
 - i. Completed
 - Kylie Bivvy Re-pile and paint. Completed by Andrew Mercer.
 - Rob Brown is planning to lead a team to recondition Toka and Sparrowhawk Bivvies.
 - Steve Bailey visited Kelly knight and tidied up a portion of the track and some minor work at the hut. His wife and him also donated some gas cannisters and cleaning supplies for the hut.
 - Mike has markers and signs to cut Biodiversity line Top Gorge to the Main track Rocky Knob. This will need to be completed within the next 6 months.
 - John asked if he could have info on Gold Creek and Poutaki Huts to formulate a bid to the BCT. PNMTMC may be going in on a planned trip.
 - Ngamoko Hut had a wash and looking good. Some small touch ups needed.
 - Longview Huts Axe is missing. Needs a new one.

- Smith stream has an alert that the tanks are empty – **Action: DOC** Shaun to check if the alert is current

5. Tracks and roads

b. DOC managed

i. Completed

- Track Cutting plan is complete for the 18/19 year. Tracks cut:
 - i. Ngamoko road end to Leon Kinvig hut
 - ii. Longview hut to Leon Kinvig hut
 - iii. Kawhatau to Colenso highpoint and Kawhatau to Rongotea highpoint
 - iv. Coppermine tracks. Wharite to Granges Track, including the loop track
- Iron Gate hut to Oroua Carpark track has been cut from windfalls.
- No mans road now has approved funding bid. Expected to begin work in Spring/Summer.

ii. Planned next 3-4 Months,

- Alice Nash Track Slip. The bridge to campsite track will be tidied up and new water tabling established. The main track to the bridge from the roadend will also be re-visited.
- Rangiwhia Carpark and road. Works to improve the road and carpark will be completed. Currently requires maintenance.
- Complete Kashmir Road and Alice Nash Track.
- Maintain front country track vegetation. These have been growing very quickly.
- Establish 2019/20 Track cutting program and have cutting underway.

c. Community managed

- Nil.

6. Access

- a. Mokai Te Matea station have requested that access permission is obtained prior to moving through the station. This is obtained through calling Jasmine Corpe on 06 3880091. DOC is working alongside the Walking Access commission to progress with this.
- b. Shaun has met with the new owners of Parks Peak Station. It has been agreed between the parties that walking access can be obtained by parking on the left hand side, when going through the first gate. If access to the river is required, please ring Kim on 06 8566518, access to the river is not guaranteed and will need to work around farming operations. DOC is working alongside the landowners to establish a more permanent solution.

7. Biodiversity

- a. Pinus Contorta – North eastern Ruahine focus. Seed source is coming from the Comet. Most of the work is being completed by helicopter, controlled all known area Taruarau to Sentry Box this season. Longview contorta controlled down to Kashmir road complete, priority was the tussock land. Kashmir pines - Prevailing wind is westerly so eastern is lowest priority may do next season if \$ allows. Starting to get Douglas fur in the Ruahine Forest Park. Not sure where they are coming from.
- b. OMB – Controlled found plants up near Colenso Hut and 2 more found between Iron Bark and Otukota huts. Lots of OMB in the Rangitikei near Gravity Canyon. Bio control to be released this summer. Surveying of all areas outside present control happening at the moment in the Rangitikei trench country.
- c. Spike in pig population around the Ruahine Corner 2017/18. Since then a lot of pig predation of snails, first time ever. Sent ground contractors in to do pig control. A one off at present. Pig numbers currently at Ruahine Corner are fluctuating but predation still evident May 2019.
- d. Pittosporum Turneri – re-banded some trees and the banded trees are looking good, adult foliage and seeding. Exclosure plot trees about half are dead. Not sure why this is the case. Seeking expert advice as to what to do with these trees.
- e. Rare bidi bid (*Acaena rorida*)– took new staff to check on known sites to see if still present and familiarization for staff. Found several patches present and doing well.
- f. Boundary fencing going on south of Happy Daze Hut.
- g. Predator trapping is ongoing. DOC leading Te Potae o Awarua. Whio Protectors doing a lot of work up there. There is a bid in to Tiakina nga Manu for a 1080 operation, funding has not been confirmed. Planning has commenced in the event that funding will be confirmed. Operation would be spring 2019 if/when funding confirmed. 80%likely.
- h. RWP – been busy. 200 new double set DOC 200s traps put out by volunteers. Funding through DOC community fund and NI blue duck trust. DOC and Horizon paid for flights and Nobby (DOC) flew the traps out and slung them in along the trap lines in bundles of 10. This work was supported by Darren Peters (DOC Wellington) who helped Janet Wilson with the planning.
- i. Horizons give RWT \$7.5k to predator trapping Ruahine
- j. A DOC capex bid nearly signed off for trap replacements for Te Potae o Awarua as oldest traps are 12 years old non stainless.
- k. A 24 Self-setting traps need to be installed as per the manufacturer's instruction as have been a problem with kiwi.
- l. Approx 2500 predator traps are now operating in the Ruahine Forest Park.

8. Other Items

- a. Rubbish at Alice Nash Rifle range. Graeme (Janet's Husband) will fill a fadge with this rubbish so it can be flown out when the Iron Gate job is done. See DOC staff for a spare fadge.
- b. Rowans growing in the rifle range area. A lot of seedlings and larger trees need attention before they spread into forest.

9. Next meeting date: 21ST October 2019 Palmerston North DOC Office.