

4 July 2019

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Zero Invasive Predators Ltd C/O – Zealandia Sanctuary PO Box 9267 Marion Square Wellington 6141 CC: <u>permissions@epa.govt.nz</u> Delivery Planner (Biodiversity)

ATTENTION: $^{5}_{(2)}$

PERMISSION ID 6001106: PERTH VALLEY – POSSUM and SHIP RAT CONTROL OPERATION 2019

Permission was granted for the above operation under permission ID 5709603. Pursuant to section 95A(7) of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 that permission is revoked immediately.

The following permission is granted to take immediate effect. Permission is granted under:

- Section 95A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Sections 53 and 54 of the Wildlife Act 1953
- Sections 20 and 38 of the Conservation Act 1987

for Zero Invasive Predators Limited and any of its staff and sub-contractors (in particular Tasman Pest Control Ltd), to apply

• Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) 1.5g/kg cereal pellets, aerially

on or after 1 April 2019 until 30 June 2020 on the lands listed below and shown on the attached map:

- 1. 5065.42 hectares of Waitangi Forest Conservation Area, a Stewardship Area under section 25 of the Conservation Act 1987
- 2. 8288.39 hectares of Adams Wilderness Area, a Wilderness Area under section 20 of the Conservation Act 1987
- 3. 28.88 hectares of Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park, a Conservation Park under section 19 of the Conservation Act 1987
- 4. 0.01 hectares of Rangitata/Rakaia Head Waters Conservation Area, a Stewardship Area under section 25 of the Conservation Act 1987.

Non-toxic prefeed may be applied no earlier than 18 March 2019.

This operation is approved for the purpose of controlling possums and ship rats in an attempt to completely remove possums and develop methods for

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completely removing ship rats from the area. The permission is given subject to the requirement that the operation:

- Is carried out as described in the Application Form submitted 1 February 2019
- Meets the conditions shown in the attached sheets of DOC Performance Standards for Pesticide Uses Number 1
- Meets the conditions listed in the National Performance Standards for Pest Operations docdm-1492976

The following non-target species focused mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting requirements are conditions of this permission:

- Kea risk mitigation measures are to be implemented as described in the Perth Valley Project: Taonga Species Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan, submitted 1 February 2019. This condition also acts as my approval and provision of DOC support in implementing the tahr carcass components.
- 2. The level and rate of tahr carcass consumption by **kea** will be recorded at each placement (subsequent to placement 1) and reported to me as soon as practical.
- 3. **Kea** fitted with radio transmitters are monitored to determine their survival during and after the operation. The sample size present in the area must be reported to me prior to prefeed 1. Mortality information must be sought after both the phase 1 toxic bait application and after the phase 2 toxic bait application and these results are to be reported to me once they are available.
- 4. The **kea** population will be estimated using mark-recapture methodology with trail cameras at tahr carcass sites. This will be undertaken after the phase 2 toxic bait application to reflect the post operational kea population. The 2019 post 1080 population estimates will be compared with the population estimates from the winter 2018 data at the same tahr carcass sites.
- 5. Pre and post operational surveys of **whio** are undertaken as described in the *Perth Valley Project: Taonga Species Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan*, submitted 1 February 2019.
- 6. Monitoring of **rock wren** is carried out in 2019 pre and post the operation, using the same methods and sites as in the 2018 survey. There will be a minimum of 2 surveys, but ideally 3 if weather allows: pre-operational (March 2019- compulsory survey); post Phase 1 (3 weeks after the phase 1 toxic application) and/or post Phase 2 (after phase 2 as snow conditions allow). As a minimum, the post-Phase 2 survey must be completed; with weather conditions and staff health and safety considerations to dictate the feasibility of the post-Phase 1 survey.

Notwithstanding that the permission must comply with these requirements, it is acknowledged that there is a possibility indigenous species may be killed and so this permission authorises any killing for the greater protection of indigenous species.

Auditing may occur to establish whether those conditions are being met. If not, the permission will be revoked and further action may ensue.

I require that public health permission is obtained, and a copy forwarded to the Director Operation, Western South Island, DOC Hokitika Office prior to any toxic bait application.



Pursuant to a written delegation from:

- The Chief Executive, Environmental Protection Authority for section 95A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- The Director-General of Conservation for sections 53 and 54 of the Wildlife Act 1953
- The Minister of Conservation for section 20 of the Conservation Act 1987
- The Director-General of Conservation for section 38 of the Conservation Act 1987

Enc: Map(s)
DOC Performance Standards

Pesticide Use #1

Sodium fluoroacetate 1.5g/kg Cereal pellet Aerial (0.15% 1080 Pellet)

Target Pests: Possums, Rats

Location of operation

Perth Valley ZIP 1080 (2019) treatment area: 13,383 hectares



Caution Period

The estimated caution period for this operation is 9 months after last date of bait application and is subject to compulsory bait and carcass monitoring. This estimated caution period cannot be reduced to less than 4 months, and must be extended if the endpoints for monitoring have not been met at the end of the period.

Performance Standards

Compulsory for all operations

- 1. For operations targeting rats, prefeed with this pesticide use.
- 2. The DOC Code of practice for aerial 1080 in kea habitat DOC-2612859 must be followed.
- 3. Flight paths to and from the bait loading zones by aircraft equipped with loaded or uncleaned bait sowing equipment must avoid: stocked paddocks, residential dwellings, and any other 'no fly zones' specified by consent providers.
- 4. An aircraft must not, when flying to or from the treatment area, fly over a public drinking water supply or waterway that is less than 100 metres upstream of a point of extraction from a water source for a drinking water supply (not being a water supply exclusively for stock).
- 5. For operations targeting possums, baits will have a mean size in excess of 6g and 95% of baits should weigh more than 4g.
- The baits must be dyed green or blue.
- 7. The boundaries of the bait preparation and loading site are marked and loading site signs docdm-181171 erected. At the end of every day of the operation (including the final day), the loading site and any storage area must be fenced so that people do not inadvertently enter the site and stock cannot gain access to the area. The fence and signs remain in place until the area is decontaminated.
- 8. If there is any likelihood that farm stock has been exposed to 1080, the owner must be advised as soon as possible, and stock removed from the area.
- 9. The product must only be used as specified on the manufacturer's product label.

Information Needs

Compulsory for all operations

Nil

Operational Planning & Design Considerations

- Apply bait in coldest months of year.
- For operations targeting possums, do not repeat aerial operations within 4 years using the same bait.
- Current Agreed Best Practice Possum Control Aerial Application of 1080 Cereal Pellets docdm-341728
- Current Agreed Best Practice Rat Control Aerial Application of 1080 Cereal Bait docdm-29375

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My approval dated 4 July 2019 is subject to these performance standards being met. Compliance monitoring may occur.

Mike Slater, Deputy Director-General, Operations

Released under the Official Information Released under the Official Information





