

RAPID ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AND TREND

SPECIFIC CONDITION AND TREND INDICATORS FOR SITE/AREA										
[Examples: highly palatable plants, good food plants for birds, rare species, seedlings, epicormic shoots, possum sign, tracking, bark stripping, sensitive fauna, rampant weeds, visitor numbers, water quality, erosion, vegetation structure, bird population.....]										
Indicator	Condition¹	Trend²	Monitoring technique			Comments				
Tree fuchsia	Good	Improving	Observation			Low possum numbers				
Wineberry, Pate	Good	Improving	Observation			Low possum numbers				
Titoki canopy	Fair	Improving	Observation			Low possum numbers				
Mahoe	Good	Stable	Observation							
Raukawa	Fair	Improving	Observation			Low possum numbers				
Supplejack shoots	Good	Improving	Observation			Low possum numbers				
Hen-&-chickens fern	Good	Improving	Observation			Lots, few browsed				
Broadleaved tree seedlings and saplings										
	Good	Improving	Observation							
Epicormic shoots (Tree fuchsia, Mahoe, Tawa, etc.)										
	Good	Improving	Observation			Low browser numbers				
Nikau seedlings	Good	Improving	Observation			Low browser numbers				
Tui, Bellbird, Kereru populations	Good	?	Observation/Counts							
Rifleman	?	?	Counts			Need for particular focus				
Long-tailed bat	?	?	Tracking							
Tree weta	?	?	Weta houses							
Old man's beard	Some	Increasing	Observation							
MANAGEMENT HISTORY, CURRENT REGIME AND FUTURE NEEDS										
Control Programme	>10 yrs ago	3-10 yrs ago	Last 3 years			Current		Future Needs		
	Effectiveness	Effectiveness	Effectiveness			Effectiveness		Scale up	Status quo	Scale down
	(0 * ** ***)	(0 * ** ***)	(0 * ** ***)			(0 * ** ***)				
Ungulate	**	**	***			***				✓
Pig										
Possum	*	***	***			***				✓
Mustelid/Cat	0	0	0			0		✓		
Rodent	0	0	0			0		✓		
Weed	0	***	***			**		✓		
Fencing	**	**	***			***				✓
Visitor impact	***	***	***			***				✓
Other (specify)										
Notes:										
PRIORITY FOR MANAGEMENT										
Management Need	Priority			Urgency			When/Frequency³			
	Low	Mod	High	Low	Mod	High				
Baseline survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asap			
Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seasonally, Annually			
Animal pest control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing			
Weed control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing			
Visitor management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As required			
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

¹ Good (healthy, thriving); Fair (okay); Poor (depleted, struggling); Don't know (?)

² Improving; Stable; Declining/Deteriorating; Don't know (?)

³ Monthly, Seasonally, Annually, 2 -yearly, 5-yearly, 10-yearly, Ongoing, etc.



Figure 1

Sensitive indicators of both possum and ungulate browse, at White Pine Bush, December 1998. Left: untouched supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) shoot. Below: tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) defoliated by possums.





Figure 2

Left: healthy pate sapling (*Scheffera digitata*), indicative of low ungulate numbers. Below: rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) in flower; the flowers contain nectar sought after by tui, whilst freshly fallen flowers beneath trees can indicate possum activity.

Both photos taken at White Pine Bush, December 1998.

