



BOVINE Tb VECTOR CONTROL OPERATION

Otaki/Otaki Crown

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE

What's happening?

This notice is to inform you about a large-scale possum control operation using the controlled vertebrate toxic agents Sodium Monofluoroacetate (1080) and the possible limited use of Cyanide (Feratox) in the Otaki area in June 2007.

You need to be aware of this information if you live in, or near to, the operation area or intend to visit the area highlighted in the adjacent map. We would also be grateful if you could bring this notice to the attention of anyone that you know who intends to visit the area during the operation period. Signs will be erected, public notices published in newspapers, and information online at www.gw.govt.nz before the operation commences.

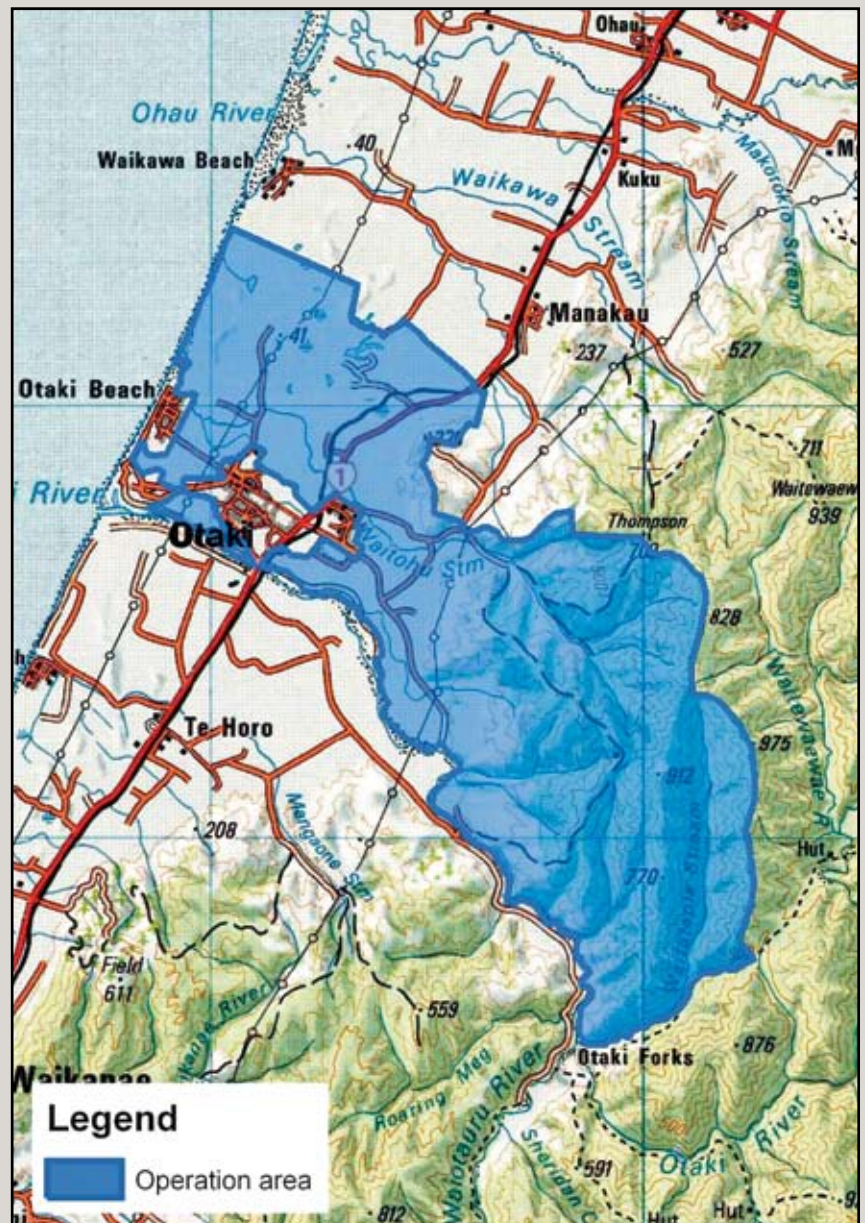
Why are we doing this?

The operation is necessary to reduce and eliminate the incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) in farmed cattle and deer herds in the targeted area. Possums spread Bovine Tb to other animals, such as cattle and deer by discharging tuberculosis bacteria. Tb is one of farming's main animal health problems and poses a serious risk to both the local and national economy. Possums also pose a serious threat to our native forests.

Possum control operations have been successfully undertaken throughout the Wellington region for a number of years. Approximately 590,000 hectares receive ongoing Bovine Tb vector control.

Landowner consent

We are currently in the process of seeking permission from all landowners within the proposed operation area. No control work will commence on any private land without the consent of the landowner.



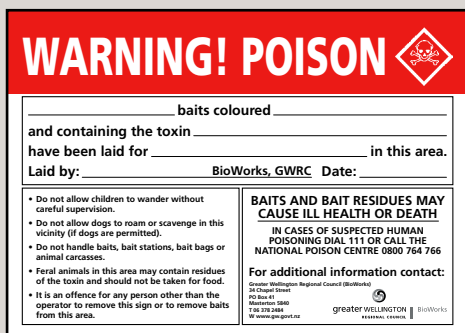
How do we notify the community?

- approval is sought from all landowners
- information sheets and operational maps are provided to all landowners and neighbouring property owners
- schools are notified
- local user groups (hunting clubs, tramping clubs, mountain bike clubs, etc.) are notified
- Police, health centres and veterinary clinics are notified
- District and City Councils are notified
- advertising in local newspapers
- local media are notified
- detailed information on our website – www.gw.govt.nz

Safety precautions

The Medical Officer of Health must approve the use of all controlled vertebrate toxic agents used in the operation and will impose a number of mandatory regulations which must be adhered to. In addition, Greater Wellington has its own stringent requirements (set out in standard operating procedures) which must be met.

Public warning signs will be placed at all main access points where vertebrate toxic agents are being applied. Signs will remain in place until the operation area is safe.



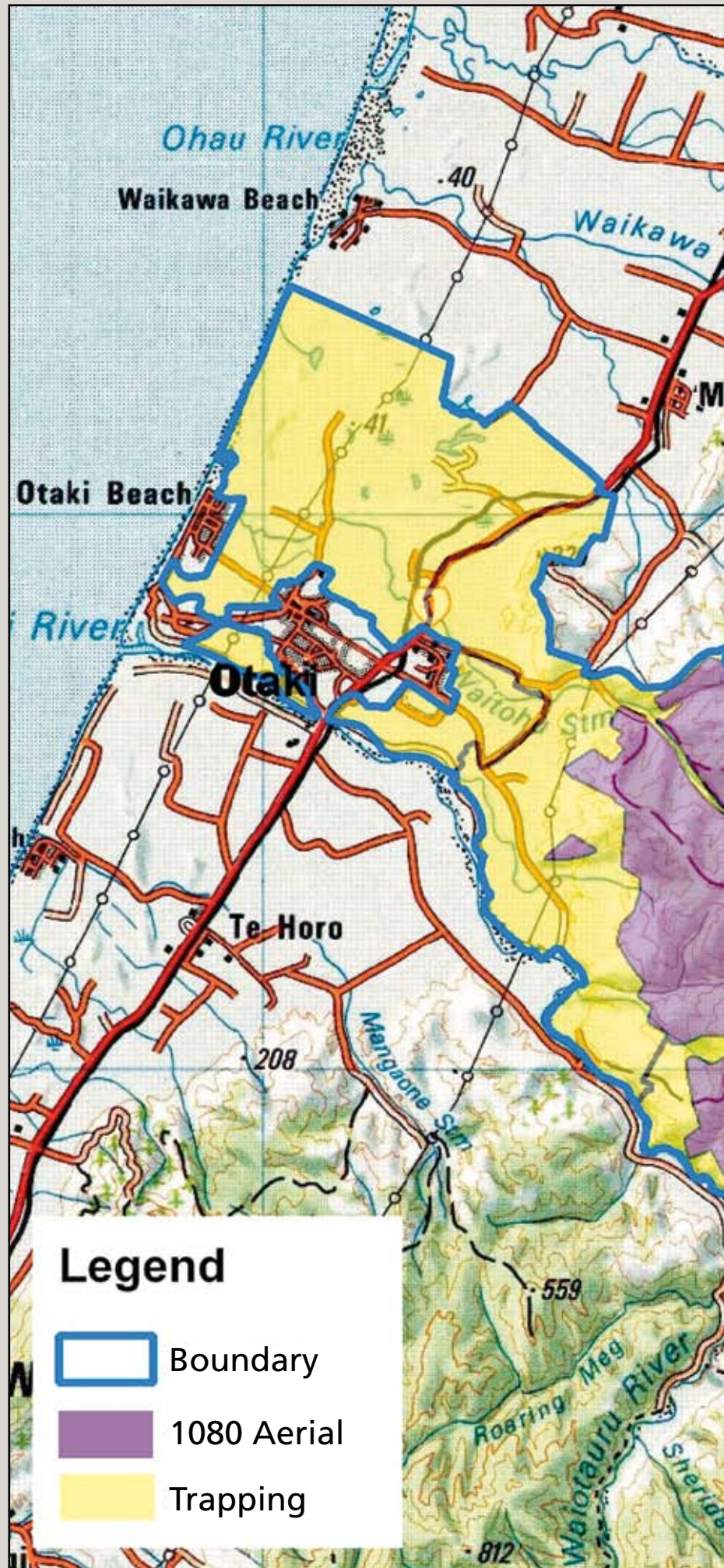
Sample 1080 warning sign

People are strongly advised not to handle any bait or interfere with warning notices, and to strictly supervise or keep children away from the operation area.

We strongly recommend keeping cats and dogs away from areas where bait is being used. **Keep all dogs out of 1080 areas.**

Dogs and cats are susceptible to poisoning from eating bait and can die from secondary poisoning from eating possum carcasses. Always keep dogs under strict control and keep them well fed, preferably with meat.

All bait will be either **green** or **blue**. Non-toxic pre-feed bait is **fawn/tan**.



Proposed operation map (subject to final approvals)



What will happen?

Various control methods will be used during the operation. The treatment methodology has been designed to minimise risk to the general public.

We have identified areas of high use by the public and these, together with any work around residential houses, will be controlled through trapping (approx 5,400ha subject to final landowner approval).

The majority of the remaining operation area will be aerially treated with the controlled vertebrate toxic agent Sodium Monofluoroacetate (1080). Non-toxic pre-feed cereal pellet bait will be applied initially. Ten to fifteen days later (weather dependent) the area will be aerially sown with 1080 pellet bait. 1080 pellet bait may also be used in bait stations or hand broadcast in some parts of the aerial operation area. (approx 5,000ha subject to final landowner approval).

Cyanide (Feratox) bags may be used in bait stations in some of the denser bush and scrub and farm areas in place of aerial 1080 baits.

Control methods

Individual detailed factsheets for each control method are available online at www.gw.govt.nz

Traps

Timms traps will be used primarily throughout the proposed trapping area. However leg-hold traps may also be used in less populated areas.

Timms traps are designed for use around houses, sheds, gardens and lifestyle blocks. Timms traps are very safe around cats if baited with apple. The traps used in the operation will be baited with apples and a small amount of lure.

Victor and Warrior leg-hold traps will be used in less populated areas and away from houses. They are checked daily. Cats and/or small dogs are at risk of injury from leg-hold traps. We strongly recommend keeping cats and dogs away from areas where leg-hold traps are being used.

Danger to humans from traps is minimal, but children should be kept away from all trap areas. Never put your hand or arm in a trap.

Cyanide (Feratox)

Cyanide (Feratox) pellets, in 10 to 12 gram blocks, may be used in bait bags attached to trees. Two to three cyanide (Feratox) blocks may be placed in bait stations.

Cyanide is extremely toxic and fast acting to humans. If you suspect cyanide has been swallowed, seek medical aid immediately. Exposure to cyanide will cause immediate onset of dizziness, rapid breathing, headache, drowsiness, unconsciousness and death.

Although cyanide poses quite a low risk to cats and dogs we strongly recommend keeping them away from the operation area. An animal suspected of having eaten cyanide bait or carcasses should be taken to a vet immediately.

All Cyanide (Feratox) bait is green.

Sodium Monofluoroacetate (1080)

The majority of 1080 bait used in the operation will be aerially sown. 1080 bait may also be used in bait stations or hand broadcast in some parts of the aerial operation area.

1080 is extremely toxic to humans. If you suspect 1080 has been swallowed, seek medical aid immediately. Symptoms of 1080 poisoning normally appear between thirty minutes and four hours. They include vomiting, shaking, involuntary hyper-extension of the limbs, convulsions, and finally cardiac and respiratory collapse.

1080 is extremely toxic to dogs. Dogs are ten times more susceptible to 1080 poison than any other animal. As 1080 is a slow acting poison, poisoned animals may travel outside the operation area before they die. The greatest danger exists from the gut and intestines of rabbits or possums which have been pulled from the carcass by hawks or other predators. This material can be extremely toxic and is usually eaten very quickly by a dog. The carcasses of rabbits and possums poisoned by 1080 pose a danger to dogs until the fleshy parts have completely broken down. In winter full decomposition may take up to four months. There is no danger of secondary poisoning from the fur, skin or bones.

Dogs suspected of having eaten 1080 should be given an emetic immediately. **This is not an antidote.** There is no guaranteed antidote for 1080 poison. However, in many cases a dog's life may be saved with glycerol mono acetate or acetamide glucose. This must be administered by a veterinary surgeon as the dog will need to be tranquillised and the drug administered intravenously. Success will depend on the time lapse between poisoning and treatment. Get your dog to a vet as soon as possible.

All 1080 bait is green.

Risk Profile

	1080	Cyanide (Feratox)
Humans	Do not touch baits, keep children away.	Do not touch baits, keep children away.
Dogs	Do not allow dogs to access bait or carcasses.	Do not allow dogs to access bait.
Cats	Do not allow cats to access bait.	Do not allow cats to access bait.
Livestock	Do not allow livestock to access bait. A ten day withholding period applies.	Do not allow livestock to access bait.
Feral Game	Do not take game from the poison area.	Feral animals are unlikely to be poisoned.
Environment	Native species are unlikely to be poisoned. 1080 is biodegradable.	Cyanide does not persist in the environment or kill native birds.

Key

High Risk	Moderate Risk	Low risk
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IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING DIAL 111

For more information

To view operational maps or for information on progress contact us at Greater Wellington's Masterton Office on **027 471 7393**. Rod MacDonald, Leading Hand, (BioWorks) will return your call.

Information is also available on:

Greater Wellington website: www.gw.govt.nz

Department of Conservation website: www.doc.govt.nz

Click on: Conservation/Poosums
Conservation/Threats and impacts/Animal pests/
Pest control/1080

Animal Health Board website: www.ahb.org.nz

Forest and Bird website: www.forestandbird.org.nz

Click on: Publications/Factsheets/1080

Emetic

Place a knob of washing soda (sodium carbonate), about one centimetre in diameter, down the back of the dog's throat. Allow 10 minutes after administering the washing soda for the dog to vomit. Further doses may be given safely if the first dose is not effective. If unsuccessful at first, try again. A repeat dose will not be harmful. Greater Wellington will supply sodium carbonate emetic on request. Washing soda is also available from most supermarkets.

Care must be taken with the vomit from a poisoned dog, as this is also potentially lethal. Do not leave a dog alone or leave the vomit where another dog can eat it. Any vomit material should be buried.

Additional precautions

Muzzles

Dogs should be muzzled as long as poisoned carcasses are still accessible. Suitable muzzles are available for purchase from Greater Wellington, farm supply agencies or veterinary clinics.

Allow time for the dog to get used to the muzzle before the poisoning operation starts. It is essential that the muzzle is comfortable and secure.

Greater Wellington has a range of muzzles, which come in eight sizes and range in price from \$17.00 to \$25.00. These muzzles are suitable for most dogs.

Feral game and meat

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has advised that under the Meat (Residues) Regulations and the Game Regulations, feral animals intended for sale to a game pack house cannot be hunted in areas where poisons have been laid. Appropriate declarations have to be supplied to establish that the animals are from areas free of contaminants.

Do not sell feral animals taken:

- from the operational area for a minimum of four months after the cessation of the poisoning operation or; two months after the operation has ended and after 100mm of rainfall
- within 2km (or 5km for feral pigs) outside the boundaries of the poisoning operation.

The above policy should also apply for feral animals intended for personal consumption.

Livestock exposure

If livestock intended for slaughter are exposed to any poison, including Broadifocoum, Cyanide, Cholecalciferol or 1080, you must contact the MAF vet at the processing plant.

It is an offence under the Meat (Residues) Regulations to submit animals for slaughter that contain chemical residues above prescribed limits.

In all cases where you consider livestock have been exposed to poisonous bait please notify Greater Wellington as it may be necessary for us to notify the Medical Officer of Health.