



# Self-resetting traps - a progress report from the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project

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# Background

- October 2010:  
Minister of Conservation  
announced \$4 Million: to test  
new self-resetting trap  
technology
- Funding: result of co-operation  
between Green Party and  
Government, part of MoU  
between the two parties



# Background cont...

- Aim to rigorously test new self-resetting traps that are currently (*or will shortly become*) available to the public:
  - Goodnature Ltd. A12 for possums
  - Goodnature Ltd. A24 for stoats and rats
  - Lincoln Ventures Gladiator for stoats and rats (no longer)



# Basic Study Design

- Phase I (finished)
- Initial field efficacy trials:  
small numbers of traps, closely monitored, at sites about Waikato
- Phase II 'Landscape' scale trials @  
4 DOC 'Mainland Islands'
  - plus non-treatment comparisons
- Phase III Large scale demonstration
  - set-up within Waipoua/Mataraua/Waima forest complex, Northland

Waipoua - possums, rats & stoats  
Phase III July 2014 - June 2015

Trounson Kauri Park - possums  
Phase II August 2011 - June 2013

Whangamarino - possums  
Phase I May 2011 - ~ September 2011

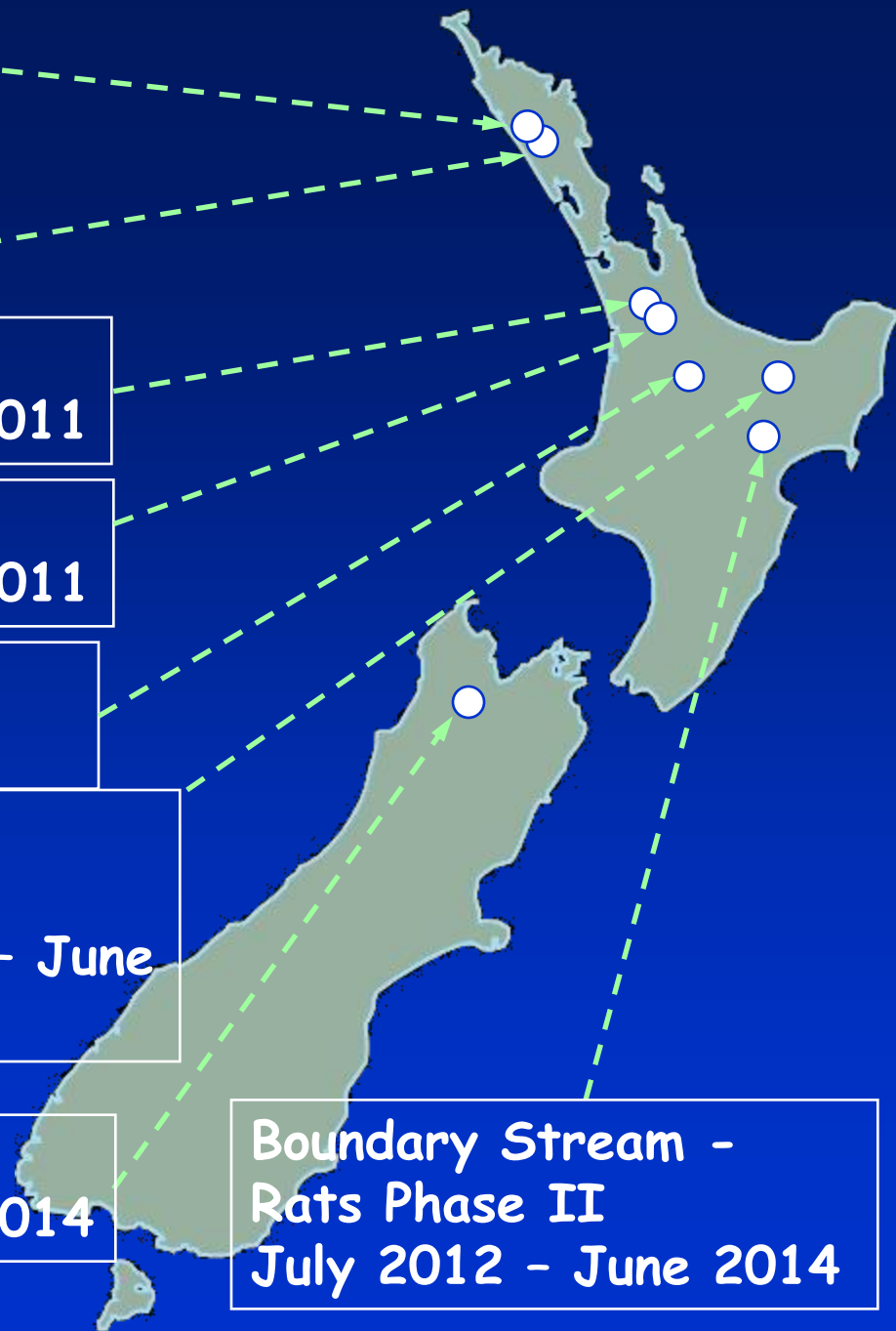
Hakarimatas - possums  
Phase I July 2011 - ~ September 2011

Pureora - rats & stoats  
Phase I Spring 2011 - ~ April 2012

Northern Te Urewera - Possums  
Phase II August 2011 - June 2013,  
Rats & stoats Phase II - July 2012 - June  
2014

Rotoiti - stoats  
Phase II July 2012 - June 2014

Boundary Stream -  
Rats Phase II  
July 2012 - June 2014



# Progress to date

- Phase I possum trials successfully completed
- Phase I rat & stoat trials: began Dec 2011 at Pureora
- Phase II possum trials: Tounson & Te Urewera





# Phase II possum trials - early results

- 322 traps @ Trounson:
  - 260 possums killed  
Nov 2011 - May 2012
  - WaxTag® BMI (7 nights)  
Oct: 52%, Dec: 5%, May 37%



# Phase II possum trials - early results

- 334 traps Te Urewera

>1131 possums killed

Oct 2011 - June 2012

WaxTag® BMI (7 nights)

Oct: 72%, Dec: 49%, May 68%





# Thoughts so far?

- A12 (possum trap) looks promising
- Refinements:
  - lure improvements required
  - slow gas leaks (17% failure)
  - more secure tree mount
  - rat proofing?
  - 'gas off' during a kill?
  - counters?



Photo: Nic Gorman

# Phase I stoat & rat trials

- ~ 22 "Rapid Prototype" traps installed @ Pureora
- Deployed 'clean' or onto DOC200 boxes
- Traps monitored using trail cameras
- 7 stoats & 30 rats



# Stoat/Rat trials

- Phase II
  - Stoat & rat trials
    - start winter 2012
    - Te Urewera
    - Boundary Stream
    - Rotoiti (RNRP)





# Rotoiti Phase II trial: stoats

- August 2012 - A24 traps:
  - 850 traps over 5000ha
  - Presented in trap boxes (weka/kea/kaka present)

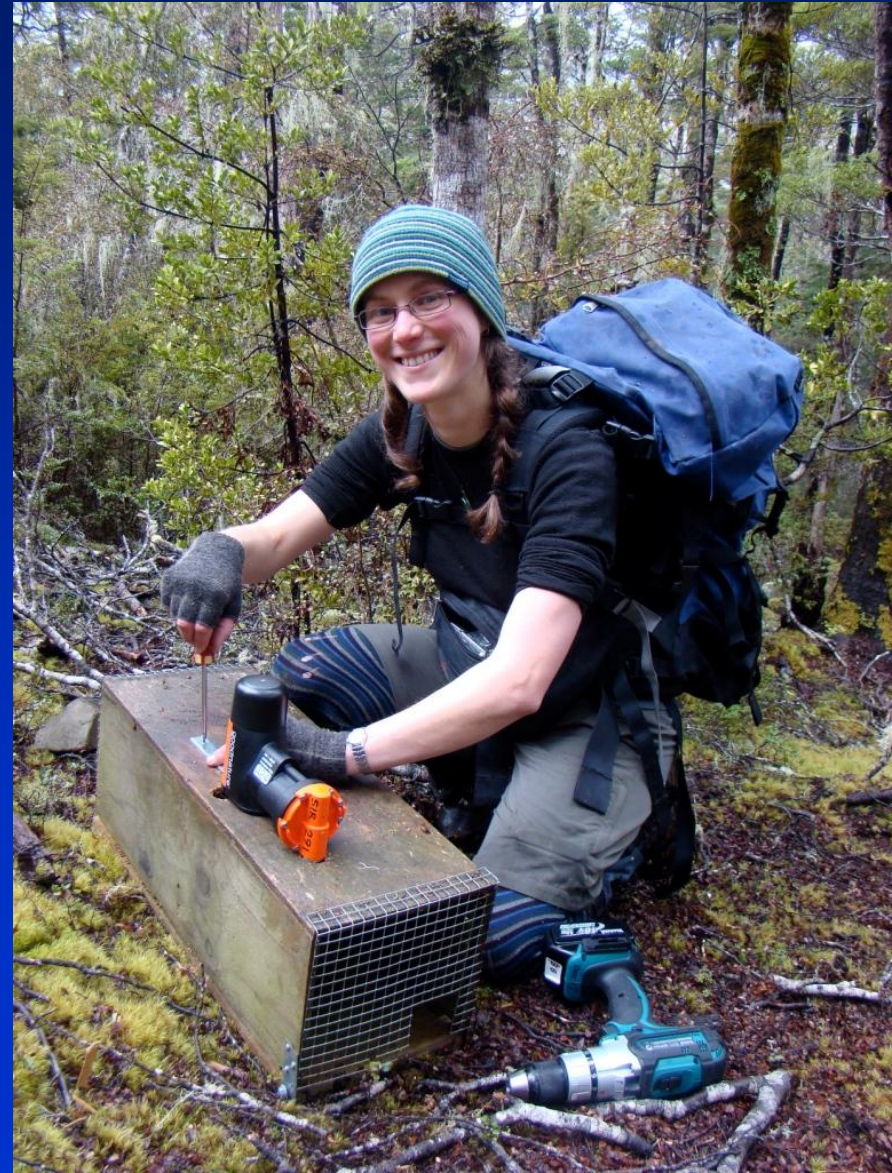
Results monitored:

- frequent checks
- mustelid tracking tunnels
- treatment &  
non-treatment sites



# Trials will assess possible issues..

- A24 project staff running the project for DOC Science & Technical with the RNRP team





# Possible issues?

- Operating in v. cold  
    alpine environment
  - possible problems with seals

Other...

- gassing off?
- carcasses  
    blocking entrance?
- traps 'walking'?
- rat attack?
- unknown?





# A good test site for A24s

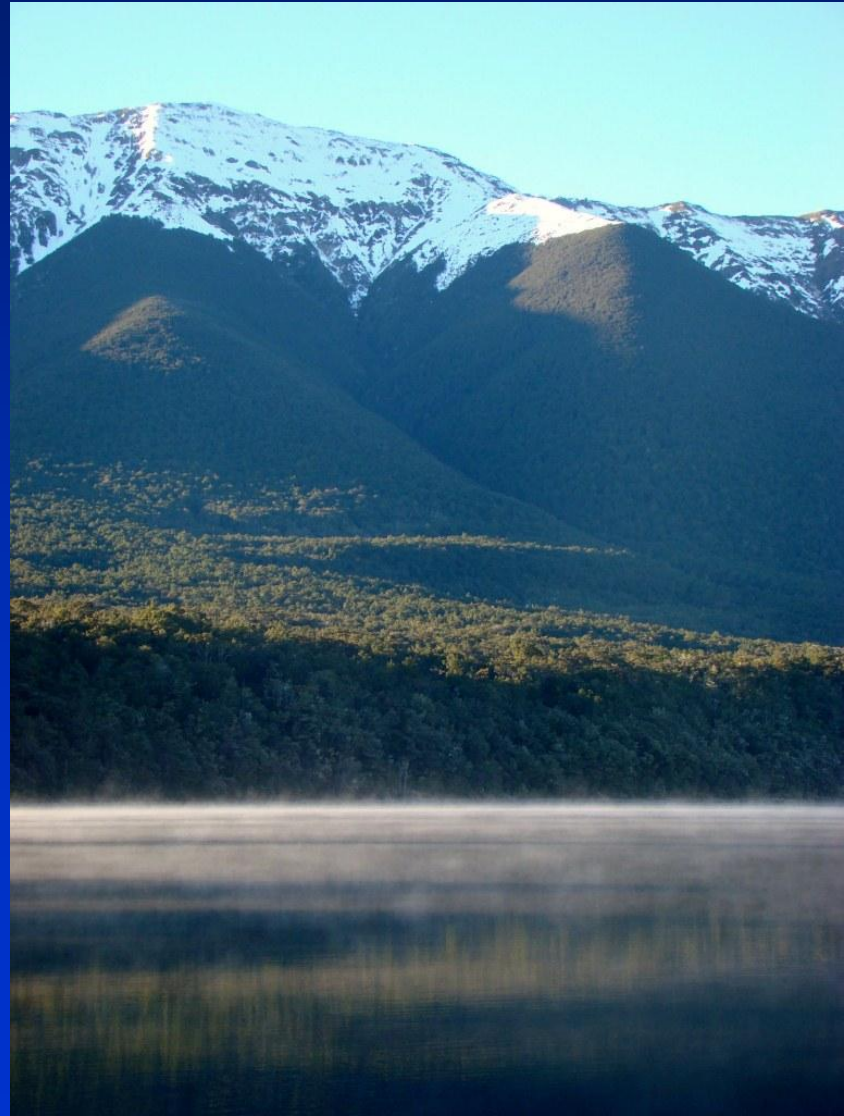
- 2012: beech seed mast
  - rat no<sup>s</sup> are high

So expecting

a stoat plague

this summer

- a good test!





# Acknowledgements

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