



ANNUAL REPORT

UNALIENATED CROWN LAND WEED CONTROL

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT

Financial Year 2003-2004

Prepared for Land Information New Zealand

by



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DUNEDIN

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LIST OF LAND DEFINITIONS

Crown Riverbed

Crown Riverbed in this document refers to riverbeds belonging to the Crown (Unalienated Crown Land) and administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Identification of areas of Crown riverbed requiring Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) weed management used the following criteria:

- **Areas of braided riverbed bounded on both sides by marginal strip or road reserve.**
- **Areas of braided riverbed greater than 3 metres wide, bounded on both sides by Crown Pastoral Lease land.**

***ad medium filum* (AMF) land**

AMF refers to Crown Land, extending across the riverbed to the centre line of the river, for which the adjacent landowner has a presumed right of occupation.

Marginal Strip

Marginal Strip in this document refers to lands of the Crown administered by the Department of Conservation (DoC).

Road Reserve

Road Reserve in this document refers to land administered by territorial authorities (District Councils or Unitary Authorities).

1. INTRODUCTION

Landward Management Ltd. is the contractor responsible for managing and coordinating biosecurity operations (pest and weed control) on Crown riverbed lands, for LINZ. This role includes the following tasks:

- Preparation of annual weed/pest control programmes
- Preparation of tenders and contracts for engagement of weed/pest control contractors
- Monitoring and inspection of operations
- Monitoring resource consent compliance
- Annual reports on operations
- Reporting on other issues which may be of relevance to biosecurity operations.

This report outlines noxious weed control operations carried out on Crown riverbed land in the Marlborough District for period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 financial year. Operations included:

- Helicopter spot-spraying of gorse and broom
- Ground spraying of gorse and broom

In this programme, weed control was undertaken for eradication of riverbed gorse and broom. Priority rankings were assigned to each operation. These priorities were dependent on the ability to define area as Crown land, and compliance with the Marlborough District Pest Management Strategy.

These priorities were dependent on the ability to define area as Crown Land, and compliance with the Marlborough District Council Regional Pest Management Strategy. In compiling the programme consultation with identified interest groups, including Marlborough District Council (Ben Minehan) and Department of Conservation (Malcolm Brennan), took place.

The programme was finalised at a meeting after consultation with both these organisations. The priorities are as follows;

1. Maintenance and inspection of existing weed - free areas
2. Contributions as part of a wider weed control programme
3. Downstream control of weed infested areas
4. (Lowest Priority) Boundary weed control.

In this programme, weed control was undertaken for eradication of riverbed gorse and broom control.

2. LIAISON WITH LANDOWNERS

Inspections of a number of properties adjacent Crown riverbeds has allowed continued liaison with individual landowners. Support from landowners for LINZ work has been very positive. Landward Management staff have previously met with members of the Upper Awatere Landcare Group, to discuss weed control operations, and opportunities to work in with each other's programmes.

3. REPORT & PROGRAMME NUMBERING

In 2003 a new numbering system was introduced to be used in the annual reports and programmes. The new numbering system in the reports and programmes is based on the property and site identification numbers in the LINZ biosecurity database. For example, the Marlborough District is 92000 and the Awatere River property number is 92002. The site location on each property is indicated by a number in brackets following the property number (e.g. 92002(2)). The job number is indicated in brackets following the site name.

4. WEED CONTROL WORKS

92001(2) Upper Wairau River (203)

There is a gorse and broom control programme in the Upper Wairau River Valley, supervised and undertaken by DoC. The control programme consists of spot maintenance control of isolated patches of gorse and broom present on Crown Riverbeds, upstream of the Wash Bridge. Weeds were targeted by ground control spraying and grubbing and pulling smaller plants in November and December 2003. Future control will be required to retain the low level of infestation at maintenance status.

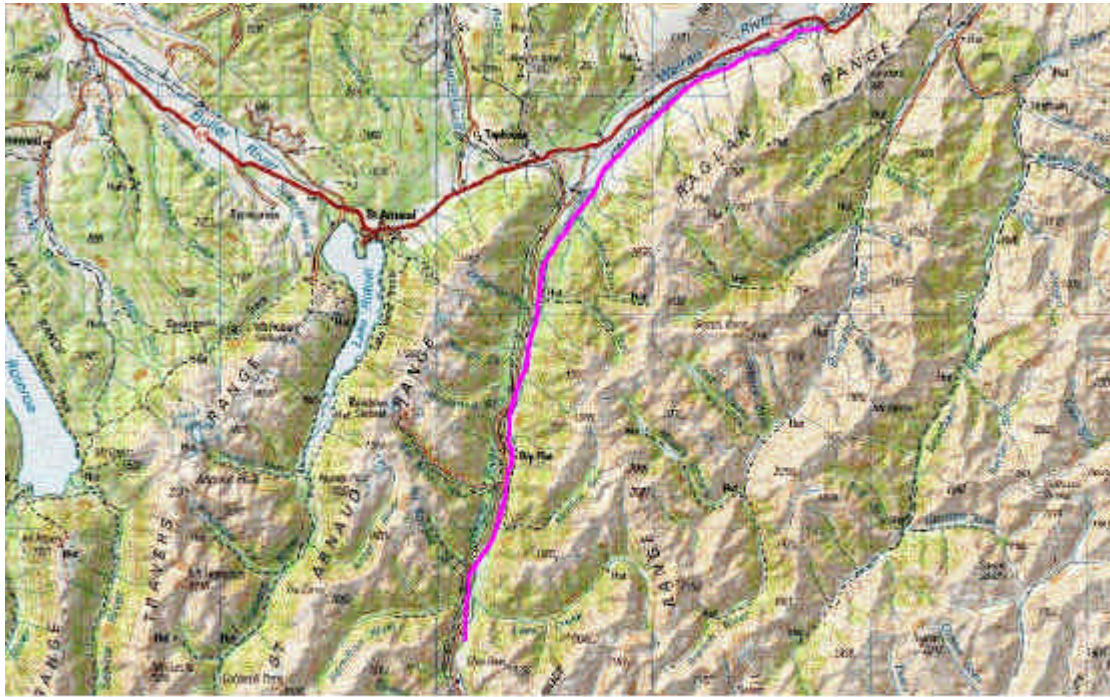


Figure 1 – Treatment areas on the Upper Wairau River

92002(2) Awatere River (204)

There is an existing weed control programme in the Awatere River for a 21 km stretch from Molesworth Station downstream to Jordan Bridge. The programme consists of maintenance control of broom in scattered patches and isolated bushes, and some gorse in isolated patches. Last season control works took place between January and March 2004. Middlehurst Gorge was aeriually sprayed, while the more accessible areas either side of the gorge were treated by ground sprayers.

The LINZ river bed control programme has been working in conjunction with the local run holders in the area and the upper reaches of the Awatere River are now in a state where only maintenance weed control is required. Through Middlehurst Gorge there are still significant areas in and out of the river which require ongoing control.

This season a similar programme will be required to retain the level of infestation at maintenance status. No further downstream weed control work is programmed in the future below the Jordan Bridge.

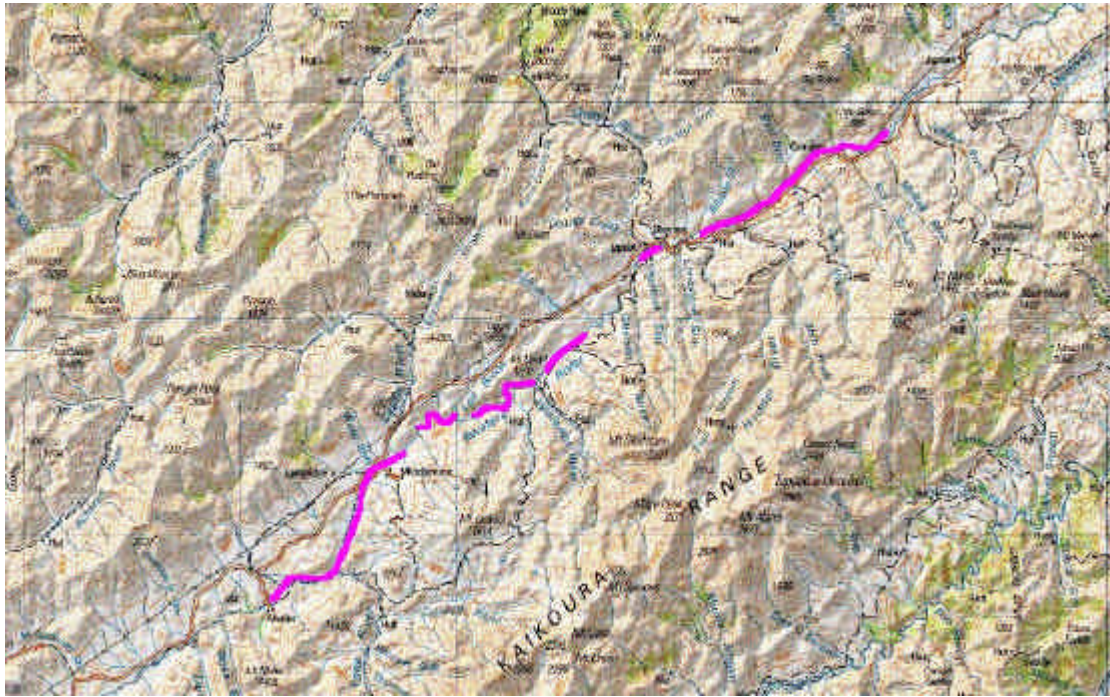


Figure 2 – Treatment area on the Awatere River.