



# Adopt-a-track guidelines



## Why are tracks needed?

Pest control in Kaharoa Conservation area is carried out using bait stations that are used to dispense toxic baits to possums and ship rats.

A large track network is required to access the 550 bait stations located throughout the forest.

By helping to maintain these tracks you are making a valuable contribution to the protection of kokako at Kaharoa. The Trust is grateful for your assistance with this on-going task.

## Track clearance

Vegetation must be trimmed in a manner that allows the track to be navigated without hindrance, and allows for clear visibility of track markers.

- Saplings and small trees should be cut at ground level and square to the ground so no sharp spikes are left exposed. (These spikes can be very dangerous).
- Clear overhead vegetation, such as tree ferns, that may hang low and obscure the track.
- Report fallen trees that require chainsaw work for removal.
- If there are species that you would like to preserve, such as rimu or lancewood, feel free to cut the track around them.
- Damage to large canopy or sub-canopy trees is to be avoided wherever possible.
- Aerosol paints are not to be used.

## How often?

Vegetation grows quickly during the Spring and Summer so tracks require maintenance at least once a year.

You can maintain your adopted track at your own convenience, but all maintenance should be completed prior to pest control which takes place in the late winter - early spring.

## What are the best tools to use?

- Secateurs, pruners and pruning saws are recommended for Kaharoa tracks. Due care needs to be taken when using any cutting tools.
- If you are using a slasher, you need to take utmost care for your own safety and to ensure that pointed stakes are not left behind to create a hazard.
- You will also need to carry a claw hammer and a handful of 75mm galv flat head nails for fixing track markers.

## Ensure your safety

Tell someone your intentions when you go into the bush and let them know when you return safely.

## Maintaining tracks

The purpose of track maintenance is to prevent tracks from becoming overgrown. This work allows easy access for pest control and ensures that the track remains visible.

There are four main components to the task of track maintenance:

- Track clearance.
- Track marking.
- Checking bait stations.
- Reporting useful information.



## Track marking

Good track markers provide security for anyone following the track, even if it becomes overgrown. Track markers will be supplied by the Trust.

- Ideally two track markers should be visible from any point on the track (behind and in front).
- Use triangular plastic markers nailed to solid, living trees - ideally at eye level. Where this is not possible, use flagging tape.
- Remove old flagging tape and recover fallen markers. Do not allow track markers or tape to become litter in the bush.

## Checking bait stations

- When you encounter a bait station, check that it is securely fastened to the tree and that it can be easily swung for filling and emptying.
- Report any bait stations that need replacing or re-fixing.
- Ensure that the triangular markers at bait stations are clearly marked.

## Reporting useful information

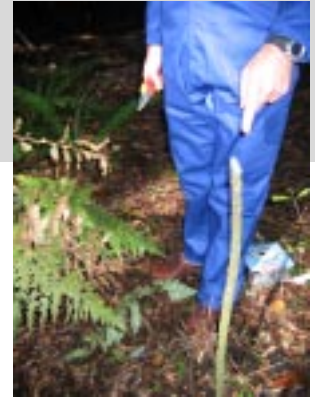
You are encouraged to report the location of:

- Fallen trees.
- Damaged or poorly fixed bait stations.
- Noxious weeds such as buddleia, pampas or blackberry.
- Animal sign such as pigs, deer or goats.

If you wish to record the number and species of birds observed along your track, this information is valuable.



DO - cut saplings at ground level.



DON'T - leave spikes that can cause injury.



Clear overhead vegetation, that may hang low and obscure the track.

Track markers: Nails must incorporate a 90° turn near the head of the nail, so the marker sits away from the stem of the tree with its flat surface visible from both directions of travel.



Ample space must be left between the stem and the marker to allow for growth of the stem.

To report information relating to tracks contact  
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