

21<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Aerial 1080 operations in the Dart and Routeburn Valleys

This email is to notify you that this spring DOC will aerially apply cereal baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080) poison over public conservation land in the Dart and Routeburn Valleys. Attached to this email is a factsheet explaining the operational measures, including a map of the areas to be treated. Please note:

- The operation will start anytime from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Two days are required. The first will be for the sowing of non-toxic 'pre-feed' pellets, followed by toxic bait pellets about a week later. It is important to have at least 24 hours of dry weather before and after each drop.
- To assist with operations all walking tracks in the Dart and Routeburn will be closed during both the 'pre-feed' and toxic drops. Many adjoining tracks will also be shut including the Rock and Beans Burn and the Route Burn North Branch. The two closures will be at least five days apart, and up to 24 hours at a time. Overnight trampers will be held at huts until operations are complete. People planning to visit these areas from the 6<sup>th</sup> September onwards are advised to check with DOC for any possible delays;
- After the poison bait is spread the walking tracks will be swept clear of toxic pellets before being reopened.
- As a DOC concessionaire please be aware that when the tracks are closed it will not be possible to undertake commercially guided tours (or track transport). You will receive at least 24 hours notice of the closures for both the non-toxic pre-feed and toxic bait drops, or longer if possible. However as the operation is weather dependent we cannot guarantee greater than 24 hours notice. You will be able to resume normal activities the day after the closure, unless notified otherwise. These notifications will be by email, and could be over the weekend. If you would like to provide DOC with additional email addresses please advise Susie Geh on [sgeh@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sgeh@doc.govt.nz) as soon as possible.

DOC's 1080 operations in the Dart and Routeburn are part of DOC's Battle for Our Birds effort, which aims to protect New Zealand's native wildlife from introduced predators. The work is being planned in response to higher than expected rodent tracking numbers in the Dart-Routeburn area. These locations are population strongholds for mohua/yellowhead and evidence shows that when rodent tracking gets above 25 -30% the mohua population is adversely impacted. The Dart rat numbers reached 52% in June; if rodent tracking numbers continue to increase mohua will be at risk and we cannot afford to do nothing.

For further information please visit [www.doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds](http://www.doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds) or contact Susie Geh in the first instance ([sgeh@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sgeh@doc.govt.nz) / 03 4428508).

Yours sincerely,



**Geoff Owen, Operations Manager Wakatipu District**

**Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai**

Whakatipu-wai- Māori / Queenstown Office

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