

Adoption of a Low funding Strategy 2025 onwards (until sufficiently funded again)

The Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2023-2033 was based on sufficient funding being available to achieve the goals (specifically the first three years needed to be funded to approximately \$3M per year). This is currently not the case, with three years of insufficient funding since the Strategy was produced (around \$1.04M per year). Therefore, until funding can return to a level that will enable the full delivery of the 2023-2033 Strategy, Programme Manager Boffa Miskell have proposed that a simple defensive strategy be implemented that concentrates work on the lower density areas. These areas are generally on the outer areas of the core Mid Dome Management Unit in the north, east and south (see Figure 1).

Justification of this strategy is as follows:

1. These areas have low densities; therefore, the dollar per hectare cost is considerably less
2. Enables the maintenance of gains and the investment made in these areas over the last two decades.
3. Restricts the development of seed source 'stepping stones' and therefore reduces the chances of seed spread to the east of the Mataura River.

Please refer to Figure 1 on the next page.

- The northern, eastern, and southern area (High Priority Operation Area) **shown in green**), will receive the highest priority as these are deemed critical for ongoing management efforts.
- The Medium Priority Operational Area (**shown in orange**) indicates medium priority control. These areas may require targeted tree control measures, such as boom spraying emerging dense patches, or may be activated as contingency sites during wet weather for ground control contractors.
- The Low Priority Operational Area (**shown in red**) is designated as low priority, but may still be addressed in certain scenarios, such as when specific funding is allocated by funding partners such as LINZ or DOC.

The following are the likely long-term impacts of continued low funding at Mid Dome:

- Infestations of *Pinus contorta* and *Pinus mugo* on LINZ 1 and 2, DOC 3, 4 and 5 and Cattleflat 3 will expand in area, density, and tree maturity, thus producing more seeds without any control measures in place.
- Seed from these uncontrolled infestations will be wind-dispersed onto the High Priority Operational Areas, eventually overwhelming the ability of ABBA and ground control to maintain low-density tree populations.



- Long-range seed dispersal from dense infestations will likely lead to isolated wilding pine dispersal east of the Mataura River.
- This plan does not specifically deal with the ongoing wilding Douglas fir issues that are being found on Mid Dome, and these will only be controlled in areas where *Pinus contorta* and *Pinus mugo* control work is being undertaken.

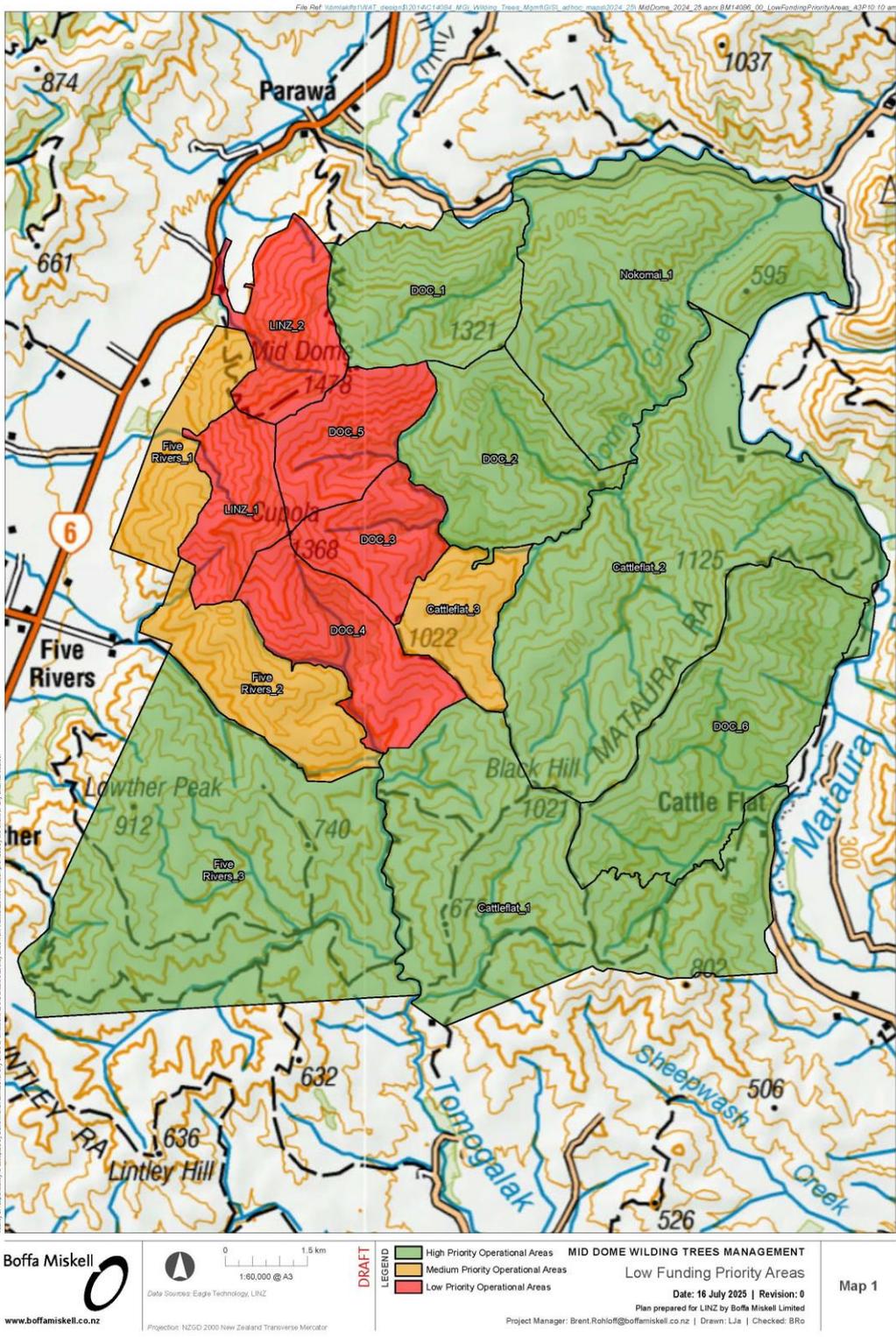


Figure 1 represents the strategic approach to wilding control at Mid Dome in a low-funding environment.