



2023-24

Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Control Programme

Project managed by Boffa Miskell

Annual Summary



PREPARED BY

Boffa Miskell

on behalf of the Mid Dome Wilding Tree Trust

Boffa Miskell



THE 2023/24 SEASON

Highlights

- 3,617 hectares of Aerial Basal Bark Application (ABBA) was delivered, controlling 6,056 trees.
- 506.5 hectares of ground control was completed.
- No Aerial Foliar Spraying Application (AFSA) was delivered due to decreased funding.
- A total operational spend of \$1,030,845 was invested into the Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Control Programme.
- Three ground control contractors and one aerial operator were engaged to deliver the programme.
- 77 people were employed at Mid Dome this year, undertaking enough work to and equate to 5.5 FTEs.
- The Turk hut was upgraded to improve living conditions for the crews using it as accommodation during their control works.
- A successful volunteer day was held at Flagstaff 1 on 24 April 2024.
- A survey flight with Environment Southland and DOC was conducted on 12 June 2024.

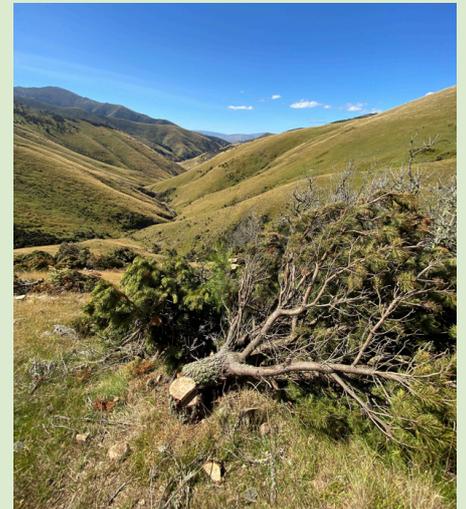




Ground Control

Completed by DM Holdings Ltd, Mainland Vector Contracting Ltd, and Trap and Trigger Ltd

Ground control techniques utilise chainsaws, handsaws, and loppers to cut trees at their base. Stumps are treated with herbicide as insurance against regrowth. Smaller trees are removed by pulling the whole plant, including the root system, from the ground. Contractors also have the responsibility to take GPS waypoints of coning trees.



Clearing the landscape: Ground control contractors from DM Holdings using a chainsaw to prepare trees for felling, a block of young wildings, and the well-cut stump of a recently felled tree in Cattleflat 3.

Ground control was carried out between early November 2023 and mid May 2024 in the Cattleflat 2, Cattleflat 3, DOC 1, DOC 3, DOC 4, DOC 5, Five Rivers 2, and Flagstaff 1 operational areas across Mid Dome and Flagstaff Management Units.

506.5 hectares were treated using ground control methods

The Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Programme enabled a total of **75** people to undertake ground control in the 23/24 season.



Aerial Basal Bark Application (ABBA)

Completed by Amuri Helicopters

Aerial Basal Bark Application (ABBA) involves a person applying herbicide via a wand to the base of trees from a helicopter. This enables large, sparse areas to be surveyed and treated. Information gathered while undertaking ABBA helps to inform the programme by determining priorities and control methods for future seasons. This includes gathering information on areas that may be too densely infested and require an alternative method to be utilised, the identification of tree age, and species information.

ABBA was carried out in Cattleflat 1, Cattleflat 2, DOC 1, DOC 2, DOC 5, and LINZ 2 operational areas.

A Grazon/Bioester herbicide mix was used to control the trees.



Helicopter during an aerial survey for quality control audit of the 2024 ABBA works.

6,056 trees were controlled over an area of **3,617.2 hectares**.