

# ENGAGING THE FOREST INDUSTRY IN KIWI PROTECTION

## **Kiwi live in exotic forests and foresters can help them**

Many members of New Zealand's forestry industry already use some kiwi-friendly practices, encouraged in part by a growing conservation ethic, increasing consumer demand for wood products from certified sustainable forests, and in part by resource consent conditions applied by local government for land clearing and harvesting.



## **What you can do**

Contact people in your area whose work means they can make a difference to the wellbeing of kiwi in exotic forests. The list is as diverse as the habitats kiwi call home, and includes:

- Your local Farm Forestry Association, and individual farmers who have woodlots on their land.
- Forestry company managers.
- Regional forestry forum.
- People who manage forestry contracting businesses in your area.
- Local council planners – do they know there are kiwi in exotic forests in their area, and Vets, bird rescue people and incubation facilities – alert them to the fact that injured or salvaged kiwi may land on their doorstep.

It's also a good idea to let your local Department of Conservation Area Office staff and planners in the Conservancy Office know what you are doing.

## **Getting ready**

Your credibility as a kiwi advocate will be stronger if you are familiar with forest practices and terminology. Find out as much as you can before you make contact. If a local forester has already chosen to operate in a kiwi-friendly way, and is happy to work alongside you, he or she can be a powerful advocate among his or her peers.

Look for opportunities to meet with forest owners and managers and spread the word. These can include:

- Forestry field days and training workshops
- Articles in Farm Forestry Association newsletters
- Agricultural field days
- Regional council field days
- Visiting people at their office or home

## **Making contact**

The personal touch is always the best. If you can, meet face-to-face to talk with forest owners and managers. And remember, listening to their issues and concerns is just as important as offering advice and support. Look for the opportunities to accommodate both their needs and the kiwi's needs and offer any logistical and practical help.

Providing an opportunity for people to personally see kiwi increases their motivation. Invite foresters to events like kiwi releases or open days at kiwi facilities near them.

## **What to take with you**

It's a good idea to have a collection of different material so you can pick-and-mix depending on your audience. For example, taking along traps or bait stations provides an opportunity to show them how to use them properly and safely. Be prepared for both formal and informal situations.

Many people respond well to visual displays and opportunities to get hands-on experience, and it's always a good idea to leave something behind, such as:

- The Forest Management guidelines and Kiwi Survival Guide.
- Information and pamphlets about pest control produced by local councils.
- Information about any kiwi project(s) in your area, including photographs of kiwi, traps, pests and people doing work.
- Information on costs and methods of pest control
- A range of names of people they can contact for more information or help.
- If you can, show them the chapters 'About Kiwi' and 'Forestry' from the Bank of New Zealand *How to Save the Kiwi* DVD as part of your talk.

## **What to talk about**

While talking with them, try and motivate them to implement management of forests which provide safe habitat for kiwi.

The most important things that forest owners and managers can do are:

- Do a call count, or dog surveys, to find out if kiwi live in their forest.
- Retain riparian and valley habitat when clearing land and harvesting trees.
- Keep riparian areas free of exotic trees when re-planting.
- Put a predator control programme in place.
- Prohibit all dogs from the forest unless they have had kiwi aversion training.
- When harvesting - identify the location of individual kiwi and arrange appropriate management or intervention to ensure their safety.
- Avoid harvesting during the main nesting season.
- Contact the Department of Conservation to see if eggs and or chicks can be collected as part of BNZ Operation Nest Egg™.
- Train contractors and field workers to recognize kiwi sign and to know what to do if a kiwi is found, injured, killed or disturbed off its nest.
- Avoid fires to clear land or burn slash and bird-nests.
- Put up 'kiwi zone' signs.
- Covenant any remaining areas with native forest cover.

You can also encourage them to use their kiwi-friendly practices to promote a positive profile for forestry.

The most important thing council planners can do is apply consent conditions on forestry operations that require habitat protection and pest and predator control and management.

Also spend some time discussing what support is available to help them plan and implement kiwi friendly forestry practices. Provide enough information and support to make protecting kiwi 'do-able' rather than 'too hard'.

**More information is available at:**

- Kiwi information, what is threatening them, how to protect them and what is being done nationally can be found at; [www.kiwisforkiwi.org](http://www.kiwisforkiwi.org)
- The Department of Conservation website has a page which provides general facts and information about kiwi which can be useful as an initial reference; [www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=32862](http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=32862)
- Department of Conservation files including ;
- Waitangi Forest logging project File number; DOCDM 157271