

WILDING PINE CONTROL IN THE ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK
2nd Year Progress Report by Kim McGlashen for the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust¹



Area in red completed in 2011. Areas in pink comprise the current 2012 program.

At the time of writing, the control program for this spring is well underway and the trees above Coquille Bay are already changing colour. The large stand of mature pines behind Anchorage and seedlings on the surrounding hills have been dealt to and the block behind Stillwell Bay is due to be completed by early December.

The control program last year covered a significant area of the most dense infestations of wilding pines at the southern entrance to the Park and this year's program has covered a significant part of the coastline most viewed by visitors. It may be possible to complete the program for the rest of the coastline next year if sufficient funding can be arranged.

Techniques

Three teams of contractors have employed a variety of control techniques. The standard treatment for large pines has been drilling and dosing with chemical concentrates.

¹ Document added 16th November 2012



Figure Dave Mumford of Holden Contracting drills a mature pine



Figure Chemical mix is applied from squeeze-bottle

For smaller trees, a method of basal bark spraying has been adopted to achieve faster coverage.

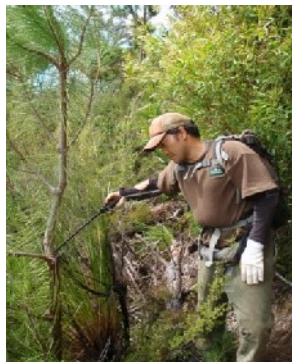


Figure Weesang Paaka of Backcountry Contracting Ltd applies a basal spray.

For isolated mature pines in difficult terrain a helicopter has been used to treat about 250 trees.

Figure Ian Cox of DOC in Motueka prepares to spot spray an isolated tree.



Sponsorship of Program

The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust gratefully acknowledges funding assistance from the NZ Lottery Grants Board (Environment & Heritage Fund) as principal sponsor of the program, and also the Canterbury Community Trust and the Project Janszoon Trust.

Transport of crews and supplies has been facilitated by Wilson's Abel Tasman Enterprises and Abel Tasman Aqua Taxi as well as the Dept. of Conservation boat.

Agronica NZ has made a significant donation of chemical for the treatment of the pines.