

A guide for your recovery plan

Think about these things when making your plan

What do we need to know about the site before you start?

What do we need to know about weta behaviour?

Habitat use?

Life history?

Dispersal? Where are they actually living and how far apart are they?

Reproduction? Are many surviving? How far does a male travel looking for a mate?

Is it possible to raise some in captivity and then return them to their habitat when they are less vulnerable?

How can we observe this behaviour to find out more?

What sort of specialised equipment might help?

What people and skills are needed?

What threats are there?

How can we eliminate these threats?

How can we ensure the pests don't return?

What equipment is needed for this?

What monitoring (checking) actions should we put in place?

How often?

What would you actually do?

How would you review the plan?

How can this place be protected by law?



Specialised equipment you can use

Miniature tracking equipment such as tags and tiny transmitters.

Lights that can be fastened to the insects' thorax.

You'll have to work out when where and why you'll use it.

Useful info

You've made a bio box so you have some knowledge about the giant weta. This information will help too.

The ovipositor of the female is long enough to lay eggs 50mm under the ground.

Adults have faeces as big as rat droppings. A good way to find giant weta is to look for poo at the bottom of trees.

Giant weta can be raised in captivity and then relocated...just like kiwi chicks.

Cook Strait Giant weta males have been found walking 90 metres in a night to find a mate. The smaller giants with longer legs walk further, find more mates and have more offspring!

Set out your recovery plan as a flow chart- For example:

