



Community Trapping Group

Handbook and FAQ's

Congratulations for stepping up and wanting to get involved in trapping and making our home district Predator Free. There are a handful of topics and questions that we hope this guide will help with as you form your local group and then join into the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust whanau.

Forming your group

Groups come together for lots of reasons. Some are neighbours who want to look after their corner of the district. Others are people who are concerned about an area they visit frequently, and still others who don't have a specific home space just want to be able to help wherever and how ever they can towards the overall good.

As you form your group, some questions you want to ask and decide are:

Who will organise your group and how will you communicate with each other?

You may use email, phone calls, texts, a Facebook page, notices on a community noticeboard, website, or a combination of them all.

What is your group's name?

Some groups have gone with very straightforward names like Predator Free Arrowtown or the poetic Alpine Birdsong (Fernhill/Sunshine Bay) while others have gone with eye-catching acronyms like KAPOW (Keeping Arthur's Point Original Wildlife). The choice is yours and feel free to have some fun with the naming process.

Do you want to design a logo?

Having a logo can help to strengthen your group's identity and if you are going to be doing fundraising in your area it can help you to have an image that people can remember. If you need help in developing your logo, we can put you in touch with a designer who's been helping some of the groups.



Funds and Fundraising

Autonomous

There are two main routes your group can take. You can form an incorporated society, set up your own bank account, and register with the Charities commission if you want to accept donations and be able to grant receipts to donors. The benefit of this approach is keeping all of the autonomy of all monies donating coming immediately to your group to be able to buy traps and supplies as you need them. The downside is that if you're a small group, it's a lot of work to become a charitable organisation and you may not want to go through the effort.

Under WWT's umbrella

Groups can have donations come into WWT and their funds are held to be used against the purchase of traps and supplies. The benefit of this approach is that the WWT has charities status and can receive donations and send receipts to donors. The downside is that trap and supply purchases are currently being made twice a year (and hopefully up to 4 times a year in coming years) so you have to wait for the funding cycle to do your shopping. Also, while the funds are earmarked for your group, technically they aren't fully restricted so your donors who might want a direct relationship just to your group might be frustrated by the thought that they have donated to the WWT with it flagged for your group (especially if your donor, for instance, wants their name on a sign or trap saying that they support your group).



Getting Permission To Set Up Your Trapping Program

We can help you to forge your introductions and relationships with both DOC and QLDC. Both, naturally, are partners with us in our work.

DOC

To insure that all trapping groups are on the same page your group needs to read and sign **Trapping Community Agreement**. The main areas required for you are the Trapping Guidelines on pages 15 - 16 - please read this carefully and ensure all members of your group (current and future) abide by these guidelines.

You'll want to get in touch with Ray Malloy (rmolloy@doc.govt.nz) at DOC to help make sure that your group is ready to be able to use traps safely and responsibly.

DOC will also want a map of where your traps are going to go. If you are going to be trapping at all on DOC land, they will also need to know and approve that trapping.

QLDC

QLDC also has to know where you are trapping, especially if your traps are on Council land. Both DOC and QLDC will also be involved in deciding where signage will go. Your contacts at Council are Jeannie Galavazi and Talia Bannister (Talia.Bannister@qldc.govt.nz)

Private Landowners

If your trapping lines are going to cross private property you need to get written permission from the property owners. If you need help in approaching landowners, please let us know and we can help you navigate this process, too.



Choosing your traps

The type of traps you will choose will be informed by the predators you have present or you want to trap. To determine which predators you have, you can use monitoring tunnels and chew cards. We can supply you with some of these.

Once you're ready to think about traps, the list of traps available are listed in the PF2050 resources towards the end of this handbook. The most common ones are below, along with things to consider.

Possoms

Trapinators (\$55) (<https://www.traps.co.nz/trapinator-possum-kill-trap>)

- use fresh bait (generally works better), needs to be reset after each catch. Must be set back from public tracks as the catch will dangle from the trap and may cause distress for walkers on public tracks.

Good Nature A12 (\$219) (<https://goodnature.co.nz/products/a12-possum-trap>)

- uses gas canister-powered mechanism, 12 catches before needing to replace gas canister. Best for areas that are hard to get to/cannot be serviced very often or for volunteers that don't want to get their hands dirty.

AT220 (<http://www.nzautotraps.com>)

A new self-setting possum trap that is like a Trapinator that resets and can be found at <http://nzautotraps.com/> - please note that it has only passed NAWAC standards for possums, not the other pests mentioned on its website, so can only be used on public conservation land for possum use.

Rats and Stoats

DOC 200 (\$95 for ready made set, ~\$40 for spring/wood to make your own)

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/doc200-predator-trap.pdf> - uses fresh bait (generally works better), needs to be reset after each catch.



Many groups have had working bees to build their own traps and can offer expertise/workshop space.

Good Nature A24 (\$199) <https://goodnature.co.nz/products/a24-rat-stoat>

- uses gas canister-powered mechanism, 24 catches before needing to replace gas canister. Best for areas that are hard to get to/cannot be serviced very often or for volunteers that don't want to get their hands dirty.

Rats - Trapper TRex (\$9) is your cheap and cheerful rat snap-trap - it just needs to be in a box for Public Conservation Land.

Ferrets

DOC 250 – are similar to DOC 200 listed above, but larger to accommodate ferrets.

How do you know how many traps to put out?

Some operational things you may want to ask your group are:

What's your goal? (i.e. do you want to trap all of Moke Lake or half?)

How many volunteers does your group have to service the traps once they've been deployed?

What's your fundraising pipeline to support your traps?

How to determine how many traps and where to place your traps:

One way to determine the number of traps you need is to follow the recommended 200 metres between traps for stoats/possums and possums and 50x150 metres grid for rats. You can also start small and gradually build up like many groups do.

Once you've made your plan, make a map and run it by Ray Malloy and QLDC to make sure everyone's happy with it before you get started.



Being a part of the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust Whanau

As your group joins our whanau of trapping groups, we'll ask you for some information to help us share your story and successes with the wider community.

Your group profile will help us to put your information onto the **WWT website**. We want the wider community to be able to find your group and learn about what you're doing. Some groups have found their listing helpful for fundraising and recruiting, too.

Adding Traps to Trap.nz – We require all WWT groups to enter their trap and catch data into Trap.nz. This data is critical for our region-wide planning as well as applying for grants and funding. Plus, for your group it's exciting to see your success over time. As your new group signs up to Trap.nz, please make your project publicly visible. Get in touch with Ben Perchik (for new groups signing up to trap.nz, please sign up using your own details and make the project publicly visible. Ben Perchik (perchikben@gmail.com) will also want to access your data as he looks after our data across the entire WWT so please be in touch with him once you've set up your trap.nz group.

Email addresses – To stay in touch, we need emails for the primary contact members of your group, as we will send you information that relates to announcements, meetings, and information like trap sales. We also would like the emails of your volunteers. We have an email list that supports the sharing of tips and good information as well as the WWT's monthly newsletter and we want to share information more widely.

WWT Trap Matches – Annually we will have two cycles of trap match grants for groups who have fundraised for their traps. To the best of our ability, we will try to match the number of traps your group has requested. Here is an example of the form that existing groups filled out for the last round of trap grants. We're hoping the funds for the next round of grants will become available over the next few months and we'll be sharing more information about this.

15% Discount on Supply Orders

WWT is able to offer 15% discount on traps and supplies to community groups during our twice a year order process. We hope we will be able to do this 4 times a year in the future.



Here's how it works:

- At the beginning of the cycle, your group leads will receive an order form and you will have 2 weeks to submit your orders.
- After you have submitted your order, you will receive an invoice from the WWT with the total for your order (at a 15% discount, along with any bulk order discounts). *Invoices will be payable by bank deposit and will be due upon receipt*
- You'll receive information on where to pick up your supplies.

Donations through WWT

If your donors/contributors would like a tax-deductible receipt, they can donate to Wakatipu Wildlife Trust via credit card or bank deposit at wakatipuwildlifetrust.org.nz/donate-now. They can specify the group(s) they would like their contribution to support. Group-specific donations are held in the WWT bank account and applied as a credit towards future supply orders made through the WWT. Groups are not going to be reimbursed for supply orders that are made out of their pocket with donations received through the WWT. This is a factor to consider as supply orders through the WWT happen every 4-6 months and can slow down your trap sourcing schedule.

Other Resources

DOC and PF2050 recently released some great resources online. You might already know a lot of this but it's always helpful to have a full list.

PF2050 Toolkit ([click here](#)) - DOC has just released a wonderful online toolkit with all the basic info about traps and best practices, including:

- [Top tips for beginner groups \(click here\)](#)
- [Trap by species \(click here\)](#)
- [Where to put trap lines \(click here\)](#)



Contacts

More questions? Want to get together for a cuppa and a conversation? Get in touch with Leslie Van Gelder, Executive Officer:

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