

Movements of feral cats in the eastern beech forests of South Island

The following questions were asked during our live webinar with Ivor Yockney but due to time restrictions, we were unable to answer these in the session.

In were the traps set in the same spot each time or moved?

Set in the same locations in the Hope site but moved in the Hawdon site.

Hawdon study area would have overlapped with a recent 1080 op. Any impact on cat survivorship?

We have some data on mortality of our tracked cats but this hasn't yet been formally analysed so it isn't yet possible to draw any firm conclusions around temporal or spatial patterns and cause-effect relationships.

How many cats were fitted with collars?

20

What was the relative abundance of rodents during the study Ivor?

We did not monitor this for either site, instead we could (hopefully) draw on data from rodent monitoring in the adjacent Doubtful and Hawdon carried out by DOC if necessary. But it wasn't an intended part of the project

Is there a hope that this data could be used to lobby for cats to be added to the list of predators targeted for Predator Free 2050?

There is an increasing awareness of the feral cat issue and I think every bit of research will help make a compelling argument that feral cats should be included.

What was the highest altitude the alpine specialist reached?

Approximately 1700m but haven't analysed that yet.