

Information for Trapping the Upper Nina Valley (Feb 2025)

These lines can be found in the 'Nina-Doubtful' project in TrapNZ.

Navigation

There are two traplines in the floor of the Nina Valley. Doubtless Conservation has responsibility for the Upper line (Nina hut to Nina biv, both sides of Nina river), and occasionally we also help Hurunui College with the Lower line (road to Nina hut, both sides of Nina river). Each trapline is a loop and has approximately 100 single DoC200 traps.

The Upper line TL (true left) is on a DoC track with sparse orange markers, while the Upper line TR is a route marked with a mix of markers (but predominantly white).

The TR part of the lower Nina line runs from the road to the Nina hut, there are small number of traps connecting this to the TL section, which runs from the Nina River - Duchess stream junction to the Nina swing bridge.

Both lines will soon have a track recorded on TrapNZ that you should be able to see on your TrapNZ map as a broken red line. As you are the blue dot you should be able to navigate along the trapline using the app should you be uncertain as to your whereabouts. Each trap is identified with a pink triangle marker with an alphanumeric label e.g. NVU05 (Nina Valley project, Upper line, trap 5) or NVL05 (Nina Valley Lower, trap 5).

Volunteer attributes

The TL of both lines both lines require you pay attention to navigation. The upper line has unformed sections and both lines areas that are boggy in parts (although we have been throwing logs into bogs to improve this). Both lines require a crossing of the Nina river, which should not be attempted at high flows (see river crossing section below). Consequently, anyone rebaiting these lines should be fit and have skills and experience in first aid, navigation, river crossing and the New Zealand back country.

A mobile phone with the 'TrapNZ' app installed is essential for navigation as well as for recording the results of your work, more on this below.

Time allowance

Each line as approximately 100 traps, with the start of the upper line being 2-3 hours from the road. The upper line is tough to complete in a weekend, especially if there are many kills. So start early on the Saturday by staying in the Lewis before you rebait (see accommodation below) and consider having two nights out and taking three days to complete the rebaiting of the upper line. Obviously a rebait of both lines in a weekend is going to be even more difficult. The lower line can be completed as a day trip.

Keep track of time and assess your progress throughout the day and adjust your goals if you need to. If you are unable to complete the whole of any line don't panic. We would rather a few traps were missed in any month than you were attempting to navigate parts of these routes in the dark. What we are doing is important, but not as important as you are.

Training

You must be trained in trap clearance and rebaiting. An ability to repair or tune traps is an added advantage, but not a necessity. Here is a useful link, www.youtube.com/watch?v=m30g0w_rJ5E

Training is available for anyone who wishes to upskill themselves in trap maintenance. This link will take you to an introductory video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kABskKb1NzE>

You can always ask George or Marcus for any help with trap maintenance.

The traps in these valleys are DOC150 in a smaller box. As the latching screw is completely removed to open the box, please be careful to place the screw where you can find it.

Be aware that the DOC150 is a little stronger to reset than the DOC200 (same spring, less leverage). However due to the open nature of these traps you can stand on the base which can make setting easier.

Accountability

Doubtless Conservation Group will be responsible for trapping training and provision of specified equipment. Volunteers are responsible for ensuring they have the skills, attributes, fitness and understanding of the training necessary to complete tasks.

Weather

A weather forecast for the area (Canterbury High Country) must be obtained 1-2 days before the planned activity. The activity should be postponed or cancelled if the forecast is unsuitable, or if there is any doubt about the weather's suitability. A rebait being missed one month is not a big issue, an accident is.

River crossing

These trap lines require you to complete at least one crossing of the upper Nina River. While not normally a problem following rain the Nina River may be impassable. If you find yourself faced with this situation the alternative is to return to the road or the Nina hut via the downstream Nina swing bridge. An indication of the river levels in the Nina Valley can be gained through monitoring the Hope River at Glen Wye (www.ecan.govt.nz/data/riverflow/sitedetails/64608). It is important to factor in the weather forecast so as to anticipate if the rivers may rise to impassable levels. If the Hope is likely to be above 0.8m do not go. If Hope is between 0.5m and 0.8m go with caution. These river flow figures are guidelines only, you are to use your experience and judgement. You are advised to:

1. Check weather forecasts in advance and postpone the work if necessary.
2. Identify the safest place to cross stream/river.
3. Do not cross rivers alone and support each other when you cross.
4. Do not cross a stream with excess water (water flowing faster than walking speed, discoloured, debris being carried down the river, rocks moving in the water and water surging to the surface). Visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz/learn/skills/river-safety/
5. Do not attempt to cross if any member of the team person doesn't have skills, confidence or experience to safely cross.

TrapNZ App

You will have been invited by the administrators to join this project through TrapNZ. This app will record all your data and aid in navigation. There are routes, suggested river crossing points and the best swimming holes identified on the app too. There is training available for you at <https://help.trap.nz/>. When the TrapNZ app is used offline, your data is stored locally and synced automatically when there is a data connection available. Ensure that it is synced before you go and after you return. If you get to the carpark and find the app will not load, there is a network connection at the Boyle Settlement carpark which may resolve any issues. Alternatively use the pen and paper in the front of the pouch and enter the data online when you get home.

From June 2024 all the lines in the Nina Valley, Norma, Sylvia, Lucretia, Duchess and Hurunui College traps (Lower Nina Valley and Upper Nina Valley) are all in the Nina-Doubtful Project.

Equipment

Volunteers will be required to provide:

- Transport to and from the valley.
- Weekend tramping equipment and food. The Nina hut is very popular at weekends. As a minimum take a sleeping mat to sleep on the hut floor if the hut is full.
- Suitable clothing including: tramping boots, warm hat, gloves, warm clothing.
- Adequate food and water bottle.
- First aid kit.
- PLB (essential for each person or pair working together).
- Volunteers need to be prepared for wet and cold conditions throughout the year.

Doubtless Conservation will provide:

- Trap tool kit, including gloves, spanner, safety clips, tongs, hand sanitizer, notebook and pencil and bait. **Get from Bryan at 35 Butler St. 0273745799.** Text in advance to get the pick-up organised.
- In the Forest and Bird Boyle Base hut you can find all crockery and cutlery. We also have a two burner LPG stove you could borrow.

COVID 19

Follow the government guidelines that are in force at the time of your activity.

Travel

It is approximately a 2.5 hour drive to the Deer Stalkers Lodge at the entrance to the Nina Valley. This is the most convenient place to leave your car. Drivers of all vehicles should be appropriately licenced and not in a state of fatigue. Drive safely and to the conditions.

Car security

This is always a problem, but the above site is no worse than other and may be better as I have not seen a broken into car in 7 years of trapping in the Nina Valley.

Accommodation

- Forest and Bird Boyle Lodge (book with Helen on 02102326155 first) or NZDA Palmer Lodge (key from Bryan and book with Keith on 0278147113) to get an early start
- Staying in the Nina hut. This is a bookable hut. DoC recommends we make bookings as far in advance as possible and cancel any bookings not required with as much notice as possible to provide availability for other users. You can book online [here](#) or call the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre (03 318 9211) and book free of charge by telling them you are from the Doubtless & Nina trapping group for FOC hut bookings. The arrangement is we can make a max booking for 4 person's in any one night. If no-one else turns up, they can use the remaining space.
- In the Nina hut there is a lockbox with two sleeping mats and an emergency tent. The combination for the two padlocks is: 4292
- Camping in the valley
- Nina Biv (2 person).

Hunters

Hunters are generally travelling through this valley to hunt on the tops, however you are advised to wear a high vis-vest when working in the forest in March and April.

Intentions

Leave your intentions with someone who, in the event of you being overdue, will call 111. Suitable intentions forms can be found at:

www.adventuresmart.nz/assets/Uploads/eb2e242aa5/Outdoors-Intentions-Form-v2.pdf

www.adventuresmart.nz/assets/Uploads/5a32f6e21e/Additional-Group-Members-Form-v2.pdf

Safety

Safety of people is paramount, and far more important than the activity of trapping. Familiarise yourself with the safety information in this document. The backcountry of Aotearoa/New Zealand is not static, the risks can change. To help main safety in this situation each trip to carry out trapping related activities shall have a leader appointed. They should complete the Job Safety Analysis form that can be downloaded from the [Doubtless Conservation website](#).

First Aid

A first aid kit should be carried. The minimum list recommended by DoC is at the end of this document. In the event of an accident requiring medical attention, the first priority is the care and attention of the injured person. However, when it is possible, please fill out the incident form that is part of the safety analysis document and forward to Doubtless Trustees.

Lure Application

Use the tips below to maximise the effectiveness of our efforts through careful lure application. You will most likely be using one of the first two lures plus mayo, and then you have the ability to complete the fourth.

Salmon Pellets/Fish Food

This lure is palatable to stoats so it can be used for both as a lure and for prefeeding. Ten grams (12-14 pellets) to be used per trap.

- 1/3 of the pellets into the bait area of the trap (inside the LureGard – which all traps should have).
- A further 1/3 are placed in the entrance(s) to the trap. This should be accessible without the pest having to fully enter the trap.
- The last 1/3 can be placed near the trap, on a dry aerated position if possible.

If salmon pellets were used in the previous rebait any old pellets should be removed from the trap and placed outside the trap as additional prefeed.

As salmon pellets are not registered as a bait on TrapNZ you will need to do the following when you set up the bait defaults for this trip (usually done while standing at the first trap). Select 'other', then add 'Fish Food' immediately below this under 'Lure notes'.

Mayonnaise or Eggsellent Lure

As this lure is also palatable to stoats it can be used for prefeeding too. To reduce the impact of mice, smear this bait on the surface when you apply it. This means mice must lick the lure, consequently they will leave their saliva on the surface. Stoats can detect and are attracted to mice saliva, therefore our lure may have been eaten but there is still an attractant for stoats.

- One 500g bottle for 50 traps.
- 1 Tsp or 10g per trap.
- 1/3 smeared down the wall of the trap in the bait area.
- A further 1/3 in each trap entrance (can be eaten without entering the trap).
- The last 1/3 can be placed near the trap, on a dry aerated position if possible.

To record in TrapNZ, when you set up the trap defaults at the start of your rebait, select 'Mayo'.

Scuffing or Disturbing the Ground

Stoats are very sensitive to the ground being disturbed. With your boot scuff a 30cm by 30cm area near the trap entrance.

Checklist

- Weather at www.metservice.com/mountains-and-parks/national-parks/canterbury-high-country
- River levels at www.ecan.govt.nz/data/riverflow/sitedetails/64608
- Checked for any relevant changes to government COVID guidelines
- TrapNZ downloaded and synced
- Tools and bait from Bryan
- Forest and Bird Boyle Base booked through George (early booking please)
- Personal equipment list, including first aid, complete (verbally checked by leader)
- Intentions given to trusted person. See links on Doubtless Conservation website.
- Hi vis-vests in March and April
- Job Safety Analysis form complete and sent to George. Do this only if an unexpected hazard eventuates. See links on Doubtless Conservation website.
- DoC Volunteer Agreement forms complete and sent to George. See links on Doubtless Conservation website.

Item	Quantity	Checked
First Aid booklet	1	
Antiseptic wipes	8	
Antiseptic ointment	1	
Bandage – gauze 40mm	1	
Bandage crepe – 75mm and 100mm	2	
Gauze squares 7.5 x 7.5mm	6	
Disposable gloves	2	
Eye pad – 60mm x 75mm	2	
Eye tissues	4	
Elastoplast – mixture of sizes, PVC and fabric	50	
Fabric dressing strip	1	
Non-adherent dressing (mixed sizes)	6	
Paraffin gauze	1	
Plastic bags for waste disposal	2	
Resuscitation aid (with mouthpiece)	1	
Roll of fabric strapping tape – 50mm	1	
Roll of micropore tape – 25mm	1	
Roll of sleek tape – 25 mm	1	
Saline solution – 30ml	4	
Safety pins or clasps	10	
Scissors	1	
Skin closures/Steri-strip	4	
Splinter probe	4	
Triangular bandage	2	
Thermal blanket	1	
Tweezers	1	
Wound dressing with bandage -#14 and #15	2	