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| **S:\Logos HAU\DOC logos + Kowhaiwhai\DOC Logos- jpg\DOCLOGOWIDE c copy.jpg** | **DOCCF reference:** | **CCPF2-**009 |
| **Date of report:** | 29 April 2016 |
| **DOC Community Fund Grantee Progress Report** |
| **Project name:** | Braided Rivers Partnership Project |
| **Project contact:** | Sonny Whitelaw - Manager (Nick Ledgard – chair) |
| **Phone number:** | 0226378931 (033128799 / 0224386711) |
| **Email:** | manager@braid.org.nz (nick.ledgard@xtra.co.nz) |
| **Report number:** | 1 |
| **Date range of report:** | December 2015 – April 2016 |
| **Payments received to date:** |  | **Amount** | **Date** |
| *Payments received from the DOCCF to date related to this project* | 1 | $ | 6,066 (incl. GST) | 19 January |
| 2 | $ |  |  |
| 3 | $ |  |  |
| 4 | $ |  |  |
| 5 | $ |  |  |
| 6 | $ |  |  |
| **Amount now requested** |  | $ | 6,066 (incl. GST) | *YOU NEED TO ATTACH AN INVOICE (are all details correct according to invoice template for GST registered or not GST registered?)* |
| **Progress report:** | *Brief progress report of 250 words (approx) which should include: work undertaken, work completed and volunteer hours contributed within the period this report covers. Comment whether the project is running to timeline, and if the project is meeting all objectives, giving explanations. What are your key achievements for this reporting period?* |
| An initial point-of-contact database has been developed and is being continuously updated as they generate more leads. A communications plan, an accrediation plan, and a prospectus and material to ‘market’ the concept have been created, with the latter being distributed through the database, and also to an unsolicted audience via the website and social media. Designs for field kits and print labels have been completed. Brochure designs were held up by lack of knowledge of the Maori perspective of the birds, however we are pursuing this and have created interim brochures and also fridge magnets to ID key braided river birds, now being distributed through several outlets. We have undertaken 3 field trips to meet with commercial operators, commitments from 2 more key community groups and 2 local council employees to report and monitor birds on rivers in their operarional areas, 1 commitment by jetboaters to develop a trapping programme if birds nest in their area, and a very strong potential lead with a major tourism tranport operator to assist with and promote protection of birds. One operator has already undertaken a river-length survey during their rafting trips. We are hosting the Braided Rivers Workshop 31 May (130 booked, 17 waitlisted), where we will be announcing a new project to engage all sectors of the community plus businesses in a simple, fun, and quirkymarketing campaign: Flashmobbing The Flock (or ‘Flash Flocking’) in urban communities near where braided river birds nest. Details will be provided in the next report as project is still in development, but is being created in conjunction with Miranda Shorebird Trust as a NZ ‘migration circuit’. Twenty DOC 200 traps have been purchased; we are about to purchase TIMMS traps. |

**Milestones** - *must be reported against those listed in your deed of grant. Please provide information on the progress of milestones. As per your deed of grant, please identify:*

*• the milestones that were scheduled to be progressed for this reporting period*

*• the activities or interventions scheduled to be undertaken towards achieving the milestone and their scheduled completion date*

*• the progress (in summary) of the activities scheduled, including tangible achievements.*

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| **Milestone name** | **Scheduled Activities** | **Scheduled completion date for activities** | **Deliverables** | **Activities/Deliverables Status:**completeoron-going/on trackoron-going/delayednew completion date  | **Progress summary on Activities/Deliverables Status:*(please provide comment)*** |
| 1.Partnership Database | Database of commercial operators and stakeholders developed across 6 river catchments | October 2016 | Database of commercial operators and stakeholders developed across 6 major river catchments:* Waiau
* Hurunui
* Waimakariri
* Rakaia
* Rangitata
* Lower Waitaki
 | Ongoing | * Initial database of potential communications ‘hubs’ in each area, that is, people who may know people, collected.
* Each person or organisation in that database emailed an outline of the Partnerships Project.
* A much wider database of past participants in workshops and courses also emailed an outline
* Press release sent out
* Call on social media (Facebook and Twitter + BRAid’s website blog) for participants
* Organise Braided Rivers Workshop for 31 May where a talk on this project will invite partners, and distribute promotional material

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| 2.Partnership Recruitment  | Visit and recruit potential commercial tour operators to monitor colony nesting birds on braided rivers | October 2016 | Minimum 6 visits to commercial operators and stakeholders in these river catchments that have expressed interest and willingness.Recruitment of 3-6 commercial tour operators. | Ongoing | * Clarence River Rafting met with and recruited
* Discussions with Lower Waitaki Jetboating Assoc. currently underway
* Discussions with Lower Waitaki River Protection Society currently underway, due to meet late May
* Meeting with Plains Irrigators as potential inroad to working with farmers
* Meeting with trustee of Lake Coleridge/Upper Rakiaia Trust fund to see how we can advise on some aspects of the Trust, which cite braided river bird habit improvement as a priorty project.
* Planned meeting with Orari River group interested in running a trapline to protect colony nesting birds this season (2016/2017)
* Planned meeting with Christchurch Airport (CIAL) to work with them to better strategise black-backed gull control and simultaneously develop tourism marketing potential of rare and endangered river birds
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| 3.Publicity / Education and monitoring/management protocols developed | Develop information/publicity materials tailored to each river and commercial operator in consultation with iwi.Develop monitoring/management protocols tailored to each river and commercial operator in consultation with iwiDevelop accredition measures for levels of engagement of commercial river operators  | October 2016 | Publicity and educational material ‘fit for purpose’ in hands of receptive clients. Monitoring/management protocols fit for purpose’ in hands of receptive clients.Developed BRaid accreditation. | Ongoing | * Braided Rivers Partnership Programme 3 page prospectus completed (attached)
* Braid accreditation plan developed (attached)
* Labels to brand all existing material with BRaid logo completed and printed
* Discussions with DOC re branding of existing Braided River life poster underway. If this falls through, we will create our own poster
* High quality gallery photos for distribution to operators in progress
* Brochures designed and 1500 printed
* Magnets designed and 6000 printed (2000 each for 3 birds: PDFs attached, and some magnets delivered to DOC Rangiora for general distribution
* Contacted each runanga re Maori cultural values of birds/rivers. Limited response, but will follow up with a presentation to DOC planned meeting of all runanga
* Joined Waimakairi Science Advisory committee (sub-committee of the Zone Committee) to promote project to stakeholders in the Waimakariri District, and more importantly, keep braided rivers and birds on the agenda, which is dominated by farming and irrigation interests.
* Braid accreditation plan developed (attached)
* Article for Wader Quest published (attached)
* Article by Predator Free NZ (attached)
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| 4.Implementation of Partnership Monitoring / Management | Participants promoting birds and monitoring / managing bird populations at regular intervals using agreed protocols  | April 2017 | Promotional material in useMonitoring /management protocols being implemented by clients (as appropriate)Summary Report at the end of the first complete breeding season February 2017  | Promotional material printed and started to be distributed - on trackNot yet implemented | Promotional material distributed directly through: * Fundraising event at Nut Point Gallery 16 April, and delivered to Ahsburton
* Delievered to Plains Irrigators
* Delivered to BRaid and AARG members for distribution through schools and local community
* Tuhaitara Coastal Park
* Oxford Bird Rescue

 Not yet implemented |
| 5. Stakeholder surveys and feedback anaylsis | Feedback sought and through surveys from stakeholders, with analysis completed to refine and improve engagement strategies. | Sept 2018 | New end-user promotion/management protocols produced, due to better understanding of how the needs of stakeholders can be met to encourage their involvment with protecting and enhancing br habitats, halting the decline in braided river bird populations in Canterbury. | Not yet implemented | Not yet implemented |

**Objectives/Progress of Key Performance Indicators** *- How are you progressing against your Key Performance Indicators as per your deed of grant*?

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| **Your Project Objectives** List the project objectives as per your deed of grant | **Key performance indicators (KPIs)**List the KPIs as per you deed of grant |  **Progress against your KPIs** | **General comments on progress towards KPIs** |
| 1. Develop a comprehensive database of commercial tourism operators in Canterbury that utilise braided rivers as part of their day-to-day business. | Database of commercial operators and stakeholders developed across river catchments:* Ashley
* Waiau
* Hurunui
* Waipara
* Waimakariri
* Rakaia
* Rangitata
* Lower Waitaki
 | Total number of operators and other potential stakeholders identified in 8 river catchments.  | Using a varierty if mechanisms (not paid advertising) we have cast a very wide net with our intial contacts, with the aim of saturating the community with knowlegde of the programme. So far we have had interest and/or direct reporting from:* Clarence River
* Hurunui District (Waiau/Hurunui/Waipara rivers)
* Upper Waimakariri/Rakaia
* Lower Waimakariri
* Ashburton
* Orari River
* Lower Waitaki (with possible links to Rangitata)
* Orari River
* Fish and Game
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| 2. Increase accuracy of records of the distribution and numbers of colony river nesting birds through working with commercial operators | Minimum 6 visits to commercial operators and stakeholders that have expressed interest and willingness. By the end of Year 1, commercial river users are reporting presence and/or absence of colony nesting birds (basic monitoring). | 1. Number of river catchments. with ‘clients’ involved with biodiversity monitoring. 2. Number of operators reporting presence and/or absence of birds (involved with bird monitoring).3. Number of operators approached but not interested.4. Level of existing knowledge about braided rivers and their native biodiversity measured in hours spent to establish and develop knowledge.  | * Clarence River Rafting reported bird numbers, identifying 2 colononies of black-fronted terns. Follow up report during Oxford Area School trip down the river reported no colonies, leading to conclusion that both failed. Reports send to Andy Grant at DOC to fill in gaps in riverbird database.
* Similarly, initial and follow up reports from Ashburton and Orari then send to Andy Grant at DOC.
* Aerial survey reported black bill gull colony on Lower Waitaki. Follow up ground-truthing with photos from individual in January . Further follow up from different source in late February with high res photos indicated colony appears successful, along with several other breeding species incuding white fronted tern. Data and photos sent to DOC to add to riverbird database.
* Meeting with Plains Irrigators resulted in them keen to distribute promotional material to selected clients during onsite visits.
* Meet with
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| 3.Empower tour operators and allies to assist with braided river bird education/promotion, monitoring and management. | Production and delivery of two ‘field tolerant’ information packs on:1) uniqueness of braided rivers and birds, and 2) monitoring activities, ranging from just locating and monitoring presence/absence, to trapping, habitat enhancement (weed removal and island creation) and level of breeding success. | The number of field packs tailored to individual operators/river environments and bird species. | * Partial Field pack delivered to Clarence River Rafting in December 2015
* We will be following through on the above with Clarence River Rafting, Lower Waitaki Jetboating, Lower Waitaki River Management Society with the aim of implementing co-ordinated management strategies and education (Objectives 3 & 4) in 2016.
* Discussion with Plains Irrigators has resulted in their willingness to directly distribute information to farmers interested in envrionmental remediation and/or birdlife around rivers
* Initial discussion with Christurch Airport
* Initial discussion with Hanmer Springs underway
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| 4. Implementation of monitoring/management protocols | Number of operators undertaking monitoring and management (measure as to degree of monitoring (once, twice etc /season) and number of management activities (trapping nights, predators caught etc) ‘Clients’ implementing monitoring/management protocols.Summary report on outcomes of Years 1 & 2. | Level of pack use, measured by number of:1. Operators receiving publicity material and feedback 2. Monitoring using agreed protocols3. Trapping (locations and trap nights)4. Clearing weeds (where applicable)5. Creating islands (where applicable)6. Educating members of the public about braided river birds through their normal tour operations | Planned for September 2016 |
| 5.Reviewing outcomes from years 1 and 2 to refine strategies for engagement, monitoring and protection elsewhere - and hopefully expanded and replicated in other environments as well as rivers. | 1. Feedback from operators sought.2. Feedback from operators received.3. Strategies are being continually refined and improved.4. Bird monitoring and management established5. Final report | 1. Effective operator engagement strategies; what works, what doesn’t
2. Operators report improved business outcomes, measured by revenue and/or marketing opportunities such as achieving Qualmark EnviroAwards
3. Off-the shelf components for field kits that can be readily packaged to suit different operators and circumstances

Scale of monitoring and management across 6 major rivers | Planned for February 2017 |

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| **Evidence of project progress:** | *List items attached as evidence of expenditure, work programme, work progress etc, through invoices, photos, letters of reference from other organisations etc as per the deliverables in the deed of grant.* |
| * Website (see: <http://braid.org.nz/brpp> )
* Invoice for 20 x DOC 200 traps
* Briefing paper to Minister Nicky Wagner on bird tourism trail
* Background paper on Environmental Management Systems to develop accreditation
* Braided Rivers Partnership Project prospectus
* Braided Rivers Workshop flyer
* Braided Rivers Workshop programme (see: <http://braid.org.nz/workshop/> )
* Press release re Lower Waitaki
* Predator Free NZ blog article
* Wader Quest article April 2106 (journal cover, back cover, and pp 9-10 only)
* Brochures and magnets (PDFs of printed material)
* Photo: Nut Point Braided Rivers Awareness auction (with Nic Toki speaking)
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| **Other contributions:** | *Provide total dollars and/or volunteer hours that have been contributed. (Note: if this is the Final report it will be for the entire project, if it is for a particular reporting period then report the contribution for the particular period only). Include amount / time and source of contribution.* |
| **Contribution (dollars / hours):**  | **Source of contribution:** |
| $82,972.50 (*including GST*, for 3 years total. Note, this was paid in one lump sum)  | Department of Interal Affairs Lotto funding |
| 1400 *passive* observation hours21 learning and reporting hours | Volunteer hours of tourists and guides on Clarence River counting birds as opportunities arose; important to note they were not there specifically to count birds, but rather were there as part of a rafting trip: 35 people x 5 days (=40 hours) total over several rafting trips. |
| 8 hours | Initial and follow up volunteer reports of black-billed gull populations in Ashburton River/ Rangitata rivers |
| 6 hours  | Follow up volunteer reports of black-billed gull populations on Lower Waitaki |
| 4 hours | Volunteer strategic planning by Lower Waitaki Jetboating and river management society |
| 49 hours (shared with Ashely Rakahuri Rivercare Group) | Monitoring birds on Ashley River |
| 92 hours | Volunteer governance/management oversight of programme and talks to groups and schools |
| **Risks:** | *What, if any risks have you identified with regard to project delivery and how are these being managed or mitigated?* |
| **Risk description** | **Impact of risk** | **Mitigation** |
| Lack of understanding of cultural significance of birds and rivers | Incomplete picture limits marketing potential to engage tourists and locals alike  | Continue to seek input from runanga |
| Lack of knowledge of possible areas of ngāti wairaki, ngāti māmoe and ngāi tahu wāhi tapu in areas where island formation/clearing or trapping may take place. | Minimal, as weed clearing or trapping is likely to take place on ephemeral islands, and will improve mahinga kai outcomes and assist in restoring the mauri of waterways  | Check with local distrcit councils as established protocols have generally been established and lodged with them; continue to seek input from runanga |
| Lack of buy-in from potential partners  | Failure to implement programme | Market the benefits of this programme as part of a raft of environmental management plans and value-added components to businesses, and tourism potential for communities |
| Lack of interest due to lack of birds seen on rivers | Leaves a hole in the data  | Impress the importance of reporting an absence of birds as well as a presence, explaining why this data is important |
| Competition with existing groups or organisations to protect/ restore environmental values of rivers | Risks over-saturating the targeted market with environmental concerns  | Work with existing groups to share resources and knowledge; promote their activities that align with BRaid’s goal  |
| Trapping | Injury to trappers or public  | Implement protocals and training programmes for trappers where this does not yet existEnsure signage is in place |
| **Health and Safety:** | *If relevant please describe any health and safety activities completed within this reporting period including: frequency or number of health and safety meetings held; training provided to employees, volunteers or contractors; safety improvements made to your project, new hazards identified or significant amendments to your safety management plan. Please provide any material or information relating to the occurrences of safety incidents, injured personnel.* |
| ***Description*** | ***Location and date*** | ***Action taken and outcome*** | ***Reported to? E.g. regulatory authority*** | ***Follow up action taken***  |
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| **General comments regarding Health and Safety *(if relevant)*** |
|  |
| **Final report:** | *If this is your final report relating to this project you should record totals for project. For example: total length of fence constructed, area treated with possum control, overall assessment of project success, as well as your forecast on the long-term future / management of the land involved in the project.* |
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| **Declaration:** | *As a duly authorised representative of the organisation:** *I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in all sections of this Progress Report, or supplied in support of our Progress Report, is complete, true and correct;*
* *I declare that* I *have the authority to sign this Progress Report and to provide this information and that we have paid or will pay all invoices with this instalment in full;*
* *I understand that information presented to the Minister of Conservation and Department of Conservation is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982;*
* *I declare that the fund instalment invoice accompanying this Progress Report is complete, true and correct.*
 |
| **Name of verifier** | Sonny Whitelaw |
| **Position of verifier** | Manager BRaid) |
| **Signature** *(by typing your name in the space provided you are electronically signing this Progress Report)* | Macintosh HD:Users:sonny:letters:signaturesonnysmall.jpg | Date | 30 April 2016 |