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| **S:\Logos HAU\DOC logos + Kowhaiwhai\DOC Logos- jpg\DOCLOGOWIDE c copy.jpg** | **DOCCF reference:** | **CCPF2-**009 |
| **Date of report:** | June 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:** | 3 |
| **Date range of report:** | December 2016 – May 2017 |
| **Payments received to date:** |  | **Amount** | **Date** |
| *Payments received from the DOCCF to date related to this project* | 1 | $ | 6,066 (incl. GST) | 19/01/2016 |
| 2 | $ | 6,066 (incl. GST) | 16/08/2016 |
| 3 | $ | 6,234.50 (incl. GST) | 17/01/2017 |
| 4 | $ |  |  |
| 5 | $ |  |  |
| 6 | $ |  |  |
| **Amount now requested** |  | $ | 6,234.50 (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?* |
| Database continuously updated as more leads generated. Ashley Rakuhuri River weed clearing & island formation had limited success but robust large scale weed and nesting surveys point to the benefits of working with gravel extractors - we’ve recruited one more and accredited with a Bronze Award, and accredited a second with a Silver Award. Around 443 volunteer hours this period. We are still ahead of schedule with KPIs looking good and exceeded in some sectors, and had around 443 volunteer hours this period. More interest is coming from the non-tourism commercial sector, which is great and is likely to have a more sustainable outcome for the birds, versus under-resourced volunteer groups and small tour operators, especially those impacted by the Kaikoura quake. On the downside, this also means it will be harder for this project to become financially sustainable. We are finding such a big gap in knowledge of this conservation sector, it’s a much harder sell than protecting forests or iconic species. However, we are making more progress than expected in raising the profile, through publicity and marketing, with the type of marketing material constantly being refined to suit different organisational needs, eg Kiwi Rail Trans Alpine commentary and Coleridge Habitat Trust permanent signs, and articles appearing in Fonterra and Irrigation NZ magazines. Two farms and one power company were also awarded ‘Braid accreditation awards’ . One of these farms had spectacular success with a 600-800 strong black-billed gull colony on the farm (not the river!) successfully raising 300-400 chicks; virtually an unprecedented outcome for this species in modern times, see <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/colony-worlds-most-endangered-gulls-decide-nest-dairy-farm> . |

**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 | Completed | Completed, however this will be a continous processas interested parties join  | See previous report |
| 2.Partnership Recruitment  | Visit and recruit potential commercial tour operators to monitor colony nesting birds on braided rivers | October 2016 | Completed | First stage completed, however this will be a continous process | See previous report. While this fulfills our initial goals, the process is ongoing throughout the entire funding period**Recruitment since November 2016 report**1. Fulton Hogan (see accredition)
2. Taggarts (ditto)
3. Craigmore Farm - (ditto)
4. Fonterra (see article attched)
5. Irrigation NZ (see draft article underway)
 |
| 3.Publicity / Education and monitoring/management protocols developed | A. Develop information/publicity materials tailored to each river and commercial operator in consultation with iwi.B. Develop monitoring/management protocols tailored to each river and commercial operator in consultation with iwiC. Develop accredition measures for levels of engagement of commercial river operators  | October 2016 | Completed | Publicity /Education OngoingMonitoring / management / accrediation processes developed | See previous report. While this fulfills our initial goals, the process is ongoing throughout the entire funding period**Subsequent outcomes since previous report:**Publicity /Education Ongoing1. Publicity
* Currently organising Braided Rivers Seminar June 29. Currently have around 120 booked
* The Flock Project will be part of a Arts in Oxford/ public art (where members of the public create their own birds) and flyways Exhbition (see PDF ‘flyways’ and ‘Flock workshops’) late May through to July
* Article in Fonterra’s Farm Source magazine published (attached)
* Article in Irrigation NZ underway
* Copy for inclusion in Trans-Alpine train commentary re braided rivers and birds, under discussion (draft completed)
* Discussion with Mt Coleridge Enhancement Trust & DOC Rangiora resulted in first of planned (hoped for) linked interpretation signs around Lake Coleridge and Lafe Selfe (see attached link to large scale signs in Dropbox)
1. Monitoring protocols developed for existing partners
2. Accreditation measures

completed; see April 2016 report.  |
| 4.Implementation of Partnership Monitoring / Management | Participants promoting birds and monitoring / managing bird populations at regular intervals using agreed protocols  | April 2017 | 1. Promotional material in use2. Monitoring /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 trackSimple protocols for reporting now in place | 1. See Nov 2016 report. This is also ongoing because, as more people and organisations become engaged, more opportunities arise for us to empower them with uniquely tailored promotional material. * Lake Coleride & Lake Selfe permanent signs underway (see Dropbox)
* Commentary for Trans Alpine train

2. Simple protocols are in place for clients in terms of trapping and monitoring.Summary report attached.  |
| 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
* Ashburton
* Orari
* Wilberforce
* Harper
* Pareora

  | Total number of operators and other potential stakeholders identified in 13 river catchments.  | 1. No. of river catchments reported at end of the season (details of some reports will be presented at the upcoming seminar)* Waiau - reported by ECan + BRaid follow ups in one section – see Dropbox field diary
* Hurunui - one report from Cheviot group, but no capacity to follow up
* Waimakariri - bird count completed
* Rakaia - only for black-billed gull survey + existing DOC reporting
* Rangitata – only for black-billed gull survey
* Lower Waitaki - via PHD student Ann-Kathryn Schelesselman
* Wilberforce – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower
* Harper – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower
* Ashburton – no fledgling successes reported
* Orari – no terns nested in cleared areas
* Pareora – success of back billed gull colony reported, but not numbers of fledglings
* No reports from LINZ operators
* Waikuku Beach farm - full reporting both breeding and fledgling
 |
| 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.  | 1. Ten

2.:* Waiau - in conjunction with ECan, one small area followed up by Amuri Jet and BRaid: 50 black-fronted terns pairs on Shark Tooth: around 0.4 fledgling success following major flooding. See field report in Dropbox.
* Hurunui - one report from Cheviot group, but no capacity to follow up. Current proposals to ECan for a more complete ecological survey along the entire length of the river are underway.
* Waimakariri - bird count (see attached)
* Rakaia - no reports other than via national black-billed gull survey
* Rangitata - no reports other than via national black-billed gull survey
* Lower Waitaki via PHD student Ann-Kathryn Schelesselman
* Wilberforce – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower
* Harper – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower
* Ashburton – no fledgling successes reported
* Orari – no terns nested in cleared areas
* Pareora – success of back billed gull colony reported, but not numbers of fledglings
* No reports from LINZ operators
* Waikuku Beach farm – pre and post breeding success

3. We should have defined ‘approached’ more clearly because if emails alone are regarded as ‘approached’, several hundred failed to respond. Possibly because they have not seen black-billed gulls or black-fronted terns.4. Difficult to define as this indicators was originally intended for partner operators in the field. It’s become increasingly apparent that knowledge of braided river ecology is poor in scope and scale. The call for more information about about the problems, more signs, plus the speed and scope of #TheFlockNZ project being expanded is an indicator of strong desire for knowledge in this conservation sector. While we have no way to determine, for example, how many times the teaching resources have been downloaded and used in classrooms, Selwyn District Libraries ran a children’s holiday programme using our resources, across 4 libraries. Total number attended: 71, Total volunteer hours to organise and run: 70 by library staff and around BRaid volunteers.On the ground, it took only about 45 volunteer hours to implement a management plan to protect 800 black-billed gulls (400 chicks fledged) on Waikuku Beach Farm. |
| 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. | * Amuri Jet (Hanmer Springs)
* Kiwi Rail (Trans Alpine) not field packs, but pre-recorded commentary for passengers
* Trustpower (bird ID magnets, for example, are kept on dashboards of large dozers)
* Kaikoura operators droppd away post-quakes. I intend to visit local operators in June, to see what if any inroads we can make.
 |
| 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 | 1. 11 primary outlets (see previous report.)2. Bird monitoring completed on the Waiau River Shark tooth colony and Waikuku Beach Farm2. Health and Safety plan now developed and refined specifically for working on and around braided rivers in a number of capacities (trapping, monitoring, bird counts etc).3. Wilberforce River, Harper River, Lake Coleridge, Waiau River, farm near SH1 Bridge over Ashley-Rakahuri. 4. Willow clearing on the Harper River delta partially completed with more work to be undertaken; 4-5. Plan presented to Ecan/CWMS Zone Committee to clear weeds on island in Waiau where black-fronted terns try but fail nest annually; and improve island geomorphology4-5. Partial weed clearing and island formation thanks to Fulton Hogan and Orari River Protection Society implemented late last season. 4-5. Support the application islands in the Ashley-Rakahuri River to be cleared and geomoprhology improved. This will be a significant project if funded. 6. Clarence River Rafting and Amuri Jet (Hanmer Springs) are the only tour operators involved thus far. They also hosted #TheFlockNZ, however operstions were disrupted due to Kaikoura earhquakes6. Similarly, Clarence River Rafting, who helped last year, has had their enture business disrupted by the Kaikoura earthquakes and are unable to help. |
| 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 | Partially underway now as we direct some energies towards the corporate sector. Planned for February 2018. |

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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>)
* ‘One News’ footage of highly successful black-billed gull colony on a farm (scroll down a wee bit): <http://braid.org.nz/brpp>
* Braided Rivers Seminar (see <http://braid.org.nz/news/braided-rivers-seminar-2017> for the programme; and speakers: <http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers>
* Selwyn District Libraries #TheFlockNZ February 2017 (the photos of the kids are gorgeous!) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4g-LOsTMwO2SWN4NUVwUl9JUUk>
* see Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d4fn4nsu7krbgzo/AADBcI3M0m5dDzAuqqFlZWMja?dl=0>

for PDFS of the following (some are large files, hence Dropbox)* + Signs created for Coleridge Habitat Trust (please note; these are draft. The content has been agreed but details of construction has not yet been decided, so the final signs may vary slightly in appearance)
	+ ‘Meet the Birds’ signs for The Flock and other exhibits
	+ Braided Rivers Seminar flyer
	+ Copies of accrediation certificates presented to partners (Partnership Accrediation sub-folder)
	+ The Flock flyer for Arts in Oxford
	+ Fonterra magazine ‘Farm Source’ article on partnerhips with farmer re black billed gulls
	+ Local newspaoper follow up of black-billed gull fledglings
	+ Local newspeper coverage of Taggart’s accreditation
	+ Upper Waimakariri Bird Survey report
	+ Waiau/Hope River summary report (field diary)
 |
| **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:** |
| $5,274.00 (ex. GST) | Department of Conservation |
| $12,024.50 (ex GST) | DIA (Lotto) 1/6th of lump sum payment for 3 year project |
| $4,121.74 (ex. GST) | BRaid: 50% of annual contribution year 2 |
| 128 volunteer hours | Survey Ashley River for weeds, inlcuding GIS and drone mapping, and compile reports on same |
| 40 volunteer hours | Arts in Oxford & Men’s Shed preparation of #TheFlockNZ templates for upcoming exhibition in June |
| 50 volunteer hours | Site visits and while there, dismantle and move the core #TheFlockNZ over Dec-March |
| 70 volunteer hours | Preparation of 100+ bird templates for Selwyn DC libraries to download, cut out each bird and, and deliver the school holiday programme in 4 libraries. |
| 30 volunteer hours | Volunteer trapping and monitoring birds on Waiau River |
| 80 volunteer hours | Volunteer governance/management oversight of programme, meetings, talks to groups and schools, publicity and newspaper articles |
| 45 volunteer hours | Implement management plan to protect colony of 600-800 black billed gulls (fence of area, set traps, liase with landowner and manager, bird counts pre-and post nesting) |
| = 443 Volunteer hours= $21,420.24 |  |
| **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 district 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. This has proven effective with Amuri Jet, Trustpower, Christchurch International Airport, Waikukui Beach dairy farm, and to a degree Fontera and Irrigation NZ |
| 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. We are achieving this with the Lower Waitaki River Management Society, Orari Rivercare Protection Group, Bring on the Birds in Cheviot (Waiau and Hurunui Rivers). |
| Trapping | Injury to trappers or public  | Implement protocals and training programmes for trappers where this does not yet existEnsure signage is in place. See for example signs created by BRaid for the Wilberforce and Harper Rivers |
| Loss/theft of traps | Loss due to flooding (economic cost) | This may in some instances be unavoidable. We lost 10 traps on the Waiu River due to unexpected flooding. While we were aware the river was rising, it was not possible for anyone in the area or a member of BRaid to get there and remove the traps safely on time. |
| **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)*** |
| None |
| **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.* |
|  |
| **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 May2017 |