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| **Date of report:** | 24 July 2018 |
| **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](mailto:manager@braid.org.nz) ([nick.ledgard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nick.ledgard@xtra.co.nz)) | | | | |
| **Report number:** | 5 | | | | |
| **Date range of report:** | December 2017- June 2018 | | | | |
| **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 | $ | 6,234.50 (incl. GST) | 26/09/2017 | |
| 5 | $ | 4,550.00 (incl. GST) | 27/03/2018 | |
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| **Amount now requested** |  | $ | 4,550.00 (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?* | | | | |
| Redirecting our resources to advocacy, information, and education has helped significantly raise the profile of braided rivers. Aligning with ’Predator Free 2050’ has given us tools and greater access to develop partnerships within communities, eg our trapping workshops resulted in a new trapping group at Ashley River estuary. We helped them secure funding for 90 traps. Combined with the traps we supplied, we are confident that by 2021 re-introduction of kaki is feasible.  After 2.5 years of achieving a much greater understanding of what’s needed on the ground, we have also identified specific locations where local government and ECan (under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy) have subsequently committed funding (some $200,000) to enhancing and protecting black-billed gulls and black-fronted tern habitats. This is a low risk opportunity for them to achieve their biodiversity mandate. While this diverges from the original private and business ‘partnerships’ we envisaged, it will result in a better conservation outcome and greater opportunities for us to work directly with local communities. We are also delighted that ECan have now recognised the staggering loss of braided rivers bird habitat to agricultural encroachment (over 11,000 hectares in less than a decade), and is currently consulting with communities to define braided river beds so that activities on them can be regulated.  We have not achieved self-funding as we had hoped, and while we continue to encourage iwi to partner with us, the nature of migratory birds makes it almost impossible to garner and maintain strong interest when other environmental issues such as water quality take centre stage. We are instead working to support Tuhaitara Coastal Park’s plans to have the Ashley River given the legal status of a living entity, and with Boffa Miskell to develop a strategic partnership to train their weed sprayers in bird IDs and trapping, then develop accreditation for them with a view to creating unit standards for schools, to segue with the ‘Predator Fee 2050’ goals for the next 3 years. | | | | | |

**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:** complete  or  on-going/on track  or  on-going/delayed new 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 process  as interested parties join | See previous reports – continuously updated. |
| 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 we have more than fulfills our initial goals, the process will always be ongoing  **Recruitment since Dec. 2017 report**  Previous (20 detailed in previous reports)  21: Wilkin River Jets (also contributed some $2,500 in kind value for use of boats) |
| 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 iwi  C. Develop accredition measures for levels of engagement of commercial river operators | October 2016 | Completed | Publicity /Education Ongoing  Monitoring / management / accrediation processes developed | See previous report. While this fulfills our initial goals, the process is ongoing  **Subsequent outcomes since previous report:**   1. Publicity  * Large scale signage at Lake Coleridge are now being built (see photos) * Newspaper article featuring partnership with BRaid (Note that their donation goes to the local rivercare group)  1. Monitoring protocols developed for existing partners  * Completed; designed to be flexible according to needs and capacities.  1. 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 use  2. 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 track  Simple protocols for reporting now in place | See previous reports; also ongoing because of the neeed for uniquely tailored promotional material.  Summary report sent with previous report.  We are now looking to tailor a specific training package for Boffa Miskell. |
| 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 | To be implemented in August/September |

**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 * Makarora * Dart | Total number of operators and other potential stakeholders identified in 15 river catchments. | See previous reports. |
| 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. 18 visits to date.   2.   * Ashley – yes and ongoing * Waiau - yes * Hurunui - no reports yet * Waimakariri - bird count completed * Rakaia - no * Rangitata - no * Lower Waitaki –not yet * Wilberforce – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower, but DOC now progressing trapping * Harper – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower * Ashburton – yes * Orari – some reports coming through now. Expect more this next season * Pareora – no * No reports from LINZ operators * Waikuku Beach farm – gulls have moved to the river following weed clearing/floods * Makarora - yes   3. See previous report  4. See previous report. Only one new report after the past season, but a lot of interestgenerated through community meetings these past 6 months, so am hopeful this will result in actual reports once the birds begin nesting. |
| 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. | * Completed, see previous reports. |
| 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 protocols  3. 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 last season (see previous report.)  2. Underway but only in a handful of places  3. Wilberforce River, Harper River, Lake Coleridge, Waiau River, Ashley-Rakahur, Orari River. Dart River uses a paid trapper who co-ordinated with us to maximise ideal locations for trapping in a braided river. Makarora River just now been awarded funding for trapping and management.  4. Primarily Ashley and Orari. Expect a lot more work on this in Hurunui and Waiau rivers supported by ECan, and similarly in the Ashburton River. Last season’s floods did an excellent job.  4-5. Fulton Hogan now working directly with local groups  6. Wilkin Jet awarded bronze accreditation; they have also set up a donation box to support the local trapping group. |
| 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 established  5. 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 | 1. Partially underway now as we foster the fledgling relationship with Karikaas. 2. Too soon to tell as only a couple of operators are just now trying. I doubt this will not be successful until NZ starts to actively market to the bird watchers, and no one is likely to set up a business model that depends on migratory birds possibly but not definitely nesting in their area of operations for just a few months each year. 3. Completed |

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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.* | | | | | | | | | |
| * Braided Rivers Partnerships <http://braid.org.nz/brpp/>   Attached as one PDF document includes as follows:  1. Invoices as per attached spreadsheet  2. Wilkin Jet Accreditation  3. Karikaas Accreditation  4. Photo trapping workshop in upper Ashley River  5. Photo trap making for new Ashely estuary group  6. Trapping plan now being implemented on the Wilkin/Makarora River  7. Invoice for next DOC payment  8-10. Photo of the frames we designed for braided river bird signs (they will look quite eye-catching once installed!)  11. Example of newspaper article | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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:** | | | | | |
| $3,956.52 (ex. GST) | | | | | | | Department of Conservation Fifth payment | | | | | |
| $12,024.50 (ex GST) | | | | | | | DIA (Lotto) 1/6th of lump sum payment for 3 year project | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | Additional traps specifically for the newly formed estuary group. | | | | | |
| 20 volunteer hours | | | | | | | Outreach: School visits, assisting with peer student Rangiora High School long-term invertebrate montioring | | | | | |
| 504 volunteer hours | | | | | | | Makarora River create conservation trust and initiate trapping programme (total 63 days of volunteer time) | | | | | |
| $2,400.00 in services (not cash) | | | | | | | Value of contribution from jetboat operators on the Makarora and Wilkin Rivers (8 days x $300/day) | | | | | |
| 176 volunteer hours | | | | | | | Newly created Ashley Estuary trapping group - they are still directly under the BRaid umbrella – this includes setting up the group, trap making (90 x DCO 200s), installation etc | | | | | |
| 8 volunteer hours | | | | | | | No bird counts undertaken in the first half of the year but experimenting with drone to develop better bird survey procedures | | | | | |
| 80 volunteer hours | | | | | | | Volunteer governance/management oversight of programme, meetings, general talks to groups and schools, publicity and newspaper articles | | | | | |
| $15,981.00 to BRaid, $2,400.00 in services, 788 volunteer hours | | | | | | |  | | | | | |
| **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 | | | | Marketing 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. While this has proven effective with Karikaas, Amuri Jet, Wilkin Jets, Trustpower, Christchurch International Airport, Waikukui Beach dairy farm, and to a degree Fonterra and Irrigation NZ, the presence of the birds is too unreliable for most commercial operators and iwi to see any benefit. | | | |
| Lack of interest due to lack of birds seen on rivers | | | | | Leaves a hole in the data | | | | This is definitely a major hurdle and one that I feel we have not be fully able to overcome. | | | |
| Competition with existing groups or organisations to protect/ restore environmental values of rivers | | | | | Risks over-saturating the targeted market with environmental concerns | | | | Braided rivers have been elevated to a much higher profile. New and proven management tools mean that there is a greater likelihood of successful conservation outcomes, so there is a much higher potential return on investment, as it were, than when we started out. | | | |
| Trapping | | | | | Injury to trappers or public | | | | Implement protocals and training programmes for trappers where this does not yet exist  Ensure 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 has proven unavoidable. Lost 10 traps on the Waiau River and a dozen more on the Ashley this year with unexpected flooding. | | | |
| **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. We have a H&S plan in place and regularly refer to it, particularly when working with school groups | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 | | 24 July  2018 |