

'The 1982 Easter storm blew down beech forest in the Clements Road area. The Forest Service bush milling team carried out a trial to see if high quality timber could be recovered from the fallen trees. It was decided not to salvage because most of the trees were defective or damaged, and the cost of extracting the few good trees was prohibitive.'

A small area of pine plantation is within the park and this is managed in conjunction with the neighbouring Lake Taupo Forest.

An annual programme is carried out to remove *Pinus contorta* within the area adjacent to the southern part of the park. Workers from the park spend about three weeks 'weeding' young contorta from a 4–5 km wide strip of Ministry of Defence land south of the park. They also cover the Maori land between the Desert Road and the park's western boundary.

It is hard work. Twelve or fifteen people move in a long line about 40 metres apart. The land is mostly covered in tussock and often the young pines can't be seen till they're about three years old. It is important to remove them before they seed and this can happen as early as four years old.

Each pine is either pulled out by the roots, or if it is too big for that, chopped off at ground level. This must be carefully done because even the tiniest shoot left on the stump will flourish.

On the steeper country close to the park



a helicopter is used for the weeding. A spotter sits up front. When any pines are seen the helicopter hovers and one of the 'weeders' jumps on to the slope to clear the area.

Part of the buffer zone is weeded every year and now all of it has been covered twice, some of it three times. The programme is an ongoing one aimed at keeping the park free of any heavy infestation.

Visitors to the park are asked to pull out

Colourful red tussock is a feature of the upper Ngaruroro River. Extensive areas of red tussock and manuka have replaced forests destroyed by fires in Maori and early European times.


any wilding trees they see, or to advise the Forest Service so they can be removed to prevent further spread.

The destructive fire in February 1983, which destroyed 15 000 hectares in the central North Island, damaged 260 hectares within Kaimanawa Forest Park

This was mostly tussock and manuka scrub on the very steep faces above the Rangitikei River. The Forest Service is monitoring this for soil erosion (as are the other authorities which administer the rest of the burnt land) to see if artificial establishment of plants should be carried out.

Kaimanawa Forest Park is a tremendous asset with its scenic charm and wilderness-like qualities.

In managing this park the main aims of the Forest Service are to:

- protect soil and water;
- preserve and protect special areas of the natural ecosystems;
- conserve historic, cultural and scenic values;
- develop recreation facilities in ways that are compatible with the other values. 

**The largely unspoilt character of the central and southern region of the forest park is being retained with minimal recreational development.**

