



Hunters

The Department of Conservation employs two full-time hunters in the North. What makes the goat control especially difficult in Waima Forest and throughout most of the rest of Northland's forests is the lack of boundary fences. Fencing Waima Forest would be a huge and costly task so the goats continue to filter up from scrub and farmland in the valleys below. However, goat control in Waima is seen as a priority and in 23 hunting days spent there recently 122 goats were shot. If goat culling is continued in Waima, as intended, we can look forward to a much brighter future for this unique habitat.

It seems astounding that these large and conspicuous plants on the Waima ranges should hide for so long, suggesting, I feel, that Northland is a treasure house for the naturalist and needs proper inventory. I have a suspicion that Waima's story is not quite finished, that up on those windblown slopes other gems await discovery. Perhaps next time a giant skink, or new insect will be found. Only time will tell.

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This attractive Hebe was discovered on the exposed Hauturu cliffs.

All photos Ewen Cameron.