

ABSEIL ACCESS LTD

Reference Project

Pinus Contorta Eradication - Waiouru Army Training Area

Location: 23 gorges and cliffs in the Army Training area, Central Plateau.

Date: Yearly since 1995

Client: Army Training Group

Headquarters Company manages the army training land at Waiouru. The habitat of tussock and alpine beech has been invaded by *Pinus Contorta* over the past 40 years. Weeds and pests have been tackled thoroughly and the Contorta eradication is the largest of its type in New Zealand.

Amongst the rugged landscape are numerous mountain gorges. These have been the *Contorta's* last bastion. The gorges are up to 300m deep with sheer rock walls to which the Contorta cling.

Abseil Access have been systematically searching these areas since 1995. Each of the 23 designated areas are searched on a 3-year rotation. Numbers and locations of contortas are recorded for future reference.

A helicopter is used to access most of the areas due to the extreme remoteness. The team of workers have to contend with extreme heat and cold associated with high altitude deserts. An extremely high level of outdoor experience and fitness are required for all team members.

This project has shown Abseil Access' long term commitment to the hardest weed eradication programmes.



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