Nateva

Leading with nature



Reducing wildfire risk across our forests

Jamie Rhodes
Fire Risk and Mitigation Land Manager
Preparing for Wildfires 29/10/26

DIAL 111

IF YOU SEE A FIRE

Who we are

Founded by Bruce Miller and Matt Walsh, Nateva is a New Zealand owned and operated Nature Based climate solutions company. We manage permanent forests that transition over time to native forest. Protecting them from fire protects the land, its native biodiversity and the wider community.

81,000 ha

of forest we manage

117,000 ha

under carbon management

10,000+ ha

of native trees, including seed islands and enrichment planting

125

forests across 11 regions

74

full-time staff, plus contractors

How most vegetation fires start

People outside the forests

Power lines



Dashcam image of a roadside fire next to one of our forests.

Around 98% of NZ wildfires are caused by people. Source: FENZ, Te Uru Rākau

Knowing our risk

Every forest on the estate is assessed the same way

Each forest is scored on the factors that raise and lower its fire risk.

The score shows us where to act first.

Hazards raise the score. Mitigations lower it.

Raises risk

- Regional fire climate
- Road frontage and public access
- Power lines in and beside the forest
- Forest size and age
- Contractor and machinery activity
- Neighbouring land use

Lowers risk

- Water suitable for firefighting
- Natural breaks and fuel breaks
- Grazing
- Controls on contractors and fire conditions

What we're doing to reduce fire risk

Practical work across our forests

Fire signs

Roadside reminders to take care and call 111.

Weather watch

Live weather stations and weekly fire danger checks.

Power line corridors

Assessing and clearing lines with the line companies.

Reducing fuel

Roadside pruning, grazing and green breaks.

Water for firefighting

Finding, clearing and adding water sources.

Controls on our land

Clear rules for anyone working in our forests.

Working together

Sharing information with neighbours, communities and FENZ before the fire season.

Fire signs beside our forests

A simple, visible reminder for everyone who passes



Placed where they can be seen

Signs sit on roadsides beside our forests

One clear message

Dial 111 if you see a fire.

Part of a bigger picture

Signs work alongside roadside pruning, grazing and fuel breaks in our prevention work.

See smoke or flames? Dial 111.

Watching the weather

Using data and science to stay ahead of conditions

Live weather stations

Live data from our stations, including Te Rimu, feed into the NIWA database and Fire Weather Index systems.

Weekly fire danger check

Fire danger is reviewed each week across our Forests, and readiness steps up as conditions dry out.

Research partnership

A study with NASA Ames, ANU, the US Forest Service and FENZ modelling fuel moisture and fuel type in near real time.



Te Rimu weather station, sending live data.



Collecting samples for the research project.

Managing power line corridors

One of our priorities, managed with the line companies

Corridor assessments

Field surveys of lines through and beside our forests to identify trees that may need attention.

Treat and remove

Planned tree removal and treatment in the setbacks so trees can't grow or fall into lines.

Helisaw operations

A saw slung under a helicopter used to trim trees along lines on steep or remote country.

Working with the line company's

Reporting encroachments early and coordinate clearance work.



Helisaw trimming trees along a power line corridor.

Before and after treatment





Te Rimu Forest, Rimu Road

Before: Large trees grown up around the pole and lines.

After: Trees cleared back from the pole and line.





Mangatiti Forest

Before: Pine stand grown up and over the lines.

After: Corridor felled through the stand to give the line clear space.

Reducing fuel where fires start

Less fuel at the edges means fires that are easier to stop

Roadside pruning

Pruning and clearing along road edges, where many fires started by people begin.

Targeted grazing

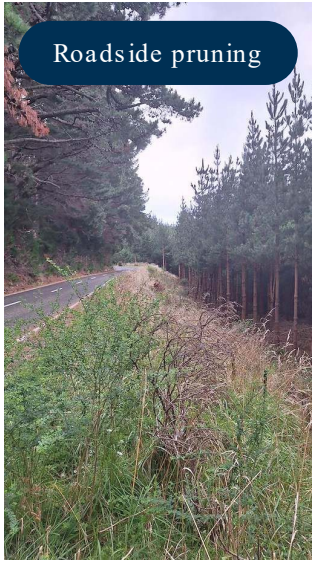
Using stock to keep grass fuel down on roadsides, power line corridors, boundaries and fuel breaks.

Canopy management

Managing forest structure to minimise fuel loading over time.

Breaks and access

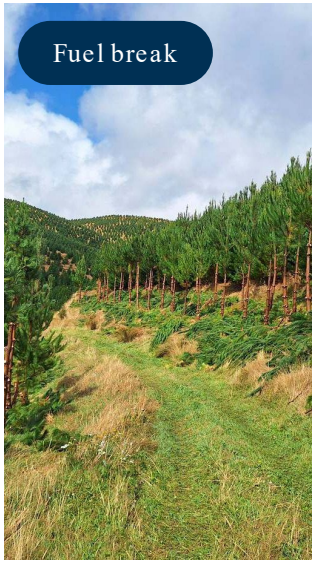
Tracks, streams and fuel breaks slow spread and give crews safe access.



Gandy's Forest: pruned along the road edge to lift ladder fuel.



Halter grazing trial at Laver Forest.



Te Rimu Forest: tracks kept open, trees pruned either side.

Green and Fuel breaks

Open strips that slow a fire and give crews safe access







Green breaks are planned in at planting, kept low with grazing, and placed where they protect lines, homes and access.

Halter grazing trial: Laver Forest

Using cattle with virtual fencing collars to graze fuel down



A strip grazed down between young trees and the boundary fence, keeping grass fuel low.



The track beside a water source grazed short, while the young trees are left alone.

Water for firefighting

Crews need water fast. We are mapping it, testing it and adding more.

We're removing crop trees to keep our water sources fit for purpose

Assess every source

Scored on distance, access, volume, reliability and whether it can be pumped from.

Helicopter assessment

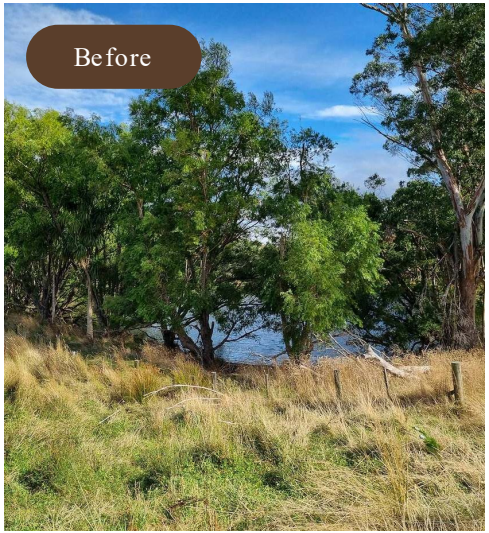
Sources checked for safe helicopter bucket access.

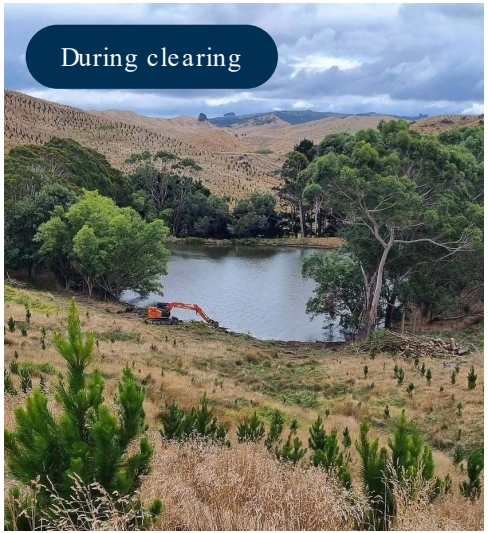
Log it in the field

GPS, photos and volumes recorded, ready for FENZ.

Add storage where it's short

Proposed tanks at key sites, and existing tanks moved to better spots.





Treated water sources

Trees cleared back so crews can reach the water and use it







Clear edges and open access make each source easier for crews to reach and use.

Controls on anyone working on our land

Contractors and land managers all meet the same requirements

Insurance

Appropriate insurance held before any work starts.

Fire weather

We check fire weather conditions and plan work around them.

Extinguishers

Carried on site and on machinery.

Refuelling controls

Refuelling done in a way that reduces the chance of ignition.

Signed agreements

Requirements agreed and signed before access is given.

Block sign-in

Contractors and land managers sign in to each block they work in.

Fire index trigger

When the fire index reaches 25+, land managers get a text alert and field operations are adjusted to suit.

Working with our community

Keeping neighbours and the wider community informed

Immediate neighbours

Neighbour contact details are held in each forest's fire plan, so we can reach them quickly.

Wider community

[Name, role]

[Phone] | [Email]

Notifying neighbours

How we let neighbours know about planned work and incidents:

Exercises

Regional exercises before fire season test our response and our notification systems.

FENZ

Sharing maps, access and water information before a fire, not during one.

What you can do on your property

Small, practical steps that make a real difference

Check before you burn

Check the fire season and any permit needed at checkitsalright.nz.

Clear around buildings

Keep long grass, firewood and rubbish away from homes, sheds and yards.

Take care with machinery

Mowing, welding and grinding on hot, dry, windy days can start fires.

Keep access open

Make sure tracks and gateways are passable for fire trucks.

Know your water

Mark ponds, dams and tanks and keep access to them clear.

Know who to call

Share phone numbers with neighbours, including neighbouring forest managers.

All the little things together make the difference.

- Plan well
- Be prepared
- Work together

Questions?

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