



Saving Paradise

Waimakariri Ecological and Landscape Restoration Alliance (W.E.L.R.A.)

The following are funders and sponsors who have joined WELRA in the good fight:



Special thanks to the people of Canterbury, New Zealand, and the world, who volunteer their time.

Who/What is WELRA?

WELRA is an alliance formed in 2008 of concerned partners. Members represent local landowners and ratepayers, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Canterbury Environmental Trust, NZ Conservation Trust, and individual Conservationists.

WELRA can be contacted by email at: rgoldring@xtra.co.nz.

Website: www.welra.org.nz

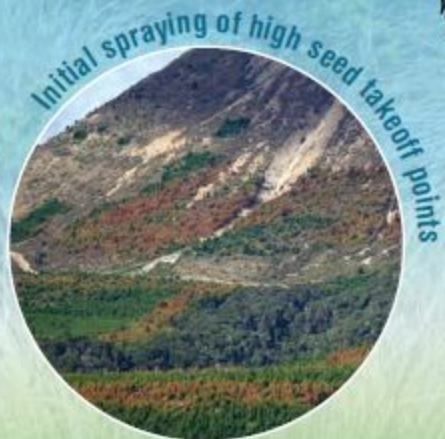
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The Castle Hill Basin and Upper Waimakariri Catchment, Canterbury, New Zealand.



Why does it need saving?

The steady march of rogue (wilding) trees is rapidly taking over this beautiful iconic area, obliterating native grasslands and herb fields, invading recreational areas such as the rocks at Kura Tawhiti and Cave Stream, skifields, and farmland. *Pinus contorta* (lodgepole pine), and Douglas fir (Oregon Pine) were planted originally in the '50's and '60's as research projects. They found New Zealand much more conducive to rapid growth than their native North America, and released their seeds freely in our friendly nor-westers. Seeds can travel 10 kms. from the parent tree, with young trees able to cone from 5 or 6 years of age. If we do not take action now, this green cancer will eventually smother the Torlesse Range obliterating our beautiful iconic landscapes.

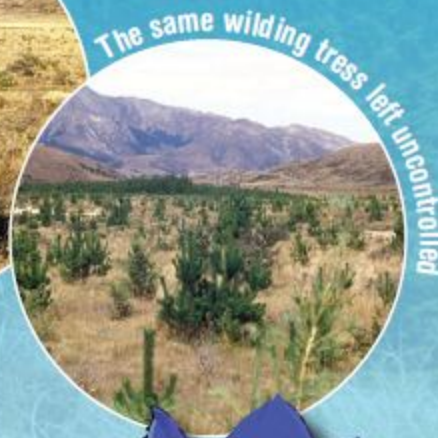
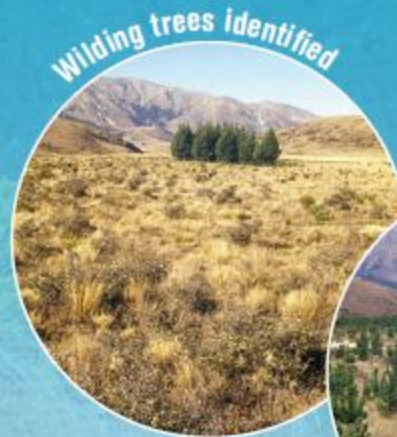


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What is being done?

WELRA raises funding for the eradication of the wildings, employing contractors on the ground, and using helicopters for aerial spraying.

Individuals and volunteers from tramping clubs and businesses armed with saws and loppers attack the outer edges of the infection, helping to create a buffer zone around the thicker areas, which are dealt to by professional teams. Contractors log suitable areas, and pay WELRA a fee, which is reinvested in control work.



What can you do?

You can volunteer to help; you can encourage your business, company, school or club to donate time and/or funding to the project (as Solid Energy does), or you could adopt an area. You can simply make sure every time you visit or recreate in the area you deal to some wildings. Come prepared with gloves, a saw or loppers. (You can borrow loppers and saws from Castle Hill Village – see email contact.)

Make sure ALL green needles are removed from the stump to prevent regrowth.

NO GREEN NEEDLES!

