

Wilding conifer management in New Zealand: a changing landscape

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Summary New Zealand is at a crossroads in the management of wilding conifers. New control methods provide an opportunity to turn the tide of wilding conifer invasion across our iconic high-country, and protect the value of our production and conservation lands for future generations. The evidence tells us that if we do not act now, the infestations and cost of wilding conifer management will become overwhelming.

The management of wilding conifers in New Zealand is complex and often involves a wide range of parties with different drivers or objectives. There is

a need to find a balance between realising the considerable benefit of appropriate conifer plantings, while minimising the adverse effects associated with conifer spread. Control operations can be large and long term, requiring significant investment across multiple parties and land tenures.

This presentation will outline the development of a national strategy that aims to support effective collaboration between land managers, researchers, regulators and communities to address the critical overarching issues facing wilding conifer management in New Zealand.