

## Ranger Report

Its already march and hooboy what a humdinger its been weather wise. From first glance the forest appears to have escaped any major damage, a few trees down over the tracks some rather large but mostly small. DOC have gone through and cleared these thankfully and the track are usable again. Off track I have come across two slips so far but there maybe more as we make our way around. These are best avoided where possible as the ground may still be unstable.





During February we conducted a small invertebrate monitoring project using the gear bought with funding. Three habitat types were chosen (conifer, broadleaf and fern) and a total of 143

invertebrates were collected over all sites with spiders being the most present (76), spiderlings made up almost half of the total spiders, followed by insects (49) and beetles. The total individuals collected from the three habitat types were very similar to each other. Across all habitat types spiders were the dominant followed by insects, beetles had the least individuals collected.



Figure 1: Pseudoscorpion



*Figure 2: Porrhothele antipodiana tunnel web spider*

All AT220s have been removed from the forest, A big thank you to the volunteers who helped over two days it was quite the mission.



We have started the removal of toxin from the forest as to be ready when the 1080 approval goes through. As we make our way around I believe we may find the extent of damage from the cyclone if there is any more to discover.

While out in the field I found these kiwi tracks above Whau Valley which is good to see. One set from what looks to be a newly hatched chick just starting to leave the nest and a sub adult.



*Figure 3: Sub adult kiwi*



*Figure 4: Kiwi chick prints*