



Title: “Where green isn’t welcome”

Description: Wilding pines advancing across pasture and tussock, Flock Hill.

Photographer: Rod Hay

Where, when: Flock Hill, Arthur’s Pass March 2013

Sustainability? Flock Hill Station is one of the large pastoral properties in the inter-montane basin between the Craigieburn and Torlesse Ranges in Canterbury. This is one of a number of extensive areas of the NZ high-country where wilding pines, particularly *Pinus contorta*, and other conifers have been spreading across the countryside, already covering several million hectares nationally. Based on current trends, unchecked wilding pines could cover 20 percent of the country in a few decades, having huge impacts on biodiversity, landscape and agricultural values. Even though, ironically, they could become a significant carbon store, they are a massive agricultural and conservation challenge, with about \$11 million spent nationwide every year on their control.

The source of these particular trees are old Forest Service experimental plantations nearby in the Craigieburn Range which were, in hindsight, a misguided attempt by the government decades ago to develop forestry using inappropriate species in the wrong places. We are not keeping on top of the problem nationally and inadequate investment in control makes for an increasingly expensive challenge as years go by.

But the story isn't all bad, the Flock Hill leaseholders, with the support of the Ministry of Primary Industries wilding control fund, have cleared huge areas of the conifers (as well as *Heiracium* - another scourge of the high country) on their land, improving the landscape and biodiversity values while at the same time increasing their agricultural production.

Photo notes: 1/320s, 27mm, f10, ISO 200, Olympus M12-50mm F3.5-6.3 on m4/3 Olympus OM-D E-M5.

Flock Hill has a lodge, which allows paying guests to see and enjoy the property and learn about the challenges of land management in the high country. This photo was opportunistic, taken while on a bike ride, and shows that less than perfect weather can sometimes yield good landscape photo opportunities.

Digital specs: 4608 x 3202 pixels (14.7 MP)

Key words: Weeds, Wilding pines, Flock Hill, Torlesse Range, rainbow, biodiversity, landscape, grasslands, Rod Hay, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability, Conservation

Price: \$200 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image

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Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society*

We recommend that the donation goes to the *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society* because it is a not-for-profit and nationwide conservation organisation that plays a significant role in conservation advocacy and policy, as well as supporting practical and local community projects.

Image Ref: RH#009 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Rod Hay

8 February 2021