restoration projects also need to be aware of these timeframes and exercise patience. This is often difficult for those people who enjoy seeing results immediately.

5. Collection of seeds or propagules should take place from areas of indigenous vegetation which are clearly of natural origin.
Collection from roadsides or small stands of native trees which are in a park setting or are surrounded by developed land is unwise as there is a good chance that the stock has been planted from non-local sources.

Collecting Seed from the Conservation Estate

Where possible it is recommended that seed collection take place on either private land or public land which is not managed for the purposes of conservation. In some situations, however, the only available and/or accessible seed source occurs on conservation land or reserves administered by the Department of Conservation. A permit or concession is required to undertake collection. The Department is working locally in an effort to make this process as easy as possible for organisations that are genuine about eco-sourcing either as a commercial activity or for a specific project. The type of permit or concession required and any associated costs are dependent on the scale and nature of the application.

For more information contact the Concessions Section of the Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Office (contact details below).

Other Useful Information Sources

- *http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtcit/ne/nativeplants.asp#ecosourcing* and in particular: Chris Ferkins. 2002. Ecosourcing - Code of Practice and Ethics. Published by Waitakere City Council. Downloadable as a pdf file.
- *http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/protecting-and-restoring-our-natural-heritage-a-practical-guide/*
- *http://www.arc.govt.nz/environment/plants-and-animals/native-plants/native-forest-restoration.cfm*
- Going Native - Making Use of New Zealand Plants Ian Spellerberg and David Given (Ed's) 2004. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.
- Plant Me Instead - West Coast, Nelson/Marlborough. Weedbusters.

Further Information

For further advice or information about eco-sourcing or native restoration or revegetation projects call either:
Department of Conservation, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Office Ph (03) 546 9335, or Department of Conservation, Motueka Area Office Ph (03) 528 1811

File no: 807568

Eco-Sourcing Guidelines for Nelson City

What is Eco-Sourcing?

Eco-sourced plants are those which are grown from seeds or propagules collected from naturally-occurring vegetation in a locality close to where they are replanted as part of a restoration or revegetation project.

Restoration versus Revegetation

Ecological restoration is 'management that aims to restore particular biotic communities to a condition more like that of a selected time period of the past'. (Atkinson, 1994.) This time period is commonly prior to human arrival. It is dependent on eco-sourcing.

Native revegetation is the process of establishing a new cover of indigenous plants. It does not necessarily reflect an end goal and is therefore not necessarily reliant on eco-sourcing, though it is desirable.

Cultural Considerations

Some indigenous revegetation projects may include provision for cultural planting i.e. plants which were translocated by iwi ancestors prior to European arrival. These

plants were translocated and used for a variety of purposes (e.g. ronga for medicine, boundary markers, seasonal indicators through flowering). Restoration or revegetation programmes which incorporate these species, indicate a pre-European timeframe as a goal, as opposed to a pre-human timeframe.

The cultural use of native plants by local iwi is something which can be considered for incorporation into restoration or revegetation management plans (e.g. wetland restoration using harakeke). In Nelson some iwi have their own nursery resources and may be able to provide stock for cultural planting projects.

It should also be noted that Māori have an interest in the intellectual property rights of indigenous plants through the Waitangi Tribunal proceedings (commonly referred to as WAI262).

Why Eco-Source?

The primary reasons for eco-sourcing in native revegetation and restoration projects are:

- to avoid the risk of planting species which are not native to Nelson City and which could become invasive;
- to maintain the distinctiveness of Nelson's local flora. For many species the appearance, physiology and genetic make-up vary considerably throughout their range in New Zealand; and
- local native wild plants are best suited to Nelson conditions and therefore typically grow better than those sourced from elsewhere.

The second bullet point ties in with Goal 3 of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy which includes the need to:
"Maintain and restore viable populations of all indigenous species and subspecies across their natural range and maintain their genetic diversity."

The maintenance of local genetic composition of widespread species is a key to maintaining the natural range of genetic diversity. Eco-sourcing is therefore a crucial element of local restoration initiatives and is endorsed by the NZ Biodiversity Strategy.

Eco-sourced planting projects may, in themselves, become excellent future supplies of seed and cuttings, particularly for species which are now regionally or nationally rare or threatened. It therefore becomes important to maintain records of eco-sourced projects.

Key Eco-Sourcing Principles

1. Plant species which are known to be native to Nelson City.

Nelson City has its own native plant restoration guide: Living Heritage - Growing Native Plants in Nelson which was produced by Nelson City Council and the Department of Conservation in 2003 to guide landowners and organisations involved in native restoration and revegetation projects on suitable species to grow over a range of ecosystems. This document is available on the Council's website:
http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/environment/LivingHeritagePlants_Guide.htm

2. The closer the seed source to the restoration project the better.

Even in instances where species have become sparse and localised in their abundance and distribution (e.g. pingao), or have become locally extinct (e.g. swamp maire), the source should be as close as possible to the restoration site. Most species should be able to be collected from within Eastern Nelson. Rare species might require collecting from the wider Tasman Bay area, while locally extinct species may require collection from Golden Bay, Marlborough Sounds or South Marlborough. If in doubt seek professional advice.

3. Collect from a similar ecosystem to the one being restored.

Some species grow in a variety of ecosystems and are capable of surviving a wide range of environmental conditions (e.g. manuka and wharariki). It is therefore good practice to collect from healthy and robust individuals from a habitat and set of environmental conditions which approximate those of the restoration or revegetation site. This should ensure good survival and growth rates.

4. Planning for restoration or revegetation projects must allow for the timeframes involved in collection and propagation of eco-sourced plant material.

This may mean a wait of two years or more between the inception of the programme and the plants being put in the ground.
The biggest barrier to this is often financial constraints whereby the project manager is told that they have a budget for a current financial year but not beyond because senior managers making financial decisions are unaware of the practicalities and realities surrounding ecological restoration. Education of those who fund projects is therefore an essential part of achieving good restoration outcomes.
Enthusiastic and well-meaning groups and individuals involved in smaller scale