

## PUREORA via RED SHED to BOG INN

**Topo50 Map:** BF34 Benneydale, BF35 Whakamaru & BG35 Tihoi

**GPS:** NZTM on WGS84

**How to get to START:** Exit Taupo northwards on **SH1** and turn off at the top of Control Gates Hill left to Poihipi Road. There are two routes with one being shorter but on gravel and both take the same length of time.

The clean route is to follow Poihipi to the end, turn right on SH32 to Whakamaru then left on SH30 towards Mangakino then left again heading for Benneydale. At about one hour (70km) turn left at Barryville into Pureora Forest Park heading for the DOC Centre. All is well signposted.

The dusty route is on Poihipi past Wairakei Forest then left to **Whangamata Road** for **Kinloch**. Do not turn left at the next sign for Kinloch but go straight ahead to turn right at a T-junction on **SH32** (Western Bay Road) then left into **Kakaho Road** in 34 minutes and cross two bridges. The road becomes gravel (37 minutes) before passing signs for **Kakoha Recreation Area** then just stay on the main well surfaced gravel road. The car park for the **Link Track** is passed at 57 minutes and ten kilometres further on reach the **DoC Centre** area at Pureora

*Times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo.*

**Rough Description:** The Timber Trail starts from near the DoC Centre in the Pureora Forest Park and heads south eastwards to meet up with the Toittoi Track ascending Mt Pureora. This tramp links the Timber Trail with the Toittoi Track to get up Pureora then descends via the old, degraded track to Bog Inn. Over 6 hours required to cover the 18 – 22km, distance depends on a new bridge being built or not on the exit road from Bog Inn. Check with the DoC Centre in the Forest Park on the status of the Bog Inn Road.



### Tramp start



### Diversion to the tractor



**Detail:** The start of the trail (**WP01576masl**) is easy to find and updated information is willingly supplied by the staff in the DoC Information Centre. the trail is heavily used by walkers, runners and bikers and makes getting to the Toi Toi track easy. From the start it is level walking on a wide, meandering track in magnificent forest and is usually cool if not cold - but remember that this is actually a bike trail so be very wary at all times. After 20 minutes or so there is the first of several wide, wooden bridges to cross (**WP02589masl**). In less than an hour or 3km (**WP03602masl**) there is a junction sign-posted north leading to an old crawler tractor 5 min down the track – it is worthwhile looking at this 1928 bit of kit. The second wooden bridge lies at just over 3km (**WP04612masl**) and a minute later (**WP05616masl**) the road which heads NE to a quarry is crossed. Fifteen minutes later a bigger road (**WP06635masl**) is met where the trail goes left then after 50m goes off right, 10 min later bridges 3 and 4 are crossed.

### Cabbage Tree Rd crossing



After 1:20- 1:35min and 6km Cabbage Tree Road (**WP08684masl**) is crossed with a sign indicating the Maraeroa Cycle Way going right on the road– from here the slopes do increase a fraction as some altitude is gained. In under 2 hours as another road (**WP09722masl**) is crossed the Red Shed can be seen on the edge of the tree line upslope to the SE on the right. The trail now winds up the now-noticeable slope crossing another two bridges en-route. Within about two hours (8km) the Red Shed (**WP11780masl**) is reached and this can make an excellent rest spot as there is shelter if the weather is inclement and there are very good views to the west.

### Heading to the Red Shed



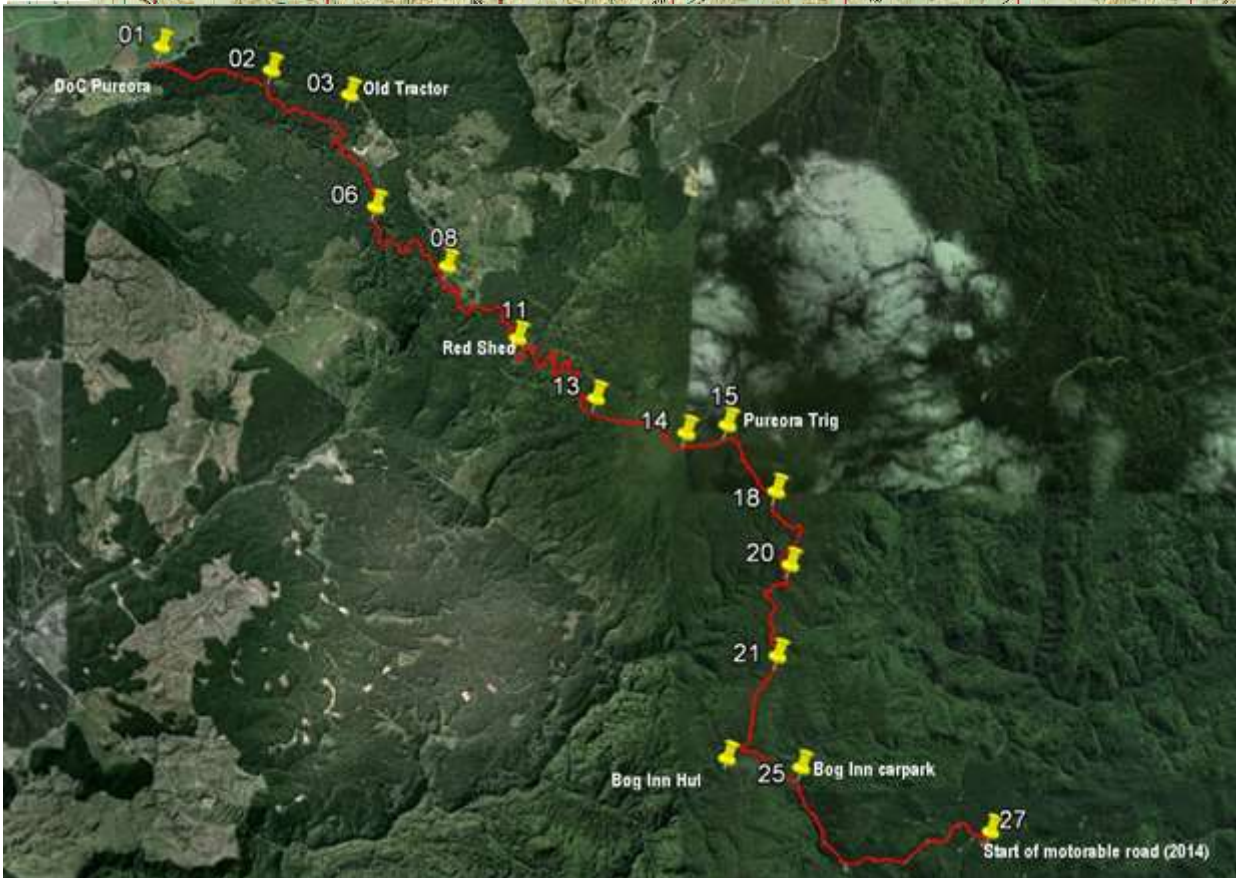
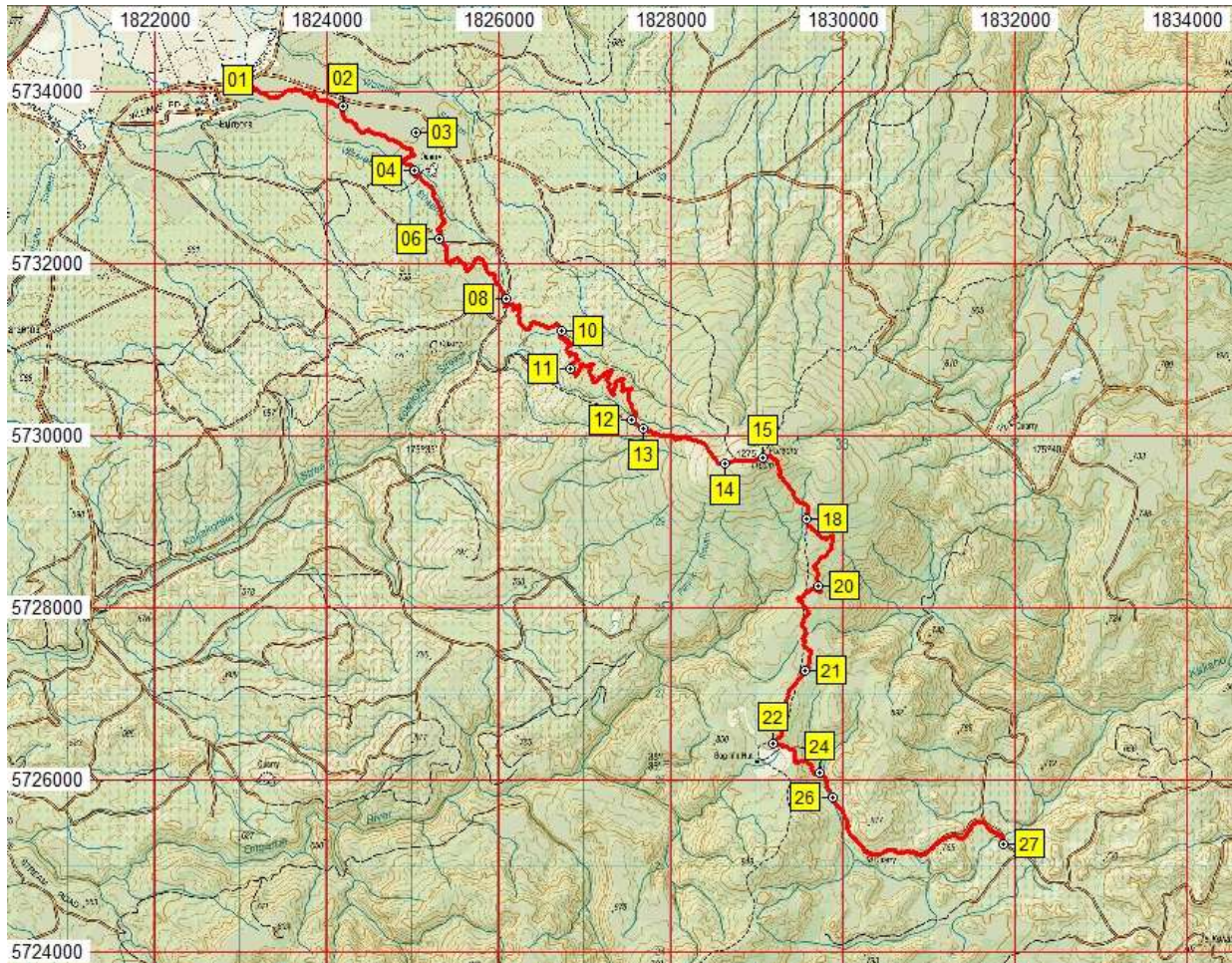
### Red Shed



The track continues up the left side of the Red Shed and it is back into the bush. Like in other places there are good information boards on this section as it wiggles its way uphill to the SE. There are a few minor slopes and a few slippery bits due to ground-water oozing out but overall it is very easy going – even on a bike. The wiggles more or less stop at **WP12924masl** then there is a left turn uphill on to the Toittoi Track as it crosses the Timber Trail (**WP13960masl**). There is now a distinct change as the track is virtually not maintained so some care has to be taken on this back-country track.

### Junction to Toittoi Track





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
00	1822752	5734015		Pureora DOC Centre
01	1822968	5734132	576	Start of Timber Trail 350m east of DOC Centre
02	1824184	5733825	589	20min (1.6km); wooden bridge
03	1825045	5733524	602	58min 3km; five minute spur to the north to old tractor picnic site
04	1825023	5733080	612	48min (3.3km); without tractor spur second wooden bridge (1:10min with 3.7km if tractor visited)
05	1825096	5732999	616	50min (3.5km); cross roads with old track - N is to quarry
06	1825307	5732277	635	1:01min (4.4km); go left on metalled road then off right back on Timber Trail
07	1825444	5732013	642	1:07min (4.7km); third wooden bridge with a fourth bridge five min later
08	1826084	5731595	684	1:23min (5.9km); cross Cabbage Tree Road which is marked as Maraeroa Cycle Way to right
09	1826366	5731268	722	1:46min (6.7km); road crossing with Red Shed visible on tree line to the right (SE)
10	1826731	5731219	736	1:52min (7.2km); two wooden bridges close together on ascent up to Red Shed
11	1826839	5730778	780	2:05min (8km); Red Shed (shelter) with massive views to west. Into bush and uphill on cycleway
12	1827541	5730193	924	2:43min (10.3km); change from due S to SE after zigzagging uphill section above Red Shed
13	1827675	5730092	960	2:49min (10.5km); Junction of Timber Trail and Toitoti Track. Left uphill
14	1828627	5729682	1124	3:18min (11.7km); Toitoti track with board boardwalk & steps on almost level area
15	1829066	5729756	1182	3:28min (12.2km); trig point on Pureora (GPS showed 13km)
16	1829431	5729288	1097	4:13min (13km), +/- level area after "nasty" descent to cross stream
17	1829552	5729204	1059	4:17min (13.1km), south flowing stream, dreadful track
18	1829580	5729040	973	4:23min (13.3km); off the dreadful old track and left on Timber Trail bike track
19	1829694	5728442	917	4:38min (14.3km); fast easy walking in great forest with awesome mossy tree
20	1829721	5728247	899	4:42min (14.5km); minor bend with notice and view of Taupo area, then shadow old track
21	1829562	5727265	855	5:01min (16km); easy walking, level area with Y-fork, off left on original track for Bog Inn
22	1829189	5726421	832	5:20min (17km); at foot of steepish descent to meet T-junction with Bog Inn 15min to the right
BI	1828988	5726170	822	Bog Inn Hut not visited this trip)
23	1829442	5726212	822	5:27min (17.4km); Weraroa junction off to right with name board
24	1829738	5726078	774	5:34min (17.8km); steep descent to open area then parallel to stream
25	1829794	5726043	758	5:37min (17.9km); bridge then gravel road with car park with 40min on road to go
26	1829874	5725796	765	5:41min (18.2km); small second Bog Inn carpark on left; road becomes undulating
27	1831872	5725255	663	6:19min (20.9km); motorable road just past stream line with monster bunds blocking road.

There is a sign advising that the Pureora Trig is only 40 minutes uphill and, in fact, it takes less than 40 minutes. The delights of the old track are very apparent with sufficient mud and eroded parts to keep all very happy. Old boardwalk is hit after another 30 minutes (WP14<sup>1124masl</sup>), the bush begins to thin and soon the actual trig (WP15<sup>1182masl</sup>) can be seen on the horizon and was arrived at after a total time of 3:28min (12.2km). There is a communications mast on the summit powered by PV panels and clear signs indicating the way down to Link Road. By going to the end of the walkable area on the crest the track down to Bog Inn can be found, but the start is heavily overgrown and if you do not know it is there you might never actually find it

As they say "it is all downhill" from here and the hard work of the day starts as the track is not well used and is much degraded in places though it is easy to follow the line of the track and is good enough to allow safe walking. There is a level area (WP16<sup>1097masl</sup>) after a "nasty" descent then a stream is crossed (WP17<sup>1059masl</sup>). The scrambling goes on for a bit then there is a wonderful surprise when the rough stuff stops and the Timber Trail (WP18<sup>973masl</sup>) is once again encountered and used by turning to the right. There is now a kilometre or so of delightful, level walking on the bike track through magnificent wet forest heading to the SE then the SW – note one particularly awesome moss-covered tree (WP19<sup>917masl</sup>). All this is more distance than the old track but much-much quicker. About 4 hours 45 minutes at around 900m there is a viewpoint looking towards the Taupo area (WP20) then the trail crisscrosses the old mapped track whilst heading S to SSW. On coming down a steepish slope a junction with a notice board is reached at around 5 hours (WP21<sup>855masl</sup>) where the route to Bog Inn goes off left to follow the old track whilst the Timber Trail swings off to the right – walking here is still pretty easy and almost level.

#### Moss covered trees



#### Established bike track



#### The last hurdle



Near the bottom of a yet another slightly steep descent another notice board is met at a T-junction (WP22<sup>832masl</sup>) with Bog Inn 15 minutes off to the right and the Weraroa Track signposted to the left. Five or six minutes of level walking reaches the signposted Weraroa Track (WP23<sup>822masl</sup>) going off to the right. Ten minutes after this junction there is a steep descent to an open area where the track is parallel to the stream (WP24<sup>774masl</sup>) then two minutes later there is a bridge (WP25<sup>758masl</sup>) and a sign for the Hauhungaroa Route and the track ends on a gravel road with a car park. However this car park has not been accessible for quite some time so the walk continues for another 3km or 40 minutes down the road, passing a secondary car park (WP26<sup>765masl</sup>) on this undulating forest road. The end really is nigh when a massive bund blocking the road is reached for it is then over the bund, turn right then get down and through the small incised valley without getting the feet wet to reach another bund and the motorable road.

#### Notes:

- **GPS:** (Garmin GPSMap 62sc
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS units