



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES	
ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES
Command, control and firefighting arrangements (FMM 4.1 & 4.2)	- First fire personnel of any agency on site must assume control of the fire, but must ensure the relevant land management agency is promptly notified. - On arrival of other fire agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with the other agencies on the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations. - The use of earth-moving equipment, retardants and aerial suppression must be approved by a senior NPWS officer.
Aircraft Operations (NPWS FMM 4.4 & 4.8)	- Aerial water bombing and aerial ignitions are permissible in this reserve, however can only be used and commenced on the instruction of the incident controller or senior NPWS officer. - Water bombing operations should support containment operations by aggressively attacking flanks, hotspots, spot-overs and head fires where required. - Where possible, foams should be used to increase the effectiveness of water, however limit use within 50m of watercourses and dams. - The use of water bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to specific circumstances as determined by the senior NPWS officer. - Ground crews must be briefed and alerted to aerial ignition and water bombing operations
Back burning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	- All backburning operations must be planned and approved by a senior NPWS officer. - All crews must be briefed on the sequence and safety precautions of the operation. - Generally, burning should commence when the humidity rises in late afternoon or early evening and spotting is minimal. With a low FDI, burning may be safely undertaken during the day. - Where practicable, clear 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to burning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition preparation.
Control lines (NPWS FMM 3.9)	- Existing constructed or natural fire control advantages should be used, wherever possible, to contain bushfires. - Trails that comply with the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee Policy 103 "Fire Trails" are identified on this operations map. - As a minimum, management trails identified on the operations map are maintained to a standard to provide access to Category 9, unless otherwise indicated. - Dormant trails may be used as a strategic control line during an incident, however may need some mechanical work to clear regenerating vegetation and fallen timbers.
Earth moving machinery (NPWS FMM 4.3)	- Strategies involving earth-moving equipment must be approved by the senior NPWS officer before implementation. - Earth-moving equipment must be supervised and guided by an experienced NPWS officer or a person recognised to be appropriately experienced. - All earth-moving equipment employed in fire operations must be accompanied by a support vehicle that has equipment available to contact support personnel in an emergency. Plant involved in direct or parallel attack must be accompanied by either a slip-on or a fire tanker for safety purposes. - At the commencement of shifts, all operators and guides must be briefed on safety considerations and actions to prevent damage to sensitive natural and cultural heritage. - Where possible, control lines running along valley areas should be constructed 20-50m from gullies to avoid severe erosion.
Fire suppression chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.9)	- Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. - Use of retardants must be authorised by the senior NPWS officer. - Retardants should be ammonium sulphate based and should not be used where reasonable alternatives are available. - As far as possible, exclude the use of surfactants and retardant within 50m of watercourses and dams. - Use surfactants and retardants where natural advantages provide the most effective applications of the chemicals.
Post fire rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	- The rehabilitation process should be addressed during the incident, in the Incident Action Plan.
Smoke management (NPWS FMM 3.4)	- The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations. - Where smoke has the potential to be a hazard on local roads or highways the police, RTA, local shire council and relevant media must be notified. - Monitor local roads and access for smoke hazards and install road safety/warning signs where necessary. Traffic control must comply with RTA Traffic Control at Worksites Manual requirements.
Transmission lines (Powerlines)	- May cause danger to ground personnel through smoke conduction of electricity through the air - Contact the relevant authority to turn the power off prior to back burning operations under lines
Water supplies	- Access to water supplies on private property will be negotiated prior to use, except according to S44 provisions - Arrangements will be made to replace water used after the fire, as required.

SUPPRESSION STRATEGIES	
FFDI	OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES
Current Low - Mod & Forecast Low - Mod	- Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. - Where practicable, consider re-igniting the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns in the fire planning strategy and Bushfire Management Committee agreements.
Current Low - Mod & Forecast High or >	- In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines. - Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted wind side. - Consider fall back containment strategies.
Current High or > Forecast High or >	- Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines. - Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire. - Allow sufficient time to secure containment lines to avoid wasted effort and potential failure. - Prepare and implement fall back containment strategies.
Fire Advantages	- Streams in the reserve are intermittent and should not be regarded as passive control lines under normal conditions - Reserve trails will function as fire advantages

Note: Always ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them.

FIRE SEASON INFORMATION
The critical fire season occurs between December and February, when the potential for fire events is at its highest. Particular care and monitoring is required during periods of prolonged drought when strong negative Southern Oscillation Indices occur and low pressure systems dominate through central and southern Australia during and leading up to the summer season. During these times fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour in windy conditions and exceed current rate of spread indices. Any proposed prescribed burning should be undertaken before late autumn precipitation occurs. Least likely period to disrupt fauna during prescribed burning is at the end of March and April, depending on weather conditions (past, present and forecast). Any fire in spring should be avoided. During the fire season prevailing winds during the day are from the north and northwest. In the evenings and nights winds can often come from the east (based on average seasonal information).

South West Slopes Region Mount Dowling Nature Reserve Fire Operations Map 2006

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This Map should be used in conjunction with air photos and ground reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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LIFE & PROPERTY GUIDELINES	
Visitor safety (NPWS FMM 3.6)	Where possible: - Visitors in or adjacent to the fire ground will not be permitted unless authorised by the Incident Controller. The presence of visitors should be reported to the incident controller immediately, who will arrange for an evacuation if necessary. - Park closed or 'smoke hazard' signs must be placed in areas used by visitors prior to undertaking prescribed burning. - Notify media that wildfire or prescribed fire exists within the reserve/area.
Asset Protection (FMM 4.10)	There are no recorded assets within the reserve.

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT ZONE GUIDELINES	
ZONE	GUIDELINES (WITHIN THE ZONE)
HMZ 1 (High Priority)	Where possible: - Contain fires to small areas and lower potential intensity and manage to produce mosaic burn patterns. - Avoid the use of earth moving machinery. - Avoid the use of surfactants/retardants. - Protect mature trees and avoid felling large and hollow bearing trees during 'trap up' activities. - Prescribed fire should be avoided, unless deemed necessary for ecological purposes.
HMZ 2	Where possible: - Minimise the potential for fire to spread and/or contain to existing control lines. - Where wildfires occur in untreated areas programmed for prescribed burning (ie. SFMZ). - Prescribed fire or other fuel management operations may be applied to the area, to reduce potential risks. - Manage fire to produce mosaic (patchy) burn patterns (where weather conditions permit). - Earthmoving equipment may be used to contain fire within DEC policy guidelines. - Retardants and foams may be used to suppress fire, however minimise use within 50m of water courses and dams.

CULTURAL HERITAGE GUIDELINES	
THEME	GUIDELINES
Aboriginal & Historic Heritage (FMM 4.11)	- Brief personnel involved in control line construction and vehicle based fire suppression operations on site locations and the required management strategies for site protection. Include in Incident Action Plans. - Liaise with the relevant heritage officer and/or representative where considered necessary.
Scarred trees	- Clear fuels, with hand tools, from tree base and/or foam base to 3m up tree trunk. - Do not clear or fell trees. - Where possible, avoid new trail construction within 20m of trees and construct trails on the advancing fire side of the tree. - Hazard reduction or back burning operations should minimise the potential threat of radiant heat on the tree.
Rock arrangements, rock engravings, bora rings, etc	- Avoid new trail construction or ground disturbance within close proximity of site. Where possible, ensure site is protected by constructing trails or hand tool lines on the advancing fire side. - Clear, by hand, excess fuels from the site. - Avoid direct attack methods (including aerial water bombing) at known sites. Surfactants and retardants in aerial line drops may be used adjacent to, but not directly on sites. - Hazard reduction or back burning operations should avoid the potential threat of radiant heat and smoke (carbon deposition) on sites.
Art sites and overhangs	- Avoid new trail construction or ground disturbance within close proximity of site. Where practicable, ensure site is protected by constructing trails or hand tool lines on the advancing fire side. - Clear, by hand (whipper snippers, brush cutters, mowers), excess fuels from the site. - Avoid direct attack methods on sites. - Avoid aerial water bombing, use of foams and retardants at known sites. Use of foam or aerial line drops may be used adjacent to, but not directly on sites. - Hazard reduction or back burning operations should avoid the potential threat of radiant heat and smoke (carbon deposition) on the site.
Open camp sites	- Avoid ground disturbance at or within close proximity of the site (30m). Earthmoving blades should be raised in these locations to avoid damage to sites on trails, unless a "Consent to Destroy" has been attained. - Avoid direct attack methods (including aerial water bombing) at known sites. - Use of foam or aerial line drops may be used adjacent to, but not directly on sites.
Historic Heritage Trig Sites	- Avoid earthmoving or structural disturbance in the immediate area of the sites. - Use of retardants and surfactants is recommended. - Avoid water bombing directly on features.

FMM - contains extracts from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Manual (December 2004). For the purposes of public education, some information will not be displayed due to obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 1989, Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, regulations and amendments, and Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Environment and Conservation and Aboriginal Information.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS				
AGENCY/RESOURCE	CHANNEL	MRX FREQ.	MTX FREQ.	NOTES
NPWS (VHF)	6	MRX 78.7750	MTX 81.2750	Mt Ginn - may be marginal in some areas of this reserve.
	8	MRX 78.7500	MTX 81.2500	Mt Cronin - may be marginal in some areas of this reserve.
NPWS (VHF) FIRE GROUND	17	82.3875	82.3875	Channel to be determined by ground crew, crew leaders, Division commanders etc. Any changes will be noted in IAP.
	18	79.8375	79.8375	
	19	79.9625	79.9625	
RFS (PMR)	29			Consult with RFS to determine primary communications during an incident.
	71			
RFS (UHF) CB	14, 12 & 6			
AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATIONS (Fire Communication Traffic Advisory Frequencies F-CTAF)		119.10 Mrz	State wide	
		120.80 Mrz	State wide	
		122.80 Mrz	State wide	
		123.45 Mrz	State wide	Pilots (chit chat) "The Numbers" channel
		128.70 Mrz	State wide	
		132.75 Mrz	State wide	

Mobile Phone Coverage - coverage is marginal in valleys and hill shadow areas.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS				
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	RURAL FIRE SERVICE	EMERGENCY SERVICES	0 0 0	
SWS Queanbeyan Area Office (BHV)	6299 2929	Cooma-Monaro Fire Control Centre	6452 5633	POLICE - Michelago
SWS Queanbeyan Area Office Fax	6297 9408	State Operations (24 hrs)	8741 5400	Cooma
SWS Queanbeyan Area Workshop	6297 8601	COUNCILS		AMBULANCE
Incident Answering Service (AHS)	1800 629 104	Cooma-Monaro Council	6450 1777	SES Queanbeyan
SWS Regional Office (Tumut)	6947 7000	Bodalla Aboriginal Land Council	4473 5404	Fire Brigade - Cooma
NEIGHBOUR INFORMATION				6292 2037
Consult SWS Region databases				OTHER ORGANISATIONS
				Wildcare (24 Hr)
				6299 1966

Mount Dowling Nature Reserve - Waypoints						
Name	Ref No	Description	Easting	Northing	Longitude	Latitude
Summitt Helipad	H1	Remote Helipad	705780	6019850	149° 16' 53"	35° 56' 38"
Wangrah Creek		Waterpoint - Vehicle	707580	6021730	149° 16' 03"	35° 55' 36"
Stirke-a-light River		Waterpoint - Vehicle	701870	6022950	149° 14' 15"	35° 56' 30"

- Assembly Area
- Base Camp
- Control Centre
- Staging Area
- Airbase
- Water Point - Helicopter
- Water Point - Vehicle
- Refuge Area
- Escape Route
- Farm Dam
- Spotlight
- Survey Landmark
- Gate
- Locked Gate
- Homestead Complex
- Asset
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Flora
- Asset Buffer Zone
- BFC Standard Trail
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Dormant
- Walking Track
- Railway
- Landing Ground
- Gas Pipe Line
- Major Power Line (With Voltage)
- Minor Power Line
- State Border
- 100m Contour
- 20m Contour
- Cadastral
- River
- Creek
- Drainage Line
- Waterbody
- DEC Estate - HMZ1
- DEC Estate - HMZ2
- Other DEC Estate
- Crown Land
- State Forest
- Timber Plantation
- Wooded Area
- Karst Area
- Recently Burnt Area
- Sealed Road
- Main Unsealed Road
- Minor Unsealed Road
- Trail
- Dormant Trail

