

Thirlmere Lakes National Park and the Nattai Reserves System Fire Management Strategy

2006
Map Sheet 4 of 4 (South-West Section)

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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), June 2006
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Fire Season Information

Wildfires

- The statutory wildfire season occurs between 1st October and 31st March. This may be extended if weather conditions lead to increased fire danger outside of this period.

Prescribed Burning

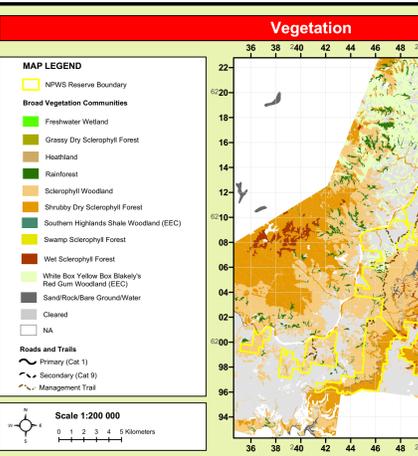
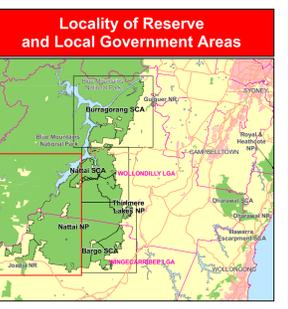
- Prescribed burning in the area is normally undertaken in Autumn through to Spring.

Related Documents

- National Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management Manual, September 2005
- The Nattai and Thirlmere Lakes Fire Management Strategy Type 3, June 2006
- The Native Vegetation of the Warangamba Special Area, Part A – Technical Report and Part B Vegetation Community Profiles, February 2003
- Sydney South Region Incident Procedures and Contact Lists, 2005
- Threatened Species Hazard Reduction Guidelines, Parts 1, 2 and 3, NSW Rural Fire Service, As amended
- Recovering Bushland of the Cumberland Plain, Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW, 2005

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Regional Duty Officer (24 hour)	0419 428 354
	Nattai Area Manager	0419 408 851
	Fire Management Officer	0419 402 105
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0419 528 291
Sydney South Region Office	24 Hours	0419 402 105
	Business Hours	0419 402 105
Wingcarbee District NSW Rural Fire Service	24 Hours	0417 3765
	Business Hours	0417 3765
SES	Wingcarbee Shire	000
	Wingcarbee Shire	0417 4477
Police	Fire Unit	0417 8999
	Emergency	000
Ambulance	Fire Unit	0417 1922
	Emergency	000
Hospital	Robbin	131 233
	Camden District	4628 1000
Council	Robbin District	486 9200
	Wingcarbee Shire Council	0417 1100
	Wingcarbee Shire Council	486 0888



Operational Guidelines

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2005. Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

General

- The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spot fires.
- The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.
- Where practicable, bombs should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water.
- Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.

Aerial Ignition

- Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of NPWS Regional Manager or Section 44 Delegate.
- Unless incidents to supply progress back-burn down slope where required.
- Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored closely to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day.
- Where practicable, clear a radius around dead and flammable trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or felled down these trees as part of the backburn operation.
- Avoid ignition of backburns on the bottom of slopes where a long and steep up slope burn is likely.
- The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.
- On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BEMC Plan of Operations.
- Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Where practicable, containment lines should be established and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.

Containment Lines

- Containment lines should be established and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.

Earthmoving Equipment

- Earthmoving equipment must be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer, and only if the probability of its success is high.
- Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack the vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle.
- Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.
- Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate.

Fire Advantage Recording

- All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
- Writing and forming agents (verbifacets) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.
- The use of natural barriers only qualified with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available.
- Where the use of surfactants and retardants are used in matted, watercourses, dams and swamps.
- Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be recorded and the used product's name recorded.
- The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.

Rehabilitation

- Where practicable, containment lines should be established and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.
- Smoke management becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.
- Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RFA traffic management guidelines.

Vegetation Management

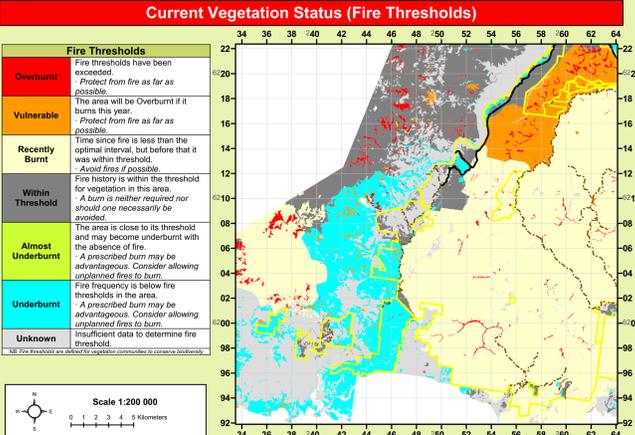
- The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	2	High Range - Moderate coverage - all reserves
NPWS - VHF	4	High Range - Limited coverage - high range
NPWS - VHF	9	Wingcarbee Hospital - Limited coverage on high range
NPWS - VHF	95	Wingcarbee - Moderate coverage - all reserves
Mobile Phone - GSM		Coverage in high range
Satellite Phone		Moderate coverage

Vegetation Communities and Biodiversity Thresholds

Region	Vegetation Community	Biodiversity Thresholds	Fire Behaviour	Year Burned	Area (ha)
A	Freshwater Wetland	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 25 years.	Low	1997-98 2001-02	1.4 1.4
B	Shrubby Dry Sclerophyll Forest	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 7 years. Avoid fire exclusion for a period of < 30 years.	Moderate	1997-98 2001-02 2002-03	1.3 276.7 1910.3
C	Heathland	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 30 years. Avoid fire exclusion for a period of < 30 years.	Low to moderate	1997-98 2001-02	0.2 92.5
D	Swamp Sclerophyll Woodland	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 7 years. Avoid fire exclusion for a period of < 35 years.	Moderate	2001-02	0.6
E	Sclerophyll Woodland	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 5 years. Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 40 years.	Moderate	1995-96 1997-98 2001-02 2002-03	177.1 2340.5 2040.1 92.2
F	Grassy Dry Sclerophyll Forest	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 5 years. Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 40 years.	Moderate	1997-98 2001-02	116.6 308.7
G	Wet Sclerophyll Forest	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 5 years. Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 40 years.	High	1997-98 2001-02	151.4 839.0
H	Rainforest	Fire should be avoided.	High	1995-96 1997-98 2001-02 2002-03	5.4 13.7 248.1 1.0
L	White Box Yellow Box Biskaya's Red Gum Woodland (EEC)	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 10 years. Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 50 years.	Moderate	1997-98 2001-02	215.0 150.1
M	Southern Highlands Shale Woodland (EEC)	Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 10 years. Avoid successive fires at intervals of < 50 years.	Moderate	2001-02	161.7
N	Cleared				
NI	Sand/Rock/Bare Ground/Water	Not applicable.			



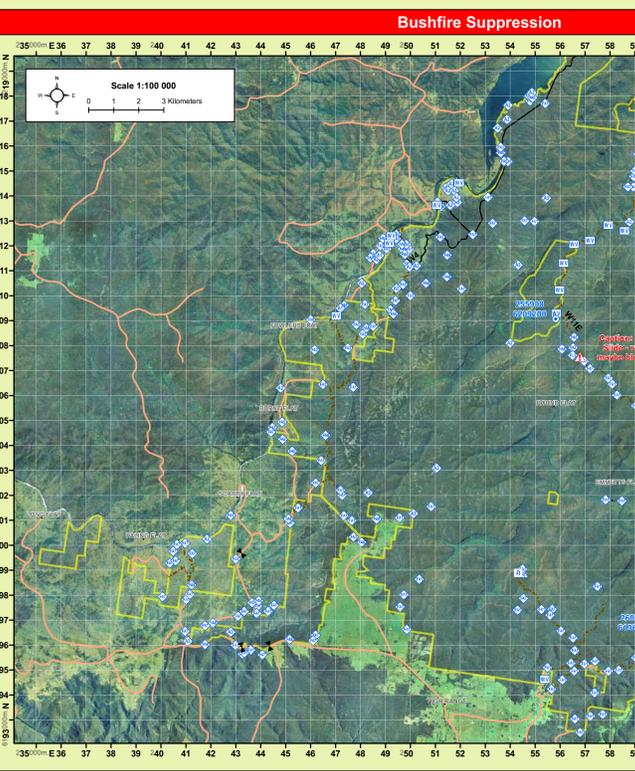
Suppression Strategies

Current FDR Forecast FDR

Low - Mod	Low - Mod	Low - Mod
As far as possible, undertake indirect, parallel or direct attack along existing control lines.	As far as possible, maximise area burnt without threatening assets, including biodiversity.	Identify and survey backburn control lines.
Undertake indirect, parallel or direct attack to minimise the time taken to contain the fire.	Undertake indirect, parallel or direct attack to minimise the time taken to contain the fire.	Identify and survey backburn control lines.
Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed control lines.	Secure and deepen control lines along the next predicted side of the fire.	Identify and survey backburn control lines.
Ensure there is sufficient time to secure control lines before the fire gets to them.	If there is insufficient time to secure control lines, fall back to the next potential control line.	As far as possible, implement threatened species and cultural heritage management guidelines.

Threatened Fauna Fire Ecology

Label	Name	Fire Ecology
	Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Vulnerable)	Avoid burning of Allocasuarina thickets.
	Chinthees plumbeus (Vulnerable)	Recorded as being present in equal numbers in burnt and unburnt forest 8 months after fire.
	Heleopoma australiense (Vulnerable)	Exclude fire from known sites.
	Lathamus discolor (Endangered)	No slashing, thinning or tree removal.
	Minivittus schreibleri (Vulnerable)	Maintain a mosaic of age classes within habitat.
	Mormopterus norfolkensis (Vulnerable)	Maintain a mosaic of age classes within habitat.
	Megascops australis (Vulnerable)	Recorded as being more common in burnt than unburnt areas 8 years after fire.
	Phascogaster olearius (Vulnerable)	Post fire areas may be recolonised within 6 - 18 months. With seedlings providing many numbers and less leaves for improved food quality.
	Phascogaster australis (Vulnerable)	Avoid burning adjacent to streams, and burning around spherical drainage lines near the headwaters of creeks.
	Troglodytes (Vulnerable)	Avoid burning around known nesting sites at any time.



Threatened Flora Fire Ecology

Label	Name	Fire Ecology
	Allocasuarina (Endangered)	Avoid high intensity fires within known locations.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Maintain minimum fire interval of < 8-9 years.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid burns during summer when species is flowering.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid tree construction, ground disturbances within known locations.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire during flowering period (< 2000).
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Maintain minimum fire interval of < 8-10 years.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Maintain minimum fire interval of < 10-10 years.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire during flowering period (< 2000).
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Maintain minimum fire interval of < 8-10 years.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid moderate to high intensity fires in known locations.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire during flowering period (August - March) to ensure adequate seedbank deposit.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire management operations in known locations to minimise disturbance to soil seedbank.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Maintain minimum fire interval of < 8-10 years.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid moderate to high intensity fires in known locations.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire during flowering period (August - March) to ensure adequate seedbank deposit.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire management operations in known locations to minimise disturbance to soil seedbank.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Maintain minimum fire interval of < 8-10 years.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid moderate to high intensity fires in known locations.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire during flowering period (August - March) to ensure adequate seedbank deposit.
	Allocasuarina glauca (Endangered)	Avoid fire management operations in known locations to minimise disturbance to soil seedbank.

Resource Guidelines

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	As far as possible, protect site from fire.
A1	Do not cut down trees.
A2	Use of chains, cutting agents & retardant is acceptable.
A3	As far as possible, protect site from fire.
Threatened Fauna Management	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
FA1	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
FA2	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
FA3	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
FA4	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
FA5	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
FA6	Avoid ground disturbance including handtools, dozers.
Threatened Flora Management	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & HR, as far as possible.
FL1	Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
FL2	Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
FL3	Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
Threatened Property	Where possible, property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event should be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire, and asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.

