Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

Northern Tablelands Region
Single NP
Fire Management Strategy 2012
<mapsheet 1 of 1>

This strategy should be used in conjunction with aerial photography and field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

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 part of the Office of Environment & Heritage.
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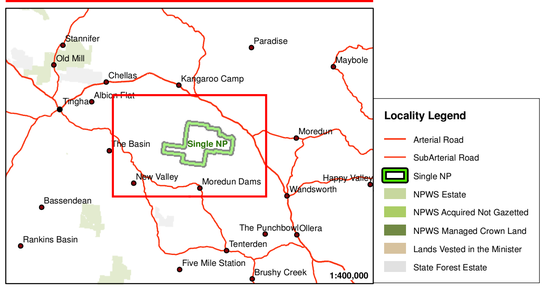
Contact: Northern Tablelands Region, P.O Box 402 Armidale NSW 2350. Ph 6776 0000

ISBN: *1 7412 2214 1* OEH No. 205/470 | **Date Approved:** 30/10/2005
Datum: GDA 94 **Projection:** UTM **Grid:** MGA Zone 56 | Noted scales are true when this map is reproduced on A0 size paper
Assume all gates locked | **Contour Interval 10 metres**

Locality



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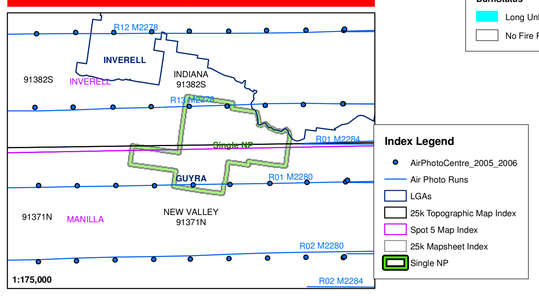
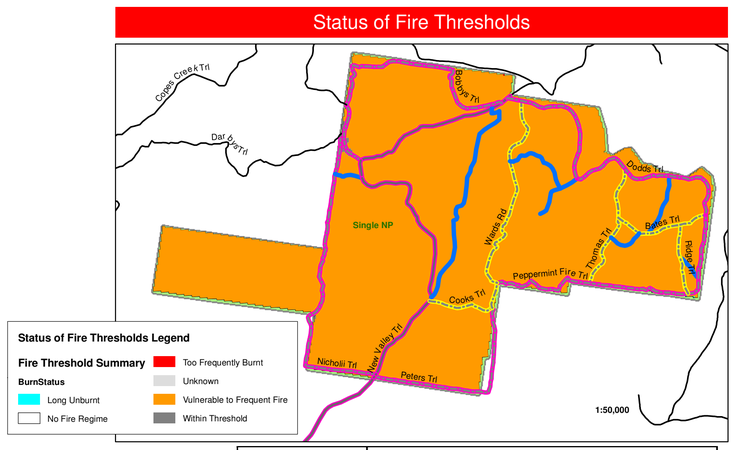


Status of Fire Thresholds



Category Name	Guidelines for interpreting fire regime threshold status
Too Frequently Burnt Consecutive fire intervals shorter than recommended minimum interval	These areas have experienced sustained (two or more) consecutive intervals between fires shorter than the recommended minimum interval for this vegetation type. Any Rainforest / Mangrove / fire exclusion vegetation that has been burnt will be in this category. *Areas of vegetation that are repeatedly burnt at intervals shorter than recommended for the vegetation type may experience a decline in the abundance of plant species sensitive to frequent fire. If inter- fire intervals shorter than the recommended minimum continue, these sensitive species are at risk of local extinction. Attempts should be made to minimise fire occurrence in these areas.*
Vulnerable to Frequent Fire Most recent fire interval shorter than recommended minimum interval	These areas have already experienced one inter-fire interval less than the minimum interval recommended for this vegetation type and/or the current time-since-fire is less than the minimum recommended interval. All unburnt Rainforest / Mangrove / fire exclusion vegetation is in this category.
Within Threshold	The time-since-fire age of the vegetation is greater than the minimum recommended inter-fire interval and less than the maximum recommended inter-fire interval. If a fire occurs before the number of years specified as the minimum interval has been reached it will move into the 'Vulnerable to Frequent Fire' category. If three or more fires occur in close succession the area will move into the 'Too Frequently Burnt' category.
Long Unburnt One or more fire intervals longer than longest suggested interval	The post-fire age of the vegetation is greater than the recommended maximum inter-fire interval for this vegetation type. *It fire continues to be absent from the vegetation for a prolonged time, it is anticipated that plant species that require fire to stimulate flowering or seed production (and their seed banks) may begin to senescence. Long unburnt areas in some vegetation types are very rare and therefore significant. Long unburnt vegetation may also have other ecological values that make it important habitat for certain species in a given area. Careful consideration should be given before burning these areas, and wherever possible the decision should be based on a scientific assessment and/or recommendation prior to burning.*
Unknown	There has been no fire mapped for this area and the maximum recommended fire interval for the vegetation type is longer than the length of time for which fire records are available in the study area. It is not possible to determine if the vegetation is in the 'Within Threshold' or 'Long Unburnt' category.
No Fire Regime	Areas which do not have recommended fire intervals assigned to them, e.g. cleared land, rock etc.

Operational Guidelines

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. • Ensure close liaison with the relevant Sites Officer in order to check for &/or identify new sites.
Historic Heritage Management (NPWS FMM 4.10)	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type.
Threatened Fauna Management (NPWS FMM 4.12 & 5.2)	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. • Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &/or intensity will have a significant or unknown impact.
Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)	• Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction &/or vehicle based fire suppression operations, on site locations and the required management strategies appropriate to the site type. • Where practicable, protect populations or individuals from fire if the fire frequency threshold has been exceeded, or the species is an obligate seeder (fire response category), or if the fire frequency threshold &/or fire response category is unknown. • Where possible, protect old growth habitat trees.
Threatened Property	All property owners with assets at possible risk from a wildfire event will be: • Kept informed regarding the progress of the fire; and • Asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.
General	**Guidelines**
Aerial Water Bombing (NPWS FMM 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spotovers. • The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances • Where practicable foam should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water. • Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
Aerial Ignition (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.4 / NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPs O2-4 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)	• Aerial ignition may be used during fuel reduction and backburning operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer.
Backburning (NPWS FMM 4.8)	• Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement backburns. Generally, when the FDI is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning **may** be safely undertaken during the day. • Where practicable, clear a 1 m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition. • Brief all involved personnel on the location of cultural sites and threatened species prior to backburning, and adhere to the above guidelines.
Command & Control (NPWS FMM 4.2)	• The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then 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 BFMC Plan of Operations.
Containment Lines (NPWS FMM 2.2 & 3.9)	• Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, except where they can be built by hand with minimal erosion potential. • Only existing or previous trails or containment line routes will be used. • Roads and trails to be used as containment lines but requiring works should be prioritised in consultation with relevant IMT and Fire Ground staff. • All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident. • Where practicable, erosion control works should be incorporated into the containment line construction phase. • All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
Earthmoving Equipment (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.3)	• Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high. • Earthmoving equipment must be washed down prior to it entering NPWS estate. • As far as possible, restrict its use to previously used containment lines. • Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced NPWS officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle. • Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should be at least 50 m from depression lines in order to avoid erosion problems. • Observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines. • Proposed containment lines to be constructed with earthmoving equipment should be surveyed to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.
Fire Advantage Recording	• All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.
Fire Suppression Chemicals (NPWS FMM 4.2.20 & 4.9)	• Wetting and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. • The use of fire retardant is only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available. • Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50 m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps. • Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used product's name recorded. • Observe the Threatened Species Operational Guidelines.
High Voltage Overhead Power Lines	• Before conducting wildfire suppression or hazard reduction burning operations, in or near high voltage overhead power line (138 kilovolt (KV) or greater) easements, all personnel must be briefed as per NPWS Fire Management Circular 2001/8 dated 14 November 2001.
Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)	• Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
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. • If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)	• The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

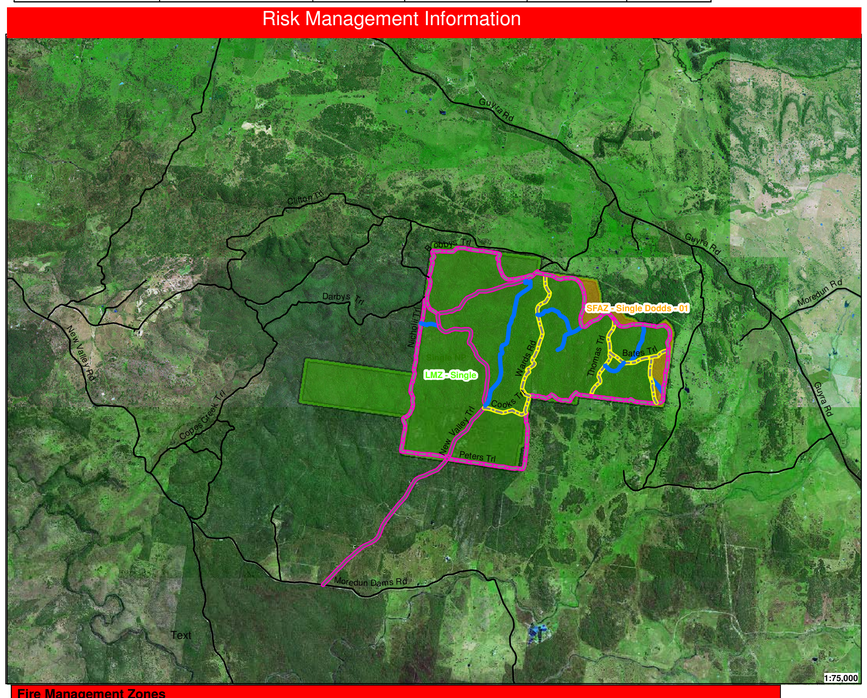
First Response Communications Plan – Single NP

Service	Channel	Incident	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	6	IMT to Div Com	Little Duval (Alternative Mt Roos Ch 21) Reverse channels (54/65respectively) (**Class 1 Fires**)
NPWS - VHF	38	Fireground	Car to Car channel (all classes) Alternative FG Ch 18 (Simplex only , line of sight)
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Fireground	Stored at Glen Innes (Transportable). Source and deploy as required.
RFS - PMR - UHF	P054	IMT to Div Com	Little Duval (**Class 2 & 3 Fires**)
Forests NSW - VHF	NPWS 26	Fireground	SF 426 (Joint agency operations)
CB - UHF	12	Fireground	Channel as appropriate. (Div Com, CL to Contractors)
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	IMT - Aircraft	
Mobile Phone –3 G	Variable	IMT – Div Com	Patchy in reserve, try high points.
Satellite Phone	01471 54353	IMT – Div Com	Stored at Armidale Area Office

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone	Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Area Manager	0428 613 073	**Emergency Services**	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
	Armidale Area Office (bus. hours)	6738 9100	**SES**		13 2500
	NTR Duty Officer	0428 345 789	**Police**	Guyra	6738 4299
DECCW - CCHD	AHCO	6776 0038	**Forest NSW**	Duty Officer	0428 643115
New England NSW Rural Fire Service	Manager- Steve Mepham	6762 7641			
	Duty Officer		**Council**	Guyra Shire	6779 1577
	Armidale Fire Control	6771 2400			
	Local Brigade Capt -		**LALC**	Guyra	6779 1803
Energy Australia / Origin Energy	Public Emergency Numbers	131388 / 132080	**Hospital**	Guyra	6779 1166

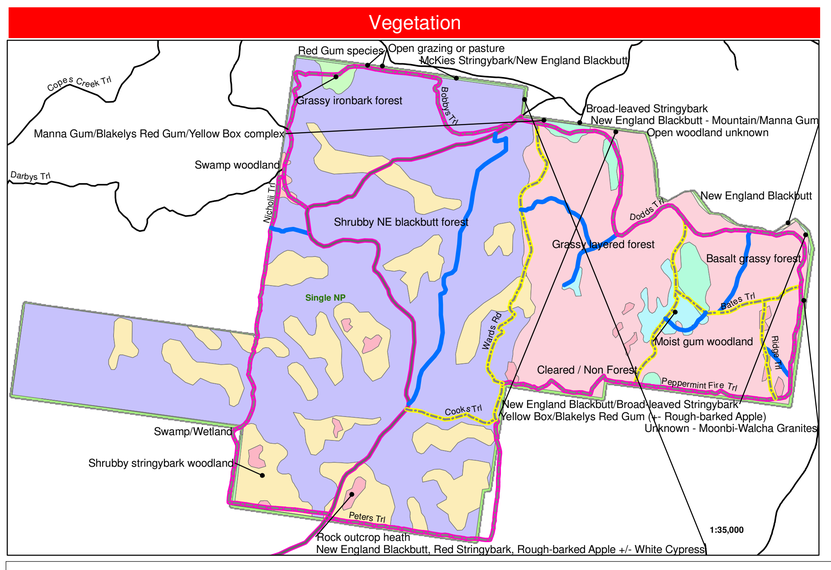
Risk Management Information



Fire Management Zones

Zone	Purpose	Suppression objectives	Zone characteristics	Key Performance Indictors
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ)	To provide strategic areas of fire protection advantage which will reduce the speed and intensity of bushfires, and reduce the potential for spot fire development. To aid containment of bushfires to existing management boundaries.	To improve the likelihood and safe use of: • parallel attack suppression strategies within the zone, or • indirect attack (back-burning) in high to very high fire weather conditions within the zone. To reduce the likelihood of: • crown fire development within the zone, or spot fire ignition potential from the zone.	Zone width relates to suppression objectives and depends upon: • topography • aspect • spotting propensity • location of adjacent firebreaks • mosaic pattern of treatment. Management practices should aim to achieve mosaic fuel reduction patterns so that **the majority of the SFAZ has an OFH of high or below.**	> 70% of SFAZs treated to comply with minimum SFAZ threshold and not exceeding minimum LMZ threshold for the vegetation formation (as per the BFEAC)
SFAZ - Single Dodds	To assist in the protection of private assets to the east and south-east of the reserve.		This zone extends from the NE corner of the reserve along the eastern boundary and SE corner. The SFAZ may be burnt over a number of sequential operations rather than one single block.	Fire Interval 5-10 years. Burning of this zone could be staged from 2008 -2013
Land Management Zones (LMZ) **LMZ - Single**	To meet relevant land management objectives in areas where APZs or SFAZs are not appropriate.	As per the land management and fire protection objectives of the responsible land management agency. To undertake mosaic burning to reduce the likelihood of spread of fires.	As appropriate to achieve land management objectives (e.g. protecting heritage or broad scale mosaic burning objectives).	>50% of LMZs maintained within vegetation biodiversity thresholds, <35% below, <35% above.

Vegetation



Strategy Information

Fire Season Information	
Wildfires	• Have been known to start as early as late August, but usually the potential for a large fire event is greatest between October and December. This period may extend into January in more severe years. • During this period in dry seasons fires may exhibit high intensity behaviour under windy conditions.
Prescribed Burning (NPWS Fire Management Manual 4.7)	• Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.

Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Suppression Strategies
Low – Mod	Low – Mod	• Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines. • Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.
Low – Mod	= > High	• 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 down wind side.
High	All	• Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines. • Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire. • If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.
All	All	• Ensure there is sufficient time to secure containment lines prior to the fire impacting upon them; otherwise fall back to the next potential line.

Bushfire Suppression Map