

Chapter 1

Flora and Fauna



Weeds

***Protecting
Native Plants
& Animals***

Pests

Chapter 1

Flora and Fauna

Objective → **Target - Nil**

To achieve a high quality environment for native flora and fauna in the Perisher Range Resorts and to conserve the biodiversity of the area.

- ✓ *Your lodge is not required to meet any specific flora and fauna targets however it is important that you make sure your staff, members and visitors understand how they can help conserve the biodiversity of the area.*

The Perisher Range Resorts are nestled in amongst the Alpine, Sub Alpine, Heath and Bog vegetation communities of the Main Range. This unique and limited environment is home to many rare and threatened endemic plants and animals including the Mountain Pygmy-possum, Corroboree Frog and the Broad-toothed Rat. The biggest threat to the long term survival of some of these species and vegetation communities is human activity. This includes the direct impacts that may result from development such as erosion, loss of vegetation, contamination and sedimentation as well as the more gradual effects of weeds, pests, pathogens, road kills, resource depletion and climate change.

Weeds



Environmental Risk — *Introduction of weed species from inappropriate landscaping/planting.*

EMS Requirement — *Use only locally occurring native species for landscaping/planting.*

Prior to undertaking any landscaping or rehabilitation works in your lease area, you should contact the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer for advice regarding appropriate species to plant. NPWS has species lists and rehabilitation guidelines that may assist you with your landscape plans.

Environmental Risk — *Spread of weed species from inappropriate weed control.*

EMS Requirement — *Develop and implement an active weed management program.*

Prior to undertaking any weed control activities, you should contact the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer who will assist you to:

- Identify any weeds that exist in or near your lease area
- Develop a weed management program, which may involve:
 - ~ weed control techniques (physical removal or herbicide use)
 - ~ competitive planting with locally-occurring native species
 - ~ monitoring the success of the program.

FACT

- 175 weeds species have been identified in Kosciuszko National Park
– 105 of these are known to occur in and around the resort areas.

YOU ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER

- Weed management programs generally need to be coordinated across a wide area in order to be effective. It may be useful to have a joint program with your neighbours.
- Erosion and sedimentation controls may need to be implemented in conjunction with any weed eradication program.
- Ensure any person using herbicides in your lease area is aware of their obligations under the NSW *Pesticides Act 1999*.
- The following nurseries are under licence to collect seed and propagate plants for use in resort areas and often maintain surplus plant stock that is left over from larger projects. They can provide plant stock in small quantities and can arrange delivery:
- Dealbata (Cold Climate) Australian Plant Nursery (Contact – Bill Peterie)
 - 📍 5 Munje Street PAMBULA NSW 2549
 - ☎ (02) 64943283 or 0427 835 226
- Monaro Native Tree Nursery (Contact – Anne Platts)
 - 📍 "Khalassa" Gunnigrah Road BOMBALA NSW 2632
 - ☎ (02) 6458 4096
 - ✉ monarotrees@acr.net.au

Protecting Native Plants and Animals



Environmental Risk — *Damage to native vegetation.*

EMS Requirement — *Educate staff and guests about the importance of protecting native vegetation.*

Your lodge education program should consider issues, such as:

- observing signage regarding closed areas. These closures are necessary to allow for rehabilitation of disturbed sites and/or to protect important habitat such as the Mountain Pygmy Possum boulder fields.
- only using designated roads and car parking areas.

Environmental Risk — *Harm to native animals.*

EMS Requirement — *Educate staff and guests about the importance of not harming native animals.*

Your lodge education program should consider issues, such as:

- driving cautiously at night within the resort and also on the way to the skifields to reduce the risk of injuries to animals
- not feeding or handling wildlife
- not putting food scraps on the ground outside your lodge
- dealing with injured wildlife.

EMS Requirement — *Educate staff and guests about minimising vehicle and other noise.*

Noise from vehicles (especially oversnow vehicles) travelling to and from and parking at the lodge can disturb other guests. It can also interfere with the sleep, feeding and breeding cycles of local wildlife. Therefore the use of vehicles at night should be minimised where possible.

FACTS

- It is an offence against the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to bring domesticated animals (i.e. dogs, cats, birds) into the national park. This rule also applies even if the animal remains in the owner's car.
- It is an offence under S12(1)(g) of the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002* to feed any animal within a National Park. Feeding wildlife can have a detrimental effect on the health of the animal. It can cause obesity, nutritional deficiencies, viral or bacterial infections, and change behavioural, feeding and breeding patterns.
- Handling wildlife can lead to injury - to both you and the animal!
- Native animals are most active at dawn, dusk and night time. If you hit or encounter an injured animal, please call LAOKO on (02) 6456 1313. The LAOKO brochure is included at the back of this manual under contacts.
- It is illegal to keep wildlife without a licence, they must be passed onto a licenced carer or wildlife rescue organisation.

YOU ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER

- Food scraps and garbage bins can attract animals to your lodge and can change their feeding habits. Please make sure that your waste bins are covered and secured to prevent scavengers.

Pests



Environmental Risk — *Introduction and spread of pest species.*

EMS Requirement — *Educate staff and guests about the importance of not encouraging pest species.*

Your lodge education program should consider issues, such as:

- not feeding or handling wildlife
- not bringing domestic animals into the park
- reporting sightings of introduced wildlife to NPWS
- not providing nesting opportunities for introduced birds such as starlings.

Environmental Risk — *Harm to native animals from inappropriate pest control*

EMS Requirement — *Reduce the opportunities for small mammals to enter your lodge*

There are some simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of animals entering your lodge:

- Ensure your lodge is kept clean and that your garbage bins are suitably secure from animals
- Ensure all food is properly sealed in animal-proof containers (especially important when your lodge is vacant)
- Identify and fix any open spaces through which animals may be entering your lodge (be sure the animal is not nesting inside the lodge beforehand). This will also protect your lodge from nasty drafts
- Seal any electrical wires that appear to be the target of animals.

EMS Requirement — *Educate staff and guests about appropriate pest control*

Your lodge education program should consider issues, such as:

- 90% of small mammals that exist in Kosciuszko National Park are native and are therefore protected. Some species, including the Broad-toothed Rat and Mountain Pygmy-possum are threatened species
- not using baits, traps and snares in your lodge
- contact the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer if there is a small mammal pest problem at your lodge.

A flyer on 'Small Mammal Trapping in Ski Resorts' has been included at the back of this chapter behind the lodge notes.



FACT

- It is an offence under S12 (1) (a) of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002* to set any trap, snare or poison within a park.

YOU ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER

- NPWS have posters that illustrate the most commonly occurring small mammals that make their home in the ski resorts of Kosciuszko National Park. These can be obtained from the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer free of charge.
- You may not actually see any animals but find evidence, such as droppings (scats) or bite marks in wooden furniture, wires or food bags. If this is occurring contact the NPWS Environmental Liaison Officer who will advise you on how you can safely trap (using Elliott traps) any animals from your lodge.
- NPWS maintain records on native animals that have been removed from lodges. This information contributes to our understanding of co-habitation issues.
- Contact NPWS if you observe any pest species such as cats, dogs, foxes, rabbits, mice etc.

Lodge Notes



Use the table below to record **Flora and Fauna** issues.

[illegible]

Use the space below to record details of any **landscaping or rehabilitation** to be undertaken around your lodge (remember to include dates).



Use this table below to record **weed control** activities.



Weed species	Date of control	Control method (physical removal, herbicide application)	Herbicide application type (name and concentration)	Application method (spray, cut and dab)	Control success (Yes/No)

Use this table below to record **pest problems**.

Pest species (If able to identify)	Date of observation	Evidence observed (droppings, bites, live/dead)	Date NPWS contacted	Action taken



Appendices – Flora & Fauna

- Weed management priorities - Perisher Range
- Significant weeds of Kosciuszko ski resort areas (extract from- Rehabilitation Guidelines for the Resort Areas of Kosciuszko National Park)
- Small mammal trapping in ski resorts (flyer)
- Small mammals making their home in the ski resorts of Kosciuszko National Park (poster)