

**Northern Tablelands Region
Ironbark NR
Fire Management Strategy
(Type 2)
2005
Sheet 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.

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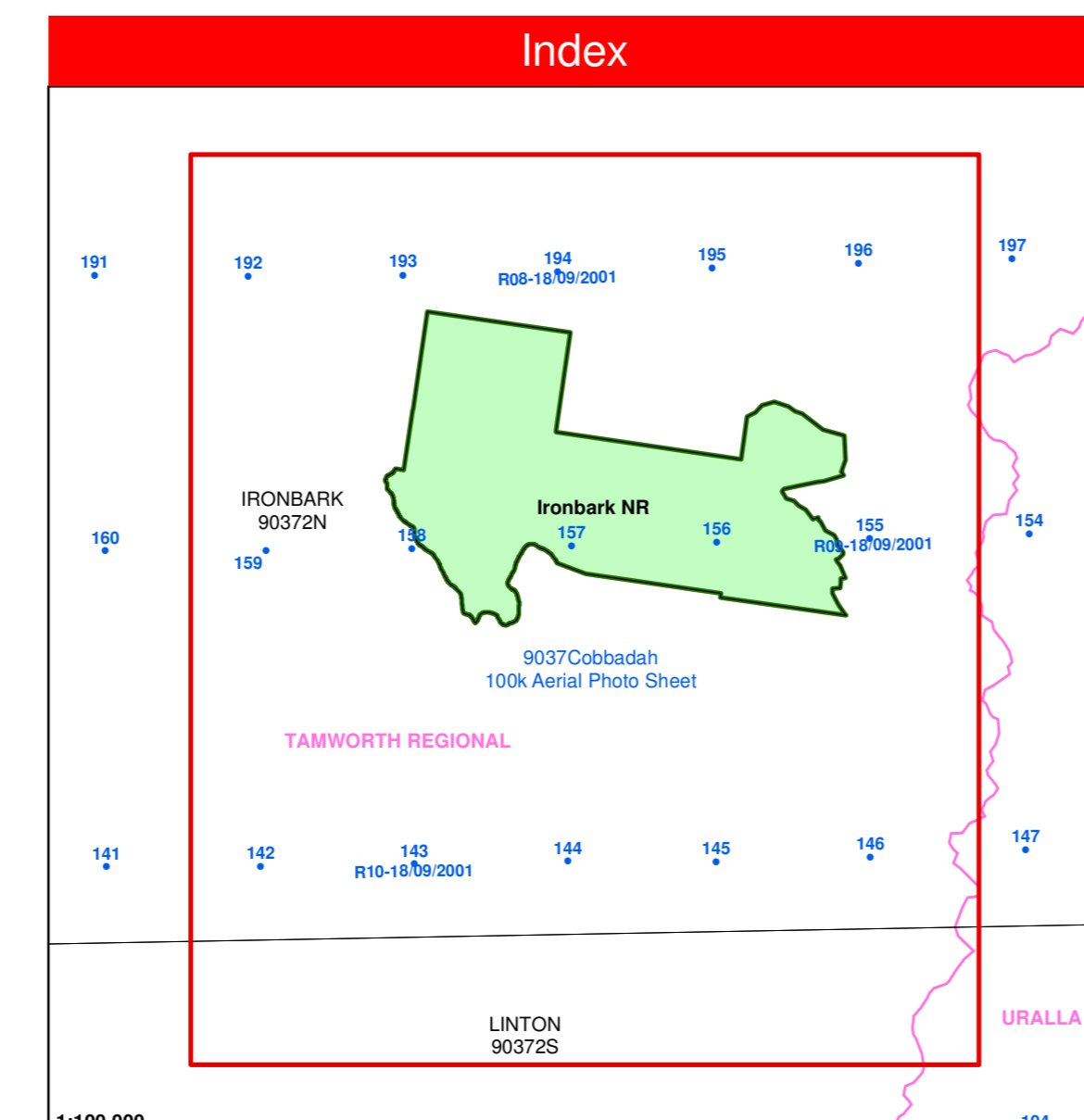
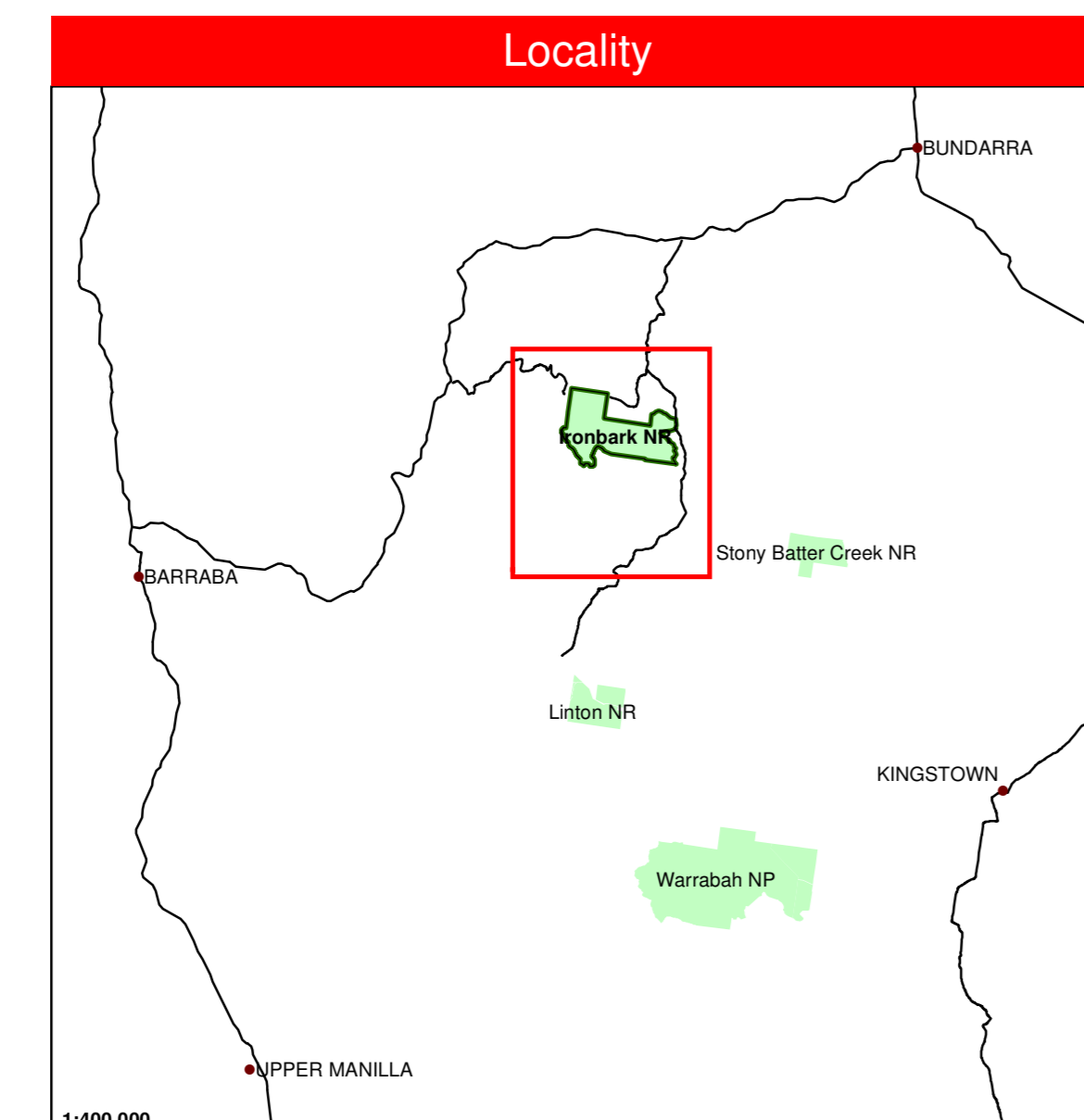
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Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of Rural Fires Act 1997.

Approved Date: 27 Oct 2005



Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer	0429 345 789
	Area Manager	02 6738 9117 02 6738 9140 (fax)
Fire Management Officer		02 6738 9140 02 6771 1894 (fax)
		02 6776 0000
Regional Operations Coordinator		02 6771 1894 (fax)
		02 6776 0000
Armidale Area Office		02 6738 9100
		02 6738 9140 (fax)
Northern Tablelands Regional Office		02 6776 0000
		02 6771 1894 (fax)
Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer - Armidale		02 6776 0038
Rural Fire Service	Emergency	0000
	Gwydir Duty Officer	02 6724 1911
Biggan Fire Control Centre		02 6724 1911
		02 5724 1743 (fax)
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	0000
	Barabara Station	02 6782 1179
SES Fire	Emergency	0000
	Barabara Unit	02 6782 1691
Police	Emergency	0000
	Barabara Station	02 6782 1003
Ambulance	Emergency	0000
	Barabara Station	13 1233
Hospital	Barabara	02 6782 1205
	Barabara	02 6764 5900
Forests NSW	Inverell	02 6722 4200
		02 6722 4200 (ah)
Local Government	Barabara Office	02 6782 1105
	(Tarnworth Regional Council)	02 6782 1471 (fax)
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Tarnworth	02 6766 9028

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)

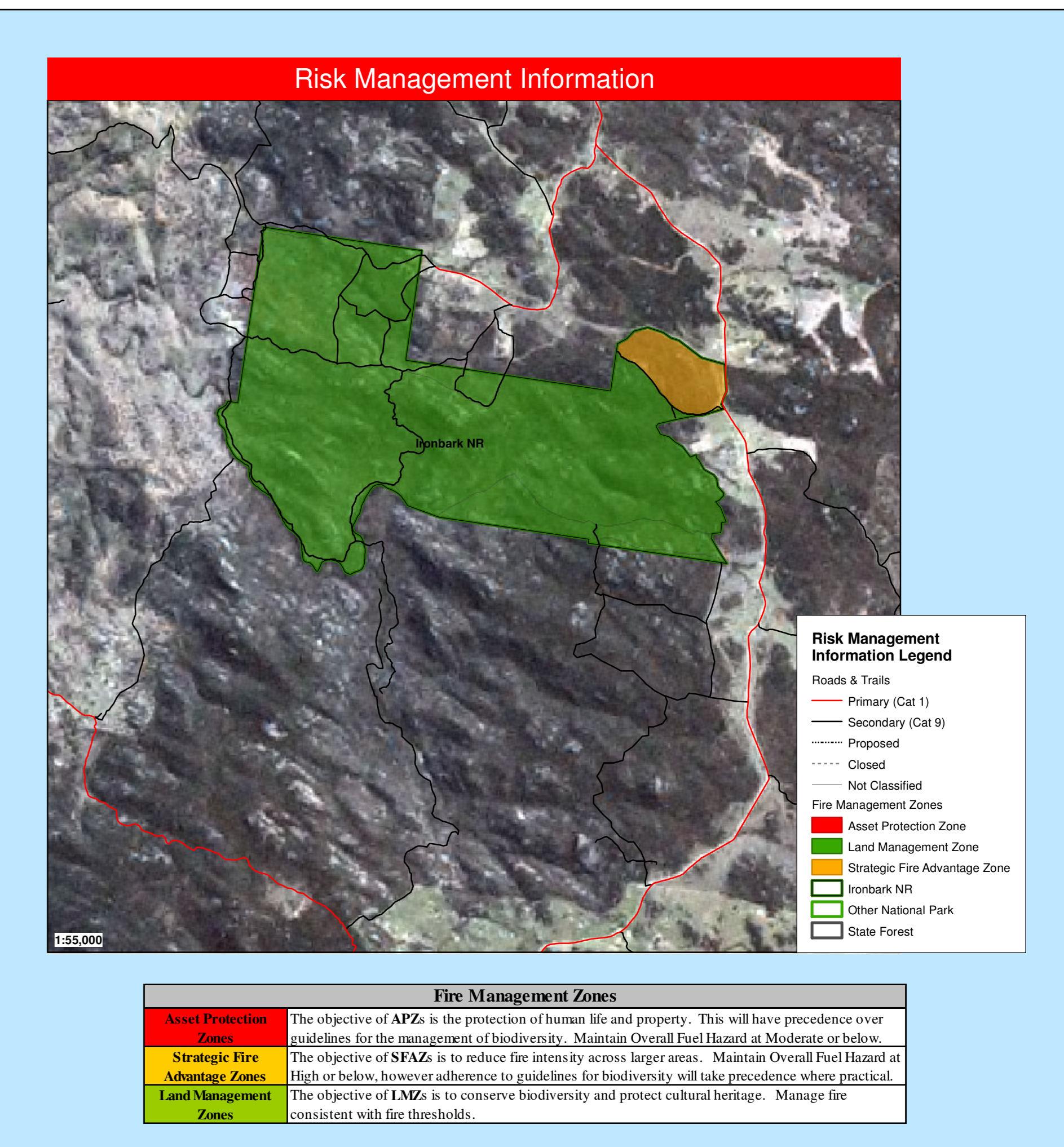
- General seasons in Autumn to late Winter. Burning is possible in early Spring but not desirable on a regular basis from an ecological or tourism point of view.

Suppression Strategies

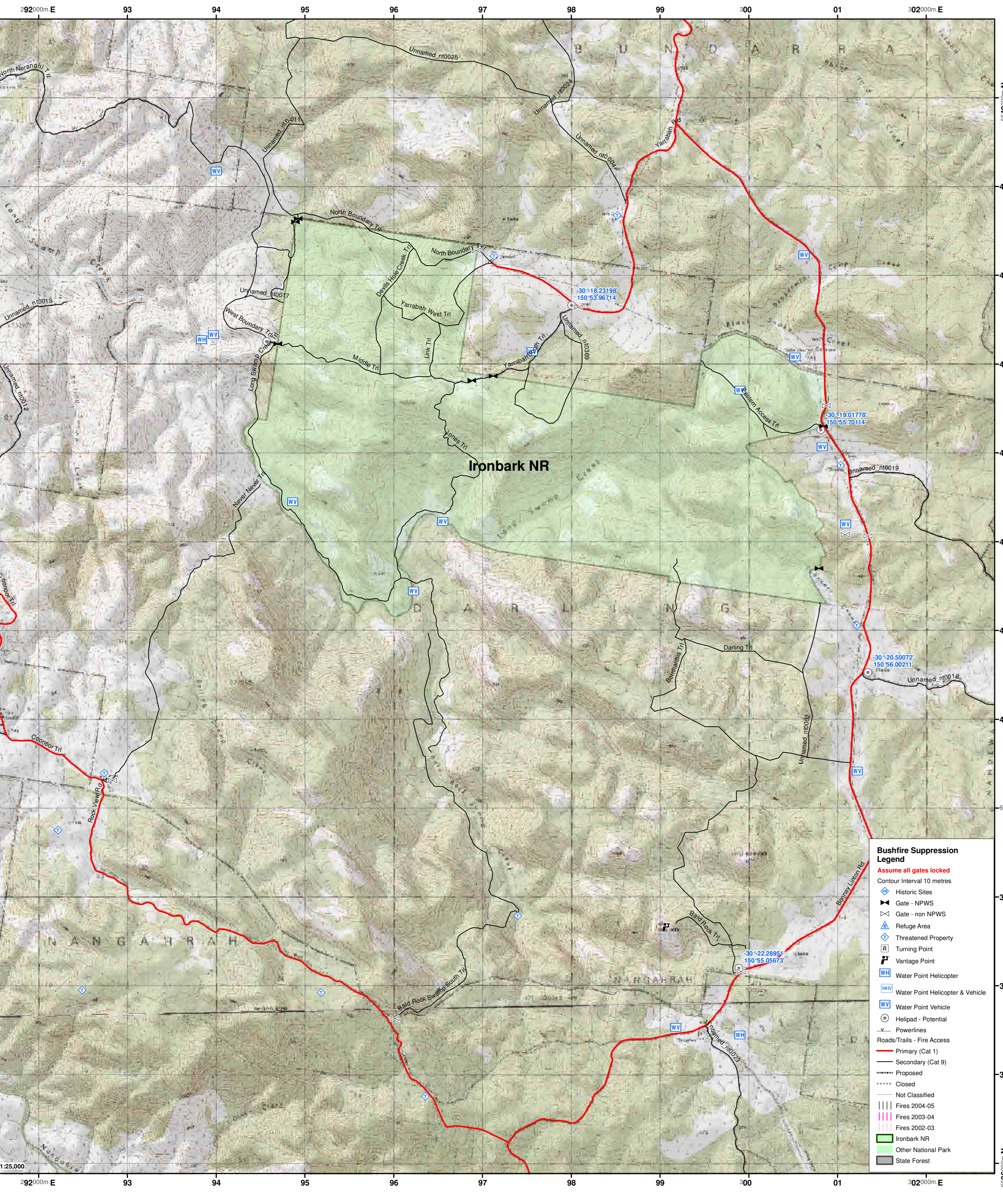
Current FDR	Forecast FDR	Strategy
Low - Mod	Low - Mod	Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines.
Low - Mod	High	Where practicable consider maximising the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burns.
High	All	In order to maintain the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment lines.
All	All	Pay particular attention to the flank on the next predicted down wind side.
All	All	Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines.
All	All	Secure and deepen containment lines along the next predicted downwind side of the fire.
All	All	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.

Communications Information

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	6	Little Dixiel
NPWS - VHF (Fireground Comms)	18	Simplex vehicle to vehicle
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Stored at Armidale/transportable
RFS - PMR - UHF	44	Mt Knapjar
RFS - GRN	89	Biggan
CB - UHF	4	No service available in NTR
Aircraft - VHF	119.10	-
Mobile Phone - CDMA		Yes - on high ground with high gain antenna
Mobile Phone - GSM		No 147 service - stored at Armidale
Satellite Phone	0147 154 353	stored at Armidale



Bushfire Suppression



Operational Guidelines

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2004.

Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

Resource

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management (NPWS FMM 4.11)

- Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction and/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 and/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.
- The following threatened species can be found in the study area:
 - Greater Broad-nosed Bat
 - Barking Owl
 - Yellow-bellied Shearwater
 - Eastern Cave Bat
 - Little Bore-wing Bat
 - Regent Honeyeater
 - Hooded Robin
 - Black-shinned Honeyeater
 - Turquoise Parrot
 - Brown Treecreeper
 - Diamond Firetail
 - Spotted Warbler
 - Blender Thick-tailed Cockatoo

Threatened Flora Management (NPWS FMM 4.12)

- Brief all personnel involved in containment line construction and/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.
- The following threatened species can be found in the study area:
 - Homonanthus bombaridiensis*
 - Trochilium grande* (Granite Tufted Lily)
 - Grodinia macbratneyi*
 - Callistemon pungeni*
 - Derwentia arenaria* (Slender-leaved Speedwell)
 - Leucostylops quinquevium* (Queen's Maillet)
 - Eucaalyptus vauvanei* (Vauvane's Stringybark)

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

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 spot-overs.
- 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 back-burns. 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 1m 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 BEMC 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 DMT 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 entering NPWS estate.
- As far as possible, contact is to be used to previously used containment line.
- 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)

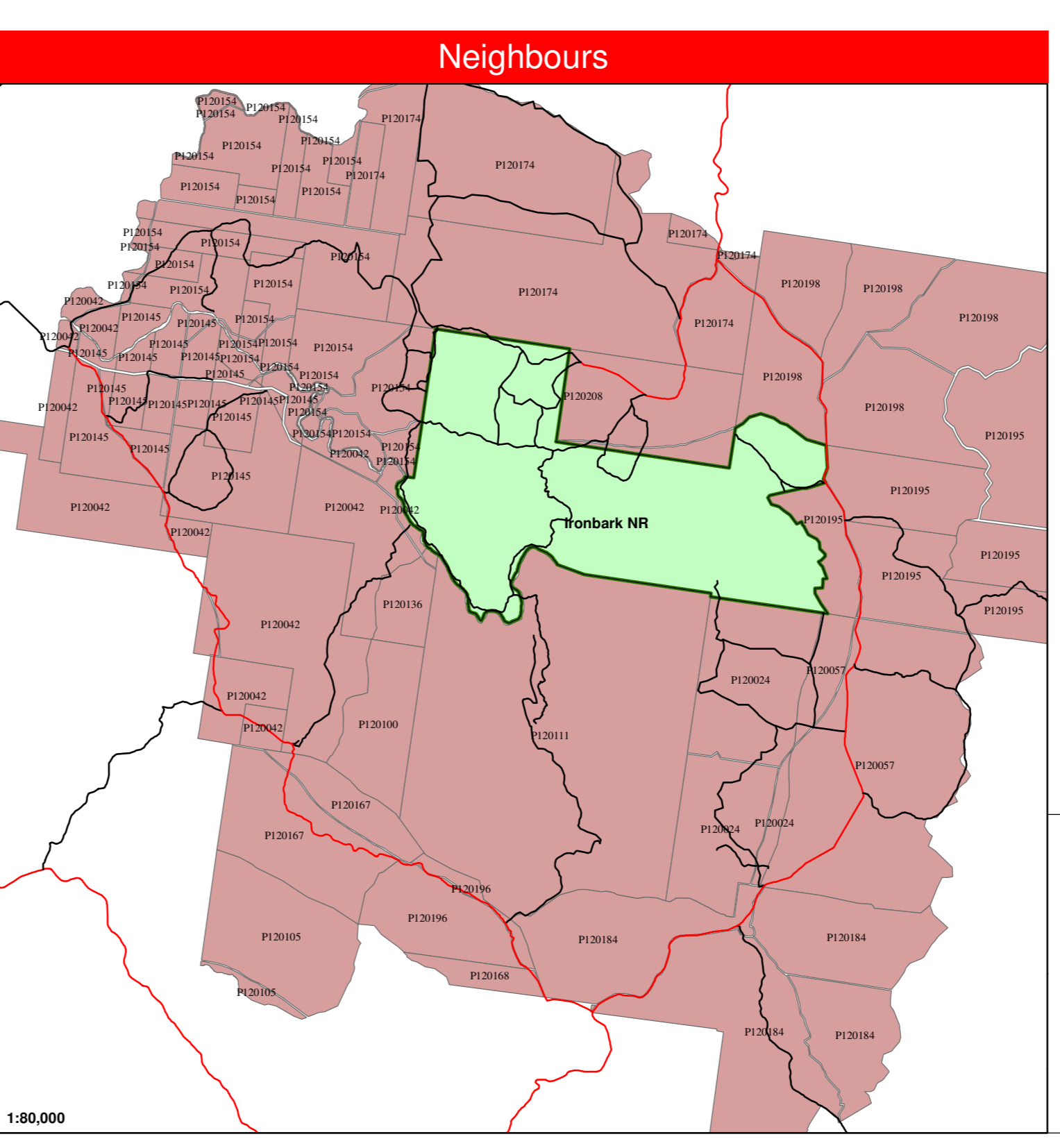
- Writing and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.
- The use of fire retardants is only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer, and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available.
- Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforests, watercourses, dams and swamps.
- Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be observed and the used products name recorded.
- The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.

Rehabilitation (NPWS FMM 5.1)

- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- 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.
- The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Smoke Management (NPWS FMM 3.4)

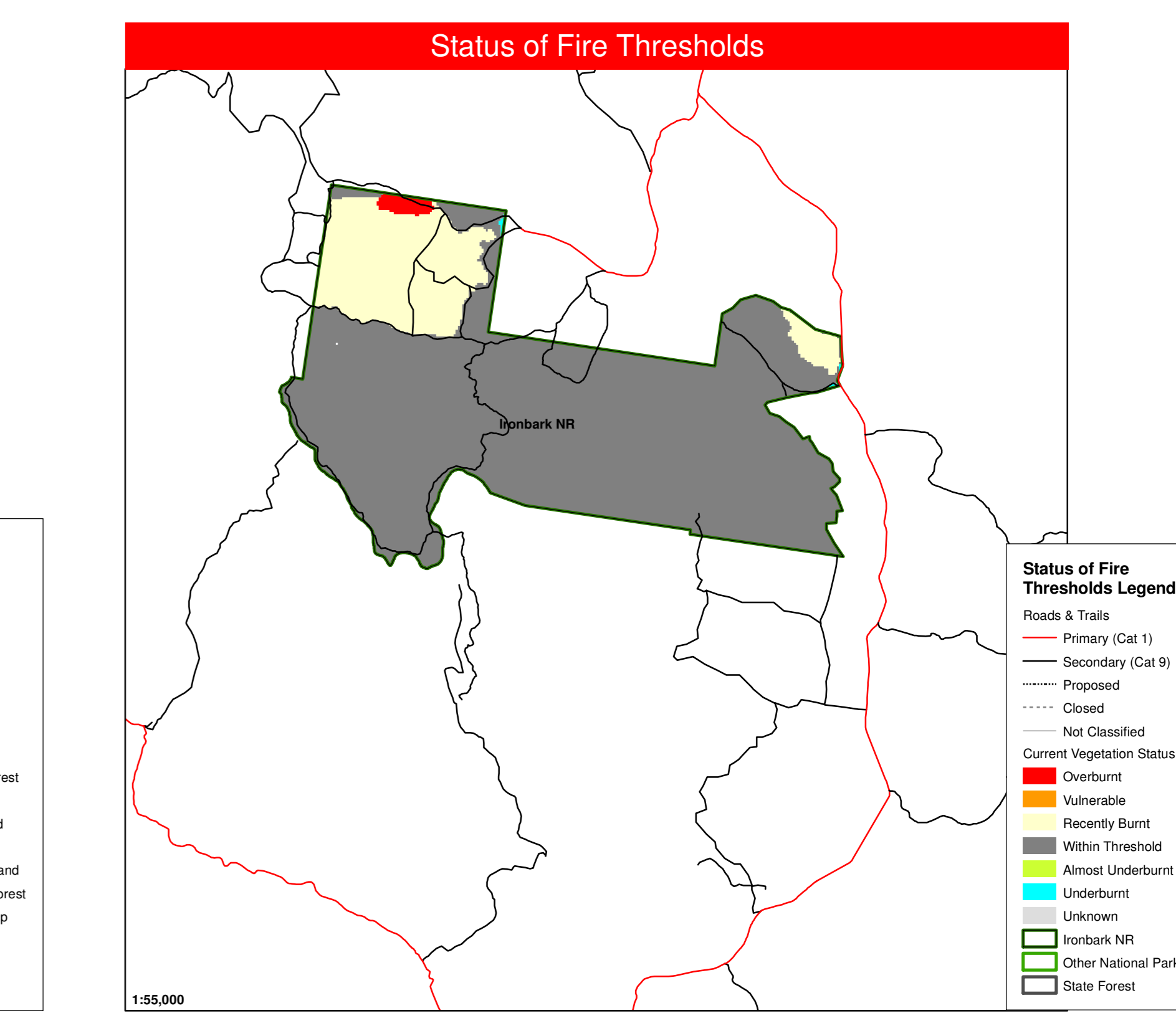
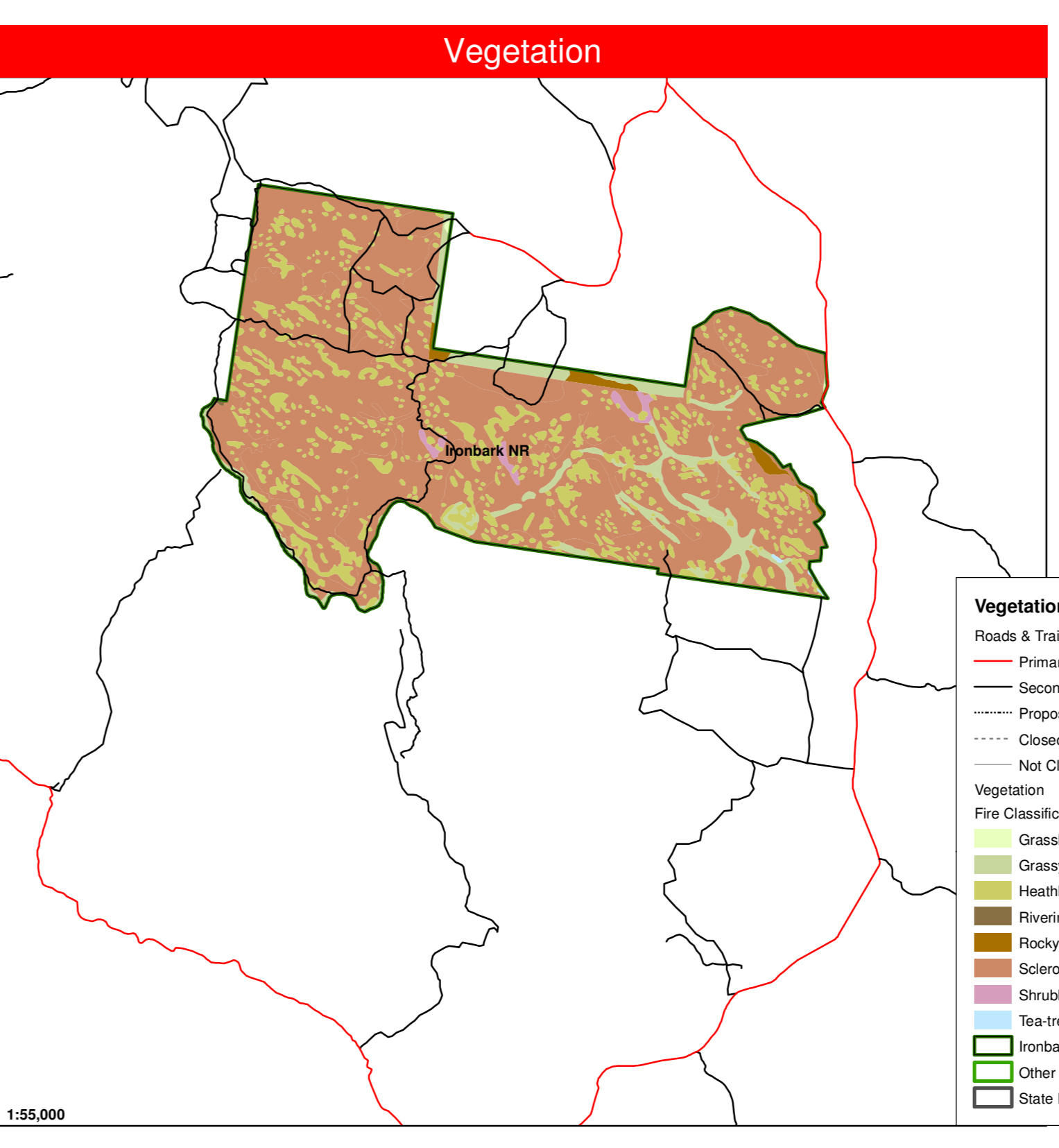
Visitor Management (NPWS FMM 3.6 & 4.13)



Neighbour Information

For further information, please refer to the Regional Contacts Database.

Map ID	Property Name	Surname	Firstname	Phone
PI20024	Bornhardtia			
PI20042	Concorer			
PI20057	Granite Heights			
PI20080	Unknown			
PI20105	Unknown			
PI20111	Unknown			
PI20136	Unknown			
PI20145	Neeranghi			
PI20154	North Neeranghi			
PI20167	Rock View South			
PI20168	Rocky Rose			
PI20174	South Bonny			
PI20184	Sydenham			
PI20195	Thalidene			
PI20196	Thistle Croft			
PI20198	Valley View			
PI20208	Yarabuh			



Fire Thresholds

Overburnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded.
Vulnerable	The area will be Overburnt if a burn this year. <i>Protect from fire as far as possible.</i>
Recently Burnt	Fire since fire is less than the optimum interval, but before that it was within threshold. <i>Protect from fire as far as possible.</i>
Within Threshold	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. <i>A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.</i>
Almost Underburnt	The area is close to its threshold and may become underburnt with the absence of fire. <i>A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.</i>
Underburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. <i>A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.</i>
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire threshold.

NR. Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity.