

MINJARY NATIONAL PARK

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)

July 2004

This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for the Environment on 7 July 2004.

Acknowledgments

This plan of management is based on a draft plan prepared by staff of South West Slopes Region, including the Planning Coordinator and Ranger, Talbingo, with the assistance of specialists from Conservation Management Unit of Landscape Conservation Division in Head Office.

Cover photograph by Matt White, NPWS.

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FOREWORD

Minjary National Park is located 10 kilometres north west of Tumut on the South West Slopes of New South Wales. It consists of 1,462 hectares of undulating to steep, forested country that is surrounded entirely by freehold land. The park was formerly administered and managed by State Forests of NSW as Minjary State Forest.

Minjary National Park is significant for providing a vegetated link between larger tracts of forest to the south and to the north west of Tumut. Minjary National Park contains significant intact remnants of South West Slopes forest and woodland communities and their associated fauna species, including White Box Grassy Woodland which has been identified as an Endangered Ecological Community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*.

Minjary National Park contains a number of Aboriginal sites and places. It was part of an Aboriginal travelling route between the Western Plains and the Kosciuszko area via the Tumut River, with permanent springs on the eastern side of the park providing a source of water. Later the area was used as a transport route between leases, and then as a State Forest in which controlled harvesting of timber and recreational use were allowed. The necessity to gain access across private property has, however, restricted use of the park.

The New South Wales *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires that a plan of management be prepared for each national park. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how the park will be managed in the years ahead.

A draft plan of management for Minjary National Park was placed on public exhibition for three months from 1 August 2003 until 31 October 2004. The exhibition of the plan of management attracted 10 submissions that raised 5 issues. All submissions received were carefully considered before adopting this plan of management.

This plan of management provides for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage of the national park. Low impact recreational use will continue to be allowed.

This plan of management establishes the scheme of operations for Minjary National Park. In accordance with section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

BOB DEBUS
Minister for the Environment

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1. NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

1.1 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The management of national parks in NSW is in the context of a legislative and policy framework, primarily the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the policies of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The policies arise from the legislative background and internationally accepted principles of park management. They relate to nature conservation, Aboriginal and historic heritage conservation, recreation, commercial use, research and communication.

Other legislation, international agreements and charters may also apply to management of the park. In particular, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) requires the assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts of any works proposed in this plan.

A plan of management is a statutory document under the NPW Act. Once the Minister has adopted a plan, no operations may be undertaken within Minjary National Park except in accordance with the plan. The plan will also apply to any future additions to the national park. Where management strategies or works are proposed for the national park or any additions that are not consistent with the plan, an amendment to the plan will be required.

1.2 MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

National parks are reserved under the NPW Act to protect and conserve areas containing outstanding or representative ecosystems, natural or cultural features or landscapes or phenomena that provide opportunities for public appreciation and inspiration and sustainable visitor use.

National parks are to be managed to:

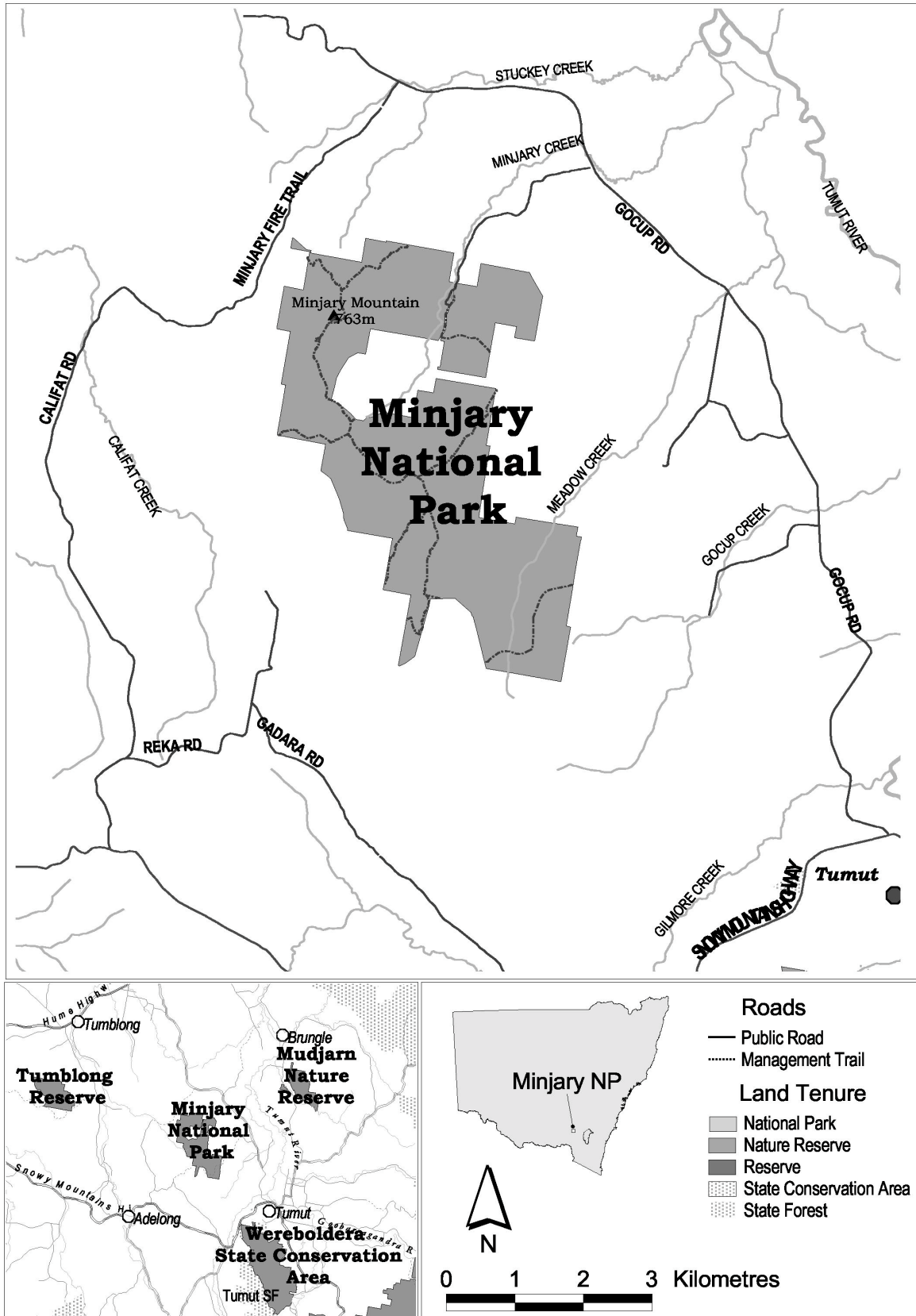
- conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, protect geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and maintain natural landscapes;
- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value;
- protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations;
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values;
- provide for sustainable visitor use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values;
- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation of natural and cultural values; and
- provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

1.3 REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) are one of the principle means of implementing the National Forest Policy Statement of 1992. Under this Statement Commonwealth, State and Territory governments agree to work towards a shared vision for Australia's forests. This aims to maintain native forest estate, manage it in an ecologically sustainable manner and develop sustainable forest-based industries. The Statement provided for joint comprehensive assessments of the natural, cultural, economic and social values of forests. These assessments formed the basis for negotiation of Regional Forest Agreements that provide, amongst other things, for Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management.

The Southern Regional Forest Agreement (2001) covers the planning area. The process leading up to the RFA provided for major additions to the reserve system, including the establishment of Minjary National Park.

PARK MAP



2. MINJARY NATIONAL PARK

2.1 LOCATION, GAZETTAL AND REGIONAL SETTING

Minjary National Park (referred to as “the park” in this plan) is located 10 kilometres north west of Tumut on the South West Slopes of New South Wales (refer to Park Map on page 14). It consists of 1462 hectares of undulating to steep, forested country that is surrounded entirely by freehold land. The park was formerly administered and managed by State Forests of NSW as Minjary State Forest. The park was gazetted on 1 January 2001 as part of the Southern Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) and Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) outcomes. The park is named after Minjary Mountain, the highest point in the park at 762m above sea level.

Minjary National Park is significant for providing a vegetated link between larger tracts of forest to the south (in Kosciuszko National Park), the Tumut River Valley, and the nearby Ellerslie Nature Reserve and Tumblong Reserve to the north west of Tumut. Minjary National Park contains significant intact remnants of largely cleared and highly disturbed South West Slopes forest and woodland communities and their associated fauna species.

The park falls within the jurisdiction of Tumut Shire Council, the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Board and the Gundagai Rural Lands Protection Board.

2.2 NATURAL HERITAGE

2.2.1 Landform, Geology and Soils

Minjary National Park consists of locally high peaks (ranging from 550m to 763m) falling sharply to the surrounding valley floors at approximately 280m above sea level. The majority of the park is steep and undulating sharing two basic geological types, those being a conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone sequence and an aplitic granite/leucogranite sequence. The two dominant soils of the area are generally skeletal and show minimal profile development, dominated by weathering rock and rock fragments. Both soil types typically lack organic content, are susceptible to dispersion by water and are generally deficient in nutrients. Water holding capacity is greatly reduced by the friable, open structure of the soils and both are highly erodible when exposed. Early to mid-Silurian Age marine deposition is evident in the formation of the sandstone/siltstone sequence.

The Gilmore Fault, which dominates the formation of the landscape as it is seen today, runs in a north-west/south-east alignment to the west of the park.

Minjary National Park lies within the greater Murrumbidgee catchment. To the east of the park is the Tumut River. The two main creeks in the park, Meadow and Minjary, both form part of the Tumut River catchment although, being ephemeral, they contribute little to the overall collection of water in these rivers. The remaining drainage lines that incise the western fall of the park flow into the nearby Bunnabuckbuck and Califat Creeks and eventually into Adelong Creek and the Murrumbidgee River.

The peak of Minjary Mountain provides a 360° viewing point. Kosciuszko National Park and the Snowy Mountains lie to the south, the Brindabella Range on the ACT/NSW border to the east, and the rolling plains of the Riverina to the west.

2.2.2 Native Plants

The South West Slopes bioregion of New South Wales is one of the most highly disturbed and altered landscapes in NSW (Gibbons & Boak, 2002). Given the history of logging, burning and grazing in the region, all remaining areas of intact remnant native vegetation are now considered significant when compared to pre-1750 vegetative coverage.

Minjary National Park was gazetted following the Southern CRA/RFA process. This process identified sites of significant remnant vegetation in southern NSW. The vegetation of Minjary National Park is comprised of up to 7 distinct ecosystem types. These forest types are based on classifications derived from CRA methodology. Table 1 shows the various vegetation types and their known distribution within the park.

Description	Lithology and Soils	Environmental Niches
Eastern South-West Slopes White Box grassy woodland	Shallow to Moderately Deep soils on Silurian slate	On exposed slopes in north-west corner of park
Blakely's Red Gum/Danthonia/Spear grass-forb forest	On lithosols derived from Devonian Granite	On higher hilltops and ridges on exposed slopes
Blakely's Red Gum/Yellow Box valley floor grass/forb forest	On moderately deep soils derived Devonian Granite	On lower slopes around edges of park
Sheltered Slopes Black Cypress Pine/Norton's Box/Blue Flax Lily/Tussock Grass open forest	On moderately deep soils derived from Devonian Granite	On sheltered southern and south-eastern aspects
Red Box/Long Leaved Box/Red Ironbark/Dry Grass/forb forest	Shallow soils derived from Ordovician Psammite	On exposed slopes at low elevations above 400 metres on slopes between 5 and 20 degrees
Sheltered Slopes Nortons Box/Red Box/Black Cypress Pine/grass/forb/lily open forest	Moderately Deep soils on Silurian slate	Steep sheltered slopes on eastern face of Mount Minjary
Red Stringybark/Long Leaved Box/Red Box/heath/shrub/tussock grass open forest	Shallow soils on Silurian sediments	On western facing aspects of Minjary range

Table 1: Identified forest ecosystems within Minjary NP

White Box Grassy Woodland has been identified as an Endangered Ecological Community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

In addition to the above forest types, numerous rocky outcrops containing Dwyer's Mallee Gum (*Eucalyptus dwyeri*) and other related species exist. These rocky outcrops are in sufficient numbers, with sufficient deviation from the CRA listed forest types, to prompt further study.

Limited areas of mature forest exist within the identified forest ecosystems. It is understood that significant timber harvesting occurred prior to reservation. Both White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*) and Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) were heavily harvested, replacing coal to fuel steam boilers during the Adelong gold fossicking era (Hayes J. pers. comm). Local history suggests that almost all specimens large enough to burn as fuel were removed from the northern and western slopes of the mountain

during this time. Surveys to date have revealed no flora species listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

2.2.3 Introduced Plants

The NPWS South West Slopes Region Pest Management Strategy identifies priority pest species and programs for action through set criteria. By following this same process the prioritisation of Reserve pest species programs may be established and directly linked into the regional strategies (refer to the South West Slopes Region Pest Management Strategy). This strategic approach will consider such issues as (but not limited by) the control of weeds in endangered ecological communities, significant remnant vegetation associations, threatened/endangered species habitat and areas of community/neighbour concern.

Minjary National Park is relatively free of major infestations of weeds, apart from areas adjacent to Burnie Trail in the north-east of the park. In these areas St Johns Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) and Fleabane (*Coryza sp*) are the most commonly occurring weed species with smaller areas of Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*). Willows (*Salix sp.*) are known to occur in isolated pockets within or near the park boundary in the Meadow Creek catchment. Other introduced species also occur within the park. Larger areas of pasture species occur in the adjoining grazing land but do not pose a major threat to the relatively intact native forests contained within the park. The Service undertakes periodic weed surveys of the park to determine priorities for annual weed spraying programs.

At this point, spraying of St Johns Wort and Blackberry has commenced within the park to prevent spreading at key locations consistent with the South West Slopes Region Pest Management Strategy.

2.2.4 Native Animals

Fauna surveys carried out at the end of 2001 (NPWS) identified 6 reptile, 2 amphibian, 8 mammal and 31 bird species within the park, including the Turquoise Parrot (*Neophema pulchella*) and Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) both of which are listed in the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

CRA modelling suggests that suitable habitat for the following threatened species exists within the park:

Species – common name	Scientific name
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>
Booroolong Frog	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>

Validation of this modelling has not yet been undertaken although several of the above species are likely to exist in the park.

Habitat value of this and other nearby 'island' reserves is significantly increased due to large-scale land clearing and habitat alteration around the South West Slopes in the past. The area of intact remnant habitat has decreased by around 85% since European settlement. Habitat for smaller ground dwelling mammals, birds and reptiles has also decreased significantly since European settlement. Coarse woody debris loads in woodlands are now less than 15% of that thought to be present pre-1750 (Gibbons & Boak, 2002).

2.2.5 Introduced Animals

Introduced animals have not traditionally been a major problem within Minjary National Park. Species occurring within the park appear to be at similar numbers to populations throughout the region. Vertebrate pest species and populations have historically fluctuated in and around the park depending on seasonal variations. Local landholders, in conjunction with other government agencies, undertaking control within and adjacent to the park have kept populations and diversity of feral species relatively low.

The NPWS South West Slopes Region Pest Management Strategy ranks pest animals in terms of their potential to damage ecosystems, alter natural processes and disturb native animal populations and habitats. Species of feral animals known to occur in Minjary NP include:

Foxes: Foxes exist within the park, as they do throughout the South West Slopes, although regular targeted baiting programs undertaken by local landholders and RLPBs appear to effectively control local populations. Fox control on, and adjacent to NPWS managed lands will continue to be undertaken on a co-operative basis between NPWS, the Rural Lands Protection Board and local landholders. Predation by foxes on native animals has been identified as a key threatening process under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and, as such, a threat abatement plan has been formulated. This plan proposes actions to reduce the impacts of fox predation of threatened species and to help conserve biodiversity more generally.

Dogs: Wild dogs are one of the major concerns to landholders in the region. Stock losses attributed to dog attacks have occurred in the South West Slopes and Snowy Mountains areas. If wild dogs become a problem in or around the park, a program of trapping, shooting and/or baiting will be commenced until the problem is controlled or eradicated.

Pigs: Pigs have been sighted in the park and on adjoining land in the past but there are no signs of pig populations in the park at present. Opportunistic shooting has occurred in the past, and will be undertaken again if necessary.

Rabbits: Rabbits have posed a problem to adjoining landholders in the past. There is currently little evidence of rabbits in the park and it is thought that a combination of myxomatosis, rabbit calicivirus and regular landholder baiting and harbour removal programs have controlled populations to a level where active control will only be required periodically and on an as-needs basis.

Cats: Cats are known to exist within the park. Cats present a major risk to the birds and reptiles of the area, particularly the threatened Turquoise, Swift and Superb Parrots which are likely to occur seasonally in the park.

2.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.3.1 Aboriginal Heritage

Aboriginal communities have an association and connection to the land. The land and water biodiversity values within a landscape are central to Aboriginal spirituality and contribute to Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal communities associate natural resources with the use and enjoyment of foods and medicines, caring for the land, passing on cultural knowledge and strengthening social bonds. Aboriginal heritage and nature are inseparable from each other and need to be managed in an integrated manner across the landscape.

Minjary National Park lies near the border of Wiradjuri and Walgalu country. It is known by the local Aboriginal community as being part of a travelling route between the Western Plains and the Kosciuszko area via the Tumut River, with permanent springs on the eastern side of the park providing a source of water. The Meadow Creek area is also thought to have been used by Aboriginal people as a resting-place. Evidence of this route has been found in the form of isolated quartz and chert flakes on the saddle between Minjary Mountain and Little Minjary Mountain. A number of scarred trees have also been recorded on the banks of Meadow Creek providing further evidence of past occupation/use of the area.

Minjary National Park does not appear to be locally significant in isolation, in terms of Aboriginal culture, but is important as part of a landscape providing a link between cultural areas and people. Minjary Mountain had some significance as a viewing point to other surrounding areas and was possibly a mens' site where particular stages of initiation ceremonies once took place (Freeman, D. pers. comm.). Investigations undertaken by Dearling and Grinbergs (2002) located 39 artefacts in 6 open scatters and 5 isolated finds. The potential to locate other more significant artefacts in the park is low.

The park is within the area of responsibility of the Tumut-Brungle Aboriginal Land Council.

2.3.2 Non-Aboriginal Heritage

Minjary has a history of timber gathering for fencing materials, steam production and domestic firewood. The park was previously a State Forest, in which controlled harvesting of timber and recreational use were allowed. The land surrounding Minjary, and to a much lesser degree within Minjary, has been extensively cleared for grazing and pasture improvement.

A number of old fences within the park provide evidence of former grazing activities.

An old sulky route between Adelong and Minjary township (Halfway Hill) existed on an east-west alignment through the park (Hayes J, pers. comm.). The route was constructed and used by the Hogan family, and others who held leases in the area, as a handy shortcut between Adelong and Minjary and further on to Brungle.

Timber was removed extensively from the Minjary area in the late 1800s and early 1900s to fuel steam boilers associated with gold mining activities in the Adelong area. Timber was felled with axes and 'spare-chained' down to wagons by horses. Bullocks were the most common draught animals, but some teamsters used horses when conditions were boggy (Hayes, J. pers. comm.)

The first fire trails in the park were constructed by the Hume-Snowy Bushfire Prevention Scheme in the late 1960s and these roads exist on identical alignments today.

2.4 RECREATIONAL USE

Past recreational uses of the park include hang gliding, bushwalking and limited horse riding, trail bike riding and hunting.

Hang gliders have used a large clearing to the north of the peak of Minjary Mountain and a dilapidated wooden take-off ramp on the western face of Minjary Mountain under licence from State Forests and, more recently, the NPWS. The ramp was the subject of a risk assessment by SMEC (2002). The report determined that the ramp in its existing form was a public risk and too unsafe for continued use. In addition, neighbouring landholders have expressed concern at the liability issues associated with landing on private property. There are numerous alternative opportunities in the Tumut region for hang gliding, and as such, the ramp will be removed and hang gliding will no longer be permitted from within the park.

A local scout group periodically uses a neighbouring property for camping and the park for bushwalking excursions.

Limited horse riding and trail bike riding has occurred in the park in the past.

Limited hunting has possibly occurred in the past. Hunting and the carrying of firearms is not permitted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974*. All use of firearms for vertebrate pest control will be carried out by the NPWS or its licensed contractors.

Camping and vehicle touring opportunities are very limited due to access constraints and the small size of the park and, as such, have not traditionally been undertaken. The declaration of the park may attract new visitors to the area for activities such as bushwalking, camping, bird watching, photography and nature appreciation.

No commercial activities currently occur within the park. Applications for future use of the park by commercial operators will be considered if in keeping with the natural and cultural values and objectives of management of the park.

2.5 ACCESS

There are currently no roads providing public vehicular access to the park boundary. Gazetted road easements do exist, however, roads have either not been constructed or were not constructed wholly within the easement. Access to the park for management purposes currently occurs under informal agreement with local landholders.

Previously licensed through State Forests of NSW, the Roads and Traffic Authority and NSW Rural Fire Service maintain a radio repeater on top of Minjary Mountain and require on-going access to the site.

Several informal tracks and trails exist within the park. Since the gazettal of the park, the NPWS has erected some park signage at several locations. Further interpretational signage and visitor facilities such walking tracks may be needed in future. The park is not sign posted from any major roads and is not promoted widely.

Fencing of the park boundary exists to varying standards. In some locations, fences have never been erected to delineate the park boundary. In other locations fences are maintained to a stock proof standard. Some internal fencing exists within the park, but these are not required for management operations. Access by stock from neighbouring properties has occurred in the past, as has grazing under permit.

2.6 FIRE

The last major fire within Minjary National Park occurred in 1904. That fire is reputed to have started west of Wagga but did not cross the Tumut River. More recent fire events have only burnt a few hectares, although backburning activities significantly increased the area affected. Small fires, started from lightning strikes, are known to have burnt the north-east of the park in 1991, and the east of the park in 1995. Both were contained by the Rural Fire Service's local brigades, State Forests of NSW and neighbouring landholders.

The area surrounding the park is either cleared or partially cleared grazing land. To the north a number of small holdings have developed on the Gocup Road at an area known as 'Minjary'. To the south-west is the Visy Pulp and Paper Mill.

Fuel levels within the park are generally low due to the sparse nature of the understorey. However, after extended periods of drought it is possible that the park and neighbouring land could potentially carry a wildfire.

Fire suppression within Tumut Shire is based on cooperative fire management principles. The Service actively participates on the local Bush Fire Management Committee.

2.7 EDUCATION/RESEARCH

The park has been the subject of several studies in the past. Geology, flora, fauna and fire studies were undertaken prior to NPWS management. Further use of the park for research and education will be encouraged.

2.8 REFERENCES

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3. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Soil conservation</p> <p>Soil erosion and nutrient pollution is occurring on the north-eastern boundary due to the existence of a sheep camp inside the park boundary. A boundary fence has never been erected at this site.</p> <p>The soils of the park are highly erodible when exposed. The high clay content tends to disperse in water very readily.</p>	<p>Removal of stock and rehabilitation of sheep camp site.</p> <p>Stabilisation of areas where soils are exposed to the weather.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using fencing agreements, erect boundary fencing to prevent stock access to the park. 2. Undertake active rehabilitation of the stock camp to control weed invasion following stock removal. 3. Encourage regeneration of native species in areas of exposed soil by controlling weed infestations and limiting other forms of disturbance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. High 3. Med
<p>Water conservation</p> <p>Water quality of the streams of the park is generally good. Most of the streams are intermittently dry during the hot summer months. The catchments of Meadow and Minjary Creeks are contained mostly within the park and are relatively stable.</p>	<p>Maintain the water quality of the park's streams and catchments.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control erosion and clay dispersion due to soil exposure from trail works and fire related activities by conforming with trail maintenance policy and South West Slopes Region Environmental Safeguards Code of Practice. 2. Periodically monitor water quality to ensure that no decline occurs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Low

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Native flora conservation</p> <p>All of the park's ecosystems are considered significant in terms of being remnants of once common forest types. Very limited old growth specimens exists within the park.</p> <p>A small area of the endangered Grassy White Box Woodland exists in the north-west corner of the park.</p> <p>Rocky outcrops present in the park contain a different suite of species to other CRA forest types classifications and require further investigation.</p>	<p>Maintain the integrity of the forest types within the park</p> <p>Update knowledge base on significant flora of the park</p> <p>Increase knowledge and understanding of species on rocky outcrops within the park</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage wildfire in the park to reduce the potential for forest and old growth disturbance. 2. Undertake additional targeted survey for threatened species to increase knowledge base and inform management actions. 3. Undertake research to identify species associated with rocky outcrops and their management requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Med 3. Low
<p>Native fauna conservation</p> <p>Current level of knowledge of fauna diversity is based on CRA modelling and limited surveys. The modelling has identified potential habitat for threatened species. Several threatened species have been identified in the park</p> <p>Current threats to habitat are clearing and disturbance in adjoining lands, feral animals and wildfire.</p>	<p>Increase knowledge base on species diversity, threatened species and significant habitats</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake targeted fauna surveys for threatened species 2. Ensure that threats to native fauna are removed or minimised through control of non-native predators, management of wildfire and minimising disturbance through park management activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. High

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Introduced plants</p> <p>St. John's Wort and Blackberry are the two weed species that have the potential to infest areas on a large scale. Both species are not currently high in abundance within the park.</p> <p>Small areas of Willow exist within Meadow and Minjary Creeks. Those species of willow that can seed and self-sow in creeklines are the highest priority for removal.</p> <p>Introduced plant and animal populations fluctuate under varying environmental regimes. New, or previously unseen species will be added to the regional pest management strategy and controlled based on regional priorities.</p>	<p>The impact of introduced species on native species and neighbouring lands is minimised.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control weeds in the park in accordance with the pest management strategy, with priority to control of Blackberry and St Johns Wort. 2. Identify and remove all Willows from the park in order of priority. 3. Seek the cooperation of other authorities and adjoining neighbours in implementing weed control programs. 4. Using Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) principles, regularly monitor existing infestations of weeds using photo monitoring plots and weed recording sheets to ensure they are not spreading. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Med 3. Med 4. Med
<p>Introduced Animals</p> <p>Rabbits, foxes and cats occur in the area and are expected to exist within the park in low numbers. Dogs, goats and pigs have been known to exist in the past but have not been sighted for a number of years.</p>	<p>The impact of introduced species on native species and neighbouring lands is minimised.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively control feral species, as necessary, using techniques outlined in the pest management strategy. 2. Participate in cooperative feral animal control programs with neighbours and RLPB. 3. Continue to undertake regular fox control programs in accordance with the Fox Threat Abatement Plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Med 3. Med

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Fire management</p> <p>Fire is a natural feature of the environment of the park and is essential to the survival of some plant communities. Frequent or regular fire, however, can cause loss of particular plant and animal species and communities. Fire could also damage cultural features and fences and threaten neighbouring land and other assets.</p> <p>Fire suppression within Tumut Shire is based on cooperative fire management principles. The Service actively participates in local Bush Fire Management Committee activities.</p>	<p>Persons and property are protected from bushfire.</p> <p>Fire regimes are appropriate for conservation of plant and animal communities.</p> <p>Cultural features are protected from damage by fire.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively participate in Highlands Zone Bush Fire Management Committee and maintain regular liaison with Rural Fire Service Fire Control Officer and RFS brigades. 2. Participate in the Tumut Shire approval process for developments near the park through the Service's role on the BPMC. 3. Promote cooperative fire management strategies with the Rural Fire Service and neighbours to protect life and property. 4. Collect fire history, operational and other fire data for the park and prepare a Type 2 Fire Management Plan and associated Fire Operations Map for the park by 2006 that details fire advantages and limitations, significant sites for protection, significant habitat and assets and bushfire suppression strategies. 5. Encourage further research into the ecological effects of fire in the park. 6. No prescribed burning will be undertaken in the park for the life of this plan, unless future fire research identifies an ecological or asset protection need. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. High 3. High 4. High 5. Med 6. Med

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Aboriginal heritage</p> <p>Minjary NP has several identified Aboriginal sites within its boundary and may contain other places of cultural importance.</p> <p>Minjary was known as part of a travelling route between the western plains and the Kosciuszko area via the Tumut River.</p>	<p>Cultural features are conserved and managed in accordance with their significance.</p> <p>Knowledge of Aboriginal significance of the park and surrounding landscape are understood.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that all developments, such as trail maintenance activities, are preceded by an Aboriginal sites register check and field inspection. 2. Consult and involve the Tumut-Brungle Aboriginal Land Council in all aspects of management of Aboriginal sites, places and values within, and related to, Minjary National Park. 3. Continue to record sites on NPWS Aboriginal Sites database (AHIMS). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Med <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Historic heritage</p> <p>Old fences and other evidence of grazing exist in the park.</p> <p>A disused sulky route has been reported within the park.</p> <p>Evidence of timber gathering for posts and firewood exists throughout the park.</p>	<p>Knowledge of the non-Aboriginal significance of the park and surrounding landscape are understood.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess impacts of fences and other evidence of past use. Retain fences unless found to be hazardous or impeding natural processes. 2. Continue to record sites on NPWS Historic Sites database (HHIMS). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Med <p>Ongoing</p>

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Public Use/Access</p> <p>There is currently no public vehicular access into Minjary National Park.</p> <p>A scout group infrequently uses the park for bushwalking.</p> <p>There may be demand in future for recreational and educational use of the park by other groups.</p> <p>There is an old hang gliding ramp on Minjary Mountain which has been assessed as unsafe.</p> <p>Occasional horse riding occurs.</p> <p>Trail bike riding has occurred on a small scale in the past.</p> <p>Commercial activities are not currently undertaken in the park.</p>	<p>Use of the park is carefully managed since it is a relatively small and a significant area of remnant vegetation.</p> <p>Visitor use is ecologically sustainable.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove the old hang gliding ramp. 2. Permit organised group recreational and educational visits, subject to limits on numbers and other conditions as necessary to minimise impacts. 3. Encourage bushwalking and other low impact activities. Permit bush camping within the park. Allow cycling and day use horse riding on management trails. 4. Undertake regular patrols to enforce NPWS Regulations and management policies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Low 3. Med 4. Med

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
<p>Research</p> <p>Scientific study will improve understanding of the park's natural and cultural heritage, the processes that affect them and the requirements for management of particular species.</p> <p>The flora, fauna, geology and fire regimes of the park have been studied in the past on a limited basis. Information contained within these studies should be obtained to enhance knowledge and therefore inform management decisions.</p>	<p>Research enhances the management information base and has minimal environmental impact.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather information on the park from previous stakeholders and researchers. 2. Undertake and encourage research to improve knowledge and management of natural and cultural heritage. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Med 2. Med
<p>Community Involvement/Education</p> <p>There is currently limited community knowledge and understanding of the significance of the park. No formal, community based activities occur within the park.</p>	<p>The community and other relevant stakeholders are aware of park's significance and management activities.</p> <p>Increase public knowledge of the significance of the reserve network of SWS Region.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to provide information and educational material related to the significance of, and threats to, the ecosystems of the South West Slopes bioregion and Minjary National Park in particular. 2. Work with neighbours and other land management agencies to encourage conservation of remnant native vegetation and linking of remnants. 3. Undertake activities to increase public knowledge of the park's existence and values. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Med 2. Med 3. Low

Current Situation	Desired Outcomes	Actions	Priority
Management operations A network of management trails of varying standards and condition exists within the park. Access points are via private property. The park boundary is fenced to a varying standard and condition. Some fences exist on alignments not coinciding with gazetted boundaries. The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) maintains a radio repeater station on top of Minjary Mountain and requires on-going access to the site.	Management facilities adequately serve management needs and have acceptable impact. Fencing is constructed along the entire park boundary to a stock-proof standard. Manage for appropriate use only.	1. Assess condition and location of boundary fencing and construct/upgrade where necessary. 2. Retain trails required for access and management purposes (see map) and restrict access to these purposes only. Negotiate trail access/maintenance licences or agreements where necessary. 3. Close and rehabilitate other tracks and trails.	1. High 2. Med 3. Med

Key to priorities:

High priority activities are those imperative to achievement of the objectives and desired outcomes. They must be undertaken in the near future to avoid significant deterioration in natural, cultural or management resources.

Medium priority activities are those that are necessary to achieve the objectives and desired outcomes but are not urgent.

Low priority activities are desirable to achieve management objectives and desired outcomes but can wait until resources become available.

