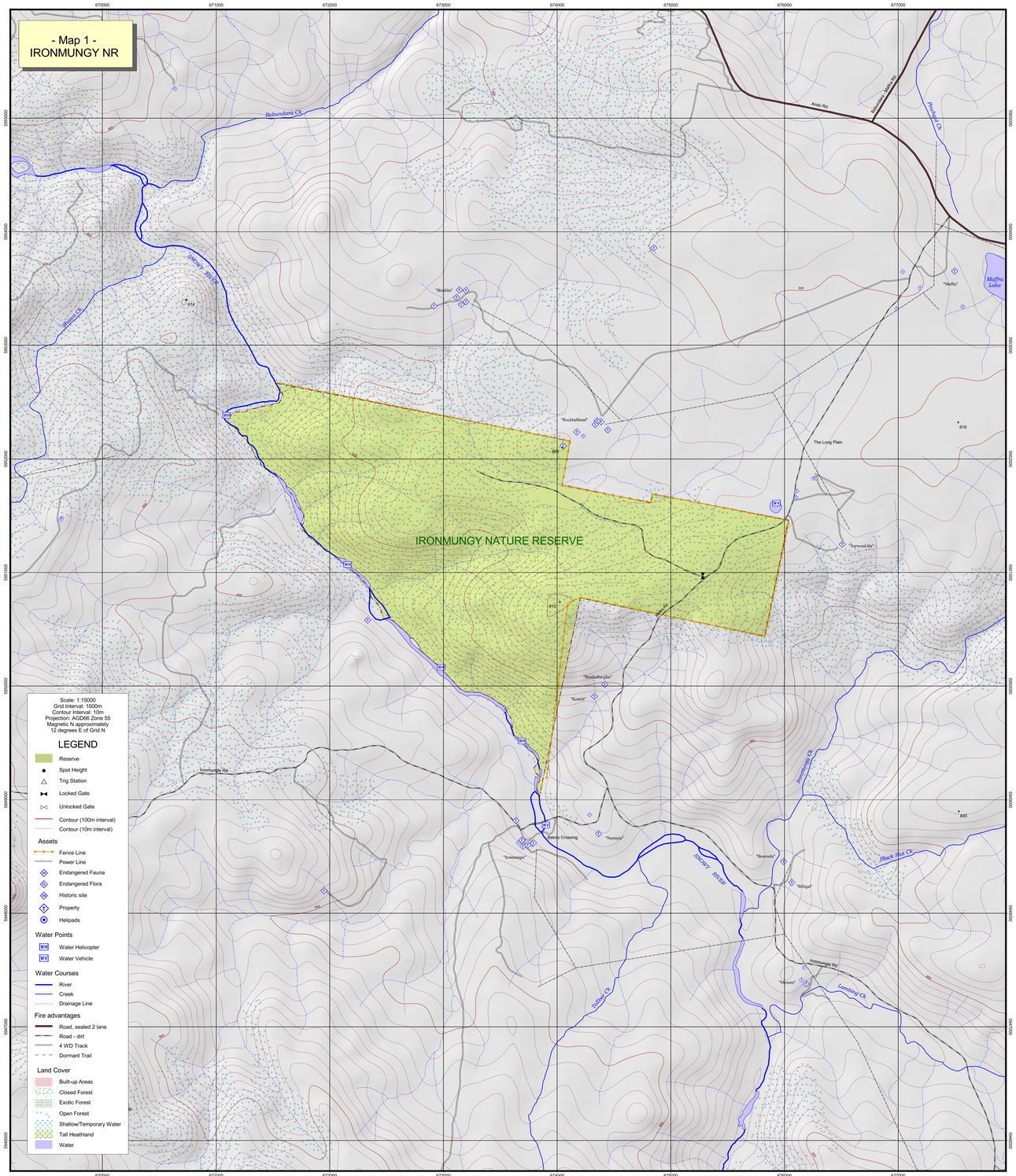
Snowy Mountains Region
Ironmungy Nature Reserve
Fire Management Strategy 2005

Version: May 2005

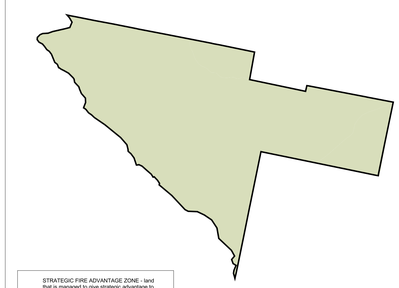
This Map should be used in conjunction with air photos and ground reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

This map is based on Land and Property Information Standard 1:25000 Topographic Map Series. Reproduced with permission of Land and Property Information.

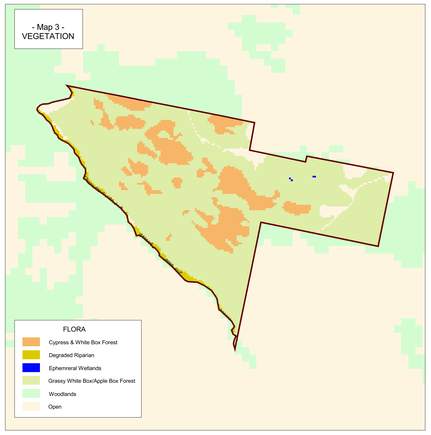
- Map 1 -
IRONMUNGY NR



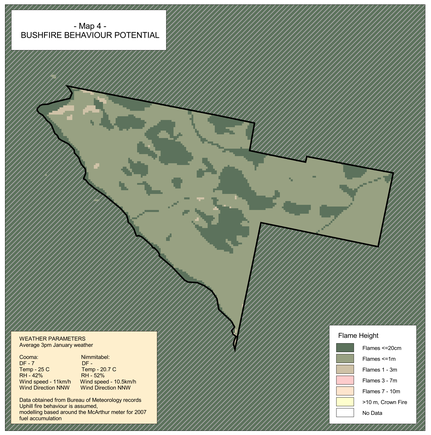
- Map 2 -
FIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES



- Map 3 -
VEGETATION



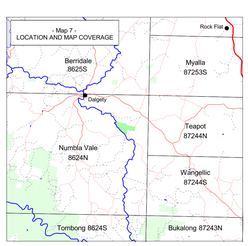
- Map 4 -
BUSHFIRE BEHAVIOUR POTENTIAL



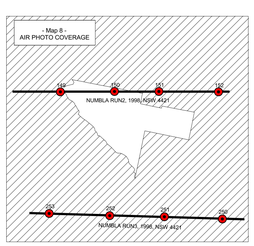
- Map 5 -
FIRE HISTORY

- Map 6 -
FIRE REGIME EVALUATION

- Map 7 -
LOCATION AND MAP COVERAGE



- Map 8 -
AIR PHOTO COVERAGE



FIRE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Area/Resource	Operational Guidelines
Command and Control	If a ground crew from a non-responsible agency confirms the fire location, an initial attack may be mounted. Contact must then be made with the National Parks and wildlife Service as soon as possible. Attack methods must be consistent with the service's usual practices If responsibility is unconfirmed, or is confirmed and contact cannot be made with the Service, then the first responsible agency should mount initial attack until such time as responsibility for control is established. Cost for initial attack will be borne by the responding agency. The transfer of control to the responsible agency from the first attack agency is to be (as much as possible) a smooth process. All information is to be passed on and should include verbal and hardcopy reports. Personnel in the field are to be advised of the transfer of control via a formal briefing. The initial fireground Incident Controller is to remain in control until such time as he/she is relieved by the responsible agency. In some instances the responsible agency will request that the initial fireground Incident Controller remain in charge for the duration of the shift and direct incoming resources as required.
Suppression strategies - seasons with saturated subsoils	Vehicle and earth-moving equipment may be limited due to the risk of bogging and should be avoided in areas known or identified to be prone to surface soil and subsoil saturation. Includes valley areas.
Suppression strategies - seasons with moderate conditions	*Severe or dry unstable weather conditions forecast* Direct or parallel attack with plant and fire units to minimise the fire area and secure the flank as soon as possible. *Moist weather forecast* Maximise area when in accordance with proposed hazard reduction burns to meet long-term fire and land management objectives.
Suppression strategies - seasons with severe conditions	*Containment Strategy* Undertake property protection of identified assets as highest priority Fall back to existing trails, roads and recently burnt areas when fire runs exceed control line construction rates, or are predicted to exceed during weather with very low humidities and shifting winds 0-3 year burn may hold head fire if deep enough and conditions mild enough 3-5 year burns will only reduce fire intensity in areas without grassy understorey Secure and deepen control lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire Burn out the area between the control line and the fire front ASAP using ground and aerial ignitions *Backburning* Target backburning operations when the RH rises in late afternoon/early evening Consider restricting backburning operations on downwind control lines when RH<10% Maximise backburning operations with prevailing wind if appropriate Secure fire edge by timing the backburn to minimise the area impacted by a high intensity fire. Consideration should be given to wind speed, direction and RH when planning to implement backburns
Earth moving machinery	Prior to use of earthmoving equipment on lands under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the approval of the Service is to be obtained. Plant must be guided at night due to safety concerns with steep terrain Plant guides should be briefed on the location of the proposed line & heritage items Control lines constructed by earth moving machinery should avoid rocky ridges, river corridors (200m buffer) and any areas identified to contain aboriginal sites Control lines running along valley areas should be constructed 20-50m from the gully line where possible to avoid severe erosion
Restoration	Fire control lines constructed by earth moving equipment should be stabilised and rehabilitated at the completion of fire operations.
Fire fighting chemicals	The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants is permitted in the reserve away from the water courses Areas treated with aerial applications of foam and retardants should be recorded where possible

FIRE BEHAVIOUR AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Community	Fire Behaviour Characteristics	Vegetation Management Guidelines
Open	* Varying grass types give different behaviours * Cured grasses dry quickly and will be available before surface fuels	* Species decline is predicted if fires occur more often than every 2 years * Grassy understorey and surface fuels established very quickly * Soils prone to erosion and weed invasion with frequent fire
Cypress & White Box Forest	* Grassy understorey is fairly sparse and cooler burns will be patchy * Sudden increase in fire behaviour (crown fires) with higher FDIs	* Species decline is predicted if fires occur more often than every 22 years, or less often than every 150 years. * Soils prone to erosion and weed invasion
Degraded Riparian	* Willow trees may carry a hot fire across watercourses * Willows can provide some heat absorption	* Remove Willow trees and establish native community of smaller riparian species
Ephemeral Wetland	* Usually behaves as short grassland * Emergent species may still burn above open water	* Niche habitat to species uncommon to an area, disturb as little as possible * Do not bulldoze as surface alteration may result in drainage of wetland * Species decline predicted if fires occur more often than every 6 years, or less often than every 140 years.
Grassy White Box / Apple Box Forest	* Open forest sustaining fast low fires on grassy understorey * Continuous crown fires unlikely as canopy is very open, but will occur in drought conditions especially on steep slopes	* Species decline is predicted if fires occur more often than every 22 years, or less often than every 150 years. * Grassy understorey and surface fuels established very quickly * Soils prone to erosion and weed invasion, encouraged by burning
Woodlands	* Fires possible at most times of the year * Quick rate of spread due to drier fuels * Lesser risk of crown fires with woodland formation although these will occur in drought conditions given sufficient non-grassy fuels * Fire in drought conditions will burn almost-bare grassy fuel areas only in high winds. ROS will be high.	* Species decline predicted if successive fires occur less than 16 years apart. Decline predicted if fire interval exceeds 50 years. * Grassy understorey re-established quickly

CONTACT NUMBERS

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Jindabyne Office Operations Room	6450 5555 6450 5573
Senior Ranger Fire - Ian Dicker mobile	6450 5576 0427 700 168
Technical Officer Fire - Phil Zylstra mobile	6450 5595 0428 462 880
Area Manager - Pam O'Brien	6450 5575
Ranger - Steve Wright mobile	6450 5577 0427 703 494
After hours Incident Answering Service	1800 629 104

RURAL FIRE SERVICE

State Operations	8845 3501 (24Hr)
Berridale Fire Control Centre	6450 5100

EMERGENCY SERVICES

POLICE Cooma	6452 0099
AMBULANCE	131 233
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Cooma	6452 3763

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

NPWS VHF channels available will be channels 1, 2 or 7.
Fireground communications will be via NPWS channel 18. Reception will be marginal on all channels
UHF RFS PMR Channel 4

COMMENT ON FIRE BEHAVIOUR

Map 4 represents the potential (uphill) fire behaviour for an average January bushfire in 2007, fire behaviour will differ markedly with different climatic conditions. Management for worst-case conditions focuses on property protection and effective pre-fire measures will focus on maintenance of property Asset Protection Zones along with general property maintenance.

Average summer fires in the reserve are expected to be mild enough to be contained with initial direct attack, although fire behaviour in the extreme western edge and the two main gullies falling down to the Snowy River may be more intense.

West to southwest wind conditions pose increased fire risk in the two gullies, which may produce moderate to high intensity fire at such times. Short distance spotting is a risk at these times.

FIRE SEASON INFORMATION

The critical fire season occurs between December and March, when the potential for large fire events is at its highest. Particular care is required during extended periods of negative Southern Oscillation Indices, leading to periods of reduced rainfall.

The end of the critical fire season is marked by cold humid nights and cooler day temperatures with periods of relatively stable atmospheric conditions.

Prescribed burning should be undertaken before late autumn precipitation occurs. Burning may also be undertaken during late winter and early spring, although conditions are often too moist. Burning should be avoided in late spring.