

**BIMBERI NATURE RESERVE
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

January 1997

Acknowledgements: This plan of management was prepared by the Queanbeyan District Office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in consultation with staff of Southern Region and the Field Services Division of the Service's Head Office.

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ISBN 0 7305 7425 3

FOREWORD

Bimberi Nature Reserve is located on the western fall of the Brindabella Range between Kosciusko National Park in New South Wales and Namadgi National Park in the Australian Capital Territory. It is a strip of rugged and forested land on the eastern side of the headwaters of the Goodradigbee River. The crest of the Brindabella Range is the border between New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

The nature reserve is one of ten alpine and sub-alpine conservation areas in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory recognised by the respective governments as having nationally significant natural, cultural and recreational values. These governments and the Australian Government, are signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding on the Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps National Parks. It is the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding to protect the landscape, native plants and animals, cultural values, catchments and outdoor recreation opportunities of the alpine areas of Australia. The Memorandum of Understanding also has an objective to encourage the enjoyment and understanding of alpine environments. The proposals outlined in this plan of management are consistent with the principles and objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The plan recognises that the Mount Franklin Road provides access to a number of recreation sites in Namadgi National Park and to the Mount Ginini Air Navigation Beacon and other facilities and that responsibility for the maintenance of the road will continue to rest with the ACT authorities. The Mount Aggie and Mount Franklin sites within the nature reserve will continue to be managed for visitor use with the objective of encouraging the enjoyment and understanding of the nature reserve by visitors.

Extensive lands in both Kosciusko National Park and Namadgi National Park have been recognised as having wilderness values in adopted plans of management. The wilderness in Namadgi National Park was declared by the ACT authorities in 1989. Much of the Bimberi Wilderness in NSW was declared in 1994 under the NSW Wilderness Act with an additional area added in April 1996. The majority of the nature reserve is declared wilderness, thus completing the link between the Kosciusko and Namadgi wilderness areas.

This plan establishes the scheme of operations for Bimberi Nature Reserve. In accordance with the provisions of Section 76 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

PAM ALLAN

Minister for
the Environment

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1. INTRODUCTION

The National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, requires that a plan of management be prepared for each nature reserve. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how the area will be managed in the years ahead.

The procedures for the adoption of a plan of management for a nature reserve are specified in the Act:

- Where a plan of management has been prepared, the Director-General is required to refer the plan to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for its consideration and advice.
- The Director-General is then required to submit the plan to the Minister, together with any comments or suggestions of the Advisory Council.
- The Minister may adopt the plan without alteration, or with such alterations as thought fit, or may refer it back to the Director-General and Council for further consideration.

Once a plan has been adopted by the Minister, no operations may be undertaken within the nature reserve except in accordance with the plan.

Although not a requirement under the Act, the plan of management for Bimberi Nature Reserve was published and distributed to neighbours of the reserve and other persons and organisations with an interest in its management, for comment on the proposals it contained for a period of three months early in 1990. The plan of management attracted 14 submissions which raised 21 issues.

All comments received were referred to the Advisory Council along with the plan, for its consideration and advice. Comments and suggestions of the Advisory Council were, in turn, considered by the Minister when adopting this plan.

The planning process leading to the development of this plan has involved the collection and use of information, which for reasons of document size, has not been included in the plan. For additional information or enquiries on any aspect of the plan, please contact the Service's Queanbeyan District Office at 6 Rutledge Street, Queanbeyan; or by phone on (06) 299 2929.

2. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

2.1 NATURE RESERVES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Reserving areas for nature conservation as a general purpose was introduced into Australia with the establishment of Royal National Park in 1879, some seven years after the world's first national park was created at Yellowstone in the United States of America. Fauna reserves in New South Wales were first established under the Fauna Protection Act of 1948. Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1967, fauna reserves were reclassified as nature reserves. The Fauna Protection Act was replaced by the National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1974. Under this Act, nature reserves are areas of special scientific interest containing wildlife or natural environments or natural phenomena.

The purposes of nature reserves are defined in the Act as:

- "(a) the care, propagation, preservation and conservation of wildlife:
- (b) the care, preservation and conservation of natural environments and natural phenomena;
- (c) the study of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena; and
- (d) the promotion of the appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena."

Nature reserves are valuable refuge areas, where natural processes, phenomena and wildlife can be studied. They differ from national parks which include as a major objective the provision of opportunities for outdoor recreation.

2.2. AUSTRALIAN ALPS NATIONAL PARKS AGREEMENT

Bimberi Nature Reserve is one of ten major conservation areas in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Victoria which are recognised as comprising an area of national significance containing:

- Australia's highest peaks and most spectacular mountain scenery;
- plants and animals unique to Australian alpine environments;
- a rich heritage of use by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people;
- an outstanding outdoor recreation resource for Australians;
- the headwaters of major river systems, supplying snowmelt waters vital to south-east Australia for domestic use, industry, irrigation and hydro-electric production; and
- important tourist attractions.

Since July 1986 there has been in existence a memorandum of understanding between relevant Governments on the Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps National Parks. The current Agreement is dated 2nd December 1989 and was signed by Ministers representing the Commonwealth, NSW, Victorian and Australian Capital Territory Governments. The Agreement provides that the State and Commonwealth Agencies responsible for the management of the ten areas will co-operate to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) protection of the landscape;
- (b) protection of native plants and animals and cultural values;
- (c) provision of outdoor recreation opportunities to encourage the enjoyment and understanding of the alpine environments; and
- (d) protection of mountain catchments.

The Alps Agreement also provides for liaison and consultation between the management agencies on planning, resource data collection, policy formulation, protection, public awareness and recreation management programs.

2.3 BIMBERI NATURE RESERVE

2.3.1 Location and Regional Setting

Bimberi Nature Reserve covers 7 100 hectares on the western fall of the Brindabella Range to the Goodradigbee River and the boundary of Kosciusko National Park. It is bounded by Rolling Ground Spur in the south and the vicinity of Mount Aggie in the north. The reserve is shown on the map included in this plan.

The reserve was delineated by the previously established boundaries of Kosciusko National Park and the ACT. This rather arbitrary boundary is not a constraint to framing management policies. In this regard the nature reserve is treated as a conservation area contiguous with both Kosciusko and Namadgi National Parks and is a vital link between these two areas. Kosciusko National Park is a Biosphere Reserve and Bimberi Nature Reserve although not having Biosphere Reserve status is an extension of those important landscapes and ecosystems found in Kosciusko National Park.

The Cotter Valley within Namadgi National Park and adjacent to Bimberi Nature Reserve is recognised in the adopted plan of management for Namadgi National Park as a Special Scientific Area.

The nature reserve lies within an area which has wilderness qualities. The area extends into the adjacent Kosciusko and Namadgi National Parks and was first identified in a survey of wilderness in south-east Australia by P. Helman in 1974. The nature reserve now falls within an area of almost 60 000 hectares declared as wilderness within both NSW and the ACT

2.3.2 Importance of Bimberi Nature Reserve

Bimberi Nature Reserve has:

- * importance as a link between Kosciusko National Park and Namadgi National Park and hence provides continuity for the protection of catchment, landscape diversity and ecological values over a large area of the sub-alpine and montane area of south-eastern Australia;
- * scientifically significant natural ecosystems on Mount Ginini and Mount Gingera, particularly sub-alpine vegetation types and Bogong moth habitat;
- * significant wilderness values; and
- * outstanding scenery along the crest of the Brindabella Range and the Goodradigbee River.

3. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

The following objectives generally relate to the management of nature reserves in NSW:

- * The protection and preservation of scenic and natural features;
- * The maintenance of natural processes as far as possible;
- * The conservation of wildlife;
- * The preservation of Aboriginal sites and historic features; and
- * The encouragement of scientific and educational enquiry into environmental features and processes.

In addition to these general objectives, the following specific objectives also apply to the management of Bimberi Nature Reserve.

- * The protection of that large area of the nature reserve with wilderness values and its management as an extension of the Bimberi Wilderness Area in Kosciusko National Park and in sympathy with the declared wilderness area in Namadgi National Park;
- * The protection of the nature conservation values of the nature reserve;
- * The provision of opportunities for scientific investigation and environmental education;
- * The provision of access through the nature reserve along the Mount Franklin Road to visitor use facilities in Namadgi National Park in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Co-operative Management of the Australian Alps National Parks and subject to conditions required to protect the nature reserve; and
- * The provision of a limited number of low key day use facilities including walking tracks at sites along the Mount Franklin Road which are appropriate to the purposes of managing a nature reserve.

4. POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT

This section contains the policies and framework for management of Bimberi Nature Reserve together with relevant background information. Policies are summarised under the following headings:

- * Nature Conservation;
- * Cultural Heritage;
- * Use of the Nature Reserve; and
- * Promotion of the Nature Reserve.

The policies established in this plan of management will provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated resources available to the Service and anticipated community trends for the next 5 to 10 years. The actions identified are those immediate proposals which are to be undertaken in the next five years. Other management actions may be developed over the life span of this plan consistent with the policies set out in the plan.

4.1. NATURE CONSERVATION

4.1.1 Geology, Topography, Soils, Plants and Animals

Bimberi Nature Reserve is located on the elevated block of the Brindabella Range and rises from a low point of about 750 metres above sea level on the Goodradigbee River to 1 857 metres above sea level at Mount Gingera.

Most of the reserve is composed of extensively deformed volcanic rocks and altered sediments with some very prominent granite outcrops on the crest of the range. The soils of the reserve demonstrate high porosity and stability with few erosion problems. Elevated granite areas exhibit a very humic or peaty soil.

Caves and other karst features have been reported on the east bank of the Goodradigbee River and the main flow of the river goes through Blackfellows (Anabranche) Cave, which is therefore in the nature reserve. These features are part of the Silurian limestone deposits which extend through the adjacent Coleman Plains area of Kosciusko National Park and which are subject to a detailed supplementary plan to the Kosciusko National Park plan of management.

Distribution of vegetation types closely follows patterns of elevation, slope and aspect. Most species are of montane and sub-alpine types. Woodlands of snow gum *Eucalyptus pauciflora* occur on the crest of the range above 1500 metres. These grade downslope into tall open forests of snow gum and, at approximately 1300 metres, into snow gum-mountain gum *E. dalrympleana* open forest communities. These are interspersed with alpine ash *E. delegatensis* in more sheltered aspects. At lower elevations along the Goodradigbee River drier montane peppermint *E. radiata* forests occur.

Non-eucalypt species form only a very small component of the overstorey. The understorey varies from leguminous and sclerophyllous shrubs to grasses.

Herbfields, grasslands and swamps occur on the higher peaks, gaps in the range and on broad open areas respectively. Mount Gingera has an example of alpine sphagnum and herbfields. The Brumby Flats area has a sphagnum bog environment. Heaths occur on screes in the sub-alpine area. The rare alpine conifer *Podocarpus lawrencei* binds the scree and inhibits erosion. It may be found in areas above 1 500 metres.

The arboretum at Pryors Hut was previously used for testing species of trees, particularly *Pinus sylvestris* obtained from the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric

Authority, for their response to Australian alpine conditions. This was to determine which species would be the most applicable for harvesting under these conditions. On the basis of available information the arboretum is not regarded as a threat to the status of natural systems in the nature reserve. Its continued existence, however is considered inappropriate in the nature reserve.

Fauna surveys have not been comprehensive or systematic within the nature reserve itself, but scientific inventories in the adjacent Cotter catchment have recorded a number of species of particular interest. These include the unusual smoky mouse *Pseudomys fumeus* (recognised as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act) recorded near Bulls Head and Mt. Kelly and the corroboree frog *Pseudophryne corroboree* (recognised as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act) at Mount Gingera. The migratory Bogong moth *Agrotis infusa* aestivates in granite outcrops on Mount Gingera and a sub-species of butterfly *Oreixenica kershawiphryne* is endemic to the Brindabella Range.

In the adjacent Brindabella Range National Park proposal, 298 species of animals in 96 families have been recorded. These consisted of 47 species of mammals, 181 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, 12 species of amphibians, 9 species of fish and 23 species of invertebrates.

Large mammals observed during that study include the eastern grey kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*, red-necked wallaby *Wallabia rufus*, wombat *Vombatus vombatus*, wallaroo or euro *Macropus robustus* and swamp wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*.

Arboreal mammals include the ring-tailed possum *Pseudocheirus perigrinus*, brush-tailed possum *Trichosurus vulpecular*, the greater glider *Petauroides volans*, and the sugar glider *Petaurus breviceps*.

Other smaller animals include echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, platypus *Ornithonychus anatinus*, the brown antechinus, *Antechinus stuartii*, Swainson's antechinus *Antechinus swainsonii* the southern bushrat *Rattus fuscipes*, black rat *Rattus rattus* and the water rat *Rattus lutreolus*.

Non-native fauna recorded during the Brindabella study included goats *Capra hircus* and horses *Equus caballus*, house mouse *Mus domesticus*, European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, European fox *Vulpes vulpes*, wild dog *Canis familiaris*, domestic cat *Felis catus*, pig *Sus scrofa*, sheep *Ovis aries* and cow *Bos taurus*. Pigs and rabbits are the most common non-native fauna in the nature reserve and in moderate to large numbers cause unacceptable damage to the natural systems of the nature reserve.

Dingoes and feral dogs occur within the reserve. The dingo is considered by the Service to be a native species but for most management purposes, no distinction is drawn between dingoes and other dogs. Together they are considered as wild dogs. Wild dogs occurring on the reserve sometimes foray into neighbouring properties where they may prey on domestic livestock; however apart from the north-west corner the reserve is surrounded by other large nature conservation areas.

Policies

- * Caves and karst areas in Bimberi Nature Reserve will be managed as part of the Coleman Plains Karst Area of the adjacent Kosciusko National Park.
- * The caves will be classified and managed as "special purposes" caves with a high level of protection and use limited to specialist speleologists and highly skilled cavers.

- * The diversity of natural vegetation types, animal communities and ecological processes will be maintained.
- * The habitats of plants and animals identified as threatened under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 will be protected from any disturbances arising from human activities.
- * Research projects to investigate vegetation communities and the habitat requirements, status and distribution of native animals, particularly endangered animals and animals of special concern, will be encouraged.
- * Non-native plants and animals will be controlled and where possible eradicated from the nature reserve. Priority will be given to feral pigs, dogs, rabbits, and St. Johns Wort.
- * Control of all wild dogs will be undertaken along the north-west boundary of the nature reserve abutting private property where it can be proved that they are responsible for the destruction of or injury to stock. Control methods will be in accordance with current Service policy.
- * Elsewhere in the nature reserve dingoes will be protected.
- * Feral dog populations will be controlled and where possible eradicated in the nature reserve.
- * No extractive activity including quarrying, mining, logging or grazing will be permitted in the nature reserve.
- * No mineral exploration which requires the disturbance of the nature reserve will be permitted.
- * Research will be encouraged into particular fields of relevance to the management of the nature reserve. A schedule will be prepared listing those areas where a research need has been identified. The list will be updated regularly and circulated to research institutions in the ACT.
- * The arboretum at Pryors Hut will be allowed to regenerate to a natural condition. Any non-indigenous wildings outside the arboretum or any non-indigenous regrowth within the arboretum will be removed.

4.1.2 Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers

Vitually all of Bimberi Nature Reserve meets the requirements for wilderness as specified in the Wilderness Act, 1987; viz:

- the area is, together with its plant and animal communities, in a state that has not been substantially modified by humans and their works or is capable of being restored to such a state;
- the area is of a sufficient size to make its maintenance in such a state feasible; and
- the area is capable of providing opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation.

That part of the nature reserve so defined was part of a larger area nominated under the Wilderness Act, 1987 to be declared as the Bimberi Wilderness Area. The bulk of this nomination (19 200 ha) lies within Kosciusko National Park to the west.

The nominated area was assessed by the Service and an assessment report placed on public exhibition. The Bimberi Wilderness, covering most of Bimberi Nature Reserve and adjacent parts of Kosciusko National Park was declared in September 1994. Scabby Nature Reserve to the south of Bimberi Nature Reserve was subsequently included in the Bimberi Wilderness Area by amendment in April 1996.

About 30 000 ha of Namadgi National Park to the east of the nature reserve was declared in December 1989 as the Bimberi Wilderness under the ACT Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act was amended in 1987 to enable the Director-General to declare and manage wild and scenic rivers within national parks and nature reserves. For the part of its course within the nature reserve, the Goodradigbee River has the following characteristics:

- it has outstanding features such as deep pools, white water rapids and waterfalls;
- it is not ponded or dammed either within or at any point above the nature reserve; and
- visitors use the streams and their banks for recreation such as walking, camping, photography, nature study, fishing, liloing and swimming.

On this basis it is considered that it merits classification as a Wild and Scenic River.

Policies

- * In accordance with the Wilderness Act, the wilderness area within the nature reserve shall be managed:
 - to protect the unmodified state of the area and its plant and animal communities;
 - to preserve the capacity of the area to evolve in the absence of significant human interference; and
 - to permit opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation.
- * The Goodradigbee River and its tributaries within the nature reserve will be managed to protect their water catchment values and their wild and scenic values.

Action

- * The Goodradigbee River will be declared a wild and scenic river under section 61(1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act for its full length within the nature reserve.

4.1.3 Fire Management

Fire management and control programs for Bimberi Nature Reserve must take into account the reserve's rugged topography, inaccessibility, geographical location, fire history, and natural and cultural values. The ecological consequence of fire

management must also be considered. In this regard, monitoring of fuel and environmental changes is essential.

The reserve is long and narrow. It is almost surrounded by the natural lands of Kosciusko National Park, Scabby Range Nature Reserve and the proposed Brindabella National Park in NSW and Namadgi National Park in the ACT. Bimberi Nature Reserve was formerly leased to the ACT Bushfire Council for the protection of the ACT from bushfire. The fire management of Bimberi Nature Reserve still requires consultation with the ACT Bushfires Council, ACT Parks and Conservation Service and Kosciusko District of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW. An Alpine Areas Fire Plan is to be prepared.

Recent research into the incidence of fire in the Brindabella Range has concluded that before European settlement the ranges had fire free intervals of 7.1 years but has a historical fire incidence of 1.3 years. Fire during the past one hundred years has resulted mainly from burning off by local landholders. It is understood that Aboriginals had little interest in burning the montane country. It is inferred, therefore, that the interval between years when lightning strike fires occur is on average about 7 years. Lightning ignitions are concentrated off the main range along the major spurs.

Recreational fires are occasional and concentrated along the Mount Franklin Road and the Goodradigbee River, especially around popular fishing spots.

It is thought that the whole reserve was burnt in the wildfire of 1939. After 1944 when the Commonwealth leased the area for fire protection purposes, hazard reduction burns were continued by the ACT Bushfire Council up to 1984. These were not scientifically based. Prescribed burning is now only applied to specific hazard areas in the vegetation types on the lower slopes.

The planned burning program now being implemented within Kosciusko National Park will minimise the necessity for frequent or broad-area burning within Bimberi Nature Reserve. Controlled burns which are undertaken, however, will be for identified conservation purposes or for the protection of specific cultural sites.

Policies

- * Fires in Bimberi Nature Reserve will be managed in accordance with Section 41AB plans required under the Bush Fires Act, this plan of management and the fire management plan to be prepared for the park.
- * Fire will be used as a management technique to achieve nature conservation objectives as specified in a fire management plan.
- * Fire management programs outlined in the fire management plan will be based on and be amended to reflect the results of continuing research;
- * Pending the development of a fire management plan based on adequate scientific knowledge the following three guidelines on the use of fire will be generally followed:
 - deliberately lit fires will only be used in emergency situations and for essential management operations;
 - other human caused fires will be extinguished; and
 - naturally caused fires will only be extinguished when, in view of the direction, intensity and extent of the fire and the fire suppression

techniques available, they pose a threat to human life or to natural plant and animal communities which require protection from fire.

- * Fire will not be used for broad area fuel management purposes in:
 - sub-alpine communities;
 - areas identified as representative vegetation type sites;
 - wet heath, bog or wet grassland communities; and
 - lands with a slope of over 20 degrees;
- * Other areas which need specific protection from fire will be defined in a fire management plan and include:
 - the Mt. Ginini Air Navigation Beacon and radio transceiver bases;
 - historic places such as the Mt. Franklin Chalet and Pryors Hut;
 - Aboriginal sites and places; and
 - recreation areas such as walking tracks and picnic areas.
- * Fire management programs to protect those areas of Bimberi Nature Reserve not included within the wilderness area will as far as practicable be conducted outside the wilderness area.
- * The use of heavy machinery for fire suppression will, as far as practicable, be prohibited, except where:
 - it is considered to be the only way of preventing greater long-term loss of wilderness quality; or
 - to protect human life.
- * Evacuation plans in the event of wildfire will be included in emergency plan for the Mt. Franklin Road (q.v. sub-section 4.3; page 14).

Actions

- * A fire management plan will be prepared in accordance with the priorities of Service's State-wide fire management planning program and will integrate the fire management of Bimberi Nature Reserve with that of Scabby Range Nature Reserve and the adjacent areas of Kosciusko National Park and Namadgi National Park. The fire management plan for Bimberi Nature Reserve will be placed on public exhibition.
- * Leura Gap Track within the nature reserve will be retained for fire management purposes.
- * That part of the Harrys Spur Track within the nature reserve will be closed as a vehicle track but retained as a strategic fire advantage line.

4.2. CULTURAL HERITAGE

The area covered by the reserve lies on the junction of the territories of the Ngunawal and Walgalu Aboriginal people. Occupation of the area has been dated to about 5 000 years before present. Few occupation sites have been recorded because no

systematic archaeological survey has been undertaken. The sites recorded in the reserve are generally small surface scatters of artifacts, but in areas adjacent to the nature reserve, stone arrangements, rockshelters and art sites have been found. Most of the recorded sites lie along spurs and ridge-lines, while naturally treeless areas such as Brumby Flats are also likely to contain sites. Moth aestivation sites and campsites are known to occur at Mt. Franklin, Mt. Ginini and Mt. Gingera. It has been variously reported that one, two or three Aboriginal burials occur in caves on the east bank. The cave or caves have not been relocated but they may be part of an important complex of sites based on and around Cooleman Plain.

Only a few sites of European cultural significance are known in the nature reserve. These however include sites of pioneering settlement and sites of early recreational development. A number of sites, for example the Mt. Franklin Chalet and Pryors Hut straddle the ACT-NSW border and are hence located in both Bimberi Nature Reserve and Namadgi National Park.

The management of cultural resources in Bimberi Nature Reserve recognises that the historic features are with few exceptions in a ruined state.

It is expected that many more sites of cultural significance exist in the nature reserve.

Policies

- * All Aboriginal sites in the nature reserve will be preserved. Their location will not be made known to the public unless, following consultation with any affected Aboriginal group, it is determined that interpretation of such site or sites will assist visitor understanding of Aboriginal culture without placing at risk the preservation of such sites.
- * All newly discovered Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal sites will be recorded and an assessment made of their significance and current or potential threats to their continued existence.
- * The management of non-Aboriginal sites in wilderness will be limited to low key maintenance where such sites are assessed as significant. Sites not deemed significant will be allowed to deteriorate naturally.
- * All proposed developments in the nature reserve will be preceded by a survey for sites of cultural significance. Developments which are found to have an unacceptable impact will be modified to protect any such sites.
- * The Mount Franklin Chalet will be managed in accordance with a maintenance brief prepared in consultation with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.
- * A maintenance brief will be prepared for Pryors Hut. The progressive removal of the trees and removal of the fence in the arboretum at Pryors Hut will be undertaken.
- * Leura Hut will be managed as a ruin.
- * Pryors Hut will not be replaced in the event of its destruction or substantial damage due to fire, storm or other agency.
- * Stockyards and fences will not be maintained.

4.3 USE OF THE NATURE RESERVE

There are two areas along the Mount Franklin Road which offer facilities for recreation and which are wholly or partly within the nature reserve. The Mount Aggie site comprises a carpark, signs and a loop walking track. Mount Franklin comprises a short access road and carpark, The Chalet and toilets. Access to The Chalet is by foot within Namadgi National Park along a management road from the carpark. Only the toilets and a small part of The Chalet itself are in NSW and hence in the nature reserve.

There is very little land suitable for further development for visitor use in the nature reserve.

The Mount Franklin Road gives access to a number of recreation sites in Namadgi National Park and Bimberi Nature Reserve as well as to navigation and radio facilities on Mount Ginini. Namadgi National Park is managed by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and has an adopted plan of management which provides that public access along the Mount Franklin Road shall terminate at Mount Ginini.

Responsibility for maintaining the road primarily rests with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service with some financial assistance from the Department of Aviation. Parts of the road however, pass through NSW, although the road beyond Mount Franklin is not required for public use of the nature reserve. The terrain and environment through which the road passes, its design limitations and its level of use on occasions create a number of management problems. In particular, under certain situations such as wildfire, snow or very heavy rainfall it is not appropriate that the road be made available for public vehicular use.

By the terms of the Alps Agreement, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has indicated its intention to co-operate and consult with the ACT authorities in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and the encouragement of the enjoyment and understanding by visitors of the alpine environments in Namadgi National Park. This plan therefore provides for the continued use of the Mount Franklin Road through the nature reserve.

A number of small gravel pits were established within the nature reserve by the Commonwealth when it constructed the Mount Franklin Road. These have been closed by agreement with the Commonwealth.

A primary purpose of management for nature reserves is the study of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena. The adjacent lands in Kosciusko National Park and Namadgi National Park have been relatively intensively studied. The proximity of Bimberi Nature Reserve to these areas and to Canberra with its large number of research and educational institutions presents ideal research opportunities.

Policies

- * The Mount Franklin Road will continue to be the only road access through the nature reserve to recreation sites in Namadgi National Park and to the Mount Ginini Air Navigation Beacon and other radio bases. The primary responsibility for maintaining the road will continue to rest with the ACT authorities.
- * In the event of the Mount Ginini Air Navigation Beacon no longer being required the Service will negotiate with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to terminate public vehicular use of the Mount Franklin Road at a site within the nature reserve south of Mount Franklin. The radio bases would be relocated to outside the nature reserve.

- * No additional facility areas will be provided along the Mount Franklin Road. The Mount Aggie and Mount Franklin areas will continue to be managed for the purpose of encouraging the enjoyment and understanding of the nature reserve by visitors.
- * Pack camping along the Bimberi/Ginini ridgeline will be managed, in co-operation with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, so as to protect water quality in the Cotter River Catchment. Where regulation of camping activity is required, the controls applied will, wherever possible, be the same for both NSW and ACT portions of this area. A single point of contact for persons applying for camping permits will be provided.
- * Public awareness of the appropriate use of wilderness and wild and scenic rivers within the nature reserve will be encouraged.
- * No garbage pits or other disposal facilities will be permitted in the nature reserve. Visitors will be required to remove their own rubbish.

Actions

- * An emergency plan for the Mount Franklin Road will be prepared in consultation with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. The plan will:
 - co-ordinate the roles of the various authorities responsible for emergency operations;
 - specify under what conditions roads will be closed and where; and
 - specify procedures for the emergency evacuation of visitors from Bimberi Nature Reserve and Namadgi National Park.
- * Harrys Spur Track will be closed and allowed to revegetate.
- * Gravel borrow pits within the nature reserve previously used for the purpose of maintaining the Mount Franklin road will remain closed. The assistance of the relevant Commonwealth Departments will be sought in the progressive revegetation of the pits.

4.1. PROMOTION OF THE NATURE RESERVE

A number of programs aimed at promoting Bimberi Nature Reserve and Namadgi National Park are currently undertaken in conjunction with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

Policies

- * Promotion of Bimberi Nature Reserve will emphasise:
 - the opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment by visitors of its wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomenon; and
 - the Alps Agreement and the importance of the nature reserve and adjoining Kosciusko National Park and Namadgi National Park as part of the conservation programs for the Australian Alps.
- * Promotion of Bimberi Nature Reserve will, as the opportunity arises, be undertaken in consultation with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service

Action

- * Promotion of the nature reserve will be undertaken by low impact techniques such as brochures, signs and guided tours/seasonal programs.

5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan of management is part of the system of management developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The system includes the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the Service's Corporate Strategy, management policies and established recreation and conservation philosophy. It also includes regional and district strategic planning.

The orderly implementation of this plan of management will be undertaken within the annual programs of the Service's Queanbeyan District. Priorities will be determined during the development of these programs and will be subject to regional priorities and to funding, staff and any special requirements of the Director-General or Minister.

District programs are subject to on-going review within which works and other activities carried out in Bimberi Nature Reserve will be evaluated in relation to objectives laid down in this plan.

The environmental impact of all development proposals will continue to be assessed at all stages of their development and any necessary investigations undertaken in accordance with established environmental assessment procedures.

Section 81 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, requires that this plan shall be carried out and given effect to and that no operations shall be undertaken in relation to the nature reserve unless they are in accordance with the plan. However, if after adequate investigation, operations not included in the plan are found to be justified, this plan may be amended in accordance with Section 75 of the Act.

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