

Hunter Region

Murrurundi Pass National Park Fire Management Strategy (Type 2) 2009

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. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and its employees do not accept liability for any action or inaction on the information in this document or any consequences of such action or inaction. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW), every month and year here. Contact: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hunter Region Locked Bag 99 Nelson Bay DC 2315. ISBN: 978 1 74122 6553 DEC Number: 2007/543 Last Updated: 17/04/09

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

Endorsed by: _____ Date: _____

Director Northern Parks & Wildlife Group

Locality

Index

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Hunter Region Duty Officer (24hr)	016 3111641 / (0429) 144800
	Upper Hunter Area Manager	04802306 / (0429) 144876
	Fire Management Officer	0494 8206 / (0429) 144870
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0494 8212 / (0429) 144872
RFS	Liverpool Range Fire Control Centre	0267471493 (24hr)
	Upper Hunter Area Office	1800 011166 / (0429) 654973
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Newcastle Communication (24hr)	49297 177 / (0429) 2580
SES	Emergency	000
	Marumundi	6544 0716 / (0429) 6544 0776
Police	Emergency	000
	Marumundi	6544 0199 / (0429) 6545 3190
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	Marumundi	131 233
Hospital	Scene	65402100
	Marumundi	65422000
DFP - Forestry	Hunter Region Office (Marumundi)	0911 5579 / (0429) 4933 0772
	Hunter Region Office (Murrumbidgee)	0429 491 868
Council	Upper Hunter Shire	65497300 / (0429) 6542671
	Local Aboriginal Land Council	Wanushah

Operational Guidelines (continued)

Refer to Current Fire Management Manual (updated annually)

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

Resource	Guidelines
Historic Heritage Management	
HS2	High RCHMS priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & prescribed burning.
HS3	High or low RCHMS priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Danger to any fire crew activity. Avoid site at all cost.
HS4	Low RCHMS priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & prescribed burning.
HS5	Low RCHMS priority. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & prescribed burning.
HS6	High or low RCHMS priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
HS7	High or low RCHMS priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.
Threatened Fauna Management	
FA1	Protect large and hollow bearing trees.
FA2	Protect large and hollow bearing trees. Avoid interference intervals of < 10 yrs. Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopy and fallen logs.
FA3	Avoid interference intervals of < 10 yrs. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitat.
FA4	Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitat.
FA5	Habitat unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in dune habitat.
FA6	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & prescribed burning as far as possible. Avoid use of earth moving machinery in wetland habitat.
FA7	Avoid high intensity fires that consume tree canopy and fallen logs.
FA8	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & prescribed burning.
Threatened Flora Management	
FL1	Avoid interference intervals of < 10 yrs. Avoid the use of earthmoving machinery.
FL2	Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning, prescribed burning as far as possible. Avoid the use of earthmoving machinery.
FL3	Avoid high intensity fire. Avoid interference intervals < 10 years, effect unknown.
FL4	Avoid high intensity fire. Avoid earth moving machinery.
FL5	Avoid high intensity fire. Avoid interference intervals of < 5 yrs. Avoid earth moving machinery. Avoid the use of retardant.

Operational Guidelines (continued)

Refer to Current Fire Management Manual (updated annually)

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

Resource	Guidelines
Threatened Property	
General	Where possible, property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event should be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire, and asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.
Aerial Water Bombing	
NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPS 02 / 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, teams should be used to increase the effectiveness of the water. Ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations. Take note of permissions.
Aerial Ignition	
NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOPS 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management	Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Values incinerated to rapidly progress back-burns down slopes where required. Take note of permissions.
Backburning	
General	Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally, when the FRI is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FRI, backburning may be safely undertaken during the day. Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fallen trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition. Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely. Brief all involved personnel on the location of cultural sites and threatened species prior to backburning, and adhere to the above guidelines.
Command & Control	The first command agency on site may assume control of the fire, but must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. On the arrival of other command agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant RFMC Plans of Operations.
Containment Lines	Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Where practicable, containment lines should be established and rehabilitated in part of the wildfire suppression operation. All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed and rehabilitated at the conclusion of the incident.
Smoke Management	All personnel involved in containment line construction should be located at both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation actions 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. Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.

Operational Guidelines

Refer to Current Fire Management Manual (updated annually)

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

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	
A1	As far as possible protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees. Use of foams, wetting agents & retardant is acceptable.
A2	As far as possible protect site from fire. Avoid ground disturbance including handhoes, dozers. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Site may be burnt by wildfire, backburn, prescribed burn.
A3	Avoid ground disturbance including handhoes, dozers. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Site may be burnt by wildfire, backburn, prescribed burn.
Historic Heritage Management	
HS1	High RCHMS priority. Heritage site unlikely to be affected by fire. Avoid fire, including wildfire, backburning & prescribed burning. Avoid use of earth moving machinery.

Risk Management Information

RISK MANAGEMENT LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- Cat 1, Essential
- Cat 1, Important
- Cat 7, Essential
- Cat 7, Important
- Cat 9, Essential
- Cat 9, Important
- Dormant, Dormant
- Unknown, Unknown

Fire Management Zones

Zone	Description
High Intensity Fire	The objective of AFZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Abandonment Zones	The objective of SFZAs is to reduce fire intensity across larger areas. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at High or below, however adherence to guidelines for biodiversity will take precedence where practical.
Grassland	In the zone undertake a series of individual mosaic burns targeting the grassland areas.
Conjuncta	While maintaining fuel levels undertake mosaic burning with adherence to biodiversity values (floristic composition).
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.

Bushfire Suppression

Strategy Information

Fire Season Information: Reserves of the Hunter Region are located in a zone between subtropical, summer maximum rainfall patterns to the north and temperate, winter maximum patterns to the south.

Earthing-up Equipment: Earthing-up equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer and then only if the probability of success is high. Earthing-up equipment must be always guided and supported by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle.

Prescribed Burning: Operations must be conducted by earthing-up equipment should consider the protection of damage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be supervised, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites. Earthing-up equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate.

Fire Advantage Recording: All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database. Wetting and foaming agents (retardants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. The use of fire retardant is only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed. Substantiated and rehabilitated where practicable as part of the wildfire suppression operation. The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Fire Suppression Chemicals: All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database. Wetting and foaming agents (retardants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression. The use of fire retardant is only permitted with the prior consent of the senior NPWS officer and should be avoided where reasonable alternatives are available. Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded. The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed. Substantiated and rehabilitated where practicable as part of the wildfire suppression operation. The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Rehabilitation: Substantiated and rehabilitated where practicable as part of the wildfire suppression operation. The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Visitor Management: The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

Current FDR / Forecast FDR: Low - Mod / Low - Mod

Suppression Strategies: Undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along existing containment lines taking advantage of natural fire control advantages. Where practicable consider maintaining the fire area in accordance with the requirements of any proposed prescribed burn. Identify and survey backburn control lines. In order to minimise the fire area and secure the flanks as soon as possible, undertake direct, parallel or indirect attack along the closest containment line. Pay particular attention to the flank on the next prescribed down wind side. Identify and survey backburn control lines. Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines along the next prescribed down wind side of the fire. If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure. Undertake indirect attack along existing or newly constructed containment lines along the next prescribed down wind side of the fire. If applicable consider broader than normal containment strategies to avoid wasted effort and high risk of failure.

Communications Information:

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS - VHF	25	Mount Helen
NPWS - VHF (Portable Repeater)	15	Can be located anywhere kept at Regional Office
RFS - PMR	142	Mount Helen
RFS - GRN	197	Mount Helen
SF - VHF	79 (0429/5) 15 (S)	Use 79 on NPWS - VHF radio Use 15 on SF - VHF Radio
CB - UHF	1-99	Available in most RFS vehicles

Mobile Phone - Next G Moderate signal on the ridges in the park

BUSHFIRE SUPPRESSION LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- State Forest
- Recent Fire History
- 2007/2008 Fires
- 2004/05, 2006/08 & 2006/07 Fires
- Other Fire Control Advantages
- Water Point Vehicle
- Water Point Helicopter
- Relief Area
- Helipad
- Caution
- Turning Point
- Site Management (see Operational Guidelines)
- Aboriginal Site
- Historic Site
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Flora
- Powerline
- Communications tower

Status of Fire Thresholds

Scale 1:50 000

Vegetation

Scale 1:50 000

Fire Thresholds:

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

Caution: Beware of powerlines in area