DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

RESERVE/PROPOSED RESERVE INSPECTION REPORT

DIRECTIONS

NAME: Fill in if area has accepted name or local name. If not, try to suggest a name, after some feature within or near to the reserve.

REASON FOR SURVEY: e.g. compliance with instructions, own initiative, etc.

FILE NO.: If the instructions state a file (reference) number, you should quote it.

AREA: In hectares. 1 ha = 2.47 acres. 1 acre = 0.4047 ha.

METHOD: Since birds and other fauna are often more readily observed at dawn or dusk, you should where possible arrange to include observations at those times. Night-time observations are helpful for recording nocturnal animals, which include most native mammals.

ADJOINING PROPERTIES: State whether cleared or uncleared, or whether under crop. State whether boundary is fenced or not and give brief description, e.g. 5 plain wires, ringlock and 2 bars, good condition.

HUMAN USAGE: List all "improvements", e.g. windmills, fences, tracks, buildings. Also note any evidence of timber-cutting, grazing by domestic stock, etc.

DAMAGE OR DEGRADATION: Either state "none" or list, e.g. "small portion in south-east corner cleared about 20 years ago but regenerating" or "considerable invasion by wild oats", "gravel pits as shown on map", etc.

FIREBREAKS: Either describe the location of firebreaks or mark on your map of the reserve. How wide are the fire-breaks and what is their condition, e.g. are they recently ploughed or do they contain regrowth?

SOILS: Basic types are as follows:

sand (yellow, brown, red, grey, white)
loam (red, grey, brown)
gravel (fine (about 1-5 mm), medium (5-10 mm), coarse (10-25 mm or greater))
swampy soils (peat), salt-pans, etc.
rock outcrops (granite, ironstone, limestone, etc.)

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PLANT FORMATIONS: Use the following table:

LIFE FORM/HEIGHT CLASS	CANOPY COVER			
	DENSE 70-100% d	MID-DENSE 30-70% c	SPARSE 10-30% i	VERY SPARSE 2-10% r
T Trees >30m	Dense Tall Forest	Tall Forest	Tall Woodland	Open Tall Woodland
M Trees 15-30m	Dense Forest	Forest	Woodland	Open Woodland
LA Trees 5-15m	Dense Low Forest A	Low Forest A	Low Woodland A	Open Low Woodland A
LB Trees <5m	Dense Low Forest B	Low Forest B	Low Woodland B	Open Low Woodland B
KT Mallee tree form	Dense Tree Mallee	Tree Mallee	Open Tree Mallee	Very Open Tree Mallee
KS Mallee shrub form	Dense Shrub Mallee	Shrub Mallee	Open Shrub Mallee	Very Open Shrub Mallee
S Shrubs >2m	Dense Thicket	Thicket	Scrub	Open Scrub
SA Shrubs 1.5-2.0m	Dense Heath A	Heath A	Low Scrub A	Open Low Scrub A
SB Shrubs 1.0-1.5m	Dense Heath B	Heath B	Low Scrub B	Open Low Scrub B
SC Shrubs 0.5-1.0m	Dense Low Heath C	Low Heath C	Dwarf Scrub C	Open Dwarf Scrub C
SD Shrubs 0.0-0.5m	Dense Low Heath D	Low Heath D	Dwarf Scrub D	Open Dwarf Scrub D
P Mat plants	Dense Mat Plants	Mat Plants	Open Mat Plants	Very Open Mat Plants
H Hummock Grass	Dense Hummock Grass	Mid-Dense Hummock Grass	Hummock Grass	Open Hummock Grass
GT Bunch grass >0.5m	Dense Tall Grass	Tall Grass	Open Tall Grass	Very Open Tall Grass
GL Bunch grass <0.5m	Dense Low Grass	Low Grass	Open Low Grass	Very Open Low Grass
J Herbaceous spp.	Dense Herbs	Herbs	Open Herbs	Very Open Herbs
VT Sedges >0.5m	Dense Tall Sedges	Tall Sedges	Open Tall Sedges	Very Open Tall Sedges
VL Sedges <0.5m	Dense Low Sedges	Low Sedges	Open Low Sedges	Very Open Low Sedges
X Ferns	Dense Ferns	Ferns	Open Ferns	Very Open Ferns
Mosses, liverwort	Dense Mosses	Mosses	Open Mosses	Very Open Mosses

The terms in the first column are defined as follows:-

Trees

Woody, usually perennial plants, generally erect, of variable outline but commonly with a spherical or ovoid canopy raised well above the ground. The major part of the canopy from bottom to top less than or equal to two thirds of the total height of the tree. Single stemmed, or if multi-stemmed, with fewer than 5 individual trunks that result from branching of a single trunk (which may be quite short) and which do not arise from a mallee-like lignotuber.

Mallees

Woody, usually perennial plants of the genus *Eucalyptus*, generally erect, of variable outline but commonly with a spherical or vertically flattened canopy raised well above the ground. Leaves are commonly born only near the ends of the branches. The major part of the canopy from bottom to top may extend from the ground to the maximum height of the plant, or may occupy only the upper portion of the total height. Multi-stemmed, the individual trunks arising from a lignotuber or swelling at the base of the stem, at or below soil-level, and bearing dormant buds.

Shrub mallee: Commonly less than 6-7m tall, usually with 5 or more trunks, of which at least three do not exceed 10cm in diameter at breast height. When the mallee is dead the hollow limbs and trunks are rarely of sufficient size to provide habitats for vertebrates.

Tree mallee: Usually 8m or more tall, with fewer than 5 trunks, of which at least three exceed 10cm in diameter at breast height. When dead, hollow limbs and trunks provide habitats for large vertebrates.

Shrubs

Woody, usually perennial plants, generally erect but may be procumbent or of weeping habit. Commonly broadly conical in form with the foliage occupying all or only part of the total height of the plant. Multiple stems and branches arise from a rootstock or very short common trunk. Lignotubers of the mallee type absent.

Mat Plants

Herbaceous or woody plants, usually perennial, prostrate and cushion-like. With densely compacted foliage which may occupy the whole volume of the aerial portion of the plant, or may only occupy the outside surface of the cushion. Usually numerous, very short stems.

Hummock Grasses

Herbaceous, perennial grasses of the genera *Triodia* or *Plectrachne*. Have a typical mound-like form due to trapping of debris and soil within the stem bases, building up into a hummock. Commonly with dead grass in the middle and living grass on the outer edge.

Bunch Grass

Herbaceous or rarely woody plants of the family Poaceae (Graminae). Perennial or annual, generally erect or spreading. Usually with distinct individual shoots arising from a single root system, or if not, then not forming a hummock.

Herbs

Herbaceous or slightly woody, annual or sometimes perennial plants. Herbaceous, annual species are commonly erect and woody, perennial species commonly creepers or climbers. Some species are tufted, e.g. *Borya nitida*, *Haemodorum* spp. Foliage usually covers the majority of the branches in shrubby and creeping forms. May arise from stolons, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes or seeds, but usually not from lignotubers. Rarely exceed 0.5m in height, unless climbing species.

Sedges

Herbaceous, usually perennial, erect plants. Generally of tufted habit. Arise from stolons, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes or seeds. Term includes Cyperaceae, Juncaceae, Restionaceae, Typhaceae and Xyridaceae and other plants of sedge-like form.

When writing descriptions describe each layer of the vegetation; e.g.: "Low Woodland A of Powderbark (*Eucalyptus accedens*) over Heath B of *Dryandra* spp., no ground cover".

"Open Woodland of Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) over Open Dwarf Scrub C of Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*), over Open Herbs".

Indicate the approximate boundaries of the different plant formations on your map.

Where you can't identify a dominant, press it and forward it to the Wildlife Research Centre. Each specimen must be labelled clearly with collector's name or initials, locality, date and specimen number. Write duplicate of this information in your diary. Thus description could read (if collected in 1980 by R.J. Powell):

"Thicket of species RJP 25/80 and RJP 27/80."

It is of little value sending specimens unless they contain flowers or fruits. If they are eucalypts, buds and fruits will suffice

PLANT SPECIES: List the species recorded if room; if not, attach a list. You should add notes on unusual species or species known to be exploited by the wildflower industry.

NEST HOLLOWS: Make a judgement as to the value of the area to birds that nest in hollows.

WEEDS: How abundant are weeds and where do they occur - throughout the reserve? Along tracks? In damp places? Are weeds more abundant in some plant formations than others? What species or sorts of weed are there?

FIRE HISTORY: State whether recently burnt - if so approximately when (ask local residents). If part burnt only draw map, especially if the reserve has been burnt recently. The map doesn't have to be very accurate but it will assist interpretation of air photographs by research or management staff.

FAUNA: Use both direct evidence, i.e. sightings, and indirect evidence, e.g. kangaroo pads, rabbit warrens, possum scratches on trees. If possible conduct spotlight or head-torch surveys at dusk and after dark. Collect skulls or other skeletal remains if unsure of identifcation and send to the Wildlife Research Centre; any reptiles or frogs collected should be preserved or frozen before being sent. Normally mammal and bird records will suffice. Information on the fauna can be obtained from local people.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Bear in mind that you are dealing with important and responsible matters and treat your report and recommendation accordingly. Give reasons for your recommendations.

MAPS: A sketch map, drawn to scale if possible, MUST be attached to the report. Show boundaries, features such as lakes, rock outcrops, tracks, gravel pits and, if possible, approximate distribution of plant formations.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Take colour polaroid photos or colour prints to illustrate major plant formations and any other important features, e.g. a new gravel pit. Write caption for each photo giving location and plant formations. Show the location of each photo on the map.

It is an excellent idea to include in each photograph a small blackboard on which is written the reserve number (see Muir reports), or, if not a reserve, the location number: this will prevent photos from getting "lost".

REMEMBER: You don't need a job sheet to do a survey : use your own initiative. Nature Reserves are the basis of nature conservation.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

RESERVE/PROPOSED RESERVE INSPECTION REPORT

NAME .....

REASON FOR SURVEY .....

RESERVE NO. ..... FILE NO. .....

LAND DISTRICT ..... LOCATION NO(S) .....

LITHO ..... AREA (ha) .....

PERSONNEL .....

METHOD ..... DATE ..... TIME .....

TEMPERATURE (^{o}C) ..... WIND DIRECTION ..... SPEED (km/h) .....

CLOUD .....

ADJOINING LAND:

NORTH ..... FENCE .....

WEST ..... FENCE .....

SOUTH ..... FENCE .....

EAST ..... FENCE .....

HUMAN USAGE .....

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DAMAGE OR DEGRADATION .....

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FIREBREAKS .....

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SOILS .....

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PLANT FORMATIONS .....

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PLANT SPECIES .....

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NEST HOLLOWS .....

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WEEDS .....

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FIRE HISTORY .....

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MAMMALS .....

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MAP ATTACHED? YES/NO If not, why not?

PHOTOGRAPHS ATTACHED? YES/NO If not, why not?

IF INSUFFICIENT ROOM ATTACH EXTRA SHEETS.

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SIGNATURE

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