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SOUTH WEST CAPES
TUART FOREST NATIONAL PARK

INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

July 2000

Department of Conservation and Land Management

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- Integrate interpretation and education programs with those of other parks and reserves within the district and region and liaise closely with groups such as tourism agencies, schools and the South West Ecomuseum Association.
- Pursue an increase instaff and resources for Park management.

PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

2. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The South West Capes District within the Central Forest Region is managed out of the CALM Busselton Office under the direction of the District Manager. There are three Districts within the Central Forest Region, the South West Capes, Mornington and Blackwood Districts. The Central Forests Region is managed out of the CALM Bunbury Regional Office under the direction of the Regional Manager.

As management responsibilities and integration of management for the South West Capes is through the South West Capes District Manager these interim management guidelines have been structured to be able to be expanded to include other reserves as required. The Busselton Wetlands, for example, is often managed in association with the Tuart Forest National Park particularly with regard to recreation, tourism and visitor services. The management guidelines are also structured similar to a draft management plan should the document be required to be developed further to involve full public consultation.

3. MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND GOALS

These Interim Management Guidelines as a list of necessary operations are to guide management until which time a management plan is developed. Once finalised a management plan can become a statutory document under the CALM Act where vesting is in this case for example with the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA). CALM will be also guided by policies and protection powers under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and policies that have been developed by the NPNCA and CALM.

Management goals for this Park are:

<u>Conservation</u>
Conserve biological, physical, cultural and landscape values.

Key components of this are:
- Maintain the historic fencing infrastructure to help protect conservation values.
- Maintain strategic firebreaks and apply a mix of fuel reduction methods.
- Review and continue the tuart forest regeneration program.

Recreation
Facilitate public enjoyment of natural and cultural values in a manner compatible with conservation and other goals.

Community Relations
Promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural values and facilitate liaison with the community.

Commercial Uses
Ensure that commercial uses are controlled and managed in a manner that minimises impact on other values.

Interaction with Nearby Lands and Waters
Promote cooperation, and minimise conflicts in matters associated with use of nearby lands and waters.

Knowledge
Seek a better understanding of the natural and cultural environment and the impacts of management activities.

PLAN STRUCTURE

Goals represent the 'long-term desirable situation' while more specific objectives are designed to achieve these goals.

Objectives, background and recommendations are set for each of the following sections of this management document.

4. ZONING

The objective is to develop and implement a zoning system on which protection of the area's conservation values and development of recreation and compatible uses can be based.

A zoning system will be implemented to minimise conflicts between uses, provide environmental protection, and guide management.

Two zones are proposed:
1. Natural Environment
2. Recreation
3. Forest Regeneration (Special Purpose)
4. Special Conservation

In the natural environment zone a selected range of low-density outdoor activities with a minimum of related facilities will be permitted with non-motorised access as a preferred option. The forest will be managed through natural enhancement by gaps in three areas (See Zoning Map).

In the recreation zone motorised and pedestrian access will be permitted in defined areas linking recreational sites and facilities. Parking areas and facilities may be provided.

In the forest regeneration zone (Special Purpose) it is proposed to have a minimum of recreational facilities and access other than for management purposes. In this zone some areas will include pine tree removal and regeneration to tuart forest. Other compatible uses possible such as scientific study or use for educational purposes will be permitted.

In the special conservation zone, specific areas or features are contained which deserve special conservation as they support unique, rare or endangered features or are the best example of natural features. Access and use will be strictly controlled or may be prohibited altogether. No motorised access or recreational facilities will generally be permitted.

STRATEGIES

1. **Introduce a zoning scheme to manage the reserves.**

2. **Review the zoning scheme if more information on conservation values and possible impacts becomes available (See Zoning Map).**

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

The objective is to protect and conserve the area's cultural heritage and cultural resources.

Three Lime Kilns built in the mid to late 1800s are located near the northern end of the Tuart Forest National Park. Lime was produced for making mortar from these kilns for the construction of masonry buildings. A Heritage Assessment and Conservation Plan for the Limekilns was produced in 1996 including conservation works and a cost schedule. A recreation site plan has also been developed.

There are a number of Aboriginal sites in the area, in the vicinity of the Wonnerup Estuary and the Ludlow River.

Evidence of Aboriginal occupation and usage of the Tuart Forest and nearby coastal plain has been recorded.

Sites identified in and near the Park vary greatly in content and significance from ethnographic sites with ceremonial or mythological importance to archaeological sites with structures or scatters of articles and shell materials.

Any development project proposed in the Park must undertake a comprehensive survey of the proposed development area to identify Aboriginal sites. Such a study should be undertaken prior to consideration by the District Manager of any development plans.

STRATEGY

1. **Encourage historical, archeological and ethnographical studies in the Park to add to the knowledge of important existing and new sites and continue to liaise with relevant government agencies, local historical societies, interested local Aboriginal people and educational institutions.**

2. **Implement the Conservation works of the Conservation Plan for the Lime Kilns in stages to address conservation and protection first and development and promotion second.**

3. **Liaise with local Aboriginal people to ensure that a comprehensive survey to identify Aboriginal sites is undertaken prior to the implementation of conservation works or recreation site development in the Park and access any aspirations that they may have in relation to any traditional usage of the Park.**

6. MINING

The objective is to protect the natural and cultural values of the Park and its surrounds from any adverse impacts arising from exploration and resource extraction.

A mining lease exists over areas containing mixed tuart and pine forest in State Forest adjacent to the Park. These areas are proposed to eventually be added to the Park following harvesting of the pine and successful rehabilitation of tuart forest. Any proposal to mine will be subject to environmental assessment procedures in accordance with relevant legislation and Government policy.

STRATEGIES

1. **In accordance with Government policy, require proponent companies to carry out a comprehensive assessment of biological values, mineral prospectivity and potential risk to conservation and recreation values in regard to any proposal.**

2. **Maintain liaison between, the mineral industries, the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Shires of Busselton and Capel and CALM to ensure that adequate conditions are set and followed to minimise any potential detrimental effects that might be caused to the Park as a result of any mineral exploration or production.**

7. FIRE MANAGEMENT AND TUART FOREST REGENERATION

The objective is to protect people, property and conservation values in and near the Park while promoting the structural diversity, biodiversity and long-term stability of the Tuart forest.

The Tuart forest's close proximity to Bunbury means it is well served by current and future wildfire detection systems. The number of cars passing close by also ensures that any unplanned fire event will be reported promptly. In order to plan for maximum protection of the Tuart forest, management strategies need to be developed in collaboration with adjoining local bush fire brigades. CALM will need to be pro-active in providing training to local brigades and work cooperatively with them where protective burning on boundaries between private property and CALM estate occurs.

Protection strategies to keep fire out of the tuart forest at all cost are very important. Values at risk include neighbours, visitors to the recreational sites, the Ludlow Settlement, as well as plants and animals and their habitats. Any fire management program must maintain biodiversity and protect people and property. Protection strategies include the maintenance of external access on cleared firebreaks with internal tracks creating manageable cells that can contain any unplanned fire event. The nature of the access would enable a fire to be contained within a cell or cells without sacrificing the complete block.

A number of naturally occurring water supply points within and adjoining the Tuart forest are available. These will require signage and some upgrade work to make them safe and more accessible at night. In order to achieve a 20 minute maximum turnaround tanker refill, new additional water supply points will need to be established.

Because of the extensive areas of wetlands associated with the Tuart forest the use of retardant and foam requires training and briefing of all suppression resources to avoid contamination of water supplies either at the fire or when filling from surface catchments. This can be achieved as part of the briefing required for either prescribed fire events or wildfires.

Protection by fuel reduction will include grass slashing and limited spraying with selective herbicides in established buffer areas adjacent to high visitor use areas and areas adjoining road access ways. It is likely that prescribed burning for protection will only be used at Minninup Block while prescribed burning for vegetation management will be used for the regeneration of tuart and understorey species as part of the re-establishment program of the original forest structure.

Various alternative fuel reduction / management strategies may be used including:

- Maintenance of perimeter firebreaks, internal road networks and internal strategic fuel reduced areas with a minimum width of 20 metres (See Fire Management Plan)

- Establishment of internal buffer strips in which grasses are eliminated by selective herbicide application

- Fuel reduction by mowing/ slashing adjacent to the main roads and recreation areas
- Fuel reduction burning in association with regeneration of the Tuart Forest and understorey species
- A high level of fire attack preparedness including CALM, neighbours and volunteer brigades.
- Retention of fencing infrastructure.

The core conservation values of the Tuart Forest National Park are the stands of mature Tuart as well as areas that include Peppermint in the understorey and small seasonal Melaleuca dominated freshwater wetlands. The Tuart/Peppermint forest also forms an integral part of the threatened Western Ring-tailed Possum's diet and habitat. Silvicultural prescriptions to sustain this forest will need therefore to consider both the long-term stability of the Tuart forest as well as important flora and fauna contained within it.

Three types of fire management regimes will be applied (See Fire Map).

1. Fuel reduced areas- Areas generally 400 metres wide and burnt slashed or treated with herbicides to protect people, property and conservation values from fire.

2. Vegetation regeneration management areas- Areas that are burnt as required to regenerate specific species such as either Tuart or Peppermint or to create habitats within a vegetation complex important for species such as the Ring-tailed Possum for example.

3. Scientific study reference areas- Areas from which fires may be excluded, and subject to scientific research and advice.

Within the vegetation management areas consideration will be given to the long-term desired outcome of either Peppermint being dominate which may be suited to the needs of the Western Ring-tailed Possum or an attempt at addressing what appears to be an imbalance with Tuart species on a historical decline without young recruits in the understorey to replace existing mature trees. Where it is possible to create regeneration from fuel management buffer burns then a new location for the buffer could be determined to avoid annual burns over the same area.

This may involve creating a strategic balance of both areas dominated by Peppermint and those dominated by Tuart. Consideration need also be given to the importance of Tuart hollows to both bird life including ducks for nesting and the use of these by the Ring-tailed Possum.

Strategies may involve supplemental planting of Tuart where prescription burns have not been overly successful or fencing of areas to protect young Tuart trees from stock grazing or other disturbance from visitors to the area.

The use of fire for the regeneration of both Tuart and the original ground cover understory species will need to be coordinated with pine removal operations or the pushing down of 1 hectare or larger cells of mature Peppermint to create gaps for this regeneration. Cell size is critical for the success of Tuart regeneration and this has evidenced from successful trials in North and Lime Kiln Blocks in the 1970's which provided the technique required.

In areas of State forest proposed for addition to the national park where pine harvesting is proposed an operations and rehabilitation plan should be required to address:

- Marking and protection of paperbark and flooded gum areas, protection and retention of any priority species, retention of all native species over 3 metres in height, and the retention of some individual mature pines for landscape reasons.

- Rehabilitation to aim to encourage wetland vegetation complexes and tuart and peppermint complexes including understorey species historically occurring or where indicative species are occurring as on-site remnants.

- Falling of all non-commercial pines, trees or tops not to be fallen within national park areas, logs not to be extracted from wetland areas of the national park.

- Debris and tops to be gathered and formed into heaps suitable for burning to create ash beds with 40 metre buffers to retained native vegetation and other values. The size of the heaps will need to be determined taking into consideration access for treating arum lilies and pine wildings as well as allowing for access for future demonstration and education sites.

- Who, when, where and how, and quantities of high quality local endemic seeds for seeding and seedling production needed, post harvesting weed control and strategies addressing rehabilitation of all disturbed soil, signposting, public access limitations, haulage routes, machinery movements, neighbour notification and house keeping such as leaving clean firebreaks and functioning fences and gates and budgeting for seed collection and regeneration operations.

In a number of areas within the Tuart Forest National Park there are mature Pines in amongst the Tuarts. In some areas of the Park, pine seedlings resulting from these mature pines are taking over particularly in open areas of forest. Consideration should be given to identifying these problem areas and having the mature pines removed particularly where the timber of the mature pine has a market value.

STRATEGIES

1. **Develop protection strategies and fire fighting training programs in collaboration with local bush fire brigades.**

2. **Use prescribed burning to reduce fuels where required to protect people, property and conservation values from wildfires.**

3. Wherever possible utilise protection burning with regeneration in mind to be able to rethink buffer burning locations to optimise regeneration burning. outcomes.

4. Maintain external breaks, a strategic internal road network and strategic fuel reduced buffer strips by implementing an efficient and effective mix of methods to reduce fuels.

5. Where regeneration is required, regeneration burning can be coordinated with pine removal operations or selected co-dominant native species being pushed down in cells not smaller than 1 hectare for gap creation for this regeneration (See Attached Five Year Regeneration Plan and Regeneration Prescriptions).

6. Use fire where necessary on an area by area basis to regenerate key species such as Tuart and associated understorey species to enhance a long-term core conservation value or Peppermint and associated understorey species for enhancing a very important habitat conservation value.

7. Ensure any burning carried out is in accord with a written prescription approved by the CALM South West Capes District Manager.

8. Require an operations and rehabilitation plan where areas are adjacent to and proposed to be added to the National Park are proposed for pine harvesting.

9. Require training and briefing at prescribed fire events or wildfires to include retardant and foam application wetland risk considerations.

10. Expand training and information sessions to include adjoining property owners wherever possible to increase their awareness of the importance of recognising areas of high fire damage to ensure first arriving crews can give priority to suppressing the right areas first not the easiest.

11. Upgrade existing and develop new water points where required which include safety considerations with night time use in mind and strategic signage marking each water point's location clearly.

9. GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE

The objective is to protect and conserve geological features and landscape values.

Soils of the Tuart Forest National Park are brown and yellow neutral sands overlying limestone, which is found at varying depth..

Soils in the western portion of the Park are described as the Minninup serious of the Yoongarillup Association. They are rendzinas overlying a fossiliferous, beach-deposited limestone at shallow depth. The soil colour is predominantly brown.

Soils in the eastern portion are described as the Wonnerup series of the Karrakatta Association. The podsolic soils are more leached than the Minninup series with a typical colour grading from greyish brown at the surface to bright yellow at depth. Soil associations include the Spearwood Dune and Plain Association with leached sand on the surface and creamy yellow to reddish brown sand at depth and the Karrakata Association, which are undulating aeolian deposits of deep yellow sands running parallel to and one or two kilometres from the coast.

The Park is located on a slightly upraised gently undulating belt, which is aligned in a northeast to southwest direction. The belt is about 11 kilometres long and three kilometres wide located between the Vasse Estuary and a line of low lying swamps. It is dissected with well defined channels by the Ludlow, Capel, Sabina and Abba Rivers. These rivers are dry in summer and flow strongly in winter. Low lying areas of paper bark and ti-tree normally filled by winter rains surround the tuart forest.

STRATEGIES

1. **Identify geological and landscape resources vulnerable to environmental damage.**

2. **Locate and design recreation sites and access between sites to minimise their impact on sensitive geological features and landscape values.**

10. FLORA AND FAUNA

The objective is to protect and conserve flora and fauna with emphasis on biodiversity, structure and species and communities of special value or significance.

The vegetation complexes of the Tuart Forrest National Park include the Yoongarillup complex with Tuart *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and a second story of Peppermint *Agonis flexuosa.* Other species often associated include *various Banksias, Acacias, and species of Allocasuarin, Jacksonia, Melaleuca and Hibbertia.* The Karrakatta complex also included is comprised of a mixed *Eucalyptus* forest with *Tuart, Jarrah and Marri* and an understorey dominated by *Banksia* and *acacia species.*

8. TENURE AND SURROUNDING LAND

The objective is to ensure that the values of the Park and important surrounding areas are protected by security of tenure and their gazetted purpose.

The Tuart Forest National Park is an 'A' Class Reserve with the purpose of National Park vested with the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

Proposed Addition to the National Park

Adjacent to the Park are two areas of State forest pine plantation which when harvested and rehabilitated are proposed to be added to the Park. Consideration may be given to mining these areas following harvesting and before rehabilitation however there is concern that rehabilitation may not be as successful with the mining option included which would result in reducing the conservation value of the proposed addition (See Mining Section). Adjoining private land should be considered for purchasing when and where possible to provide direct linkages to the wetlands to the north of the Tuart Forest. Public road reserves if not required for public purposes, can often be more strategic when included in the Park. For example activities which are illegal in the Park are occurring from the road reserve between North Paddock and Lime Kiln Paddock and control of these activities will be much easier once the road reserve is included in the Park.

STRATEGIES

1. **Consider adding the two areas of State forest pine plantations, on former tuart sites, to the Park once successfully rehabilitated with local species.**

2. **Investigate the potential for adding adjoining lands where possible to improve the conservation linkages between the wetlands and the tuart forest.**

3. **Cancel and add all road reserves that are either unnecessary or strategically more important to be added to the Park such as the road reserve separating North Paddock from Lime Kiln Paddock.**

Stands of mature Tuart overstorey and Peppermint understorey form an integral part of the diet and habitat of a major population of the threatened Western Ring-tailed Possum *pseudocheirus occidentalis*. Fire management regimes will need to take into consideration habitat requirements of this species as would any possible form of disturbance of the habitat or the population.

STRATEGIES

1. **Identify and protect the habitats and communities of significant flora and fauna species and associations with particular emphasis on species communities such as those that include threatened species such as the Western Ring-tailed Possum.**

2. **Minimise adverse impact on flora and fauna from management actions or visitor activities.**

3. **Provide opportunities for visitors to increase their knowledge and appreciation of the Park's flora and fauna.**

11. WEEDS, DISEASE AND FERAL ANIMALS

The objective is to minimise the impact of weeds, disease and feral animals on the conservation values of the Park.

Because of the narrow elongated shape of the Park, estate protection measures to control weeds, disease and feral animals are often difficult to implement. They rely to a large extent on good boundary fence maintenance and CALM management presence to minimise inappropriate activities from occurring in the Park.

The spread of both weeds and disease can be minimised through controlling access in and out of affected areas and by adopting hygiene measures during operations within the Park. Control measures should be taken in association with property owners adjacent to reserves.

To control feral animals, baiting methods which reduce the risk of bait taken by non target species will be used. Herbicides to control weeds, pine wildings and grasses will be used generally and in some areas specifically for fuel reduction in some areas to reduce fire risk (See Fire Management).

STRATEGIES

1. **Monitor the incidence of weeds, disease and feral animals, continue the fox and rabbit control programs and prepare and implement any further control programs required.**

2. **Liaise and coordinate weed, disease and feral animal control programs with neighbouring areas.**

3. **Monitor any impact of any control programs.**

4. **Investigate methods of removing introduced species of grasses and replacement with native species.**

5. **Identify areas where mature pines within the Tuart forest are a source of pine seedling which may become a problem in the future and remove the pines particularly in situations where a cost recovery operation can occur through the sale of marketable timber.**

6.

12. TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICES

The objective is to maintain Park values while encouraging tourism concessions to assist in the provision of quality visitor services.

Construction of commercial facilities and licensing of operations will be restricted to those servicing recreational, ecotourism, or conservation activities. A fee will be levied for all commercial operations carried out in the Park.

Any developments, including roads, carparks and camping areas, should be sited on well represented and environmentally sustainable land systems. Potential impacts shall be assessed and minimised.

Granting and administration of licences and leases will be in line with CALM Policy. The majority of revenue generated from such leasing or any other means, will be used for the maintenance and development of facilities in the Park.

The Ludlow Settlement is being considered as a commercial tourism facility, which could be integrated with CALM's environmental education programs as this location was the birthplace of forestry education in WA and historically was a unique forestry sawmilling town. Caravan, chalet and camping facilities for groups and individuals within the Ludlow Settlement Area are being investigated in association with the development of this area's value for historic, educational and interpretive tourism.

STRATEGIES

1. **Maintain existing development and visitor facilities to a high standard consistent with CALM policy.**

2. **Consider approving tourism concessions that are consistent with the objectives of this Plan and that provide an important service or facility that would otherwise not be feasible.**

2. **Include a lease or licence agreement as part of all approved commercial tourism operations.**

3. **Review all tourism concession operations periodically and modify lease or licence arrangements as necessary.**

4. **Ensure that the majority of revenue generated through leases or licences is used for agreed works within the Park.**

5. **Develop the historic, educational and interpretive potential of the Ludlow Settlement Area in association with a possible tourism and visitor services concession lease to provide caravan, chalet and camping facilities for groups and individuals.**

13. ACCESS

The objective is to provide for access that does not adversely impact on conservation or other values.

Some forms of Park access are having an adverse impact on conservation values such as access for firewood collection, kangaroo shooting, horse activities, motorbike riding and off-road vehicles. With little management presence there is little control of inappropriate access. Track rationalisation needs to occur to close some tracks and maintain only the least number of tracks required for visitor access and Park management. Tracks, which are open to the general public, will be maintained to a high standard (See Access and Recreational Facilities Map).

STRATEGIES

1. **Develop a key access control strategy, which may restrict vehicle access to roads and tracks relying on existing fencing infrastructure to help restrict access.**

2. **Prepare detailed plans and specifications for all new access roads, tracks and parking areas to a high standard in accordance with accepted design principles.**

3. **Maintain tracks to a standard suitable for visitor use and management requirements and revegetate any unnecessary roads and tracks.**

14. DAY-USE FACILITIES

The objective is to enhance recreational and other Park values through providing day-use facilities.

Existing day-use facilities include picnic tables and gas barbecues located along Tuart Drive in two locations. A day-use facility at Layman Picnic Area adjacent to Wonnerup House leads to two walks. The Layman site includes toilets, and the walks lead to a bird-hide, reconstructed sawpit with one of the walks also designed for possum spotlighting.

New day-use facilities are proposed at the Ludlow Townsite and at the Lime Kiln Site. The construction of these will be dependent on management presence in these areas for ongoing site protection and maintenance.

STRATEGIES

1. **Design and develop day-use sites and environmentally sensitive facilities to a high standard in accordance with accepted design principles where manageable and as required.**

15. STOCK AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

The objective is to protect conservation values and minimise user conflict through management of stock and domestic animals in the Park.

Stock grazing in the tuart forest as a land use has a historical base and has been part of an array of fuel reduction strategies to reduce wildfire risk. It has however brought with it a reduction of plant and animal bio-diversity of the forest and is therefore being phased out over time.

Domestic animals such as dogs and cats can disturb wildlife and visitors and introduce disease and weeds. The smell and presence of domestic animals can also impede native fauna activity.

Pets are susceptible to baits used to control feral animals such as foxes and cats. Pet owners must be made aware that baits will be laid in the area from time to time and that it is their responsibility to keep pets under control.

STRATEGIES

1. **Discontinue stock grazing as a land use within the national park.**

2. **Maintain liaison with neighbours to ensure domestic stock do not enter the Park via boundary fences.**

3. **Prohibit domestic animals including dogs and cats in the Park.**

4. **Inform visitors why domestic animals are not permitted.**

16. HORSE ACTIVITIES

The objective is to minimise the impact of horse activities on the environment or on other visitors through restricting this activity to designated trails only.

The potential for horse riding tours in the Park is recognised. Currently horse activities for exercising and training horses and some recreational riding occurs. The impacts from such activities need to be managed. Only approved structures and facilities associated with planned designated trails will be developed or retained (See Proposed Horse Riding Trails and Facilities Map).

STRATEGIES

1. **Allow for horse activities in the Park (including the possibility of commercial horse riding) on designated trails (See Proposed Horse Riding Trails and Facilities Map) only under a system to register this use with a fee associated with this registration.**

2. **Monitor the impact of riding and modify or restrict use if the activity appears environmentally unacceptable or in conflict with other uses.**

3. **Require all commercial horse operations to be conducted through a commercial licence.**

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

17. INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

The objective is to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of Park values and encourage its responsible use.

Information, interpretation and education are important to enhance visitor experience and to increase the general level of awareness, appreciation and understanding of the cultural and natural conservation values of the areas. Information usually provides details of facilities, activities and regulations, while interpretation explains cultural and natural features. Education provides detailed materials and programs designed to facilitate learning. Groups targeted for education could include school groups or community groups engaging in nature-based educational activities in the Park. Tourism agencies, schools and museums are an important source for information and involvement in interpretive programs (See Tourism and Visitor Services).

STRATEGIES

1. **Develop opportunities for interpretive education that highlights natural features (including flora and fauna), cultural heritage and management issues of public interest.**

3. **Integrate interpretation and education programs with those of other parks and reserves within the district and region and liaise closely with groups such as tourism agencies, schools and the South West Ecomuseum Association.**

4. **Maintain existing interpretation facilities to a high standard consistent with CALM policy.**

18. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The objective is to develop, encourage and facilitate liaison with the community and their involvement in Park management.

Interest groups and individuals in the community can play important roles in helping to manage conservation reserves and in facilitating the general public awareness of these areas. This increased public awareness encourages appropriate behaviour, therefore minimising activities that damage the area, and thus reducing management costs.

STRATEGIES

1. **Maintain and foster close communications and active involvement of local individuals and groups.**

2. **Encourage community involvement in activities such as weed extraction, rehabilitation and education programs.**

KNOWLEDGE

19. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of flora, fauna and natural processes within the Park.

Scientific information from research and monitoring is the basis for appropriate management as well as for information, interpretation and education programs and displays.

STRATEGIES

1. **Encourage volunteers, primary and secondary educational institutions and other organisations and individuals to participate in nature conservation and social research projects.**

2. **Identify high priority research projects, which are suitable for tertiary education student projects.**

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

20. FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT

The objective is to implement this plan through an adequate provision of staff and resources as well as through any other appropriate alternative means.

Implementing this plan will require an initial injection of funds for greater staff presence in the Park followed by recreational and interpretive facility site planning, design and development. Alternative sources of funding such as external funding from grants will be actively sought as will be alternative approaches to obtaining forms of management presence in the Park such as through various types of leases to bring more visitors to the Park.

STRATEGIES

1. **Pursue an increase in staff and resources for Park management.**

2. **Seek funding from external sources for implementing strategies of this plan.**

21. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The objective is to assess the effectiveness of the management plan through periodically monitoring the progress made in implementation and to review the document as required.

In the light of new information revision of this document can occur at any time. If the revision process indicates a need for changes to the management document, amendments can be initiated by CALM operations in consultation with the NPNCA.

STRATEGIES

1. **Monitor the implementation of this management document.**

3. **Review the management document if new information, particularly from research and monitoring shows that a major change in the direction of these Interim Management Guidelines is required.**

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