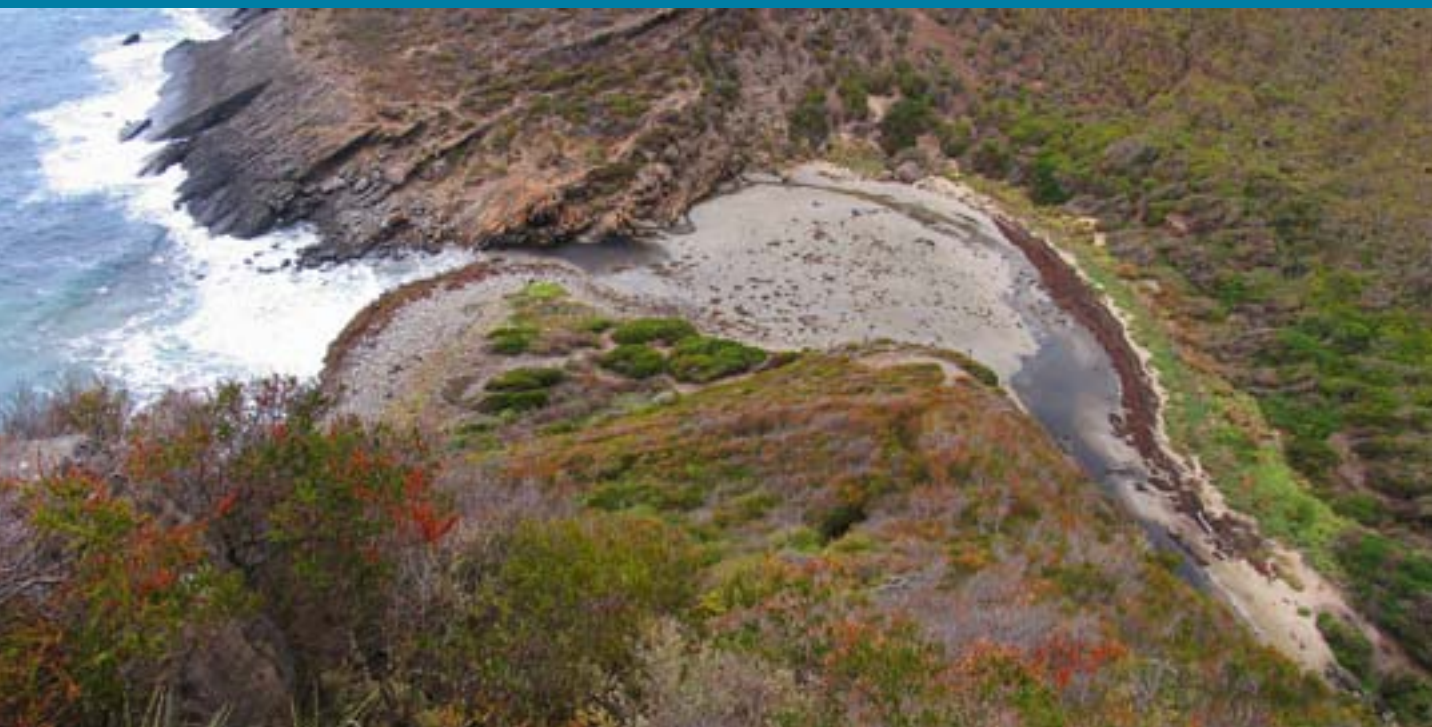


Department for Environment and Heritage
Management Plan Amendment



Deep Creek and Talisker Conservation Parks
2007



Government
of South Australia

This management plan amendment was adopted on 18 May 2007 and was prepared pursuant to section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
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AMENDMENTS

Considerations and Strategies within the *Deep Creek and Talisker Conservation Parks Management Plan (1997)*

DELETE:

(pp. 21)

2 The prevention and control of wildfire.

(pp. 27-28)

Since initial constitution in 1971, three major wildfires have swept the park in 1980, 1983 and 1990. The 1980 fire burnt approx. 2,000 ha of coastal and central areas of the park. The 1983 fire burnt approx. 300 ha mainly in the Boat Harbour area. Section 376 was actually burnt on both occasions. The 1990 fire burnt approx. 80 ha in the Goondooloo Ridge area.

Deep Creek and Talisker Conservation Parks represent a significant percentage of the remaining native vegetation within the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula. The burning of a large area of the park area in a wildfire should be avoided. The capacity for a burnt area to recolonise is dependent of the biological resources that can transfer from the unburnt area. There is limited capacity to draw on biological resources from area outside the park. In addition, people now live and manage high value assets adjacent to the parks. Consequently it is not appropriate to permit wildfires to burn unchecked in these parks.

Management Strategies

All reasonable measures will be taken to stop the occurrence of wildfire within these parks. When wildfires do occur there will be a policy of speedy suppression.

This suppression will take two forms. Firstly, direct attack on the fire by conventional fire fighting methods and with the use of aircraft. Secondly, block burning of discrete management units of the park will be undertaken from prepared access tracks to contain wildfires. (Figure 4)

The use of earth moving equipment will only be used for the protection of life and property or under exceptional circumstances to achieve a critical fire management objective.

Controlled burning of these parks to reduce fire fuel will not be undertaken without prior research into the potential effects on the park's ecology. A modified burning regime may create structural changes to native vegetation and associations and increase the likelihood of weed and plant pathogens spreading within the parks.

Each year the fire access network will be maintained as a component of an established program.

Actions:

- Update the Fire Management and Prevention Plans for Deep Creek Conservation Park and include Talisker Conservation Park within the plan.
- Maintain the 58 km of fire access track in the parks
- Improve the availability of emergency water throughout the parks, particularly in all sites developed for public recreation, accommodation and infrastructure.
- Provide "refuge areas" for public assembly during wildfires.
- Maintain equipment and communications on a regular basis.
- Continue to work closely with C.F.S. organisations and Bushfire Fire Prevention Committees.
- Design camp grounds to minimise the possibility of accidental fire escaping.

REPLACE WITH:

(pp. 21)

2. Management of fire to protect life and property, the maintenance of biodiversity and the protection of other natural and cultural values.

(pp. 27-28)

Background

Deep Creek and Talisker Conservation Parks conserve the largest remnant areas of native vegetation on the Fleurieu Peninsula; Deep Creek Conservation Park, in particular, conserves an important catchment that includes major perennial creeks. The areas conserve a community of national conservation significance – the Swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula – and provide important habitat for many species including the Southern Emu Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*), Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*) and orchid species such as the Kangaroo Island Spider-orchid (*Caladenia ovata*).

The conservation and landscape values of these parks require active management. For example, Deep Creek Conservation Park should be managed to minimise the impact of inappropriate fire regimes on the swamps, as these areas support slow-growing species or taxa with limited dispersal abilities.

Deep Creek Conservation Park receives a high number of visitors – particularly during the fire season – who use facilities including campgrounds and on-park visitor accommodation, whilst Talisker Conservation Park protects heritage-listed ruins of silver-lead mines. Silverton, an old subdivision historically associated with the mine, contains a number of rural homes and holiday houses on small acreages adjacent to Talisker Conservation Park. Bushfires in these parks present a risk to visitors, DEH facilities and historic infrastructure, whilst adjacent properties and nearby areas are also at risk should a fire burn out of these parks.

The Deep Creek and Talisker area is prone to lightning-strike fires, although recorded fires have generally been small. Since Deep Creek Conservation Park was constituted in 1972, there have been three fires caused by visitors to the park. These occurred in 1980 (3,000 hectares), 1983 (1,150 hectares) and 1990 (80 hectares). There have been no recorded fires within Talisker Conservation Park since the proclamation of the park, although human-caused fires have been recorded in the vicinity.

A fire management plan will be prepared for the parks, in consultation with adjoining Country Fire Service Groups and the District Bushfire Prevention Committee. Stakeholders and the wider community will also be consulted to ensure an understanding of the fire risks and mitigating actions being proposed or undertaken in the parks.

Surrounding land uses, visitor use of the parks, the natural and cultural heritage values of the parks, and the difficult terrain for suppression activities require the development of pro-active fire management strategies to protect both life and property and the conservation values of the parks. To this end, DEH will as part of fire management planning assess the need to implement prescribed burning for fuel reduction, asset protection, risk minimisation, or ecological management. The application of ecological fire management principles in particular requires an understanding of how species and vegetation communities respond to fire regimes through post-fire monitoring.

Fire management planning will:

- identify natural and cultural heritage values threatened by inappropriate fire regimes and built assets vulnerable to damage by fire;
- provide a framework for the management of wildfire suppression, including identification of potential strategic access and control lines; and
- provide a framework for the use of a suite of fire management strategies, including prescribed burning for protection of life and property, and the conservation of biodiversity and other natural and cultural values.

Objective

Manage fire to protect life and property, the maintenance of biodiversity and the protection of other natural and cultural values.

Strategies

- Prepare, implement and review fire management plans in association with CFS and other stakeholders.
- Undertake fire management activities (including prescribed burning) for the protection of life and property or for the conservation of species or ecological communities of conservation significance in accordance with DEH policies and procedures, and undertake monitoring to determine appropriate management of conservation values post-fire.
- Continue to work with the relevant District Bushfire Prevention Committee and CFS to minimise risk to life and property within and surrounding the parks.