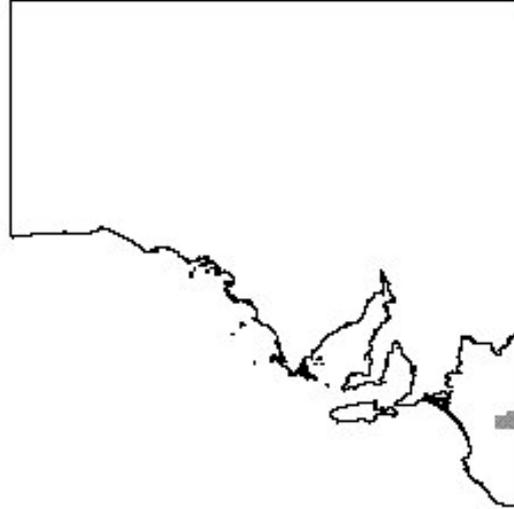


Biological Survey of the South East Fire Study

Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc (2000). *Upper South East Heritage Vegetation and Fire Management study*. Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc.

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Australia
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120 Wakefield St
Adelaide 5000

(www.ncssa.asn.au)



Summary:

This report describes a joint project carried out by the Nature Conservation Society of SA and the South Australian Farmers Federation. The purpose of the project was to survey blocks of remnant native vegetation in the Upper South East of South Australia with the aim of investigating the possible use of fire as a tool in their management.

The project included extensive flora and fauna survey work as well as the collection of data on fuel accumulation at sites where fires were known to have occurred in the recent past. In addition, information on plant species responses to fire and the possible effects of fire on the vegetation communities identified was obtained through a literature review and discussions with local landowners/managers.

As a result of the vegetation survey, 7 floristic groups were identified. The description of each group includes information on the characteristic species present, their individual response to fire (where known), species of conservation significance (if found), and a brief discussion on the possible use of fire as a management tool.

The fauna survey added to our knowledge of species present and the bird survey gave rise to a separate and comprehensive report.

The use of fire as a management tool is considered with regard to the many variables that need to be taken into account such as the season of the fire, its intensity, the desirability of creating a 'mosaic' of vegetation age classes and so on. The importance of weed and feral animal control is stressed, as is the need for revegetation and the encouragement of natural revegetation.

This report concludes with a series of recommendations, which supports the carrying out of experimental work and the continuation of data collection, especially at permanent quadrats set up as part of this project.