Australian Alps Recreation Strategy

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Acknowledgements

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This recreation plan is the third stage of a 3-stage recreation planning project for the Australian Alps carried out under the auspice of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee. The purpose of the project was to develop a model for recreation planning that could be used across national parks in the Australian Alps in Victoria, NSW and ACT.

**Stage 1** of the project established a planning model that park managers could apply to assist in making decisions about the management of recreation impacts.

**Stage 2** of the project identified and mapped the Recreation Opportunity classes across the whole of the Alps and identified recreation activities, facilities and visitor management issues (as perceived by management) within each ROS class in each management unit. Stage 2 did not include descriptive data on visitor characteristics, visitor needs and expectations, levels and intensity of use or data collection on visitor nodes. (These elements were included in the original brief for stage 2).

**Stage 3** (this Project) is the implementation of the planning model established in Stage 1, using data collected and presented in Stage 2, at strategic sites as determined by the Australian Alps Liaison Committee.

The project was undertaken using a Planning Team working with the consultants to apply the model and develop a strategy for management of recreation in the study area.

Peter Jacobs, Project Manager
1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the program of cooperative management for the Australian Alps, the Australian Alps Liaison Committee commissioned a recreation plan to be prepared for the northern area of Kosciuszko National Park, known as Long Plain Tantangara, and the western part of Namadgi National Park. The planning area includes the Brindabella range and other peaks forming the border between the ACT and NSW.

Whilst the two areas are managed by different agencies, the close cooperation arising from the Australian Alps program enables management issues to be considered in tandem.

In addition to addressing the recreation planning and management issues arising within the planning area, the project was required to utilise a model developed for recreation planning in the Australian Alps, and to recommend adaptations to the model to make it more useful for park managers operating in the Alps.

This project is stage 3 of the three stage project undertaken by the Recreation and Tourism working group of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee over a three year period.

Stage 1 of the project established a planning model that park managers could apply to assist in making decisions about the management of recreation impacts. It aimed to achieve the:

- provision of diversity of access opportunities necessary to meet the diverse needs of visitors to the alps; and
- protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage values.

The planning process developed an eight step process which addresses the following:

Review of the opportunities that are provided for recreation and where they are located.

Identification of who the visitors are and what their needs are.

Review of how the opportunities and the needs of the visitors match.

Determination of where management resources should be focused.

Identification of local objectives and issues.

Identification of measures to monitor the quality of visitor experience and the environment.

Recommendation of options that can be used to respond to any revealed problems.

Recommendation of process for reporting in an accessible, transparent and effective way.

Stage 2 provided for opportunities to be defined using ROS mapping.

Individual unit areas representing a class from the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum were identified and mapped for the whole of the Australian Alps National Parks in Stage 2. Recreational activities and facilities were identified for each class.

The current project engaged a planning team in the development of a Recreation Strategy for the study area, building upon the eight step process identified in Stage 1 of the project.
The process used was as follows:

Table 1.1 – The eight step process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning process</th>
<th>Relating to steps in 8 stage process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A planning team consisting of the project manager and field management and planning staff from the study area was formed.</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An initial meeting of the team was held to gather as much information about the information required for the eight steps of the planning process as was available.</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field inspections were carried out of the study area with members of the planning team. This assisted in gaining extensive additional information to that gathered at the initial meeting.</td>
<td>1,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A workshop was held with the planning team that used a matrix format to address steps 2, 3 and 4.</td>
<td>2,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The consultants reviewed all information and developed options as a basis for step 6 which were reviewed by the planning team</td>
<td>6,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following Planning Team endorsement of the management options, appropriate performance measures were developed by the Planning Team with the consultants.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final report prepared and reviewed by Planning Team.</td>
<td>7,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Management Context

Kosciuszko National Park is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974). The section of the planning area, known as Long Plain Tantangara, is managed within the South West Slopes Region of Southern Directorate, NPWS.

Kosciuszko National Park, declared in 1944, Bimberi and Scabby Range Nature Reserves, as well as the recently declared Brindabella National Park, all adjoin Namadgi NP on its western border.

Namadgi National Park is managed under the Nature Conservation Act (1980) by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, a division of Environment ACT. Namadgi is within the Western District of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

Namadgi, declared in 1984, comprises 106,000 hectares and covers approximately 46% of the Australian Capital Territory. It contains the most northerly alpine environment in Australia. Namadgi NP is now jointly managed by the ACT government and the local Ngunnawal Aboriginal community. Within the planning area, the Cotter River catchment provides drinking water for the Canberra population.

Plans of management exist for both Namadgi National Park and Kosciuszko National Park and contain management prescriptions relevant to the planning area. The Namadgi National Park Management Plan (1986) is, like the Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management (1982, amended 1988), out of date. Each contains management recommendations for the planning area which have been implemented as well as a number which are inappropriate to the current management regime.

In using the management plans for this recreation plan, the assumption has been made that the plans are soon to be reviewed/rewritten and that recommendations within this recreation plan can be accommodated in any new management plans.
ACT Nature Tourism Strategy (Environment ACT, 2000)
The ACT Nature Based Tourism Strategy was prepared by the ACT government in 2000 to provide direction for the further development of nature based tourism in the ACT. In addition to broad strategies, a number of specific actions were identified to be implemented in relation to tourism. Of these the following are of specific relevance to the Namadgi Recreation plan:

- further development of walks and trails in ACT natural areas;
- develop visitor viewing facilities along Boboyan Road;
- develop new interpretive signage at key heritage sites such as Honeysuckle Creek;
- develop partnerships and packages with complementary stakeholders;
- upgrade interpretation and visitor facilities at Namadgi Visitor Centre;
- develop an ACT walking tracks strategy;
- maintain a visitor monitoring and research program at key nature based tourism destinations and nodes.

Camp ground strategy for Parks and Forests in the ACT (Environment ACT, 1998)
The Campground strategy was prepared in recognition of the need for an integrated approach to the planning for and management of camp grounds to provide a range of camping experiences and opportunities. A Campground Opportunity Spectrum was used to ensure a diverse range of recreational experiences. The study included the administration of a survey of visitor use and attitudes. A level of facilities was proposed for the range of recreational campground settings. The recommendations for the Namadgi camping opportunities will be considered within the context of this plan.

Kosciuszko Recreation Strategy (Stig Virtanen, 1993)
A recreation strategy was developed as a basis for longer term planning for a range of recreational opportunities across Kosciusko National Park in 1994. A customer oriented planning approach was taken, giving consideration to visitor needs and expectations as well as resource management and conservation objectives. In addition to an inventory of facilities across the park, the strategy identified the range of visitor characteristics and recreational activities within the Park and related management issues that needed to be addressed. It engaged the community in consultation on issues and made recommendations on areas where facilities and services could be improved.

Cooleman Plain Karst Area Management Plan (NPWS 1987)
The Cooleman Karst area management plan was prepared as a requirement under the plan of management and sought to ensure conservation of the natural and cultural values of the karst area. Amongst the issues addressed within the plan were:

- the need to ensure sensitive management of the Blue Waterholes area including waste management and run off;
- access issues including the network of legal and illegal trails in the area.

1.2 Access

Kosciuszko
The two main visitor access routes into the Long Plain/Tantangara area are by the Long Plain Road and Tantangara Rd as shown on Map 1. Long Plain Road traverses the high plateau off the Snowy Mountains highway from Rules Point and extends north to the ACT border where access to the public is closed. Long Plain Road intersects with the Blue Waterholes Fire Trail, which provides access to Blue Waterholes.
Tantangara Road intersects the Snowy Mountains Highway at the eastern end of the planning area and provides access to the Tantangara Dam, and beyond this, to Currango Homestead.

The Port Phillip Fire Trail provides public access linking Long Plain and Tantangara roads.

**Namadgi**

Map 1 shows that public access to the Namadgi planning area is principally by the Boboyan Road and the Mount Franklin Road.

The Boboyan Rd provides a scenic link between Canberra and Adaminaby. Sealed access to facilities and to trailheads at gates on locked trails is provided from this major access road.

The Mount Franklin Road, bounded in parts by NSW to the west and the ACT to the east, is a key route and destination, particularly for winter snow play. The road is closed to vehicles at Mount Ginnini, and at lower altitudes when snow precludes access.

Vehicular access between Namadgi and Kosciuszko National Parks is not available with the exception of Lone Pine Fire Trail. The Australian Alps walking track links the two parts of the planning area.

### 1.3 Issues Affecting The Planning Area

Stage 2 of the 3 stage Australian Alps recreation planning project identified “visitor expectations that cannot be provided for, or were inconsistent with park management objectives; conflicts between user groups; and visitor dissatisfaction.” as the most significant visitor management issues for Namadgi National Park. However, the report did not go on to state what the expectations, conflicts or dissatisfactions were.

For the Long Plain /Tantangara Unit, Stage 2 identified a “lack of information on visitor numbers, visitor profiles and visitor impacts, visitor expectations that cannot be provided for, or were inconsistent with park management objectives and uncontrolled recreational succession” as the most significant management issues. Again these issues were very general and of limited planning value without additional data.

In addition to the activity related management issues identified, a number of generic issues affecting the recreational activities and their management have been identified for the planning area. These include:

**Canberra population**

The proximity of a large population close to Namadgi National Park has specific implications for management. Residents see Namadgi as their own "back yard play ground" and one for which they have a significant attachment. The range of users, their varied appreciation of national park management and conservation values results in increased impact and need for management input to the park itself. The sheer proximity of Canberra to Namadgi increases visitation and illegal usage of the park.

The same people who may use Namadgi as a day use area, also have reasonable access to visit Kosciuszko for overnight or longer stays.

**Promotion**

Promotion of the parks and specific facilities and services can have a major impact in terms of numbers of people that visit each park. The promotion, for example, of improved road conditions on the Long Plain road has increased visitation to this area in recent years. The impact on the social experience as well as physical impacts may affect the visitation levels and patterns by some visitors.
Wilderness management
Wilderness management in NSW has resulted in a reduction in the number of areas available for horse riding in Kosciuszko National Park and a consequent high concentration of horse riding activity within the planning area. The establishment of additional wilderness areas in NSW in the northern areas of KNP where horse riding was previously permitted has reduced the availability of routes for those riders using established camps. As a result, riders are illegally accessing wilderness areas, and usage has become more concentrated within areas legally available.

Wilderness management in Namadgi is more effective as its management is similar to that of the Cotter catchment with which many users are familiar. The restriction of cycling activity from wilderness in the ACT has resulted in reduced availability of areas for longer rides within Namadgi and from Long Plain/Tantangara.

Park use fees
To date, no park use fees have been payable by visitors to the Tantangara Long Plain areas of KNP. Visitors camping in Namadgi are required to pay a fee when camp sites are booked.

The introduction of user fees across NSW national parks is likely to impact on the planning area with the introduction of a fee collection or pay and display system. The increased revenue will provide for improvements to visitor facilities, but may also cause some concern among park users who seek a low cost visit in the natural environment.

The opportunity exists to implement fees at the same time as improvements to the facilities identified through this planning process.

Four wheel drive opportunities and broader planning area
Neither Namadgi nor Kosciuszko provide four wheel drive opportunities for visitors which, given the proximity of Canberra, may have led to higher rates of illegal activity. The visitor survey conducted during the 2000/2001 holiday period indicated there was some demand for more access for 4WD in the Long Plain/Tantangara area. The current and future continued availability of four wheel drive tracks in the nearby Brindabella National Park should be considered in a broader regional planning framework which includes Namadgi National Park and considers recreational opportunities across a range of land tenure and reserves.

Inconsistent policy between ACT and NSW
There are a number of policy and management differences between Namadgi and Kosciuszko National Parks affecting areas which are contiguous and where the recreational activities occur in both parks:

- Namadgi National Park has, within wilderness and water catchment areas, a policy of requiring permits for camping and fuel stoves only;
- There are also restrictions on mountain bike riding within wilderness areas in Namadgi. These policies do not apply to the adjacent Kosciuszko National Park;
- Kosciuszko, whilst cycling is permitted within the wilderness, has a prohibition on commercial recreational activities within wilderness.

Where wilderness areas adjoin public access areas, these variations present difficulties for management and confusion for visitors.

It is appropriate that agencies give consideration to developing a consistent approach to management within the area.
Map 1 - The Study Area and Management Units
2 RECREATION IN THE PLANNING AREA

2.1 Recreational Opportunity Settings

As stated earlier in this report, this recreation plan utilises the principles of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum as recommended in the first stage of developing the planning model for the Australian Alps National Park.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum is a planning process that assesses recreation sites according to a range of attributes. Once the sites have been assessed they can be analysed to determine where they are placed on a spectrum from “remote” to “intensive recreation”.

A Recreation Opportunity Setting is the combination of social, physical, biological and managerial conditions that give value to a place (Clark and Stankey 1979). Key influencing factors include: access; other non-recreational resources uses; on-site management; social interaction; acceptability of visitor impacts; and acceptable level of regimentation. Settings range from primitive to modern (fully developed).

The previous two stages in the overall recreation planning model development project used six Recreation Opportunity Setting Classes. They were:

- Remote;
- Semi Remote Non-motorised;
- Semi Remote Motorised;
- Roaded Natural;
- Semi Developed;
- Developed.
| **Table 2.1 - Description of ROS Classes Used in the Planning Area** |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| **ROS Characteristics**         | **Zone 1 Remote** | **Zone 2 Semi-Remote Non-Motorised** | **Zone 3 Semi-Remote Motorised** | **Zone 4 Roaded Natural** | **Zone 5 Semi-Developed** | **Zone 6 Developed** |
| **Description**                 | Generally large unmodified areas topographically shielded or more than 3km from most noise or visual impacts. | Moderate to large areas, predominantly unmodified, topographically shielded or at least 1km from significant noise or visual impacts. | Moderate to large size, predominantly unmodified. Topographically shielded or generally at least 1km from significant visual impact. | Partly modified but natural areas. May be within 1km of significant visual or noise impact. | Substantially modified area within a semi-natural setting. May be within 1km of significant visual or noise impact. | Highly modified areas within a semi-natural setting with significant noise or visual impacts in immediate area. |
| **Access**                      | Public access by walking tracks which may be few in number and of a low maintenance regime. Vehicular tracks not accessible or maintained; should be revegetated. | Public access by walking tracks of a low to moderate maintenance regime, Management access on 4wd tracks but usually at very low levels of use. | Public access via walking tracks of low to moderate maintenance regime and on unsealed roads infrequently maintained. | Access via relatively well maintained walking tracks and 2WD roads. | Access via well maintained walking tracks, possibly with sealed surfaces and sealed 2WD roads primarily. | Access via well maintained walking tracks, possibly with sealed surfaces and sealed 2WD roads primarily. |
| **Range of Facilities**         | Public facilities rarely found and only for resource protection. | Only basic visitor facilities where essential for resource protection. | Only basic visitor facilities where essential for resource protection. | Low-key facilities at key camping and picnic areas. Including toilet and shower blocks, and visitor interpretation signs or displays. | Substantial and well maintained visitor facilities at key camping, picnic and visitor interpretation areas. May include toilet and shower blocks, extensive interpretation signs and displays. | Extensive and well maintained visitor may exist throughout the area including indoor accommodation, catering and extensive visitor interpretation and displays. |
| **Social Interaction**          | Extremely low interaction with other visitors, but limited encounters could be expected. | Some possibilities of interaction with other visitors, especially during peak season. | Moderate levels of interaction with other visitors, especially during peak season. | Relatively frequent interaction with other visitors, especially during peak season | Frequent visitor interactions, particularly during peak periods. | High level of visitor interaction, often on a year-round basis. |
| **Management Presence**         | No visible on-site regulation or management presence. Positive visitor education | Minimal on-site management, which may include some signs and low maintenance | Limited on-site management presence. Defined car parking areas where resource | Implicit on-site regulation and management presence including signage, fences, barriers, formed car parks etc. | Explicit on-site regulation and management including signage, fences, barriers, formed car parks etc. | High levels of on-site regulation and management including signage, fences, barriers, formed car parks etc. |
| and possible use of permits. | tracks. | protection needed. | fences, barriers, formed car parks etc. | formed car parks etc. |
2.1.1 Long Plain/Tantangara Planning Area

Roaded natural, Semi remote motorised, Semi remote non-motorised and Remote ROS Classes were identified in the Tantangara/Long Plain Unit. 94% of the Unit was classified as Remote and 5% as Roaded natural.

2.1.2 Namadgi Planning Area

Stage 2 identified Semi developed, Semi remote motorised, Semi-remote non motorised and Remote as the ROS zones as occurring in Namadgi National Park, however, since the planning area does not incorporate the whole park, it is not possible to establish the proportion of land area covered by each ROS zone.

2.2 Existing Recreational Use And Visitor Characteristics

Information about existing recreational use was obtained from the Stage 2 project and from recreational activity patterns observed by the consultants and park field staff.

2.2.1 Visitor Survey

A small survey was conducted across the study area to complement and compare management perceptions of visitor activities, needs and expectations. The survey was undertaken when it became apparent that there was a real shortage of systematically collected information about visitors’ needs, expectations and visitor impacts in each area. The survey was constrained by the resources available, and the data collected can be considered as indicative only as sample size in any area was not sufficient to enable valid comparison of sub groups within the sample. Detailed results are shown in Appendix 2.

The survey was carried out in the Kosciuszko and Namadgi study areas by rangers in Kosciuszko and by students specifically employed for the survey period in Namadgi. Specific days were selected to conduct the survey to obtain a range of users in the peak and off peak summer periods. The survey in Namadgi concentrated on the highest use Orroral area of the park, with limited returns from back country users. Similarly in Kosciuszko, back country users were more difficult to find and hence not well represented. The following table describes the sample obtained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currango</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tantangara</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Waterholes</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Yards</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Country NSW</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumut VC</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>95</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orroral</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Franklin RD</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Country ACT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namadgi VC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The surveys indicated that most visitors had visited the park on previous occasions. Visitors to Namadgi National Park tended to stay for shorter periods of time than visitors to the Long Plain/Tantangara area. 51% of the Namadgi sample were day visitors compared to 13% of the Long Plain/Tantangara sample. Perhaps not surprising given the proximity of Namadgi to Canberra and the relative isolation of Long Plain/Tantangara.

The quiet and peaceful atmosphere and scenic qualities were identified as the most important park qualities that attracted visitors to both Namadgi and Long Plain/Tantangara. In Namadgi, the Park’s plants and animals and convenient location to Canberra were also important.

The parks quiet and restful atmosphere was shown to be a particularly important park quality to campers in Namadgi. This quality also rated very highly with those whose main purpose of visiting the park was to participate in picnics/barbeques, walking and socialising with family and friends.

In the Long Plain/Tantangara area the park’s quiet and restful atmosphere was shown to be an important park quality to those visitors whose main purpose of visiting the park was camping, fishing and horse riding.

The most important park quality to horse riders was shown to be the recreational activities in which they could participate. The park’s scenic qualities and quiet and restful atmosphere also ranked highly.

Car tourers/sightseers indicated that the park’s scenic qualities was their most important park quality. This might be a reflection of the fact that their principal activity relies on a diversity of views and settings being available in a relatively short period of time. Their length of stay in the area also tended to be shorter than visitors participating in other activities.

2.2.2 Activities Occurring In The Study Area

Stage 2 of the Recreation Model Project (Missing Link, 1999) identified the following activities as occurring in the Long Plain Tantangara Planning Area:

Walking, scenic driving, picnics, barbeques, interpretation and education, fishing, swimming, canoeing/kayaking/rafting, camping, four wheel drive touring, horse riding, cross-country skiing, biking, painting/drawing/photography, trail bike riding, caving, cultural events, tobogganing/snow play and hunting.

The following activities were identified as occurring in Namadgi National Park as a whole. The planning area was not identified specifically:

- Walking
- Scenic driving
- Picnics and barbeques
- Interpretation and education
- Fishing
- Camping
- Four wheel drive touring
- Horse riding
- Cross-country skiing
- Biking
- Painting, drawing, photography
- Trail bike riding
- Tobogganing, snow play
- Climbing
- Orienteering and hunting
Horse riding is permitted in some parts of Namadgi National Park but not in the study area.

Stage 2 did not describe characteristics, needs or expectations of visitors who participated in these activities, nor did Stage 2 identify management issues related to these activities or visitor groups.

It was therefore necessary for the planning team to identify, from past research and local knowledge, the key recreational user groups on the basis of the activity patterns observed. The following were identified:

**Commercial Horseriding**
Commercial operators running horse riding trips. Two operators in Kosciuszko only. This activity is not permitted in the study area although it does occur elsewhere in the park.

**Large horseriding groups**
Groups of horse riders that establish base camps at formal or informal sites and ride in the park on day trips. This activity is permitted in Namadgi in groups of up to 30 horses, but does not occur in the study area.

**Self-reliant small horse riding groups**
Small groups that travel on horse back with pack saddles and use a range of camp sites. This activity is permitted in Namadgi but does not occur in the study area.

**Lake anglers**
Car based anglers fishing from boats or the shore. Generally car based camping and within the planning area limited to Tantangara Dam.

**Stream anglers**
Trout anglers who walk the streams and fish from the bank or from the water.

**Vehicle based tourers**
Car based sightseers who use roads to access points of interest. May be in four wheel drive or two wheel drive vehicles. May also camp.

**Car based campers**
Generally sightseers or visitors who enjoy the activity of camping who drive to naturally attractive sites where they can establish camp for one or more nights.

**Remote users**
Visitors who access areas by bicycle, foot, or other means apart form driving. They are generally self-sufficient and seek “remote” experiences.

**Thrill seekers**
Visitors who undertake higher risk activities such as single-track mountain bike riding, caving, climbing or canoeing.
Illegal users
People carrying out activities that are not permitted in the area in which they go. Includes pig shooters, off-track four wheel driving, vandalism.

Tables A1.1 in Appendix 1 provide details of management perceptions of visitors, the experience they seek, their needs, and the management issues arising. In activity groups which occurred in both Namadgi and Kosciuszko, no significant variations was perceived in needs, experience sought or management issues although the issue may have been greater in one area than the other. The material contained within Appendix 1 is summarised in Table 2.3 below as a basis for management recommendations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity groups</th>
<th>Major needs/experience</th>
<th>Key management issues</th>
<th>Site specific issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial horse riders</td>
<td>Camp sites with facilities and access to riding areas/routes</td>
<td>Safe high country experience</td>
<td>Camp site management, Group sizes, Conflict/competing with other riders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large group horse riders</td>
<td>Camp sites with facilities and access to routes and destinations</td>
<td>Links with past; high country and group camping experiences;</td>
<td>Track/stream bank impacts, Availability of sites, Riding in wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self reliant horse riders</td>
<td>Knowledge of routes and camps</td>
<td>Remote, high country and traverse distance</td>
<td>Impact/potential conflict with other users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake fishermen</td>
<td>Access to lake and camping</td>
<td>Sense of remoteness</td>
<td>Camp site/human waste management, Access to lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream fishermen</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Sense of remoteness, high country</td>
<td>New informal vehicle track establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle tourers</td>
<td>Road access, Interesting sights, Short duration activities, Maps and information</td>
<td>Interesting experience, natural environment</td>
<td>Volume of traffic arising from improved access, Appropriate level of promotion by other stakeholders, Illegal access, New informal track establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car based camping</td>
<td>Camp sites with facilities</td>
<td>Natural high country experience</td>
<td>New site establishment, Reduced quality experience and higher impact at peak times, Firewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote users</td>
<td>Maps and knowledge of longer routes</td>
<td>Remote experience, natural environment</td>
<td>Maintaining quality of natural environment, Search and rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrill seekers</td>
<td>Maps and knowledge of routes and sites</td>
<td>Specific activity experiences</td>
<td>Potential high impact from some activities, Inconsistency in policies NSW/ACT, Risk management issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal users</td>
<td>Knowledge of park management, Ease of access</td>
<td>Specific activity experiences</td>
<td>Environmental damage, Conflict with other users, Interference with management programs, Risk to animals, Vandalism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Appropriate Activities

In pursuing the recreation management model, the planning team undertook to determine the appropriateness of activities in each park. Details of the team's assessment are included as Table A1.2 in Appendix 1.

The following criteria were used to assess appropriateness:

- Importance of the park as a setting for this activity
- Extent to which the visitors concerned are aware and supportive of park values
- Impact of the activity on park values
- Impact of the activity on other visitors
- Size of visitor category and of visitor groups
- Scope for park management to influence the behaviour of this visitor category
- Risk management implications associated with this activity

Using the above criteria to assess suitability of activities in the park the team concluded that, with the exception of illegal activities, all activities (in general) currently undertaken in either Namadgi or Kosciuszko, if managed effectively, were appropriate. For each of the criteria applied, a number of comments can be summarised in relation to the activity groups.

Importance of the park as a setting for this activity

The experience sought for the majority of activities was such that the park was critical as a setting for most activities. Seeking natural values, a high country experience and remoteness were considered valid experiences such that Namadgi and Kosciuszko were extremely important venues for the activities. The cultural association of horse riders with the high country and their past was also seen as a highly valid requirement.

Extent to which the visitors are aware of and support the park values

This was seen as an issue, particularly in Kosciuszko, where there was not general support for the conservation of park values. Awareness of values can, for some visitor groups, be increased with a resultant increase in support. For other groups, however, such as those wishing to ride in wilderness areas, increased support was likely to be difficult to achieve. Whilst some visitors may be aware of park values (and in this example, particularly cultural values), support may be difficult to achieve whilst management protects natural values through policies with which the user group does not agree. Illegal activity groups in each of the parks are demonstrably opposed to protection of many park values.

Impact of the activity on park values

In general, where activities are effectively managed, the impact on park values may be limited. There is considerable localised impact associated with camping areas, horse camps, (e.g. stream bank erosion, firewood depletion) tracks (e.g. vegetation compaction, braiding, erosion) and other areas where usage is concentrated. If the impact associated with specific activities for which these park areas are important as a setting is managed to minimise impact on significant values, the activity continues to be appropriate. (e.g. Tantangara Dam for fishing or a horse camp (Wares Yards).

Impact of the activity on other visitors

Social impacts between different recreational user groups can be an issue in areas where they are concentrated. Where visitors are aware of the activities that are permitted in an area, and
recognise they may be recreating with other user groups, this issue is minimised. Potential areas of conflict between activity groups were considered to be:

- remote areas where self-reliant horse groups may intimidate hut users or bush walkers;
- the thrill seeker groups carrying out their activities in a way which may conflict with others user groups (e.g. fast bikes down hills on tracks shared with walkers);
- commercial horse trips using camps in peak times with the result that large groups are left without suitable camp sites.

**Size of visitor category and of visitor groups**

Horse riding and illegal activities were the two activities where there appeared to be numbers of users which need to be monitored and/or limited. The growth in horse riding activity is considered such that, facilities are over-used at peak times, potentially detracting from the visitor experience.

Illegal activities are considered inappropriate, regardless of visitor group size.

**Scope for park management to influence the behaviour of visitor category**

More systematic management of horse riding and lake fishing combined with education of visitors were seen as the most likely ways in which park managers could influence the behaviour of visitors. Improved facilities and, at peak times, providing the opportunity to ensure equitable and manageable use of facilities by a booking system were identified as means of better managing visitor impact as well as enhancing the quality of the visitor experience.

Influencing the behaviour of illegal users will best be achieved through the combined management actions of law enforcement and, as resources permit, removing the opportunities which attract the illegal activity (e.g. pig control, improved fencing and vehicular barriers).

**Risk management implications associated with activity**

The majority of activities carried out in the planning area are considered activities which are known to have risks associated with them and for which visitors take responsibility for their own safety. The exceptions to this are in areas where less experienced visitors are encouraged to use facilities or less remote facilities are provided. Key examples within the planning area included the Orroral Ridge Trail where, should the track be upgraded, risk issues will need to be addressed at the lookout site. The caves within the Clarke Gorge are accessible to the public on a track that is available to the average walker, and both track and caves need attention paid to visitor safety measures. Clarke Gorge and many of the caves are in a wilderness area. Management actions in this area will need to complement wilderness management practices whilst accounting for public safety.

### 2.4 Inappropriate Activities Or Mismatches Between Expectations, Park Offerings And Management Policies

Within the activities identified as being appropriate in the parks, the planning team identified expectations that were not being met currently or possibly in the future. These were important to identify in order to develop management strategies to reduce potential future conflicts between users and management.

Figure 2.4 describes the expectations not being met, the conflicts that the expectations may cause and the reasons why the expectation may not or should not be met. It also indicates the management action which needs to be incorporated into strategies for the planning area.
Table 2.4 - Mismatches Between Visitor Expectations and Park Offering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectations</th>
<th>Potential Conflict</th>
<th>Why expectation may not be met</th>
<th>Management action required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding will continue to be provided in the Park on current basis</td>
<td>Over crowding at peak times.</td>
<td>Introduction of booking system for horse camps to manage increased use.</td>
<td>Site management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large horse riding groups will continue to be able to visit the park and</td>
<td>Intimidation of other users.</td>
<td>Introduction of fees in line with general NPWS park user fee policy.</td>
<td>Increased ranger presence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access horse camps at peak times.</td>
<td>Overuse of camp sites</td>
<td></td>
<td>Education and information re activity management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding should be permitted throughout the Planning area</td>
<td>Use of inappropriate sites for horse camping at peak times.</td>
<td>Closure of some horse camps at certain times of the year.</td>
<td>Impact monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding should be permitted in wilderness</td>
<td>Conflict with other users</td>
<td>Access to existing and future wilderness areas reduced or prohibited.</td>
<td>Education re wilderness &amp; management policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conflict with management of wilderness values</td>
<td>New Wilderness declarations, hence horse riding becomes prohibited in area.</td>
<td>Enforcement of policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig Hunting can be carried out in the parks</td>
<td>Conflicts with NPWSACT P&amp;CS policies, KNP and Namadgi PoMs and with other park users.</td>
<td>Illegal activity and prohibited.</td>
<td>Ongoing law enforcement program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adverse impacts on baiting programs, vehicle access management programs.</td>
<td>Activity may be stopped by Police or Rangers.</td>
<td>Education of other recreational users of action they may take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle access should be available:</td>
<td>Environmental impact</td>
<td>Policy of restricting informal access</td>
<td>Site management; Education/interpretation re values and management action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ to rivers and lake in Planning area</td>
<td>Visual impact</td>
<td>Policy of track rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ to closed trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That un-structured camping will continue to be permitted in the Blue</td>
<td>Potential conflict between day visitors and campers using lower terrace adjacent</td>
<td>Booking system may be introduced to address issue of use at peak times.</td>
<td>Site management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterholes area</td>
<td>to the river.</td>
<td>Formalisation of camping away from lower terrace necessary for environmental management</td>
<td>Information/interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impact on karst area</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increased ranger presence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Formalise camping areas away from lower terrace out of immediate water catchment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some expectation that cycling and horse riding should be permitted</td>
<td>Conflicting policies between ACT and NSW</td>
<td>Conflicting policies between ACT and NSW</td>
<td>Address issue of conflicting policies between state/territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>throughout Long Plain/Tantangara and Namadgi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectation of public access to snow play and ski areas in winter.</td>
<td>The risks associated with public access to the Mt Franklin Rd while the road is</td>
<td>Road closures sometimes required below the permanent snow line.</td>
<td>Need for monitoring public attitudes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>not adequately maintained in winter.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Education re public safety issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Attributes Of The Planning Area

3.1 History

The mountain range and foothills of Kosciuszko and Namadgi national parks have a long history and extensive evidence of occupation. The mountains contain many cultural and artefact sites as evidence of past Aboriginal occupation and travel. Buildings and other structures remain as evidence of extensive European settlement and grazing throughout the planning area.

The following sites have been identified as culturally significant.

Table 3.1 – Culturally Significant Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Significant Features</th>
<th>Current Management.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Namadgi</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery Creek</td>
<td>Aboriginal rock art site. Listed on ACT Heritage List and Register of National Estate</td>
<td>Restricted visitor access, on-site interpretation, site preservation and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rendezvous Creek</td>
<td>Aboriginal rock art site. Listed on ACT Heritage List and Register of National Estate</td>
<td>Restricted visitor access, on-site interpretation, site preservation and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankee Hat</td>
<td>Aboriginal rock art site. Listed on ACT Heritage List and Register of National Estate</td>
<td>Controlled visitor access, on-site interpretation, site preservation and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Namadgi, Coronet Peak, Mt Scabby, Sentry Box</td>
<td>Stone arrangements</td>
<td>Controlled visitor access, on-site interpretation, site preservation and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Franklin Chalet/Bill Ginn Hut</td>
<td>Oldest surviving club-built ski lodge on the Australian mainland built especially for skiing</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orroral shearing shed</td>
<td>One of only three pastoral buildings in Namadgi</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orroral Homestead</td>
<td>Oldest standing inhabited bldg in ACT</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huts (Pryors, Frank and Jacks, Frank Dwers/ Waterhole, Rowleys Rendezvous Hut, Westermans, David Brayshaws, Max and Berts, Lutons Crutching shed)</td>
<td>Evidence of past occupation and land use in ACT</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kosciuszko</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coolamine Homestead</td>
<td>Complex of homestead and other buildings evidence of past occupation patterns</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Currango</td>
<td>Oldest homestead in park</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currango historic precinct</td>
<td>Evidence of past occupation patterns</td>
<td>An updated Conservation Plan to be prepared as the guiding management tool, education of visitors re natural and cultural values of surrounding area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Cultural sites of Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Significant Features</th>
<th>Current Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huts (Long Plain, Cooinbil, Bill Jones, Harris Cooinbil, Ted Oldfields, Long Plain, Peppercorn, Little Peppercorn, Harris Hut remains, Pockets, Oldfields, Witses, Gooandra, Traces, Brayshaws Circuits, Schofields Pedens, Townsend's Hains, Hainsworths, Lovenest)</td>
<td>Evidence of past occupation and land use</td>
<td>Management to be consistent with cultural heritage management objectives. Management of many structures in conjunction with Kosciuszko Huts Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Morgan – Stone arrangements</td>
<td>3 sites listed on NPWS Sites Register,</td>
<td>Restrict recreational activities, particularly horse riding to ensure conservation of the sites. Commercial activities currently restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Waterholes Aboriginal sites, caves, burial sites, chert quarry, spiritual significance of area</td>
<td>Evidence of past Aboriginal occupation of the area</td>
<td>Develop management recommendations specific to Blue Waterholes with Aboriginal Sites Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2 Significant Flora, Fauna and Natural Features

The natural and cultural resources of Namadgi and Kosciuszko National Parks have been extensively described in a range of publications. For the purposes of this recreation plan, significant features are identified for each park, their significance described and their associated management considerations outlined.
### Table 3.2 - Significant Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item/site Significance Management considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant Flora – Namadgi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gentiana baueuerlenii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bogong Creek Phragmites swamp</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant Flora – Kosciuszko</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Discaria pubescens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Discaria nitida</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Theesium australie</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gallium roddii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Wahlenbergia densifolia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Chionogentias sylvicola</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rutidosis leiolepis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Drabastrum alpestre</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eucalyptus lacrimansi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Calotis glandulosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Olearia rhizomatica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Olearia aglossa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Carex capillacea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant Fauna – Namadgi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Smoky mouse Pseudomys fumeus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Brush tailed rock wallaby Petrogale penicillata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Alpine tree frog Litoia verreaxuxii alpina</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corroboree frog Pseudophryne pengilleyi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant Fauna – Kosciuszko</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corroboree frog Pseudophryne</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Smoky Mouse Pseudomys fumeus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Broad–Toothed Rat Mastocomyys fuscus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cave invertebrates and insects</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural significance - Namadgi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ginnini Flats</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cheyenne Flats</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Big Creamy Flats</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rotten swamp</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural significance - Kosciuszko</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cooleman Karst area</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Murrumbidgee headwaters</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Boggy Plain and Nungar Plain</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Management Units (MU) were developed for the planning area to reflect both geographic and activity based approaches (refer Map 1). Criteria used to identify an MU included:

- The nature of visitation
- Environmental values and issues
- Management policies

Throughout the study area there are issues of illegal activity

### Namadgi Management Units
- Boboyan Valley Management Unit
- Orroral Valley Management Unit
- Mount Franklin Road Corridor Management Unit
- Bimberi Cotter Management Unit

### Kosciuszko Management Units
- Murrumbidgee Management Unit
- Tantangara Dam Management Unit
- Cooleman Karst Management Unit
- Remote Use Management Unit

A unit linking Namadgi and Kosciuszko has also been identified:

**Border Management Unit**
4.1 Strategies for management units

4.1.1 Kosciuszko Management Units

4.1.1.1 Murrumbidgee Management Unit

The Murrumbidgee Management Unit consists broadly of the area from the Snowy Mountains Highway to the Murrumbidgee River excluding the Tantangara Management Unit and including the horse camps, which have been established across the planning area.

Horse riding within KNP is increasing in popularity with a strong concentration of activity within this management unit. Inadequate management may increase in the impact on values of the area, as well as a decrease in the recreational experience of the riders and other recreational users. Whilst usage over the year is perceived to be at an acceptable level, the concentration of usage within a number of short peak periods can result in a number of management problems including:

- over-crowding;
- displacement of some recreational users;
- development of informal camping sites;
- impacts on natural values.

Management objectives

1. To provide recreational opportunities consistent with park management policies and objectives, including 4WD, bushwalking, stream fishing and horse riding in a way that does not impact on each other.

2. To provide facilities for horse riders at a standard commensurate with the natural qualities of the park and that meet visitors' expectations.

3. To provide opportunities for the range of horse riding groups including large groups, commercial groups and individuals.

Management actions

Consultation with user groups

- Consult with horse riders to:
  - determine appropriate limits for numbers at each horse camp;
  - explore the introduction of a simple booking system;
  - identify alternative horse yard designs that might be trialed;
  - assess additional facility needs (such as suitable water supply and storage).

- Give higher priority to on-site contact between NPWS and management unit users.

- Consult with fishing community to determine management direction and future usage requirements including access to fishing grounds and facility requirements.
Site management

- Maintain and manage horse riding as a legitimate use of the unit.
- Maintain existing number and standard of NPWS established horse camps.
- Establish system of water supply at each NPWS established camp to minimise streambank erosion.
- Introduce booking system for horse camps for peak periods (Xmas, Easter, long weekends).
- Introduce a fee for use of horse camps commensurate with park use fees and/or camping fees.
- Promote the principle of minimising use of fires through ongoing communication with user groups.
- Promote the importation of firewood from off-park sources by user groups and limit firewood collection in and around horse camps. Increase public awareness and education regarding firewood.
- Through licence provisions, require commercial operators to utilise public horse camps at all but peak booking periods.
- Construct one additional horse camp with facilities for commercial use in peak periods. Leave to rehabilitate between peak periods.
- Rehabilitate Tantangara Dam commercial horse camp and encourage use of alternatives.
- Investigate solutions for fishing access to the Murrumbidgee River at Long Plain including providing and promoting alternative sites and enforcing illegal access regulations.
- Reduce use of newly formed tracks on grasslands by early installation of signage.
- Implement additional car based camp sites at two locations on the Murrumbidgee River:
  - at the crossing on the Port Phillip Fire trail; and
  - alongside the Murrumbidgee at the crossing with Long Plain Road Research and monitoring.
- Initiate a routine monitoring program to assess impacts of recreational use in a range of environments to assist in determining limits to acceptable change.
- Monitor impact in areas identified as “significant” – frost hollow plains and inverted tree lines, Karst area.
- Investigate and trial use of synthetic surface treatments for management of erosion and compaction at concentrated usage sites emanating from horse camps (e.g. water crossings, tracks).
- Trial the use of constructed fireplaces to reduce occurrence of fire rings.
- Assess the impact of the widespread use of fire, including firewood collection, fire scars, habitat loss etc.

Education

- Provide accurate information about areas where horse riding is and is not permitted by installing information signs at horse camps. Distribute through local businesses, newsletters and magazines, a map identifying areas where horses are permitted.
- Provide information on the horse camp booking system (once adopted) and about any recent improvements for horse riders.
- Provide visitors with information about the need to bring their own firewood from off-park sources when they use the park.
- Increase management presence by establishing higher priority for ranger patrols and visitor interaction at peak times. (This was considered a high priority by the planning team).
4.1.1.2 Tantangara Dam Management Unit

The Tantangara Dam management unit includes the Tantangara Dam foreshores extending to Tantangara Rd in the east and the ridgeline to the west. Major settings within the management unit include Currango Homestead, and the informal camping and parking areas near Tantangara Dam wall. A range of formal and informal tracks are within the unit including the Quarry Trail which has been upgraded to reflect the need for access by fishermen to the western shore of the lake.

Usage of Tantangara Dam for fishing does not appear to have increased significantly in recent years although the cumulative impacts associated with continued camping and access have become increasingly apparent. Continuing to permit the activity and the provision of limited facilities in this area is considered appropriate given the nature of the experience sought, and the limited natural values attributed the area.

Management objectives

1. To provide sustainable opportunities for recreational use of the area for fishing in a remote setting.

2. To provide facilities appropriate to the fishing experience sought and the natural values of the area adjacent to Tantangara Dam.

Management actions

Consultation with user groups

- Consult with fishermen in relation to facility needs with a view to providing fire places/fire pits and toilets in key locations.
- Consult with commercial fishing guides to ensure the information provided by them to their clients in relation to access, track damage, facilities etc. reflects current park management practice and policy.

Site management

- Continue to maintain the Quarry trail so it is accessible by four wheel drive vehicles for fishing purposes.
- Retain two of the more significant access tracks from Quarry Trail to foreshore and monitor for maintenance requirement and usage patterns.
- Investigate the need for toilets and suitable locations for their placement to service visitors on each of the two access trails.
- Assess the need to establish a formal camping area at a site below the dam wall with toilet facilities, fire pits and information signage.
- Continue to maintain Dam Trail at causeway end of Tantangara Dam.
- Rehabilitate and close informal access tracks and sign-post new alternate tracks established for access to lake.
- Increased presence and law enforcement required in the short term to ensure appropriate access under the new access regime.
- Close and rehabilitate tracks from Currango Homestead and Port Phillip Trail to the shore, and ensure Currango visitors are aware of closures.
- Reduce use of newly formed tracks on grasslands by early installation of signage.
- Introduce a “no rubbish bins” policy.
Education

- provide information about access to fishing sites and rehabilitation of trails at visitor centres, public contact sites, local shops and on site
- provide information about water quality, track rehabilitation and minimum impact fishing at the end of Tantangara Road near the dam wall and in brochures available for fishermen
- increase management presence by establishing higher priority for ranger patrols and visitor interaction at peak times

4.1.1.3 Cooleman Karst Management Unit

The Cooleman Karst area is accessed via the Blue Waterholes Fire Trail. The protection of the Cooleman Karst area is a high conservation priority. Features within the unit include Coolamine Homestead, a range of huts and other cultural features, Blue Waterholes, camp sites and other walking trails. There are also extensive informal vehicle and walking tracks on the open plains.

High visitation at peak times combined with limited opportunities for car based camping within the planning area result in large numbers of campers at Blue Waterholes with potential reduction in the experience of both day visitors and campers. The significant nature conservation values of Blue Waterholes provide the potential to enhance visitor knowledge and awareness of natural values.

Walking tracks emanating from the trailhead at Blue Waterholes have the potential to impact on the water quality and other values of the karst area if erosion occurs.

Management objectives

1. To protect the natural and cultural features of the management unit from damage by visitors to the area.

2. To provide facilities for visitors consistent with protection of natural, scientific and cultural values of the area.

3. To interpret the natural values of the Karst area to visitors.

4. To provide low key facilities in keeping with the remote camping experiences being sought at the site.
Management actions

Site management

- Continue to maintain access road to Blue Waterholes at existing standard (wet weather 2WD) to provide for car touring and car based camping.
- Consider implementing system of booking of camping area at Blue Waterholes at peak times (including payment of park use/camping fees).
- Maintain existing signage standards to Blue Waterholes from Long Plain Rd.
- Prepare a visitor management/conservation landscape plan for the Blue Waterholes Camping and Day use Area to address the following:
  - Separation of camping and day use areas;
  - Restriction of camping on the stream banks and in immediate catchment areas;
  - Encouragement of camping above the gate by the provision of signage depicting day use along the river and camping on the ridge;
  - Formalisation of hard stand and parking areas;
  - Installation of fire pits at preferred camping sites;
  - Rerouting of the access to the river from the rocky knoll and ridge to align with the old road past the gate;
  - Reshaping and rehabilitation of the track below the gate to minimise erosion potential, reduce gradient, and provide new walking track access contouring to meet river side path;
  - Explore options for drainage and stabilizing sections of walking track at creek crossing on riverside walk;
  - Undertake erosion and drainage control on steeper sections of Clarke Gorge walk within close proximity to start of track for reasons of visitor safety;
  - Undertake risk assessment of Clark Gorge Walk and other higher risk activities encouraged at Blue Waterholes such as caving, rock climbing etc.
  - Close and sign-post informal tracks on Cooleman Plain to reduce use of the trails. Undertake law enforcement program in conjunction with increased ranger patrols etc.

Research and monitoring

- Develop a monitoring program to record visitor impact on vegetation, soil compaction and erosion at the Blue Waterholes camping and day use areas.
- Continue program of monitoring of water quality in waterholes to ensure natural values are not being affected by usage.
**Education/Interpretation**

- Provide interpretive information for visitors about the unique and significant natural and cultural values of the area.
- Provide minimal impact camping information re: firewood, toilets, fragile karst ecosystems etc and encourage visitors to camp at formalised camping areas.
- Advise visitors of safety issues associated with the walking tracks and access to caves.
- Provide visitors with information about the need to bring firewood when they book campsites.
- Increase management presence by establishing higher priority for ranger patrols and visitor interaction at peak times.

### 4.1.1.4 Remote Use Management Unit

Extensive remote tracts of land exist within the planning area traversed by a range of recreational users including horse riders, cyclists and bush walkers. For many visitors, the sense of remoteness and the maintenance of natural values are important. The management unit also provides many opportunities for long horse rides along informal bridle and brumby trails. This has resulted in concentrated usage in some areas.

Remote areas also provide access to wilderness, sometimes resulting in conflict between user groups and access by user groups inappropriate to the location. Horse riders may not always be aware of the boundaries between remote areas and declared wilderness, or the management practices and policies associated with each category of land.

**Management objectives**

1. To protect the natural, cultural and recreational values of the remote sections of the planning area.
2. To minimise conflict between users in remote areas.
3. To provide “remote experience” opportunities for visitors by maintaining settings as “remote” classes as defined by the ROS.

**Management actions**

**Site management**

Ensure visitors are aware of wilderness boundaries by signage at boundaries, the availability of maps, and information, which can be handed out to visitors in the park when staff are talking with them.

Address illegal access to sites by:

- Regulating use of closed and management access roads;
- Rehabilitation and signage on closed tracks and management access roads;
- Ensuring, in the first instance, that user groups are aware of access laws regarding wilderness and, if need be, regulate through law enforcement activities;
- Undertake trail works (e.g. install synthetic surface material) on sections of bridle trails emanating from horse camps which present erosion issues – has to be outside of wilderness areas.
Research and monitoring

- Implement system of monitoring of impacts (by using simple indicators such as vegetation loss, soil loss) associated with trails and bridle tracks to ensure maintenance of significant natural values.
- Regular monitoring and recording illegal use of management trails, closed trails and formation of new trails.

Education

- Provide back country visitors with advice about how they can assist in reducing illegal activity through appropriate recording and reporting of such activity.
- Educate remote area users about the fragile nature of bogs, stream bank communities etc. and encourage appropriate minimum impact techniques.

4.1.2 Namadgi Management Units

4.1.2.1 Boboyan Valley Management Unit

The Boboyan Valley incorporates the main road through Namadgi National Park which links Adaminaby in NSW with the Namadgi Visitor Centre. It also includes the Old Boboyan Road which provides access into trailhead areas for walking and cycling in the park. The Boboyan Road provides a scenic car tour and opportunities for passive recreation and sightseeing by travellers. Any upgrading of the NSW end of this road is likely to have a significant impact in increased usage of the route and sections of the park. The Old Boboyan Road gate at the Yankee Hat car park provides a trailhead for many walking/cycle routes including access to Yankee Hat Aboriginal art site. Horse riding is permitted east of the Old Boboyan Road and this is the primary area in the Namadgi planning area where (low levels of) horse riding does occur.

Illegal pig hunting is a major management issue in the management unit. The most frequent occurrences of this activity has been observed to be between February and April.

Management objectives

1. To provide opportunities for car tourers traversing the Boboyan Road to view and enjoy Namadgi National Park.

2. To provide suitable trailhead facilities and information for visitors accessing remote areas of Namadgi National Park from the Boboyan Valley.

3. To protect and interpret to visitors, the natural, cultural and scientific features of the unit.

Management Actions

Consultation with user groups

- Undertake ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal groups in relation to the management of cultural heritage sites.
- Maintain on-site Ranger presence to enhance information, interpretation and monitoring functions.

Site management

- Upgrade the two lookouts on the Boboyan Road to enhance appreciation of park values by car tourers and other visitors.
- Upgrade existing day use facilities at the Glendale Picnic area to provide an extension to the site for visitors travelling along the Boboyan road.
Investigate a location for an additional toilet for visitors travelling on the Boboyan Road.

Undertake an assessment of the viability of future use of the Gudgenby Homestead for commercial use consistent with the cultural values of the homestead, the natural values of the area, and as an extension to recreational opportunities available.

Upgrade the Yankee Hat car park to improve car parking and site amenity. Site planning needs to address appropriate levels of parking, picnic facilities, landscaping around the toilet and site as well as information for visitors.

Continue to manage the Yankee Hat Aboriginal rock art site to allow for public viewing while preserving the site.

Research and monitoring

- Continue program of monitoring of key species and significant sites to ensure minimal visitor impacts on natural and cultural values.

Education

- Continue program of information to back country visitors on management requirements in relation to camping and fire, wilderness and bicycle use, appropriate use of huts, and conditions of access to the Cotter catchment.
- Provide back country visitors, through registration books, with advice about how they can assist in reducing illegal activity by appropriate recording and reporting of details.
- Provide interpretive signage at Boboyan road lookouts to interpret the Boboyan pines project and the natural and cultural values of the Boboyan Valley.
- Provide interpretive information at the Yankee Hat art site and pamphlet box at trail head to inform visitors about the site as well as broader cultural values and heritage.
- Educate remote users about the fragile nature of bogs, stream bank communities etc. and encourage appropriate minimum impact techniques.
- Encourage visitors to be self reliant in notifying friends of the routes they are taking to avoid unnecessary search and rescue issues.

4.1.2.2 Orroral Valley Management Unit

The Orroral Valley is a significant access point for day and overnight visitors to Namadgi. Facilities are provided for day use and car based camping as well as day use facilities at the old Orroral Tracking Station. Vandalism over the years has resulted in facilities and signage falling into disrepair.

Short walks to Yankee Hat art site and Honeysuckle Creek tracking station are popular, and the Orroral Valley is the destination for the Orroral Descent commonly undertaken by Outward Bound groups off the Orroral Ridge. The Orroral Ridge is popular area for walking and remote camping and the site of many rock climbs. The ridge itself provides an exceptional vantage point although the access road can at times become eroded.
Illegal pig hunting is a major management issue in the Orroral Valley. Pig hunters reportedly access the valley through the tracking station picnic area, usually at night. The most frequent occurrences of this activity has been observed to be between February and April.

Management objectives

1. To provide simple access and low key facilities to cater for a range of recreational activities in this unit.

2. To protect the natural and cultural features of the management unit by the provision of appropriate facilities and information.

3. To cater for walking and cycling riding by providing suitable trailhead facilities and information for visitors accessing remote areas of Namadgi National Park from the Orroral Valley.

4. To reduce the level of illegal activity in this area of the Park.

Management actions

Consultation with user groups

- Undertake ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal groups in relation to the management of cultural heritage sites.
- Liaise with user groups (e.g. Outward Bound, climbing clubs) in the investigation of a licensing system for commercial recreational activities.

Site management

- Given the significant nature of views from the ridge and the need for this opportunity, upgrade Orroral Ridge Trail off Orroral Link road to provide vehicular access to car park.
- Undertake site master plan for the Orroral Ridge which addresses:
  - camping issues;
  - management of climbing;
  - track proliferation;
  - safe access to lookout point for day visitors including disabled;
  - risk assessment and appropriate signage commensurate with the planned usage of the area.
Investigate the establishment of a walking track from Honeysuckle Creek camping area to Orroral Ridge.

Upgrade interpretive signage at the old Orroral Tracking Station to provide a high quality educational experience (given the passage of time since removal of the buildings and installation of initial interpretation).

Combine parking facilities and trail head access for the Orroral gate and Orroral picnic area; rehabilitate trailhead car park, and improve signage to facilitate access to the trailhead.

Undertake staged upgrading of dated picnic facilities to best practice standards.

Enhance law enforcement program and encourage other users to report, record etc.

Continue program of law enforcement (as permitted by current budgets) aimed at control of illegal activity in this area of the park.

Research and monitoring

Continue program of monitoring of key species and significant sites to ensure minimal impacts from recreational use (including introduction of weeds).

Monitor impacts of Orroral Descent to ensure minimal impact on natural and cultural values.

Monitor the proliferation of tracks and impacts on Orroral Ridge and “Lego Land”.

Monitor the need for permits for climbing.

Record the formation of new informal vehicle tracks in Orroral Valley.

Education

Continue program of information to back-country visitors on management requirements in relation to camping, fuel stove areas and requirements for fire permits as well as areas where bike riding is permitted and appropriate use of huts.

Provide back country visitors, through registration book, with advice about how they can assist in reducing illegal activity through appropriate recording and reporting of details.

Provide information for visitors at the Nursery Swamp art site in relation to the site itself as well as broader cultural values and heritage.
provide interpretive material for climbers in relation to natural and cultural values of climbing sites, minimal impact climbing/camping and risk issues. Include interpretive signage at trailheads (e.g. Orroral Ridge carpark) as well as brochure.

- Educate remote area users about the fragile nature of bogs, stream bank communities etc. and encourage appropriate minimum impact techniques.

- Encourage visitors to be self-reliant in notifying friends of the routes they are taking to avoid unnecessary search and rescue issues.

4.1.2.3 Bimberi Cotter Management Unit

The Bimberi Cotter Management Unit represents a remote section of the park including declared wilderness and significant water catchment. Usage of the unit is limited by restricted access and park policies relating to mountain bike use, wilderness and water catchments. The unit adjoins wilderness in NSW and provides an opportunity for remote recreation over an extended area.

Management objectives

1. To protect the wilderness and water catchment values of the unit.

2. To provide opportunities for remote recreational experiences consistent with management of the natural and cultural values of the area.

3. To provide simple access and low key facilities to cater for a range of back-country recreational activities in this unit.

Management actions

Site management

- Continue maintenance of Australian Alps walking track as major route across the Alps.

- Maintain track closures on the border at Murray and Leura Gaps to ensure continued remote recreational opportunities are provided and ACT park management policies are enforced.

Research and monitoring

- Continue program of monitoring of key species and significant sites to ensure minimal impacts from recreational use (including introduction of weeds).

Education

- Continue program of information to back country visitors on management requirements in relation to camping, fuels stove only areas and fire permits as well as areas where horse and bike riding is permitted.

- Provide back country visitors, through registration book, with advice as to how they can assist in reducing illegal activity through appropriate recording and reporting of details.

- Educate remote users of fragile nature of bogs, stream bank communities etc. and encourage appropriate minimum impact techniques.

- Encourage visitors to be self reliant in notifying friends of the routes they are taking to avoid unnecessary search and rescue issues.
4.1.2.4 Mount Franklin Road Corridor

The Mount Franklin Road, from Piccadilly Circus to the snow line, receives large volumes of traffic in winter. Skiers, sightseers and four-wheel drivers are the main users on weekends particularly after snow-falls. The road is characterised by many bends, narrow sections, inadequate parking and icy, slippery conditions after snowfalls. The nature of the road and its usage present a potentially high risk traffic problem with hundreds of cars travelling the road on peak days.

The value of the recreational opportunity provided by this road is high to Canberra residents, but management costs are also high and safer more cost effective management strategies need to be considered.

In addition to the traffic safety concerns, management is concerned that vehicular access to Mt Ginnini in winter is causing sediment and turbid water run-off from the Mt Franklin road and may be degrading the sub-alpine bog and Ramsar site to the east of the locked gate at Mt Ginnini.

Management objectives

1. To protect the natural and cultural features of the management unit by the provision of appropriate conservation measures and visitor facilities and information.

2. To reduce the number of incidents reported on the Mt Franklin Road.

3. To provide a safe and enjoyable winter recreational experience for the people of Canberra.

4. To provide suitable trailhead facilities and information for visitors accessing remote areas of Namadgi National Park from the Mt Franklin Rd.

5. To provide opportunities for visitors to understand and enjoy the alpine environment offered by the Brindabella Range.

Management actions

Consultation with stakeholders

- Consult with community in determining future options for winter access to Franklin Road.
- Consult with NSW NPWS in development of plans for road and visitor facilities.

Site management

- Undertake appropriate conservation site management for the Ramsar site to ensure conservation of natural values consistent with Ginnini Wetlands management plan.
- Develop and implement a road management plan in consultation with stakeholders for winter risk and traffic management associated with Franklin Road.
- Undertake site planning for Mount Ginnini car park to enhance amenity, interpretation and car parking.
- Monitor and record traffic incidents reported on Mt Franklin Road.
- Investigate options for closure of the road to optimise safety with a range of options for access being considered (staggered car parks for varying snow conditions, shuttle bus, specific weekend access etc.).

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**Research and monitoring**
- Monitor the occurrence of traffic incidents on the Mt Franklin Road during winter.
- Establish a water quality monitoring program for the RAMSAR site at Mt Ginnini.

**Education**
- Continue program of information to manage mountain bike riding and to encourage use of acceptable area by four wheel drive vehicles and trail bikes.
- Provide information for community in relation to safe winter driving and recreation.
- Provide on-site interpretation in relation to significance of Ramsar site.
- Interpret Bendora and other arboretums and Franklin chalet.
- Continue program of information to back country visitors on management requirements in relation to camping and fire permits as well as areas where bike riding is permitted.
- Provide back country visitors, through registration book, with advice as to how they can assist in reducing illegal activity through appropriate recording and reporting of details.
- Educate remote users of fragile nature of bogs, stream bank communities etc. and encourage appropriate minimum impact techniques.
- Encourage visitors to be self reliant in notifying friends of the routes they are taking to avoid unnecessary search and rescue issues.

**4.1.3 Border Management Unit**

The ridge along the Brindabella Range forms the border between NSW and the ACT. Namadgi and KNP, whose common boundary aligns with the state/territory boundary, are managed by separate agencies and under different policies. Activity in this unit includes bushwalking and, on the NSW side only, horse riding and cycling. The inconsistencies in policies between the two jurisdictions in relation to cycling and riding results in the border being the boundary of these activities.

The limited availability of areas for horse riding in NSW, and the experience sought by horse riders, does not lend itself to a reduction in area for this activity. In the border management unit, however, it is considered appropriate that mountain bike riding management be consistently approached between the two areas.

There is considerable value in promoting consistent policies and through-routes for remote activities across the border.

**Management objectives**

1. To continue ongoing liaison between NPWS and ACT Parks and Conservation Service in the management of the border area.

2. To provide opportunities for recreational activities to occur throughout the broader areas of both Kosciuszko and Namadgi National Parks.

3. To seek to resolve inconsistencies in management in the border area of the parks.
Management actions

Site management

- Investigate implementing a fuel stove only area in the Border Management Unit in NSW to complement that in the ACT.
- Investigate excluding mountain bikes from the unit in NSW to complement that policy in the ACT and provide an area of wilderness for walkers only without bicycles.
- Market the section of the Australian Alps walking track linking within the planning area as a round trip route for walkers.
- Market a heritage walking route which links the heritage sites of the ACT and NSW including Gudgenby, Orroral Homestead, Currango, Coolamine.

Education

- Continue program of information to manage mountain bike riding and to encourage use of acceptable area by four wheel drive vehicles and trail bikes.
- Continue program of information to back country visitors on management requirements in relation to camping, fuel stove only areas as well as areas where bike riding is permitted.
- Provide back country visitors with advice as to how they can assist in reducing illegal activity through appropriate recording and reporting of details.
- Educate remote users of fragile nature of bogs, stream bank communities etc. and encourage appropriate minimum impact techniques.
- Encourage visitors to be self reliant in notifying friends of the routes they are taking to avoid unnecessary search and rescue issues.

The Australian Alps Walking Track links NSW and the ACT across the border.
5 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The development of performance indicators is a critical step in ensuring the achievement of management objectives. If, however, there are too many indicators, or they are difficult or time consuming to measure, it is likely they will not be measured.

The recommended approach in this strategy is to identify performance measures related to the range of activities, and measure, on the basis of a sample of settings that are reflective of the activity opportunities across the planning area.

**Table 5.1 – Performance Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Indicator Measurement</th>
<th>Unit where measurement will occur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To provide facilities for horse riders to a meet visitors' expectations and at a standard appropriate to the natural qualities of the park.</td>
<td>No increase or a reduction in streambank and track erosion at horse camps</td>
<td>Photo monitoring of streambank section; Transects of tracks within 200 metres of camps; Survey of visitors</td>
<td>Murrumbidgee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide sustainable opportunities for recreational use of the area for fishing in a remote setting</td>
<td>No new access tracks formed</td>
<td>Ranger observation of track formation.</td>
<td>Tantangara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide facilities for visitors consistent with protection of natural, scientific and cultural values of the karst area.</td>
<td>Reduction in sediment runoff from Blue Waterholes vehicular access track; EPA water quality standards</td>
<td>Water quality monitoring indicates standards maintained</td>
<td>Cooleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide “remote experience” opportunities for visitors</td>
<td>Sense of “remoteness” experienced by visitors. Conflicts with other users</td>
<td>Visitor survey indicates visitor satisfaction with remote experience Reports of conflict with other users</td>
<td>Remote Use Management Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide opportunities for car tourers traversing the Boboyan Road to view and enjoy Namadgi National Park</td>
<td>Satisfaction with quality and quantity of visitor facilities</td>
<td>Bi-Annual informal visitor survey</td>
<td>Boboyan Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reduce the frequency of illegal activity in the park</td>
<td>Reduction in illegal activity</td>
<td>Audit of law enforcement and incident reports</td>
<td>Orroral Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To protect wilderness and water catchment values</td>
<td>Water quality standards maintained Visitor satisfaction with wilderness experience</td>
<td>Visitor surveys. no Annual review of visitor conflict reports Water quality measurement.</td>
<td>Bimberi-Cotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide a safe and enjoyable winter recreational experience for the people of Canberra</td>
<td>Reduction in snow related traffic incidents Satisfaction with recreational experience</td>
<td>Annual review of trends in incidents at inter agency de brief on operations Informal visitor exit survey</td>
<td>Mount Franklin Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To seek to resolve inconsistencies in management in the border area of the parks</td>
<td>The number of inconsistent cross-border policies.</td>
<td>Number of meetings held to address inconsistencies. No of policies where inconsistencies have been eliminated.</td>
<td>Border Management Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implement management actions for each of the management units.
- Continue Recreation and Tourism working group involvement to implement and review performance measures and share information.
- Work towards a consistent approach to recreational management policies for the border area.
- Establish coordinated approach to education of visitors consistent with recommended management strategies.
- Establish program of monitoring to ensure knowledge of customer needs, expectations and attitudes consistent with Visitor Activity Management Process (VAMP).
- Undertake annual review of strategy implementation and incorporate review of visitor attitudes to management actions.
- Continue to implement program of monitoring of visitor and environmental impacts and provide feedback across planning team for program of continuous improvement to strategy and to performance indicators.

Monitoring of trails leading from horse camps should be done.
Visitor Characteristics And Needs
**Table a1.1 - visitor characteristics and needs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Definition</th>
<th>Horseriding</th>
<th>Fishing</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Vehicles</th>
<th>Car-based camping</th>
<th>Remote users</th>
<th>Thrill seekers</th>
<th>Illegal users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial operators</td>
<td>Large groups</td>
<td>Small groups (non locals &amp; new comers)</td>
<td>Fisherman lake (non-Namadgi)</td>
<td>Fishermen streams (Kosci &amp; Gudgenby)</td>
<td>Vehicle tourers</td>
<td>Car-based camping</td>
<td>Remote users</td>
<td>Thrill seekers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>Clubs</td>
<td>More location flexible &amp; self sufficient</td>
<td>Can be large &amp; well equipped 10+</td>
<td>Doctors &amp; lawyers (affluent)</td>
<td>International travellers</td>
<td>Could be local people coming out for bush experience</td>
<td>Can be:</td>
<td>Pig hunters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non local</td>
<td>Groups of friends</td>
<td>Can be small/family</td>
<td>Can be small/family</td>
<td>Family groups</td>
<td>Family groups</td>
<td>Can be:</td>
<td>Mountain bikers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>Repeat visitor</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Mini-buses</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Mountains</td>
<td>Climbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non self reliant</td>
<td>Well equipped</td>
<td>Need to be near gear/boat</td>
<td>Introverts high country experience</td>
<td>Big buses</td>
<td>Could be from act.</td>
<td>Accommodated outside park</td>
<td>Climbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking high country experience not good riders</td>
<td>2-7 days</td>
<td>Car campers</td>
<td>Commercial operators</td>
<td>Scenery</td>
<td>Could be car-based campers</td>
<td>Could be from outside</td>
<td>Cavers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-7 day rides</td>
<td>Easter/jan/long w/e predictable</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Big buses</td>
<td>4wd</td>
<td>Scenery</td>
<td>Big buses</td>
<td>Cavers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assurance of safety</td>
<td>75:25 male</td>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Info about cultural &amp; natural values</td>
<td>Info about cultural &amp; natural values</td>
<td>Big buses</td>
<td>Active &amp; fit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment provided</td>
<td>Some pony clubs</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>Natural environment</td>
<td>High level of awareness (some)</td>
<td>High level of awareness (some)</td>
<td>Big buses</td>
<td>Self reliant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social activity</td>
<td>Social activity</td>
<td>Base campers (off site)</td>
<td>Sub-alpine experience</td>
<td>Seeking high risk/thrill activity</td>
<td>Seeking high risk/thrill activity</td>
<td>High country experience</td>
<td>Seeking high risk/thrill activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety or horse riders</td>
<td>Brumby running</td>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>High country relative to other</td>
<td>High level of awareness (some)</td>
<td>High level of awareness (some)</td>
<td>High country experience</td>
<td>High level of awareness (some)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High country atmosphere</td>
<td>High country atmosphere</td>
<td>Can be:</td>
<td>High level of awareness (some)</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High country atmosphere</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture links</td>
<td>Culture links</td>
<td>Can be:</td>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires</td>
<td>Fires</td>
<td>Can be:</td>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td>High quality stream health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Service Needs**
- Horseriding codes
- Licence conditions
- Minimal impact camping
- Good access/infrastructure
- Park awareness training for guides
- Good quality facilities & settings
- Reliability in service (e.g. Availability of camps)

**Management Issues**
- Concentration of activity
- Impacts
- Need for access to sites to be provided
- Improved access - increased use
- Monitoring activity/licences-resources
- Setting/maintaining site standards
- Commercial ops. Displacing other users

**Service Needs**
- Knowledge of parks
- Knowledge of park management
- Knowledge of cameras
### Table A1.2 - Appropriate Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Horseriding large groups</th>
<th>Horseriding commercial</th>
<th>Horseriding-self reliant small groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Groups</td>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>KOSCI</td>
<td>NOT AT NAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of the Park as a setting</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent to which visitor aware/supportive</td>
<td>LOW LEVEL</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>VARIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of activity on values</td>
<td>HIGH ILLEGAL</td>
<td>LOCALISED IMPACT</td>
<td>HIGH LOCALISED IMPACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on other visitors</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LIMITED</td>
<td>MEDIUM (PEAK TIMES)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of visitor category/groups</td>
<td>LOW (but unacceptable)</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>OK, BUT NO HIGHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope for management influence</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk management implications</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Fishing - lake</th>
<th>Fishing - stream</th>
<th>Illegal activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Groups</td>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>KOSCI</td>
<td>NOT AT NAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of the Park as a setting</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent to which visitor aware/supportive</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH-MED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of activity on values</td>
<td>VARIES WITH ACCESS</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on other visitors</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of visitor category/groups</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope for management influence</td>
<td>MED-HIGH</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk management implications</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Sightseer/day</td>
<td>Car camper</td>
<td>Remote users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Groups</td>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>KOSCI</td>
<td>NOT AT NAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of the Park as a setting</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent to which visitor aware/supportive</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>VARIED</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of activity on values</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on other visitors</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW some impact on car campers</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of visitor category/groups</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK monitor for increase</td>
<td>MANAGED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope for management influence</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk management implications</td>
<td>only assoc. with activities they do</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW trees in campsite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results of Visitor Survey
Australian Alps National Parks - Recreation Planning
Long Plain/Tantangara and Western Namadgi Recreation Plan

Summer 2000/2001 Visitor Survey Summary
A visitor survey was carried out in the Long Plain/Tantangara area and Namadgi National Park as part of the Long Plain/Tantangara and Namadgi recreation planning project. It became apparent in the early stages of preparing the recreation plan that there was a real shortage of systematically collected information about visitors to each area. It was therefore difficult to build up profiles of visitors to the planning area.

The objective of the visitor survey was to partly redress this shortfall and assist in gaining a better understanding of the characteristics of visitors to each area. Time and budgetary constraints imposed limits on implementing sampling techniques and the results must be seen as indicative of the sample rather than representative of the planning areas’ visitor populations.

Table A2.1 – Location of Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currango</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tantangara</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Waterholes</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Yards</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Country NSW</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumut VC</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>95</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orroral</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Franklin RD</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Country ACT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namadgi VC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Visitors Found Out About The Parks?
41% and 58% of respondents from Namadgi and Long Plain/Tantangara respectively, indicated that friends and relatives were the most important source of information about the Parks. Other important sources of information for Namadgi respondents were tourist maps (13%), park brochures (13%) and information centres (15%).

Table A2.2 - Source Of Information About The Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>% of Namadgi Sample</th>
<th>% of Tantangara/Long Plain Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relatives</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist maps</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park signs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park brochures</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist friends magazines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information centers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous visit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frequency of Visit to the Parks
Most visitors interviewed had visited the parks on previous occasions. Only 23% and 10% of the Namadgi or Long Plain/Tantangara survey sample respectively, had not previously visited the area. 60% of the ACT sample had visited Namadgi in the past 12 months and 50% of the NSW sample had visited the Long Plain /Tantangara area in the same period.

Length of Stay
Visitors to Namadgi National Park tended to stay for shorter periods of time than visitors to the Long Plain /Tantangara area. 51% of the Namadgi sample were day visitors compared to 13% of the Long Plain/Tantangara sample. Perhaps not surprising given the proximity of Namadgi to Canberra and the relative isolation of Long Plain/Tantangara.

23% of the Namadgi respondents, and 55% of the Long Plain/Tantangara sample, stayed in the respective areas for 2 days or longer.

Age Characteristics of Visitors
Only a small proportion of visitors sampled in the Long Plain/Tantangara area were children (13% under 15 years of age). 73% were over the age of 24 years. 23% of the Namadgi sample were under the age of 15 years.

Table A2.3 - Age Characteristics Of Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>% of Namadgi Responses</th>
<th>% of Kosciuszko Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 14 years</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-59</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Park Qualities Important to Visitors
The quiet and peaceful atmosphere was identified as the most important park quality that attracted visitors to both Namadgi and Long Plain/Tantangara. In Namadgi, the Park’s scenic qualities, plants and animals and convenient location to Canberra were also important. Recreation activities available, the type and quality of facilities provided and the park’s cultural heritage were not rated highly by Namadgi visitors.

As could be expected convenient location did not rate highly in Long Plain/Tantangara. The parks scenic qualities and quiet and peaceful atmosphere were considered probably as important as quiet and peaceful atmosphere to those surveyed.

The parks quiet and restful atmosphere was shown to be a particularly important park quality to campers in Namadgi. 69% of the survey sample who indicated camping as their main purpose for visiting the park stated that the park’s quiet and restful atmosphere was either the first or second most important quality that attracted them to the park. This quality also rated very highly with those whose main purpose of visiting the park was to participate in picnics/barbecues, walking and socialising with family and friends.

In the Long Plain/Tantangara area the park’s quiet and restful atmosphere was shown to be an important park quality to those visitors whose main purpose of visiting the park was camping, fishing and horse riding.

The most important park quality to horse riders was shown to be the recreational activities in which they could participate. The park’s scenic qualities and quiet and restful atmosphere also ranked highly.
It was of interest to note that the recreation activities in which they could participate rated highly among anglers, but not as highly as the park’s quiet and restful atmosphere. It may be that anglers have a variety of destinations from which to choose, and the natural qualities of Tantangara may be the critical factor in the decision to visit the planning area.

Car tourers and sightseers indicated that the park’s scenic qualities were their most important park quality. This might be a reflection of the fact that their principal activity relies on a diversity of views and settings being available in a relatively short period of time. Their length of stay in the area also tended to be shorter than visitors participating in other activities.

Recreation Activities
Visitors were asked to indicate which recreation activities they participated in and what was the main purpose of their visit to the park. The results are shown in tables A2.4 and A2.5.

It should be noted that the participation rates in each activity and the main purposes of visiting the parks are not true representations of the levels of participation in planning each area since accurate sampling techniques were not able to be implemented.

**Table A2.4 - Participation In Recreation Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Percentage of Sample Participating in Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namadgi %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caving</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Study</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic/BBQ</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing/Abseiling</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car touring/sightseeing</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting/photography</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking ½ day</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking full day</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking overnight</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socialising</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4WD</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table A2.5 - Main Purpose of Visiting the Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>% of sample indicating activity as main reason for visit.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namadgi %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caving</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic/BBQ</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing/Abseiling</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car touring/sightseeing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting/photography</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking ½ day</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking full day</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking overnight</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socialising</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4WD</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Attitudes Toward Adequacy Of Facilities And Services**

The majority of the survey sample from Namadgi thought facilities and services in the study area were adequate or better. Very few thought facilities and services were inadequate or worse. A handful of visitors' suggestions included: directional signage (4), interpretive signage (4), park brochures (3) and camping sites (2). To redress these shortfalls visitors suggested:

- Installation of signs advising visitors not to feed wildlife;
- Repairs to BBQ’s;
- Install recycling at visitors centre;
- Ensure indigenous sites are adequately protected;
- Provide more riverside camping;
- Provide rubbish bins;
- Maintain water supply at Orroral camp ground;
- Improve general maintenance- mow trails more regularly, maintain camp ground taps;
- Install solar lighting at Orroral camp ground;
- Install more toilets throughout the park;
- Install signage;
- to Mt Gingerra summit;
- to Walking trails from Orroral camp ground and more frequently along walks.

The majority of the survey sample from Long Plain/Tantangara thought facilities and services in the study area were adequate or better. Areas where provision was thought to be inadequate or worse included toilets (19), opportunities for four wheel driving (13), BBQ/picnic facilities (12), directional signage (8), access roads (8) and interpretive signage (6).

Improvements to infrastructure and services in Long Plain/Tantangara area included:

- Install more toilets (Tantangara, Blue Waterholes, Currango, horse camps);
- Provide more horse yards and camping;
- Increased vehicular access;
- Better directional signage (into Blue Waterholes and Currango);
- Provision of loading ramp, another toilet and water supply at Cooinbill;
- Information on maps and signage about location of closest telephone to Blue Waterholes;
- More BBQs and shelter;
- More walking tracks.

**Other Improvements Suggested**

Visitors were asked to list other improvements that could be made to increase their enjoyment of the parks. A summary of the most frequent responses is shown below:

**Namadgi**
- No change required. Like to keep it as it is. (mainly Orroral 24)
- Control illegal use- pets, yahoos at night (3)
- Improved interpretive information (3)
- Better signage to walks (3)

**Long Plain/Tantangara**
- Keep the park as it is (14)
- Improve existing and provide more access roads, including 4WD tracks 9(11)
- Increase road signage (to Currango, at Port Phillip Trail causeway (6)
- More toilets (5)
- More horse yards & improved facilities (toilets, water, ramps) (7)
- Control feral animals (4)