

Linking management effectiveness evaluations with on-ground management activities:

an example from the NSW State of the Parks Program

Practical application of a tool



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NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW



The IUCN-WCPA Management Effectiveness Framework

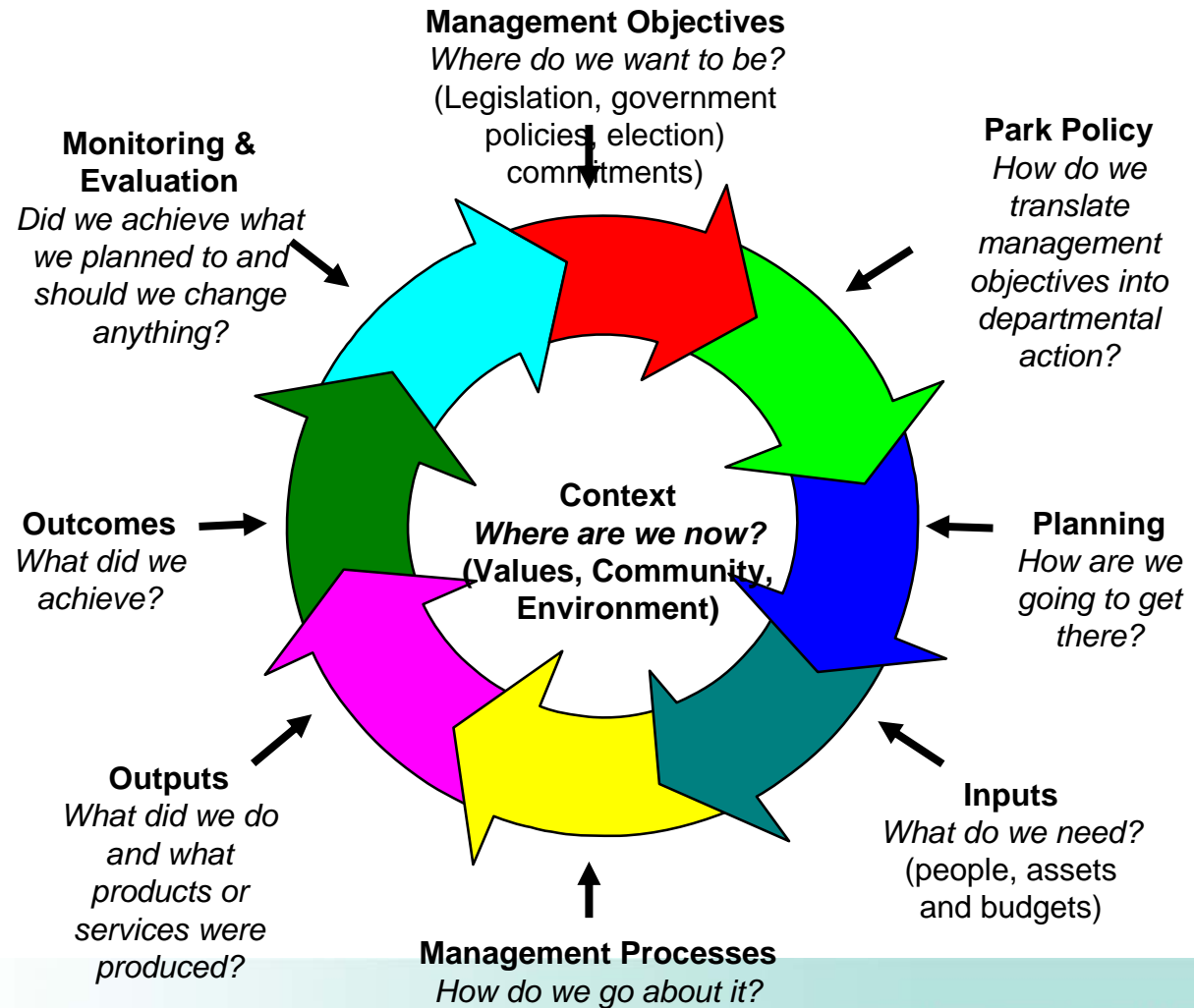
As many would know, this is the IUCN-WCPA Management Effectiveness Framework.

This presentation looks specifically at the way NSW parks have *really* made the cycle adaptive for our use, but linking outcomes back into context and planning using our online survey system.



The NSW Park Management Framework

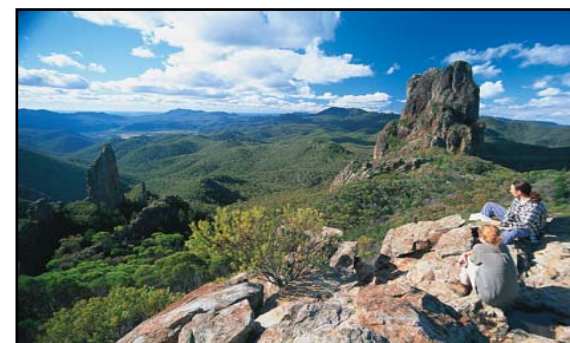
We've adapted the IUCN-WCPA framework to match our needs as an agency.



What is State of the Parks in NSW?

- **Triennial survey** covering all terrestrial parks managed by PWG – over 780 surveys in 2007. A mix of qualitative and quantitative data.
- **Dialogue** about effectiveness of park management (through survey process and reporting).
- **Database and information system** to assist park management, alleviate reporting burden and establish research priorities.
- **Reporting series** with a strong brand.
- **ARC Research program** – UQ, Parks Vic, C'wlth.
- **Answer to critics** – Audit Office, Treasury, stakeholders - kudos as an agency serious about accountability and adaptive management.
- **Benchmark** – ie Convention on Biological Diversity Commitments, NRS Direction Statement.
- **Set of Indicators** - for operational and strategic plans and reports (inputs, outputs and outcomes)

This will be our focus for this presentation



What does State of the Parks collect in NSW?

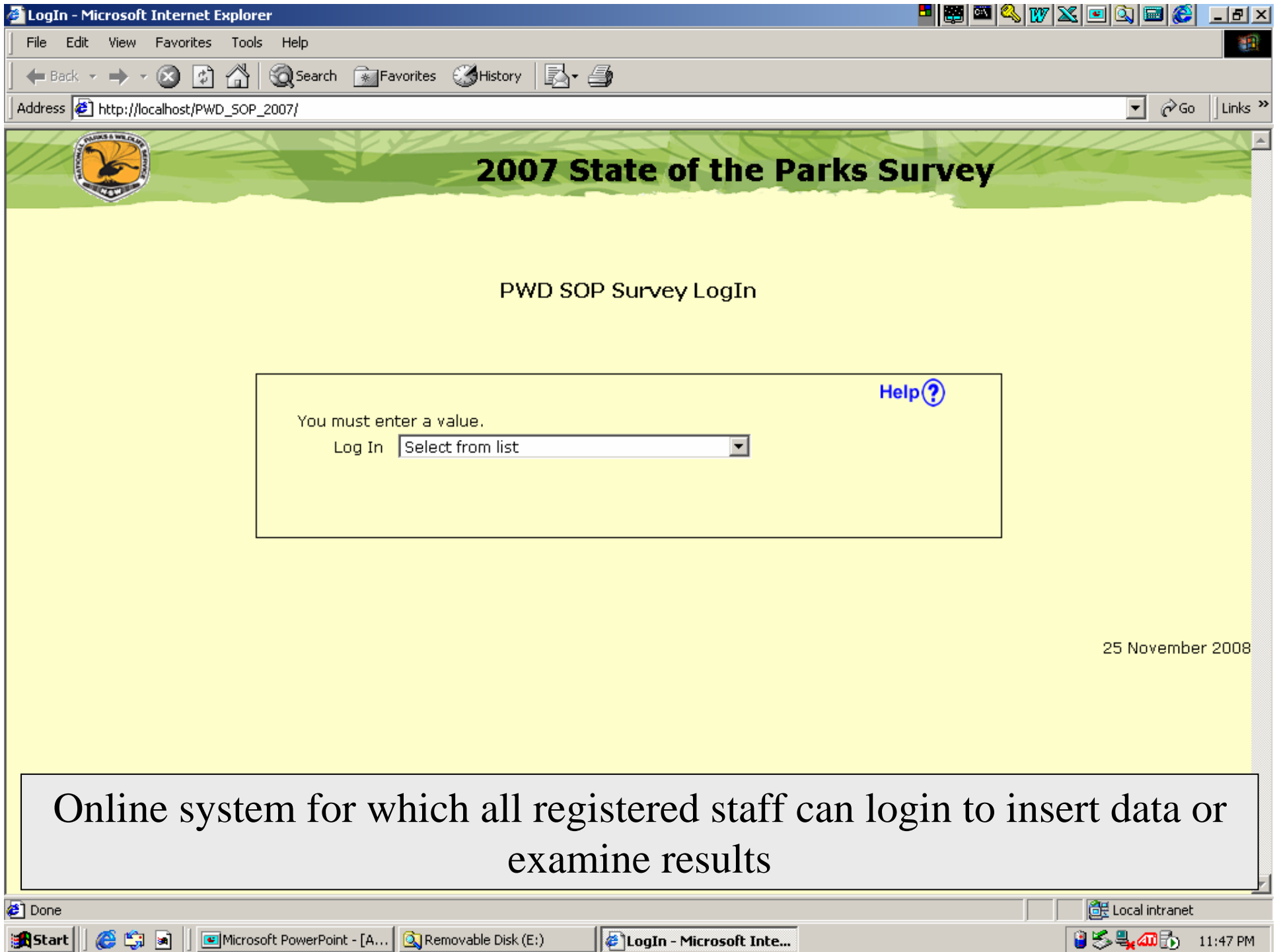
- For individual reserves the following information is collated:
 - **ATTRIBUTES (Part A)** - descriptions and categorisations: gazetted area, reserve classification, bioregions, CMA's etc.
 - **INPUTS (Part B)** - \$, contractors, staff and volunteer time.
 - **CONTEXT (Part C)** - plans, values, threats (current and emerging), stakeholders, visitor estimates.
 - **EFFECTIVENESS (Part D)** -
 - extent of information on reserve values,
 - usefulness of plans and management directions,
 - condition of values (natural, cultural, recreation, economic, research),
 - success or adequacy of efforts to manage threats (e.g. the big four),
 - appropriate of assets, infrastructure and visitor facilities.



So, how do we collect the data?

- Online system run through our intranet - developed locally in DECC using existing resources
- Over 250 staff have a principal involvement in collecting the data
- Each staff member has their own login and has been designated which parks they are assessing
- So..... Lets go have a look at our online SoP system to further examine our issue of *linking management effectiveness evaluations with on-ground management activities*





2007 State of the Parks Survey

PWD SOP Survey LogIn

You must enter a value.

Log In

[Help?](#)

25 November 2008

Online system for which all registered staff can login to insert data or examine results



2007 State of the Parks Survey

User : Adam

Date : 25 November 2008

[Help?](#)

PWD SOP Survey

Reserve Code : N00				
Principal Assessor Area Manager : Pal Region Manager : R				
Survey :	Part A	Part B	Part C	Part D
Status by Principal Assessor:	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Status by Regional Manager:	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Principal Assessor	Master Review	Part A review	Part C review	Part D review

[Data enquiries](#)

[Return to LogIn page](#)


When completing the survey, staff are presented with the four parts of the survey to complete as identified earlier in the presentation (see page 4)

Survey part D - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History

Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_Survey_D_page7.aspx



2007 State of the Parks Survey

User : Adam Date : 25 November 2008

[Help?](#)

PWD SOP Survey - PART D (page 7 - 31)

Name of Reserve _____

Year of assessment 2007

7. Park management issues: Weeds

2005 Survey Response:

Weeds are not a threat to values in this reserve AND there is no weed management program (justify/comment in assessment table)

There is insufficient information to assess the impact of weeds on reserve values (justify/comment in assessment table).

2005 Survey Response: A comprehensive, planned approach to weed management is being implemented	2005 Survey Response: Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are diminishing
Assessment Criteria 1: Approach to Management(AC1)	Assessment Criteria 2: Effect of Management(AC2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A comprehensive, planned approach to weed management is being implemented	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are negligible
<input type="checkbox"/> A planned approach to weed management is being implemented but action is constrained in scope or capacity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are diminishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Only reactive weed management is undertaken for this reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are unchanged
<input type="checkbox"/> Little or no weed management is undertaken for this reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are increasing

2005 Survey Response: The CWR Pest Management Strategy is in place. It is comprehensive. Pest Programs receive budget priority and are well funded. Assessment indicates weed issues are under control and steadily declining. The Programs will need to be maintained in the short - medium term.

Staff are asked to make an assessment of their approach to the management of specific issues along with the effect that approach has had (in this case for weeds). A justification for the answer is also required so as to contextualise the answer. (Screen shot shown here continues DOWN over to next page)

Survey part D - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History

Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_Survey_D_page7.aspx Go Links >>

Assessment Criteria 1: Approach to Management(AC1)	Assessment Criteria 2: Effect of Management(AC2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A comprehensive, planned approach to weed management is being implemented	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are negligible
<input type="checkbox"/> A planned approach to weed management is being implemented but action is constrained in scope or capacity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are diminishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Only reactive weed management is undertaken for this reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are unchanged
<input type="checkbox"/> Little or no weed management is undertaken for this reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impacts of weeds on reserve values are increasing

Staff are also required to identify the sources of information that they used to make the assessment – whether it was based only on staff experience or also on (for example) planning, research or monitoring. (Screen shot shown here continues DOWN over to next page)

2005 Survey Response: Staff experience ; Planning documents ; Specialist opinion ; Community opinion

2005 Survey Response: "Details of source" : This is the view of AM, PMO, Ranger and Field staff. The Pest Management Strategy is being implemented.

Sources of information used in assessment	Details of source :
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff experience	This is the view of AM, PMO, Ranger and Field staff. The Draft WR Pest Management Strategy is being implemented.
<input type="checkbox"/> Research	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning documents	
<input type="checkbox"/> Specialist opinion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community opinion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate database	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring	

2005 Survey Response: Continue implementation of Pest Mgt Strategy.

Proposed actions to address this problem (comment):

Continue implementation of Draft WR Pest Mgt Strategy 2007-2010.

Done Local intranet

Start Microsoft PowerPoint - [A... Removable Disk (E:) Survey part D - Micros... 11:53 PM

Survey part D - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_Survey_D_page7.aspx

(new park)

2005 Survey Response:

Regional Manager Review

Weed species

Management action

Effect of management

Evidence for assessment of effect of management

Edit command column	Delete Row	Weed species	Management action	Effect of management	Evidence for assessment of effect of management
Edit	Delete	Hypericum perforatum; common St John's wort	Planned program that is comprehensive	Impacts declining generally	Informal monitoring program
Edit	Delete	Rubus fruticosus; blackberry	Planned program that is comprehensive	Impacts declining generally	Informal monitoring program
Edit	Delete	Nassella trichotoma; serrated tussock	Planned program that is comprehensive	Impacts declining generally	Informal monitoring program
Edit	Delete	Ailanthus altissima; tree of heaven	Planned program that is comprehensive	Impacts declining generally	Informal monitoring Program
Edit	Delete	Xanthium spinosum; Bathurst burr	Planned program that is comprehensive	Impacts declining generally	Informal monitoring program

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For weeds (along with pest animals and threatened species), principle species that are being managed within a park are identified with the management actions, effect of management and evidence for assessment also requested.

Done Local intranet

Start Microsoft PowerPoint - [A... Removable Disk (E:) Survey part D - Micros... 11:55 PM

Survey part C print - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print

Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_Survey_C_print_All.aspx Go Links

Print Close page

User : State of the Parks Survey - PART C Date of printing: 26 November 2008

Name of Reserve: Year of assessment: 2007

Plan of Management: Approved/Adopted Plan of Management Year: 2001

Visitor Number Bandwidth: 1001 - 10000 ; Estimate if over 100,000: 0 Data Source: Estimate Number of neighbouring properties: 110

Additional comments on visitor number:

Regional Manager Review:

Type of plan	Name of plan	Status	Year prepared	Influence on management
Other cultural heritage plan				
Plan of management				
Pest animal and weed management plan				
Regional cultural heritage strategy				
Fire Management Strategy Type 2				

Data such as this can also be printed out for staff to access directly on an ongoing basis

PAGE1: Do you verify that the information on this page has been reviewed: yes
Were any changes required to information on this page: Yes

Principal Reserve values	Value category	Source of information on values	Significance
Aboriginal Heritage	Aboriginal heritage	GNP CH Assessment, 1998. GNP Pom 1997.	Regional/Local
Fauna	Biological	GNP PoM, 1997. Fauna Survey of GNP, Faulkner 1998.	National/State
Vegetation	Biological	GNP PoM, 1997. Veg Survey of GNP, Portners 1997.	National/State
Landscape	Landscape/Catchment	GNP Pom, 1997.	Regional/Local
Recreation	Recreation	GNP Pom, 1997.	Regional/Local

Done Local intranet

Start Microsoft PowerPoint - [A...] Removable Disk (E:) Survey part C print - ... 12:01 AM

Survey part C print - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_Survey_C_print_All.aspx

Pest animals	Wild goats, foxes, pigs are competing with native flora and fauna.	Moderate Scattered	in mgt.	Regional PMO, CWR Pest Management Strategy, Ranger and Field staff.	High
Criminal activity (e.g. drug cultivation)	Illegal kangaroo shooting and pig dogging continue to be a problem in some sections of the park.	Moderate Localised		Ranger and Field staff.	High

PAGE3: Do you verify that the information on this page has been reviewed: Yes
 Were any changes required to information on this page: Yes

Emerging Threats	Threats other	Specific details of threat	Potential Negative impact	Potential Extent	Comment on why/how potential threat has been recognised
Visitor impacts: Inappropriate use levels		When Newell Hwy signage is put in place visitation is expected to increase markedly. Trails and visitor nodes will need to be monitored to ensure impacts are sustainable.	Moderate	Localised	Usage has been increasing steadily.

PAGE4: Do you verify that the information on this page has been reviewed: Yes
 Were any changes required to information on this page: No

Primary stakeholders	Name of group if applicable	Issue category	Issue	Relationship
Neighbours	neighbours and RFS volunteers.	Management - Fire	Escape of 2001/02 fire. Fire trails and HR. Neighbours presently in civil action against NSWFS.	Co-operative management

How is this relevant to linking management effectiveness evaluations with on-ground management activities?

Having such information available to staff helps with new staff training, continuing corporate knowledge and ensures that all staff involved with on-ground planning have access to the same evaluation information.

Done Local intranet

Start Microsoft PowerPoint - [A...] Removable Disk (E:) Survey part C print - ... 12:02 AM

Some challenges

- Management effectiveness information is interesting and relevant to a diversity of park managers - planners, specialist officers, rangers etc.
- Many of these staff however, may not have participated in the information gathering process!
- Our challenge:
 - How do you create a system that lets staff subsequently access the information that they require (or might require)?
 - How do you structure it so that it is relatively intuitive to find the information you want?
 - What limitations do you put on the availability of data? Some of it is potentially politically sensitive!




SOP Reports - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_SOP_SelectReport.aspx Go Links >>



2007 State of the Parks Survey

User : Adam Date : 26 November 2008 [Help?](#)

PWD SOP Survey

Service Theme Based Questions
Click on hyperlinks

1. Assessment, acquisition and establishment	10. Visitor Services
2. Fire	11. Visitor Infrastructure
3. Pest Animals	12. General Planning and Policy
4. Weeds	13. Community Programs and Education
5. On Park Ecological Conservation	14. General Infrastructure and Maintenance
6. Off Park Ecological Conservation	15. Customer Service and Administration
7. Threatened Species	16. Other
8. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	
9. Historic Heritage	

[Return to LogIn page](#) [Return to Survey navigation page](#)

Shortcut to PWD_SOP_Select.aspx Local intranet

Start | Microsoft PowerPoint - [A... | Removable Disk (E:) | SOP Reports - Microso... | 12:23 AM


To help with the challenges listed on the last page, we've created a system that allows users to login to the system and search for results based around a set of common 'Service Themes' as shown above.

SOP Assessment Reports - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_SOP_SelectAssReport.aspx Go Links



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User : Adam Date : 26 November 2008 [Help?](#)

PWD SOP Survey

1. Assessment, acquisition and establishment
Click on hyperlinks

General:

- 1.1 [What parks \(including ha\) are found within each NSW Parks and Wildlife Region or Area?](#)
- 1.2 [What parks with NSW contain declared Wilderness?](#)
- 1.3 [How many neighbouring properties are there for individual NSW parks?](#)
- 1.4 [What is the area, number of parks and number of neighbours in each PWD Region or Area?](#)

Bioregions:

- 1.5 [What parks are found within each bioregion of NSW?](#)

International categories:

- 1.6 [Which parks within NSW contain International agreements \(World Heritage, RAMSAR etc.\)?](#)

Aboriginal Land Councils:

- 1.7 [What parks are found within each Aboriginal Land Council area within NSW?](#)

Categories and associations:

- 1.8 [What parks are contained within each of the ICUN categories?](#)

Each Service Theme contains a set of predefined questions that provide information based from our State of the Parks database


Local intranet

Start | Microsoft PowerPoint - [A... | Removable Disk (E:) | SOP Assessment Repo... | 12:24 AM

Survey part A Report AAES6 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_SOP_ReportAAES6.aspx



2007 State of the Parks Survey

Date : 26 November 2008
[Further Information ?](#)

[Return to Data Enquiries](#)

What parks with NSW contain declared Wilderness?

Filter by Reserve:

- Reset Filter
- Aberbaldie Nature Reserve
- Abercrombie Karst Conservation Area
- Abercrombie River National Park
- Agnes Banks Nature Reserve
- Alma Nature Reserve

Region

Area

Run Filter
To export in Excel file

Reserve Name	Reserve Code	Region	Area	Wilderness (ha)
Kosciuszko National Park	N0018	Snowy Mountains Region	Other	346488
Wollemi National Park	N0051	Blue Mountains Region	Mudgee	334137
Morton National Park	N0022	South Coast Region	Nowra	133896
Blue Mountains National Park	N0004	Blue Mountains Region	Hawkesbury	128190
Oxley Wild Rivers National Park	N0043	Northern Tablelands Region	Armidale	92841
Guy Fawkes River National Park	N0013	North Coast Region	Dorrigo Plateau	82387
Wadbilliga National Park	N0048	Far South Coast Region	Central	74645
Kanangra Boyd National Park	N0016	Blue Mountains Region	Kanangra	56663
Barrington Tops National Park	N0002	Hunter Region	Barrington	56363
New England National Park	N0028	North Coast Region	Dorrigo Plateau	54739
Washpool National Park	N0061	Northern Tablelands Region	Glen Innes	48918

Often the information provided is straight forward, but importantly it represents a single point from which staff can easily GET the information for their use.



2007 State of the Parks Survey

User : Adam

Date : 26 November 2008



PWD SOP Survey

Service Theme Based Questions

Click on hyperlinks

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Assessment, acquisition and establishment | 10. Visitor Services |
| 2. Fire | 11. Visitor Infrastructure |
| 3. Pest Animals | 12. General Planning and Policy |
| 4. Weeds | 13. Community Programs and Education |
| 5. On Park Ecological Conservation | 14. General Infrastructure and Maintenance |
| 6. Off Park Ecological Conservation | 15. Customer Service and Administration |
| 7. Threatened Species | 16. Other |
| 8. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage | |
| 9. Historic Heritage | |

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SOP Visitors Reports - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_SOP_SelectVisitorReport.aspx Go Links >>



2007 State of the Parks Survey

User : Adam Date : 26 November 2008 [Help?](#)

PWD SOP Survey

10. Visitor Services

Click on hyperlinks

- 10.1 [How many visits are estimated as occurring within each PWD region?](#)
- 10.2 [Which parks in NSW identify 'visitor facilities' or 'access to the reserve' or 'reserve identification and visitor orientation' or 'visitor impact management' or 'non-indigenous consultation and involvement' or 'reserve resource information' as an issue of concern from stakeholders \(use 'issue category' filter to determine\)?](#)
- 10.3 [Which parks report having 'Other visitation' plans \(use 'type of plan' filter to determine\)?](#)
- 10.4 [Which parks identify 'recreation' as a principal reserve values \(use 'value category' filter to determine\)?](#)
- 10.5 [Which parks identify 'visitor impacts' as a threat to reserve values \(use 'threats' filter to determine\)?](#)
- 10.6 [Assessment of Management Approach \(use 'Question' filter to determine\)](#)
 - Is there a planned approach to awareness, interpretation or education information, facilities and activities and how effective has it been (Question 27)?

Within this Service Theme – Visitor Services – we have a wealth of information that can help with planning. The example we are to follow gives us some idea of which parks in the state have visitor plans of one type or another

Start | Microsoft PowerPoint - [A... | Removable Disk (E:) | SOP Visitors Reports - ... | 12:26 AM



2007 State of the Parks Survey

Date : 26 November 2008

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[Further Information ?](#)

What plans are available for park management within each PWD Region/Area?

Filter by Reserve:

- Reset Filter
- Aberbaldie Nature Reserve
- Abercrombie Karst Conservation Area
- Abercrombie River National Park
- Agnes Banks Nature Reserve
- Alma Nature Reserve

Region
Area
Type of plan

Run Filter

To export in Excel file

Region	Area	Reserve Name	Reserve Code	Type of plan	Plan Name	Status	Year	Influence of Mng.
Mid North Coast Region	Macleay	Arakoon State Conservation Area	N0601	Other visitation plan	ASCA-Smoky Interpretations Plan	In preparation	2006	
Far South Coast Region	North	Araluen Nature Reserve	N0846	Other visitation plan	Far South Coast Nature Tourism and Recreation Strategy	Approved/Adopted	2004	
Far South Coast Region	North	Badja Swamps Nature Reserve	N0529	Other visitation plan	Far South Coast Nature Tourism and Recreation Strategy	Approved/Adopted	2004	
Hunter Region	Barrington	Barrington Tops National Park	N0002	Other visitation plan	Future & Potential Recreational Use Barrington Plateau Area	Approved/Adopted	2001	
Hunter Region	Upper Hunter	Barrington Tops State Conservation Area	N0266	Other visitation plan	Future & Potential Recreational Use	Approved/Adopted	2001	


In this way, staff can easily access plans from across the state – from almost 800 different reserves to assist in their own planning!

SOP Visitors Reports - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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Address http://localhost/PWD_SOP_2007/PWD_SOP_SelectVisitorReport.aspx Go Links >>



2007 State of the Parks Survey

User : Adams Colin (PrincipalAssessor) Date : 26 November 2008 [Help?](#)

PWD SOP Survey

10. Visitor Services

Click on hyperlinks

10.1 [How many visits are estimated as occurring within each PWD region?](#)

10.2 [Which parks in NSW indentify 'visitor facilities' or 'access to the reserve' or 'reserve indentification and visitor orientation' or 'visitor impact management' or 'non-indigenous consultation and involvement' or 'reserve resource information' as an issue of concern from stakeholders \(use 'issue category' filter to determine\)?](#)

10.3 [Which parks report having 'Other visitation' plans \(use 'type of plan' filter to determine\)?](#)

10.4 [Which parks identify 'recreation' as a principal reserve values \(use 'value category' filter to determine\)?](#)

10.5 [Which parks identify 'visitor impacts' as a threat to reserve values \(use 'threats' filter to determine\)?](#)

10.6 [Assessment of Management Approach \(use 'Question' filter to determine\)](#)

- Is there a planned approach to awareness, interpretation or education information, facilities and activities and how effective has it been (Question 27)?
- What is the approach to visitor impact management and how effective has it been (Question 21)?
- Is information about visitors helping to guide management (Question 20)?

10.7 [Assessment of Management Effectiveness \(use 'Question' filter to determine\)](#)

- How effective has visitor impact management been and what approaches were used (Question 21)?
- How effective has awareness, interpretation or education information been in meeting the legitimate needs of visitors (Question 27)?

As part of the survey, staff can also access information about how effective their actions have been for a particular question.



2007 State of the Parks Survey

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[Further Information ?](#)

Assessment of Management Effectiveness (with consideration to management approaches)

Show list items per page

Reset Filter
 2 ; (Management directions)
 7 ; (Park management issue: Weeds)
 8 ; (Park management issue: Pest animals)
 9 ; (Park management issue: Fire management for natural heritage)
 10 ; (Park management issue: Fire management for cultural heritag

Branch
 Region

Area
 Assess ID

Run Filter

To export in Excel file

Branch	Region	Area	Question	Assess ID	Assessment Criteria	Number Of Parks	Approach 1	Approach 2	Approach 3	Approach 4
			21. Park management issue: Visitor impact management	1	Negative impacts of visitors on reserve values are negligible.	2	2 Comprehensive planned approach	0 Planned but constrained	0 Reactive management	0 Little or no management
			21. Park management issue: Visitor impact management	2	Negative impacts of visitors on reserve values are decreasing.	1	0 Comprehensive planned approach	0 Planned but constrained	1 Reactive management	0 Little or no management
			21. Park management issue: Visitor impact	3	Negative impacts of visitors on reserve values are unchanged	2	1 Comprehensive planned approach	0 Planned but constrained	0 Reactive management	1 Little or no management

In this example we can see how many parks report visitor impact management as being negligible, decreasing or unchanged. Further, we can see the approach that they used in their planning to help get that result. This helps focus operational planning for that Area....



2007 State of the Parks Survey

Date : 26 November 2008

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[Further Information ?](#)

Assessment of Management Effectiveness (with consideration to management approaches)

Show list items per page

- Reset Filter
- 2 ; (Management directions)
 - 7 ; (Park management issue: Weeds)
 - 8 ; (Park management issue: Pest animals)
 - 9 ; (Park management issue: Fire management for natural heritage)
 - 10 ; (Park management issue: Fire management for cultural heritage)

Run Filter

Branch
Region

RDdesc -- Web Page Dialog

Reserve Name/s

Selected Branch:

Region:

Area:

Question: 21. Park management issue: Visitor impact management **and**
Assess 1 Negative impacts of visitors on reserve values are decreasing.

Justification/Comment: Visitor numbers are low. Most visitor impacts are managed, there are few environmental concerns arising from visitor use. The exceptions are minor erosion of some trails due to motorcycles. Main impacts are illegal shooting of wildlife and feral animals and 'pig dogging' activities.

Branch	Region	Area	Question	Assess ID	Assessment Criteria
			21. Park management issue: Visitor impact management	1	Negative impacts of v reserve values are ne
			21. Park management issue: Visitor impact management	2	Negative impacts of visitors on reserve values are decreasing. 1 0 Comprehensive planned approach 0 Planned but constrained 1 Reactive management 0 Little or no management
			21. Park management issue: Visitor impact	3	Negative impacts of visitors on reserve values are unchanged 2 1 Comprehensive planned approach 0 Planned but constrained 0 Reactive management 1 Little or no management

And in particular, we can click on any one of the blue hyperlinked numbers to see which park is reporting what and what their justification was for it. In this way, the data can be used to help support management prioritisation to help address any issues of concern

How does this help?

- How is this relevant to linking management effectiveness evaluations with on-ground management activities?
 - Create linkages between staff in a highly decentralised agency
 - Can quickly get information from elsewhere in the state that may be relevant
 - Improves the retention of corporate knowledge
 - Planners can quickly identify where staff are reporting that things are of concern ie negative impacts are increasing! Likewise they can also identify where impacts are decreasing!
 - Relationships can quickly be viewed between approaches to management and the effect of that management. Are impacts still increasing despite a planned approach or because there isn't a planned approach?
 - Results can help direct local Operational Planning (ie Area or Regional level planning) through giving a snap shot of key things to consider



Are we using the right approach?

- Different horses for different courses. Things that all agencies need to consider when developing a program include
 - staff capacity
 - availability of information systems
 - funding
 - existing programs.... Consider what you need and are you repeating something you already have or complementing it?
 - qualitative vs quantitative information – which is the best for YOU to collect



State of the Parks - justifying our approach

1. Based on international best practice, leading experts etc.
2. Comprehensive guidelines and extensive training
3. Based on precautionary principle = i.e not necessary (or realistic for the scale and scope of the survey) to have scientific knowledge to protect values.
4. Indicative not conclusive – a point for further enquiry. Helps sets context and priorities for further analysis/science.
5. Done by the 'local experts', reviewed by management team and validated against corporate data and audit process.
6. Assessments must be justified and sources of information identified - which goes towards reliability or weight
7. Appropriate for scale and scope of assessment undertaken



What State of the Parks is not

- Is not conservation science as its typically considered. It's a management tool.
- Is not a substitute for species, site or issue specific monitoring or survey
- Is not conclusive about performance – indicative only
- Is not a detailed analysis of natural values condition – provides statewide overview

- Is not static - its dynamic! While we endeavour to keep the same information in it between years we are constantly looking for ways to improve the program



Contacting us – Management Effectiveness Unit

Feel free to contact us if you have further questions...

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NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW

