

LAND and VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Table of Contents

1.	LAND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW	2
2.	KEY LAND & PLANTATION OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES.....	2
3.	PLANTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	2
4.	BFP MANAGED ESTATE	3
5.	LAND MANAGEMENT.....	3
5.1	Native Forests.....	3
5.2	Pesticides and Fertilisers.....	4
5.3	Pest Control	5
5.4	Plantation Operations Planning.....	5
6.	BFP Native Forests and Vegetation	6
6.1	Objective	6
6.2	Commitment	6
6.3	Responsibility.....	6
6.4	Native Vegetation Management System	7
6.4.1	Native Vegetation Assessment Procedure	7
6.4.2	Native Vegetation Management Plan	7
6.4.3	Native Vegetation Data-base	7
6.5	System Review	7
6.5.1	Assessment Procedure.....	7
6.5.2	Native Vegetation Management Plans	7
6.6	Native Vegetation Management System Action Plan	7
6.7	Native Vegetation Assessment Procedures	8
6.7.1	Applicable Areas	8
6.7.2	Purpose.....	8
6.7.3	Data and Information	8
6.7.4	Assessment Steps	8
6.8	Management Level Guidance Notes.....	9
6.8.1	Level A Self-Maintained	10
6.8.2	Level B General Protection	10
6.8.3	Level C Direct Intervention.....	10
6.8.4	Level D Monitor Only	10
6.8.5	Special Feature Level	10
6.9	Native Vegetation Management Plan	11
6.9.1	Area location	11
6.9.2	General description of area.....	11
6.9.3	Detailed description of natural features of area	11
6.9.4	Management.....	12
7.	High Conservation Value Forests on BFP managed land	13
7.1	High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)	13
7.2	Criterion.....	13

1. LAND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Bunbury Fibre Plantations (BFP) manages land within Western Australia with the primary purpose of growing and harvesting plantation timber on a commercial basis.

BFP has legal access to the land via formal agreements (Deed of Grant of Profit a Prendre) with individual landowners. Under the Deed of Grant, BFP has the responsibility to carry out the Grantee obligations (i.e. plantation management activities) on the defined land area.

Plantations have only been developed on land that had been previously cleared for general agricultural use. The land managed under the Deed of Grant is that assessed as being suitable for plantation production.

The Deed of Grant specifically excludes a requirement by BFP to manage the natural forest areas within the defined plantation area. However where practical, BFP may undertake some level of management to the native forest areas.

BFP currently manages 13,236.8 hectares of plantations.

BFP has only established a *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian Bluegum) resource. The nominal production rotation is 10 years to clearfall, although that may vary between 8 and 14 years, depending upon site, growth and other factors. Some privately-owned plantations may provide resource through an intermediate partial cut, or thinning, with longer rotations to clearfelling.

BFP establishes plantations with seedlings developed from seed derived from tree breeding programs. Accordingly there are a number of Tasmanian Bluegum provenances and improved breeding stock established across the estate. The details of all plantings are recorded within each individual Plantation Management Plan.

Any area of land will be managed by BFP under a four-tiered documents structure, with increasing level of operational detail:

1. Corporate levels documents (company-wide application).
 - a. Policies and Principles (Mission, Vision, objectives and policies)
 - b. Corporate Rules
 - c. Operational Rules
2. Operational Procedures (company-wide application).
3. Operational Standards, Manuals, Procedures Guidance Documents
4. Plantations Management and Operational Plans.

2. KEY LAND & PLANTATION OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

BFP operational principles are as follows.

- Compliance with State and Commonwealth legislation.
- Compliance with the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in WA (2014 and future revisions).
- Compliance with operational Codes of Practice relating to the use of chemicals.
- BFP will maintain a high level of awareness on research findings through collaboration, participation and monitoring of associations, agencies and professional literature.
- Operations will be undertaken on the basis of "Best Practice" incorporating sound land management principles and backed by quality research wherever possible.
- Plantation development and management will follow that outlined in the "Manual of Specifications for Eucalypt Plantations in WA".
- Communication and cooperation with Local Authorities and key agencies regarding approvals, coordination of efforts (particularly with fire control) and participation in local or regional land management activities.

3. PLANTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

BFP only manages Tasmanian Bluegum plantations that have been developed on land previously used for farming.

All plantations are managed under the same general plan. Variations from this plan occur due to:

- Actual plantation growth may result in earlier or delayed rotation length
- Damage resultant from pests, disease, wind or fire
- Unplanned events such as road widening, changing or adding powerline easements and possible title changes
- Specific plantation silvicultural strategies causing changes in rotation length – e.g. applying thinning operations, extending the final rotation length
- Market dynamics that may cause early or delayed harvesting

The general plantation management regime is detailed in the Manual of Specifications for Eucalypt Plantations in WA. The regime is briefly outlined as follows:

1. Comprehensive site evaluation to ensure site suitability. Identification of only suitable areas.
2. Site preparation incorporating deep ripping, mounding, weed control, pest control.
3. Throughout the whole rotation annual fire management planning and the constant summer maintenance of fire protection and suppression resources.
4. Initial planned tree stocking of 1,250 stems/ha (above 1000 mm rainfall), 1,000 s/h (800-1000 mm rainfall) and 800 s/ha (below 800 mm rainfall).
5. Planned tree stocking for second rotation establishment by replanting of 1000 stems/ha (above 800 mm rainfall), 800 stems/ha (below 800mm rainfall).
6. Planting and fertilising within 6 weeks of planting.
7. To age 3 pest occurrence monitoring and vigilance.
8. Age 3 fertiliser application (pending results of foliar analysis).
9. Age 4 inventory (results influence future silviculture and management).
10. Age 5 fertiliser application as determined by nutrition assessment (foliar sampling).
11. Annual monitoring of condition, health, pests and diseases.
12. Age 8.5 inventory (results incorporated into harvesting planning process).
13. Nominal clearfelling at age 10.
14. Second rotation considered through either coppice or replanting (follow above initial rotation schedule).
15. Coppice crop thinned at approximately age 2.
16. Coppice crop similar management as above schedule items 3, 6-12.

The detail of each individual plantation is contained within the specific plantation Management Plan.

4. BFP MANAGED ESTATE

BFP's managed plantations have been established on previously-cleared land since 1990.

Plantation Estate by Planting Years

Plantation Planted Year	Leased Land (ha)
1993	495
1994	522.1
1995	463
1996	2071.8
1997	1881.4
1998	671.9
1999	1818.6
2000	2015.8
2001	1171.1
2002	1339.7
2003	786.4
Totals	13,236.8

BFP's managed estate by Shires.

Shire	Area (ha)
Augusta / Margaret River	595.8
Boddington	718.2
Boyup Brook	2514.6
Bridgetown / Greenbushes	211.3
Busselton	191.1
Capel	113.2
Collie	914.4
Cranbrook	699.2
Donnybrook / Balingup	110.2
Harvey	333.4
Kojonup	555.6
Manjimup	92.9
Nannup	3373.7
West Arthur	2084.0
Williams	729.2
Total	13,236.8

5. LAND MANAGEMENT

5.1 Native Forests

Within BFP's managed land there are portions of native forest which may contain High Conservation Value. BFP commits to identify and protect these areas with an objective of improving and sustaining their ecological status.

This policy can be achieved through:

- Natural forest areas (above 0.5 ha) within the Company's plantations will be identified, mapped and managed on a protection basis with the landowner's consent (as part of the Profit a Prendre).
- Activities in proximity to native forest areas will consider protection from the Jarrah Dieback Disease.
- A data-base of natural resource features will be maintained for each identified management unit.
- Agency data-base searches will be undertaken for native forest areas for RTE plant and animal species. Where applicable, the identification of significant areas will be carried out with NRM agencies.

5.2 Pesticides and Fertilisers

BFP will use chemicals on a minimalist application and environmental impact basis only when their use can improve production and protect or reduce damage from pests.

The following approaches aim to achieve the policy:

- A minimalist chemical use approach will be used – any application is considered necessary for maintaining plantation production.
- The pesticides are registered with the NRA for use in agriculture or forestry conditions and registered for use by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- BFP will maintain a watching brief on the status of all pesticides and the latest research on alternative products and application procedures.
- Pesticide use will take into account precautions defined or recommended under national regulations (e.g. NRA) and Codes of Practice (Plantations, Agricultural chemicals).
- All pesticides are transported, stored in original clearly marked containers and mixed according to Dangerous Goods regulations and manufacturer's directions.
- Any personnel overseeing pesticide use activities will successfully complete and accredited course with current status in the use of chemicals (e.g. Chem Safe)
- All contractors and their staff must have a current "licence" and/or education levels required or recommended for the use of any specific chemical
- Applications are carried out under Public Health Guidelines
- Where applicable a detailed operational prescription is prepared for every application including operational conditions and protocols for communications to authorities and neighbours in respect to the application
- BFP personnel will adopt a "zero tolerance" approach to health and environmental risks
- Where necessary non-application buffer zones will be established against identified water courses, dams and other sensitive areas
- Comprehensive records of pesticide applications will be kept on the basis of quality control, record of applied safety procedures, chronological and operational records and an inventory of pesticide used. The records will include:
 - Chemical(s) used
 - Quantities and application rates
 - Application procedure
 - Contractors and personnel
 - Monitor weather conditions during application
- Contractor equipment and machinery must be in sound operational condition and have all required safety features.
- BFP personnel will be supplied with Personal Protection Equipment as recommended in the Product Label and Material Safety Data Sheet.
- BFP personnel are to ensure that the contractor is proficient in the use and application of the pesticide, that equipment is suitable for the operational area and the operators are fully aware of any dangers (e.g. powerlines) and operational boundaries.
- Excess pesticides are to be accurately documented and removed from the application site in original containers.
- No pesticides are stored or disposed of on plantation land.

- Empty containers are to be disposed of in approved sites or cleaned according to Health Department requirements (e.g. triple rinsing, Drum muster).
- Fertilisers tailored to Plantation requirements following foliar sampling and analysis.
- Before using synthetic pesticides for the control of pests and diseases, BFP will consider the use of non-chemical alternatives. Non-chemical alternatives will be investigated in conjunction with the latest research and knowledge through involvement with CRC for Sustainably Forestry, Industry Pest Management Group (IPMG) and co operation with other industry groups. Non-chemical alternatives may be developed and prescribed after financial considerations, level of control and environmental factors have been evaluated. A record of non-chemical alternatives for various situations will be maintained and utilised when considered appropriate.

Further details on the safe use of pesticides can be found in the Safety Management Plan and the Manual of Specifications for Eucalyptus Plantations in WA.

5.3 Pest Control

The protection of plantations from pests and diseases is a primary responsibility. BFP applies a range of preventative, reactive and standard management measures that are aimed to minimise damage from pests, effectively control the pests and limit other on and off-site environmental affects.

A range of pests can potentially damage trees during various stages of plantation establishment and development. Some of these pests regularly occur whilst others are cyclical or develop opportunistically.

BFP applies the following approaches in dealing with pests:

- Training personnel on damage interpretation, pest identification and life-cycles.
- Contribute to, collaborate with and participate in the statewide member-based Industry Pest Management Group (IPMG).
- Apply an “integrated pest management” approach through prevention measures including responses based upon threshold levels, minimalist applications and potential damage assessments.

Relevant IPMG projects applicable to BFP are:

- Refine assessment protocols and sampling designs for key pests and pathogens.
- Re-evaluation of the threshold for eucalypt weevil control.
- Phenology of leaf development and defoliation.
- Document and quantify pest populations and damage levels on coppice growth under different debris management regimes.
- Document and quantify effects of defoliation and grazing of shoots on tree form.
- Document basic biology of foliage-feeding Heteronyx beetles (scarab beetles).
- Document and quantify natural enemies of Blue Gum pests (life cycles and pesticide impacts).
- Explore alternative pest control options.
- Establish exclusion trials to assess effectiveness of insect treatment against key insect pests.
- Investigate requirements regarding the introduction of effective parasitoids into WA.
- Document and quantify impacts of insecticide applications on local fauna off plantations.
- Develop risk assessment tools for different areas & different productivity expectations

Generally, the objective of the IPMG is to improve understanding of plantation pests and their control, with a particular emphasis on reducing the reliance on chemical applications.

BFP continues to review its pesticide policy in line with new innovation and technologies.

5.4 Plantation Operations Planning

BFP’s plantation operations will be developed according to State and Local Government requirements and managed under sound land management principles meeting operational Codes of Practice and FSC environmental standards.

The key planning components are:

- Plantations will only be considered for development on land with a farming history.

- Plantation development will only be considered on land complying with FSC's requirement of not being cleared from native forest after 1994.
- All plantation development projects will comply with Local Government planning requirements (Local Government Town Planning Schemes, Local Rural Strategies and the Western Australian Planning Commission Rural Land Use Planning policy).
- Plantation establishment and maintenance will adhere to guidelines contained within the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia as amended.
- Plantation site development will avoid clearing native forest areas and will abide by the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (1984 with 2004 amendments) and Soil and Land Conservation Act (1945) regarding remnant vegetation.
- Fire protection carried out under the Fire Management Plan (BFP) and Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection as amended (Fire and Emergency Services Authority).
- Programmed plantation inventory information and regular objective plantation condition monitoring will form the basis of silvicultural treatments and harvesting.

6. BFP Native Forests and Vegetation

BFP's primary objective is the management of commercial Bluegum plantations across the Southwest of WA. As part of the process of acquiring land and the development of plantations, variable-sized areas of native vegetation in a range of conditions are retained within the plantations. Additionally there are areas in close proximity but outside the plantation boundaries that may be influenced by activities within the plantation.

All of BFP's land is leased from land owners. As part of those lease arrangements, BFP accepts responsibility for management and protection within and in some cases, close to, the leased area. Whilst some management responsibilities may apply BFP has no legal right over these areas.

Legal right to native vegetation estate, within or contiguous to BFP's plantation estate, will be secured by a formal lease agreement negotiated with the landowner. This will be a separate agreement to the registered Profit a Prendre.

6.1 Objective

BFP recognises the importance of preserving and enhancing biodiversity, the conservation of species and habitats and the protection of areas or sites of regional importance. BFP will provide a consistent basis for managing and protecting native forests and vegetation values within or adjacent to BFP-managed plantations.

BFP will provide for the management and protection of native vegetation for an area of nominally 10% of the net plantation estate. This will be achieved with cooperation of landholders primarily with company resources and support from conservation agencies, namely Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water. Where necessary, additional support via consulting Foresters, will be utilised to provide the appropriate level of management at any time.

6.2 Commitment

BFP is committed to identify, evaluate conservation values and appropriately manage and protect native vegetation within its overall sphere of activities and operations.

BFP is committed to manage all of its operations with sensitivity to environmental protection whilst maintaining its production activities. Operations will be designed, planned and managed through recognised standards and systems with an over-riding objective of minimising on and off-site impacts.

BFP undertakes to protect all known cultural sites that occur on its plantations or in the vicinity of its operational areas.

Within BFP's managed land there are portions of native forest. BFP commits to identify and protect these areas with an objective of improving and sustaining their ecological status.

6.3 Responsibility

All aspects associated with native vegetation management are the responsibility of the BFP Plantations Manager.

All BFP personnel have a devolved responsibility to carry out activities within relevant policies and manual specifications and contribute to the maintenance of knowledge and protection of native vegetation areas within the company's operational area.

6.4 Native Vegetation Management System

The management of native forests and vegetation and the maintenance of associated conservation values will take place in consideration of the plantations that are in close vicinity.

The Management System has 3 components:

6.4.1 Native Vegetation Assessment Procedure

This procedure provides for a standard approach for the assessment of all native vegetation areas which in turn forms the basis for determining the proposed level of management to the area.

6.4.2 Native Vegetation Management Plan

This Plan collates information for each native vegetation area and the proposed management to be applied.

The Plan will only apply to areas over 0.5 hectare and where the landowners have passed land management responsibility to BFP. Within a plantation several small areas of native vegetation with related vegetation, soils or landforms may be grouped together for management purposes.

The Native Vegetation Management Plan will be appended to the associated Plantation Management Plan.

6.4.3 Native Vegetation Data-base

Certain key information from the Native Vegetation Management Plans will be collated into a Native Vegetation Data-base for the purposes of resource summaries and segregation for management planning (i.e. summarised by vegetation types, degrees of disturbance and proposed management).

6.5 System Review

6.5.1 Assessment Procedure

When changes occur to procedures or classifications, BFP will consider those changes in order to maintain compatibility with its evaluation and management methods.

6.5.2 Native Vegetation Management Plans

Information can be progressively added to the Plan when available.

A careful review of each native forest area will take place when significant activities are planned in the adjacent or surrounding plantation areas. This is particularly the case for harvesting, plantation re-establishment and chemical applications.

Individual Native Vegetation Management Plans may provide for certain activities to be undertaken specifically for a native vegetation area. As part of the planning process (i.e. before and after operational activities), information on the native vegetation area and its future management may be reviewed.

6.6 Native Vegetation Management System Action Plan

Native Vegetation Management System Component	Scheduled Timing
Finalise Assessment Procedure and Management Plan Structure	Completed

Consolidate existing map information and summarise native vegetation estate with or contiguous to BFP plantations established from 1993 to 2003.	Completed
Review information and determine appropriate Native Vegetation Management Areas based on 10% criteria (6.2b of Woodmark Checklist)	Completed
Initiate dialog with selected Native Vegetation Area landowners	Completed
Formalise agreements with selected landowners securing Native Vegetation Areas to be managed by BFP.	Completed
Commence Management Plan assessment process	Completed
Complete Management Plan assessments	Completed
Allocate BFP Management Levels	Completed
BFP management activities commence immediately upon securing the lease agreement with the landowner.	Ongoing
Demonstrate effective Native Vegetation Management	Continue to demonstrate at surveillance audits.

6.7 Native Vegetation Assessment Procedures

6.7.1 Applicable Areas

Data and information will only be collected for native vegetation areas above 0.5 ha and where BFP has landowner permission to manage or protect.

6.7.2 Purpose

Data and information will be obtained for:

- Identification of biodiversity, habitats, environmental and cultural features
- Conservation status
- Natural resource values with the area
- Determining the level of management to be applied

6.7.3 Data and Information

This information is obtained from direct research, agency searches and on-site assessment.

6.7.4 Assessment Steps

- Collect data, information and maps on the area already held by BFP. This may include soil surveys, information received from flora, fauna and/or cultural searches, other survey data, reports, maps and aerial and still photographs.
- Where relevant, search formal data-base sites or agencies for flora, fauna, cultural, physical and environmental references.
- Assess each area and compile information required for the Management Plan. Include the determination of vegetation community (see **Table 1** references and **Table 2**), vegetation health (**Table 3**) and disturbances (**Table 4**) and the factors that will influence the recommended level of management (see **Management Level Guidance Notes**). (see Management Plan for detail on data required)
- Collate all data, information, maps and photographs into the Management Plan. Several smaller areas in close proximity with common classifications may be amalgamated into a single Management Plan.
- Areas identified as containing, or potentially containing rare, threatened or endangered vegetation, cultural or physical sites of significance will be highlighted with priority management review.
- The Plantations Manager will confirm that adequate and sufficient information has been obtained, the assessments are relevant and the appropriate management level has been allocated.
- The area(s) are allocated a formal identification, with the same identification recorded with operational maps and the associated Plantation Management Plan.

- h) Each area is added to the Native Vegetation Data-base to permit rapid and broad summaries to be prepared for planning and budget purposes.

Table 1 References for Regional Vegetation Classifications (*)**

Beard, J.S. (1981) Vegetation Survey of WA. UWA Press

Hedde, E.M., Loneragen, O.W. and Havel, J.J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. *In*, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System WA. Department of Conservation and Environment.

Table 2 Vegetation Community Types (Specht, adapted by Muir) (*)**

Life Form	Canopy Cover	
	Dense (over 30% canopy cover)	Sparse (below 30% canopy cover)
Trees – taller than 5 m	Forest	Woodland
Trees – shorter than 5 m	Low Forest	Low Woodland
Mallees	Mallee	Open Mallee
Shrubs – taller than 2 m	Thicket (shrubland)	Scrub (shrubland)
Shrubs – shorter than 2 m	Heath (shrubland)	Open Heath (shrubland)
Grasses	Grassland	Open Grassland
Sedges and Reeds	Sedgeland	Open Sedgeland
Other ground layer plants	Herbland	Open Herbland

Table 3 Vegetation Health (*)**

Description	Crown with no dead branches	Some deaths in crown	Majority of crown dead or dying	Dead or likely to die in short term
Status	Very healthy	Moderate health	Poor health	Dead
Category	3	2	1	0

Table 4 Vegetation Disturbance (*)**

Status	Undisturbed	Moderately disturbed	Heavily disturbed	Degraded
Key features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely intact • Minimal/no grazing • Minimal disturbed • Minimum weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All plant layers present, sparser, some stress • Some grazing • Some soil damage • Weeds common (up to 50% area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced plant community – very sparse • Heavy grazing • Soil damaged • Erosion, salinity or waterlogging • Weed infestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few original species • Deaths common • Vegetation stress evident • Species replaced • Weeds dominant • Salinity, waterlogging, erosion
Category	1	2	3	4

6.8 Management Level Guidance Notes

The following are general management levels that BFP will apply to native vegetation areas.

Individual areas may be allocated site-specific management activities.

The actual management applied may vary with size of area, relation to other areas of native vegetation, proximity to plantations, vegetation health, level of past disturbance and the degree of work required to achieve an acceptable vegetation condition.

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

Principle 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

BFP is required under Forest Stewardship Council certification - Soil Association – Woodmark standard- Principle 9 to identify any HCVs that are present within their forest management units and manage them in order to maintain or enhance the values identified. BFP recognises the importance of protecting HCVF and provides clear management proposals for identified attributes within Vegetation Management plans.

The Management Plans adopt a precautionary approach to HCVF management. In addition, BFP references information from the HCV Resource Network to assist in dealing with HCVF to demonstrate Principle 9 compliance. Refer to HCV Network homepage - <http://www.hcvnetwork.org/> and HCV Tool Kit Information - <http://www.hcvnetwork.org/practical-support/the-hcv-toolkit-global-home>

6.8.1 Level A Self-Maintained

Generally these areas have received limited past disturbances, the vegetation is largely healthy and the ecological status of the habits(s) can be sustained or improved with minimal management intervention. These areas will be substantially protected from outside degrading impacts.

- Exclude stock
- Monitor exotic animals and consider control measures (e.g. rabbits)
- Monitor occurrence of disease (e.g. jarrah dieback)
- Assess external operations to avoid native vegetation or habitat degradation

6.8.2 Level B General Protection

These areas are likely to have received moderate levels of past disturbance, but the health and condition remains adequate. A low level of management will halt further degradation and permit natural restoration processes to commence. These areas will be protected from outside degrading impacts.

- Exclude stock
- Monitor exotic animals and consider control measures (e.g. rabbits)
- Monitor occurrence of disease (e.g. jarrah dieback)
- Encourage natural regeneration
- Monitor weed extent – limit significant extensions within area
- Control outbreaks of declared noxious weeds where deemed to have an impact on surrounding vegetation

6.8.3 Level C Direct Intervention

These areas have been disturbed but the site quality warrants a moderate degree of intervention that will significantly improve the status of the vegetation community and permit a quicker site restoration process. The further protection of these areas will be of a high priority.

- Fence for stock and/or vermin exclusion
- Restrict spread of weeds
- Control outbreaks of declared noxious weeds
- Correct or modify site degradation drainage issues
- Where appropriate re-seed shrub or ground cover species
- Where appropriate plant understorey or tree species

6.8.4 Level D Monitor Only

These sites are highly degraded and the application of management would not be considered warranted either on the basis of very poor site, extreme difficulty to achieve any improvement in site condition or have limited potential for further environmental protection..

- Consider management when plantation activities change (i.e. end of rotation)
- Broadly monitor for changes

6.8.5 Special Feature Level

The occurrence of RTE's, cultural or physical features of significance through either searches, surveys, assessments or documented reports will stimulate a high priority review or action as follows:

- Authenticity of information confirmed
- Whole area boundaries identified
- Specific feature location(s) identified where possible
- Where there is potential for an occurrence, a detailed survey is undertaken
- Measures to further protect the special features are undertaken

6.9 Native Vegetation Management Plan

The following information is to be collected for each native vegetation area.

6.9.1 Area location

- Associated plantation name (for management purposes plantation and native forest management will be linked)
- Property location number(s)
- Area (hectares)
- Access route(s)

6.9.2 General description of area

Topographic position for vegetation type (forest, woodland, riparian zone or swamp etc) on dominant soil or geological features.

Map (where can be individually mapped or position within whole plantation)

Some grouping of areas with common features may take place.

6.9.3 Detailed description of natural features of area

- Past history
 - Clearing
 - Harvesting
 - Grazing
 - Fire
 - Landcare
- Physical features
 - Landforms
 - Drainage lines
 - Geology
 - Soils
- Vegetation
 - Vegetation complex type (see references) → **Table 1**
 - Vegetation classification (Muir type) → **Table 2**
 - Dominant overstory and understory species
 - Rare, Threatened and Endangered components
 - Vegetation age, quality/disturbance, diversity and health → **Tables 3 and 4**
 - Weeds
 - Regeneration status
 - Diseases (particularly jarrah dieback)
 - Survey information
 - Reference information including data-base searches
- Fauna
 - Mammals
 - Birds
 - Reptiles
 - Corridor status
 - Survey information

- Reference information including data-base searches
- Protection risks
 - Grazing
 - Fire
 - Other potential natural risks (flood, salt intrusion etc)
- Significant sites (natural or cultural)
 - High Conservation Value Forest categories
 - Cultural and Indigenous
 - Natural (i.e. vegetation, rock formation, water bodies etc)
- Habitat extent
 - District and regional occurrence
 - Area “value significance” within broader context
- Landcare status
 - Proximity to existing landcare activities
 - Compatibility with landcare activities
 - Benefits from landcare connections

6.9.4 Management

The integration of the above data and information will permit the determination of the type, degree and timing of future management over the area.

The management will be developed with the following requirements:

- Objectives

State the primary focus for the management of this area. There may be other important secondary objectives.

- Management Level → **See Management Level Guidance Notes**

BFP will allocate a general management level, however there may be additional activities specific to an area.

- Management and Protection options for any area (include relevant timing and urgency priority rating)
 - Natural regeneration
 - Rehabilitation planting
 - Weeds
 - Fire
 - Stock grazing
 - Drainage
 - Fencing
 - Disease
 - Pests
 - Significant habitat locations
 - Significant other features
 - High Conservation Value Forest FMU's
- Planned activities
 - With plantation activities (i.e. harvesting, spraying)
 - Other native forest areas management
 - Protection measures

- Responses to potentially damaging agents
 - Fire
 - Chemical spills
 - Drainage line damage
 - Stock introduction
 - Noxious weed outbreak

7. High Conservation Value Forests on BFP managed land

Bunbury Fibre Plantations (BFP) manages a plantation estate and native vegetation on privately owned land under Deed of Grant of Profit a Prendre and lease agreements, in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) principles.

BFP FSC certification is to the Woodmark Generic Standard. The Woodmark Standard, developed by Soil Association, is designed to follow the principles and criteria of Forestry Stewardship. Principle nine (9) of the Woodmark standard relates to the management of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within Forest Management Units (FMU).

7.1 High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)

The FSC definition for High Conservation Value Forest is described in the following categories.

HCV 1: Globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (this includes protected areas, rare or threatened species, endemic species and seasonal concentrations of species).

HCV 2: Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape–level forests.

HCV 3: Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

HCV 4: Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (this includes protection of watersheds, protection against erosion and destructive fire).

HCV 5: Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities.

HCV 6: Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity.

7.2 Criterion

In line with Principle Nine (9) and individual criterion, BFP is required to;

Criterion 9.1

Identify HCVF values through assessment of attributes against identified HCVF categories at an appropriate scale and intensity commensurate with the FMU.

Criterion 9.2

Consultation with relevant stakeholders in the identification of the attributes relating to HCVF and their management

Criterion 9.3

The provision of clear management proposals against the identified attributes – using precautionary management principles.

Criterion 9.4

Effective management of the identified attributes with annual monitoring.

BFP will consult with the stakeholders of Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW), Department of Water (DoW), South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and Department of Aboriginal

Affairs (DAA) where appropriate, in the identification attributes relating to HCVF. See Criterion 9.2 above.

DPaW maintains a database of information relating to

1. threatened species
2. important wetlands
3. heritage sites inclusive of Aboriginal sites
4. historical sites
5. threatened ecological communities

BFP holds a registry of updated DPAW mapping information on occurrences specific to their database for plantation and native vegetation areas managed.

DoW holds database information for

1. recovery catchment information
2. the impacts of vegetation modification on estuaries and waterways
3. vegetation qualities and the importance of their conservation in improving water quality.

BFP actively communicates with DoW on water, plantation and native vegetation related issues. BFP have Profit a Prendre and lease agreements with DoW in the Wellington Catchment area.

BFP has assessed its leased native vegetation estate in line with the Principle nine (9) and HCVF categories. Initial assessments and consultation with relevant stakeholders confirm that three (3) leased FMU's are with two (2) Government designated Recovery Catchments being the Wellington and Warren/Tone that are critical to water catchments. These FMU's fall into the HCVF 4 category.

Two other leased FMU's have been assessed at a Forest Manager or Independent Expert level against HCVF categories.

Floral assessments indicate a potential taxa range extensions, under-represented vegetation complexes listed under legislation and endemic native "Virgin Forest" areas. These FMU's fall into HCVF categories 1 and/or 3. Further consultation with stakeholders and the use of HCV Resource Network Toolkits will aid in the clarification of the HCVF category assumptions.

Upon confirmation of HCVF's, Management Plans will be developed and implemented to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the attributes consistent with the precautionary approach.

The definition for "Precautionary Approach" is:

Planning, management activities and monitoring of the attributes that make a forest management unit a HCVF should be designed, based on existing scientific and indigenous/traditional knowledge, to ensure that these attributes do not come under threat of significant reduction or loss of the attribute and that any threat of reduction or loss is detected long before the reduction becomes irreversible. Where a threat has been identified, early preventive action, including halting existing action, should be taken to avoid or minimise such a threat despite lack of full scientific certainty as to causes and effects of the threat"

(FSC Principle 9 Advisory Panel, 2000 – ProForest Part 3 Identifying and managing High Conservation Values Forests: a guide for forest managers).

Annual monitoring of management practices against the defined attributes to maintain or enhance the HCVF will be undertaken to demonstrate the Woodmark Generic Checklist indicator 9.4.1.