

KOSCIUSKO HUTS ASSOCIATION,
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SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS - DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT,
KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

INTRODUCTION

The closing date for comments on the draft plan is August 14th, to be sent to the Director, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Box 39, G.P.O., Sydney. The plan itself is available for inspection at the following places:-

National Parks & Wildlife Service, Sydney
Kosciusko National Park Headquarters (and various other Park
Offices of the Service)
Department of Lands, Sydney
Local Government Association, Sydney
Snowy River Shire Council
Tumbarumba Shire Council
Bibbenluke Shire Council
Tumut Shire Council
Monaro Shire Council
Yarrowlumla Shire Council
Cooma Municipal Council

It consists of 54 pages of single-spaced typescript, with 6 maps at a scale of about 8 miles to the inch, or 1:500000. The first is a small locality map showing the park in relation to the surrounding country. The other five show a. the topographic base, b. development, c. alien tenures, d. zoning plan e. visitor services, proposals and variations. They present the information in light green against a black background, a combination that is not easy to read. The plan is provisional, for it is still in draft form and in any case all it deals with is subject to the clause that circumstances can change and that amendments will be made accordingly.

What follows is a summary of the main points of direct concern to the K.H.A. together with a summary of those that we think may concern the K.H.A. indirectly. We stress that it is a summary and that those who wish to take up any matter should first consult the original for the context and the exact wording.

We quote the synopsis in full:-

"Kosciusko National Park encompasses the major alpine region of Australia. The Park is permanently reserved and managed to conserve the alpine, montane and lowland regions with their geographic, geologic, prehistoric, historic, vegetation and other wildlife features; to protect the major snowfields and catchments of the rivers which are used in complex hydro-electric and water conservation works; to provide opportunity for scientific research, for outdoor sporting activities, particularly snow sports, in a natural setting; to bring the visitor into intimate contact with the scenic grandeur, geologic phenomena, and natural history, and to develop among the visitors, through personal participation, intellectual, aesthetic and educational experiences which are available in the highest order, in this diverse and colourful region."

DESCRIPTION

Following in order are sections on the following:-

1. History
2. A park survey (geology and geomorphology, climate, biology, prehistory)
3. Regional survey (the park in relation to the neighbouring parts of Australia, e.g. "the withdrawal of the Authority is a major downturn in the buoyancy of the Monaro economy")

4. Developments (an outline of what man-made features are already there, and stating that S.M.A. construction sites inside the park have been or will be reduced or demolished, and that tourists will be accommodated in townships outside rather than inside the park, e.g. Adaminaby, Talbingo, Khancoban. Park roads are maintained by various shires, government departments, and authorities as well as by the park administration itself - 1200 km gravel, 220 km sealed, 800 km firetrails. Ski resorts and facilities are listed, well known to us all)
5. Boundary (referring to the lands bordering the park, and illustrated on one of the maps)
6. Alien tenures (dams, power stations, etc.)
7. The main concessions and leases are listed on page 18. We quote them in full:

Charlotte Pass	- Charlottes Pass Pty. Ltd. (Subsidiary of Noahs Ltd.)
Perisher Valley	- K.G. Murray Publishing Co.
Smiggin Holes	- Smiggins (Kosciusko) Limited
Thredbo	- Kosciusko Thredbo Pty. Ltd.

The many ski club lodges in the Park are operated on leased terms, usually involving a 20 year lease with option for a further 10 year term.

Commercial lodges, motels, etc., generally operate on a 45 year lease basis.

Many other minor operations, such as service stations, simple ski lifts, horseriding convoys, commercial transportation, etc., are carried out under short term lease or licence.

There are many individual specialised items with varying terms and conditions of leases and licences at locations throughout the Park.

8. Injurious agencies are listed (hydro-electrical operations, grazing, introduced animals and plants, public use).

MANAGEMENT

OBJECTS OF MANAGEMENT

1. Protection of the park for enjoyment of visitors
2. Encouragement of scientific research
3. Provision of opportunities for studying natural history
4. Development of facilities to encourage the enjoyment of the park
5. Keeping a watching brief over wild life
6. Provision of adequate services and protection to visitors
7. Control of public usage
8. Restoration of damaged areas where possible

ZONING

1. Wilderness - where there has been minimal disturbance. Nothing to be constructed except track markers and simple survival huts where essential. Some constructions already there may be removed. No mechanical transport, no more pipelines, vehicular roads, power lines, communication equipment, or grazing. The four main wilderness areas are Byadbo, the Pilot, Jagungal, Goodradigbee.
2. Natural area - not quite so restrictive, visitors may walk, ride, boat, water ski, group camp, and picnic. Some mechanical transport will be allowed, and a fair range of facilities. No new development except where covered by the S.M.A. agreement of 1958.
3. Outstanding natural area - for research and education. The concept is rather broadly stated: "special protection measures but prevent development or use which might affect the scenic values involved".
4. Development area - commercial enterprises etc.
5. Historic area - self-explanatory.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Grazing may be allowed if it maintains open country suitable for kangaroos. Scientific work will be controlled, likewise the facilities for carrying it out (buildings etc.).

PROPOSED PROTECTIVE MEASURES

1. General principles - rerouting of power lines, re-vegetation of construction scars, restrictions on the use of roads, the prohibition of grazing (except where desirable), the improvement of fencing, weed control, the control of construction work, removal of litter, clearing of dead timber, sewerage, control of walking, fire control, fuel reduction.
2. Fire control - park responsible for its own area. Grazing and controlled burning may be used to reduce fire hazards. Complete protection envisaged only in exceptional circumstances. Fire trails, dams, and towers may be approved.
3. Safety of visitors - educational programmes are planned for survival techniques. Only "minimal" survival huts and pole lines in wilderness areas.
4. Grazing - the last tenure expires in 1975. The only grazing thereafter will be for park management.
5. New buildings - all proposed new buildings will have to be approved by the park authorities.

RESTORATION WORKS

1. Removal of structures - those not conforming may be removed, e.g. fences, huts, roads, buildings, overhead lines.
2. Restoration will include restoration of historic structures.

INTERPRETATION

This is to help visitors find their way around the park and understand the natural history, management and regulations, and conservation. To be done by displays, pamphlets, talks, etc. Centres to cope with all this will be at the main visitor centres (Sawpit, Thredbo, Perisher, Yarrangobilly, Khancoban, Lake Blowering, Kiandra).

VISITOR SERVICES

These include a "survival hut system for the safety and enjoyment of back country users" (page 42). New visitor services planned are listed on page 43. They include possibly an "aquatic recreation complex" (provision for water sports) at Lake Blowering, a camping/caravan area at Yarrangobilly (with conversion or demolition of the Caves House), ski lifts etc. at Round Mountain, further development at the Blue Cow and the Paralyser, and a Group Activity Centre at Island Bend. The plan envisages catering for 10000 people at Perisher, 5360 at Smiggin Holes, and 1100 at Guthega. No great change seems imminent with respect to present arrangements. The cableway from the Alpine Way to Charlotte's Pass will be removed unless improved to acceptable standards. About 3000 people will be catered for at this "village in the snow" (page 47). Thredbo village is considered as roughly equivalent to Perisher in its capacity, that is about 10000 people. The access plan is illustrated on one of the maps, but new areas may be added and some of the existing ones may be closed. Winter access by vehicles will depend on the weather. In any case no snow-clearing will be done beyond Perisher.

ACCESS

Three travelling stock routes traverse the park. The park authorities plan to close them when they are no longer needed. The Tin Mines Trail, the Goobarragandra Road, the Blue Waterholes Track, and the Schlink Pass between Guthega and Geehi will be closed. Airfields in the park are not available for public use.

ADMINISTRATION

The park is divided into Ranger Districts, each under a resident Ranger-in-Charge. The districts are Sawpit Creek, Smiggin Holes, Thredbo, Khancoban, Yarrangobilly Caves, and Blowering. Staff will in general be housed outside the park unless needed for protective and emergency services. As far as possible, communications will be by underground cable or wireless, and workshops outside the park.

CONCESSIONS

New ones must be essential for public comfort and enjoyment. The policy will be not to duplicate facilities that are available and adequate in nearby towns. No new ones will be considered unless they fit in with the general plan.

RESTORATION WORKS

1. Removal of structures - those not conforming may be removed, e.g. fences, huts, roads, buildings, overhead lines.
2. Restoration will include restoration of historic structures.

INTERPRETATION

This is to help visitors find their way around the park and understand the natural history, management and restoration, and conservation. To be done by displays, pamphlets, talks, etc. Centres to cope with all this will be at the main visitor centres (Sawpit, Thredbo, Khancoban, Yarrangobilly, Khancoban, Lake Blowering, Kiewit).

VISITOR SERVICES

To be a "survival" but system for the safety and enjoyment of the park. They include possibly an "aquatic recreation complex" (provision for water sports) at Lake Blowering, a camping/canoeing area at Yarrangobilly (with provision for demolition of the Gages House), etc. etc. at Mount Mansfield, further development at the Blue Cow and the Fairy Glen and a group activity Centre at Lizard Bend. The plan envisages catering for 10000 people at Yarrangobilly, 5000 at Smiggin Holes, and 1000 at Guthega. The plan envisages some lament with respect to present arrangements. The cable way from the Alpine way to Charlotte's Pass will be removed unless improved to acceptable standards. About 5000 people will be catered for at this "village in the snow" (page 47). Thredbo village is considered as roughly equivalent to Perth in its capacity, that is about 10000 people. The access plan is illustrated on one of the maps, but new areas may be added and some of the existing ones may be closed. Winter access by vehicles will depend on the weather. In any case no snow-clearing will be done beyond Perth.

KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK
 ZONING PLAN (E. & O. E.)



Legend

1. Outstanding natural (Kosciusko)
2. Development (Round Mtn.)
3. " (Jeehi)
4. " + histor. (Kiandra)
5. " (Yarrangobilly)
6. Outstanding natural (")
7. Natural (Blowering)
8. Development (Cabramurra)
9. " (Perisher etc.)
10. " (Thredbo)
11. Wilderness
12. Natural
13. Outstanding natural
- J Jagungal
- G Grey Mare
- P Peppercorn Hill
- K Khancoban