

KOSCIUSKO STATE PARK TRUST

Recommendations made at meeting held at Mawson's Hut on 16/17 January 1965.

1. The Kosciusko State Park Trust should be requested to set apart as soon as possible the Jagungal Wilderness Area as part of an overall Master Plan for the Kosciusko State Park.
2. The prime purpose of this Wilderness Area shall be to preserve an extensive roadless undeveloped area for the needs of bushwalkers, ski tourists and nature-lovers who seek adventurous unconfined forms of recreation in areas of natural beauty large enough to provide lengthy trips on foot or on skis away from sophisticated facilities.
3. The definitions of Wilderness Area and Primitive Area shall be as defined in the submission of 23rd July 1964 made by Canberra Outdoor Clubs to the Trust.
4. The general boundaries of the Jagungal Wilderness Area shall be as follows:  
Commencing from Bradney's Gap, following the Cabramurra Road to Tooma Reservoir, around the headwaters of same, thence along the Cabramurra road to the junction with the Happy Jacks road, (avoiding Thies's village, Ogilvie's Camp and other SMHEA works); along the Happy Jacks road to the Park boundary near Tolbar, thence along the Park boundary to the 330 Kv transmission line near the Gungahlin River; along the transmission line to the Snowy River, thence upstream avoiding SMHEA works, to the Schlink Pass Road; across the Schlink Pass Road at the top of the Munyang Penstock and via a straight line around the head of the Guthega River to join the Kosciusko Primitive Area boundary; along the Primitive Area boundary in a northerly direction for approximately half a mile thence to the headwaters of Geehi Dam, circumventing the SMHEA works at Windy Creek Pondage; thence by an arbitrary line to the Park boundary near Khancoban, avoiding SMHEA camps and works, and along the western Park boundary to Bradney's Gap.
5. The sole improvements which should be permitted within this area to assist its usage by recreational groups are simple shelter huts, with, where necessary, snowpole lines or similarly worked life-line routes.
6. It is regarded as essential to preserve in a fit state the following existing shelter huts within this Area: White's River, Mawson's, Valentine's (SMA), O'Keefe's, Grey Mare, Alpine, Pretty Plain, Tibbando's, Round Mountain, Tin Hut, Cesjacks, Farm Ridge, Derschko's (SMA) Wheeler's, Toolong.
7. These huts should be the property of the K.S.P.T., for use as public shelter huts, and such action as is necessary to bring about this ownership position should be taken by the Trust as soon as possible.
8. Where the Trust is not in a position to take immediate action to bring a hut into a satisfactory state of repair it may be cared for or adopted by an approved group or club until such time as the Trust takes over its full care and maintenance. Such period should be kept to a minimum.
9. Adoption by any group shall convey no inclusive rights of occupancy or usage by that group, and in general the principles set out in Appendix II of the Canberra Outdoors Club's submission of 23/7/64 to the Trust shall apply.

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10. The following principles should be adopted for the use of the Area and the huts within it -

- (a) The preservation of the natural condition and values shall at all times be paramount.
- (b) The maximum bed capacity of future shelter huts shall be 6 to 8 bunks.
- (c) Where desirable or possible the bunk capacity of existing huts shall remain at the present level, even if this level exceeds the suggested maximum of 6 to 8.
- (d) The facilities within each hut shall be limited to beds, mattresses, spade or shovel, axe, pick or mattock, heating and cooking stove or fireplace, rescue shed and first-aid gear.
- (e) Wherever possible firewood shall be available at each hut; where this is not possible the Trust should provide alternative fuel and means of heating and cooking.
- (f) Pit toilets shall wherever possible be provided at each hut.
- (g) Rubbish which cannot be disposed of by burning shall be removed from the Area as back-loading by the persons or parties responsible for it.
- (h) No vehicular access shall be permitted within the Area except by official firefighting or Trust vehicles in cases of emergency.
- (i) The use of aircraft for transport into the Area shall not be permitted, except where aircraft are utilised by the Trust to transport materials for construction or maintenance purposes, or for firefighting purposes.
- (j) During the caretaker period, each caretaker group shall be permitted to maintain a locked trunk within the hut which it is assisting to maintain.
- (k) No room or fixed section of a hut shall be locked at any time.
- (l) The basis of maintenance or restoration work during the caretaker period shall be that materials shall be provided and transported by the Trust, labour (and possibly some materials) being supplied by the caretaker group.
- (m) All maintenance or improvement work during the caretaker period shall be approved by the Trust, through the Park Superintendent, before being carried out.
- (n) A system of nominal user fees may be adopted and applied by the Trust, payments being made to the Park Superintendent, and proceeds being used for future hut maintenance.
- (o) The Trust should prepare suitably worded notices for erection in each shelter hut, setting out the principles under which the huts are maintained and available for public use, and the code of behaviour expected of hut users.

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- (p) Persons using the Area shall be self-sufficient in respect of gear and food supplies necessary to sustain them during trips through the area. The standard Main Range Rules, requiring minimum parties of 3 persons, equipped with suitable clothing, matches, compass and map, shall be observed by users of the Area at all times.
11. The groups represented at this meeting strongly urge that the Trust should take urgent action towards bringing all huts into a satisfactory standard of maintenance in accordance with the limitations set out above.
  12. If Round Mountain is considered desirable for development as an accommodation or skiing centre it shall be excluded from the Jagungal Wilderness Area to permit the provision of the necessary resort facilities.

Parties Present:

D. & E. Stodart	- Canberra Walking & Touring Club.
R. Story	- A.C.T. National Parks Association.
G. Dudzinski	- Canberra Y.M.C.A. Ski Club.
J. Wanless	- Canberra Alpine Club.
R. Galloway	- Canberra Speleological Club.
C. Fay )	- Exclusive Squirrels Club
W. Kenyon)	(maintaining Mawson's Hut).
N. Gare	- Superintendent, Kosciusko State Park.