

White Mountains Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

White Mountains Regional Park was formally gazetted as a resources reserve in September 1988.

The park purpose was identified as part of the gazettal as enabling access to mineral resources while protecting the areas natural values.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the park is managed by joint trustees, the Chief Executive of the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and the Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

This regional park is declared as a resource use area to enable access to mineral resources to continue.

Park size	12056ha
Bioregion	Desert Uplands / Einasleigh Uplands
Local government area	Charters Towers Regional Council
State electorate	Dalrymple
QPWS region	Central
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, White Mountains Regional Park has been assessed as having a medium priority for management. The park will be managed according to this priority rating.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and anecdotal information. The medium level means that it will receive a minimum of quarterly routine inspections with occasional planned visits where issues have been identified. The focus is largely expected to be on natural resource and mineral resource management involving a proactive management effort at a moderate level to understand or protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, (QPWS). Ongoing consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken as required to support broader continuing park management programs.

This park currently has relatively low levels of visitor use. There are no visitor facilities on the regional park but basic facilities are provided on the adjoining National Park. Visitors are unlikely to encounter a ranger on site during their visit. Current and future recreational opportunities will require that visitors have a high level of self-sufficiency. A basic level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use by predominantly self-reliant visitors. Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through ongoing local consultations with community stakeholders to support broad continuing management programs.

Park assets are functional and robust and require limited maintenance to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects 27 regional ecosystems, four of which have of concern biodiversity status, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

There are currently no records of species of conservation significance on Queensland Government wildlife databases for this park.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Although cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are not well documented for this area, all proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non-indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Resource Use

White Mountains enables access to metallic mineral resources, principally gold and molybdenum. Thermal coal resources are mapped in the regional park.

Priorities for park management

The four regional ecosystems of conservation significance and the mineral resources are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be to mitigate any threats to these ecosystems through fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- life and property on and adjacent to the park is protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystems through the application of planned burn guidelines
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of these regional ecosystems.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
9.3.1	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> and/or <i>E. tereticornis</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca</i> spp. +/- <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> fringing woodland on channels and levees	Of concern
10.3.13a	Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> dominates the very sparse to sparse canopy. Occurs along watercourses.	Of concern
10.3.13b	Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. Usually occurs in narrow strips along major streams.	Of concern
10.3.14d	Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland. <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> dominates the very sparse canopy. Occurs along stream channels mostly in upper parts of catchments of eastern flowing streams.	Of concern