Step 8

Identify issues and the management activities that address these issues

To achieve the best results for conservation on a site, management must relate to the specific characteristics present in the management units. These characteristics were identified during assessment.

It is important to identify issues and activities that are likely to have an effect on conservation significance.

There are some excellent references to assist in identifying actions that will assist in conserving native grasslands and woodlands. These are listed in the References section of the kit.

The previous steps will help reveal the activities needed to meet conservation aims as well as other land use aims. The mapping process and other assessments will highlight areas where weeds must be controlled or areas where native species can be conserved.

One overall aim for conservation management is to maintain or increase the cover and diversity of native vegetation. Many strategies can be used to achieve this aim. One includes fencing a large paddock into smaller units based on management units. The smaller paddocks can be used for rotating grazing so that grazing pressure can be varied at critical seeding times and to limit grazing in areas more susceptible to declines in vegetation cover. This can encourage native plant regeneration and control some weeds. Another major aim is to maintain fauna habitat. This can be achieved, for example, by not removing habitat features such as trees with hollows, and fallen timber and rocks.

To work out what will be done and how, it is important to consider such issues as:

- Is the area to be managed only for conservation, for production and conservation or other land uses?
- Are there other issues that need to be considered, such as heritage, access by other people, fire mitigation activities?

- Are there other people or groups of people that need to be consulted?
- Does the management need to be changed from how it is done currently?
- If so, are the resources available now or in the future to make those changes happen?
- How are the species present likely to respond to the proposed management in the short and long term?
- Is advice required to work out what needs to be done?
- Is assistance required to carry out the activities?

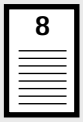
Aims

- Identify issues that affect the achievement of conservation aims in the management units.
- Identify management activities that assist in the retention of conservation significance.

Bulbine bulbosa

Materials

Sheet 8



Method

1. **Identify and record relevant issues and actions required** on Sheet 8. Using Table K as a guide, and referring to Sheets 1–6, record for each management unit that has conservation significance:
   - the relevant issues; and
   - the activities needed to deal with the issues.
   - Add any other issues and activities that are relevant, including management for land uses other than conservation
2. **Identify if actions in other areas may impact achieving conservation aims**. Consider whether any activities within management units adjacent to those with conservation significance are likely to help or hinder conservation.

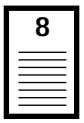


Table K: Checklist of issues and related activities

Issue	Suggested activities
1. Areas containing endangered ecological communities	• Apply strategic grazing, burning or slashing, that includes resting paddocks, to promote flowering and seeding of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers and to control weeds. • Consider fencing or other methods of controlling grazing pressure. • Control weeds using herbicides. • Do not cut trees or fallen timber for firewood. • Manage to retain ground cover and minimise soil disturbance. • Monitor and review the effects of activities on a regular basis.
2. Threatened species	• Consult with government agencies, councils and specialists. • Manage to retain habitat structure that is required by the species. • Assist with monitoring the population of the species.
3. Areas containing native pasture	• Apply strategic grazing, including resting paddocks to promote flowering and seeding of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers and to control weeds. • Manage to retain ground cover and minimise soil disturbance. • Control weeds using herbicides.
4. Native trees	• Minimise impacts of stock camps. • Protect isolated trees and encourage regeneration. • Limit firewood collection. • Maintain and protect living and dead trees with hollows.
5. Introduced and non–local native trees and shrubs	• Consider removal if they are in threatened ecological communities or if they are spreading to other areas. • Decide if they are being utilised for stock shade, bird habitat or controlling erosion. • Utilise these species for firewood instead of using native species.
6. Wetlands and other water bodies	• Control grazing or other pressures to maintain the qualities of wetlands and other water bodies. • Protect edges of aquatic ecosystems, such as riverbanks and wetlands by limiting access points and controlling erosion.
7. Regeneration and seeding	• Utilise fencing and rotational grazing to enhance regeneration and flower/seed production. • Collect or harvest native seeds for revegetation or sale (may need a licence).

Issue	Suggested activities
8. Revegetation	• Plant local native vegetation as tubestock or direct seed bearing in mind the natural vegetation type (e.g. don't plant trees in natural grassland or forest species in woodland). • Revegetate bare areas left after weed control, in buffer areas, to enhance existing native vegetation or to increase patch size. • Avoid soil disturbance when revegetating areas.
9. Corridors and links	• Manage to protect existing remnants. • Establish corridors to link vegetation patches. • Work with other land managers to link remnants in the broader landscape, region or catchment.
10. Erosion	• Assess and map erosion areas, identify potential causes of erosion. • Use guidelines for soil conservation techniques and local native species for planting.
11. Rock removal	• Do not remove or disturb rocks as this may destroy habitat.
12. Grazing	• Avoid grazing in areas where a high diversity of sensitive species remains. • Avoid set stocking or high intensity grazing over long periods of time. • Encourage regeneration avoid grazing when native plants are flowering and setting seed. • Do not graze when the biomass of the native vegetation is low and therefore under stress (e.g. during drought avoid grazing native vegetation). • Use grazing to control some weeds.
13. Fire	• Consider burning for management of diversity. • Burn vegetation in patches to retain shelter for animals including invertebrates. • Assess site for species sensitive to fire disturbance. Exclude fire from these areas when species are vulnerable. • Develop firebreaks that do not degrade grassy ecosystems by potentially introducing weeds and promoting erosion.
14. Ploughing and soil disturbance	• Avoid ploughing or soil cultivation in areas containing native understorey or groundlayer.
15. Weeds	• Identify species and undertake control measures as required using methods appropriate to the species and the conservation significance of the site. • Use a range of techniques to control weeds, including herbicides, grazing, burning and mechanical removal, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of each. • For grazing areas, control stock movement to reduce spread of weed seeds into native ecosystems. • Avoid using broadacre treatments in areas containing native species.
16. Pest animals	• Undertake control measures as required using methods appropriate to the site and species.
17. Fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides	• Avoid using fetilisers in or near areas identified as high conservation significance and avoid overspray and drift. • Avoid pesticide or herbicide use when non-target plants or animals are vulnerable.

Issue	Suggested activities
18. Fencing	• Fence to separate out management units where applicable to assist with maintenance of conservation areas.
19. Neighbouring land uses	• Consult and involve neighbouring land managers in conservation practices and methods to reduce impacts from neighbouring land uses.
20. Access by vehicles	• Limit access on site during wet or dry periods to minimise impacts. • Limit access when weeds are in seed to minimise spread.

Example

Step 8: Identify issues and activities to be implemented

Management units	Issues	Activities to be implemented
B, C, E, F	1. Areas of endangered native grassland and grassy woodland	a. Undertake rotational grazing in order to enhance native diversity whilst retaining habitat quality for threatened species. b. Monitor vegetation in the community.
A, D, E, F, G, H, I	2. Threatened species	a. Retain electric fencing around Button Wrinklewort site and monitor; graze occasionally if required for biomass control, or consider occasional burns. b. Monitor populations. c. Areas dominated by Phalaris: undertake rotational grazing in order to maintain habitat for Striped Legless Lizard.
D, G, I	3. Areas of native pasture	a. Undertake rotational grazing in order to maintain threatened species and other fauna habitat and to minimise introduced species invasion.
A, B, C, E, F, G, H, I	4. Grazing	a. Continue rotational cattle grazing for conservation purposes, with increased scrutiny of grazing impacts, considering controls on stocking rates and frequency as required. b. No additional feed to be brought on site. c. Cattle to be removed from paddocks if biomass is reduced to unacceptable levels (such as during droughts).
All	5. Fire	a. Undertake the actions identified in the Bushfire Fuel Management Plan. b. Limit fire hazard reduction measures to the perimeters and exclude fire from the reserve as far as possible. c. Retain fire breaks.
All, especially A, C, F	6. Weeds	a. Undertake control measures as required using methods appropriate to the site and species. b. Ensure vehicles are washed down prior to entering site; do not drive through areas contaminated with Chilean Needle Grass when it is seeding.