Native Forest Reserve Code

Native Forest Reserves play an important role in preserving areas of remnant native forest vegetation and provide a variety of habitats for native birds and animals.

Strict controls apply to activities within Native Forest Reserves to protect these valuable natural assets. To ensure these areas are preserved for our enjoyment and for future generations the following conditions apply within Native Forest Reserves:

- Cars, 4WD’s, Motor Bikes and other vehicles are prohibited in Native Forest Reserves.
- Please keep to established tracks and walking trails.
- Dogs, cats and other domestic pets are not permitted.
- Horse riding is not permitted in Native Forest Reserves.
- Help protect the Native Forest Reserves by observing fire rules.
- Please take your rubbish home with you.
- Native plants and animals must not be removed.
- Do not feed native animals.
- Please respect geological and heritage sites.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Shooting, trapping and other forms of hunting are not permitted within Forest Reserves.
- Please leave gates as you find them.

For Your Safety, Forest Reserves are closed to the public on declared TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Further Information

This brochure has been prepared by ForestrySA to promote the value and significance that Native Forest Reserves play in the conservation of South Australia's natural heritage.

For further information on Native Forest Reserves contact the following services:

Mt Crawford Forest  (08) 8521 1700
Kuitpo Forest  (08) 8391 8800
Wirrabara Forest  (08) 8668 4163
South East Forests  (08) 8724 2888

Email - forestry.recreation@sa.gov.au

Internet - http://www.forestry.sa.gov.au
ForestrySA

ForestrySA (formerly known as the Woods and Forests Department established in 1875) is the South Australian Government's forestry organisation responsible for the commercial management of about 129,000 hectares of land in South Australia. This land has been set aside for forestry and is legally reserved and dedicated as Forest Reserve under the Forestry Act, 1950.

Native Forest Reserves

Whilst the majority of Forest Reserves are used for commercial plantations about 21,400 hectares are managed as Native Forest Reserves. These areas are located mainly in the higher rainfall areas of South Australia, are managed for conservation and contain some of the last remnant areas of native forest, woodland and enclosed wetland. Native Forest Reserves are located in the Southern Flinders Ranges (4,000 hectares), the Mount Lofty Ranges (4,400 hectares), and the Lower South East of South Australia (13,000 hectares). There are about 75 individual areas of Native Forest Reserve ranging in size from 10 hectares to 2,500 hectares that occur as relatively isolated areas within or adjacent to plantation forests.

Native Forest Reserves together with their associated fauna contribute significantly to the natural assets of the State and have been managed and protected for conservation by ForestrySA for many years. These natural areas complement other areas reserved for conservation located in the high rainfall areas of the state.

Management of Native Forest Reserves

Areas of native forest, woodland and wetland are legally protected and actively managed by ForestrySA to conserve and enhance their plant and animal communities for the long term benefit of the South Australian community.

Native Forest Management Plans are prepared for these areas to document and identify their conservation significance and to provide the basis for their long term protection and future management.

Specific management objectives for Native Forest Reserves include:

- protection of areas and/ or parts of areas from any further disturbance e.g. weed invasions, grazing and exotic animals; protection from bushfires;
- limiting public access to protect flora and fauna;
- rehabilitation of the overstorey or understorey vegetation in specific areas;
- threatened species protection and management;
- ecosystem management by the use of prescribed burning.

History of Native Forest Reserves

Since settlement the greatest demand for timber has occurred closer to settled areas. Most areas of native forest have been disturbed by extensive timber cutting to supply wood for posts, palings, domestic firewood, industrial fuel for furnaces, roofing shingles, mine shaft supports, building and construction timber.

The dependence upon timber from native forests has progressively declined since the 1950's. This has been due to the availability of other forms of fuel such as gas and electricity, and building and fencing products being provided by plantation timber or other substitutes.

Generally Native Forest Reserves under ForestrySA's management have not been subject to high levels of grazing by stock, destruction by fire or invasion by introduced plants. Since the 1950's these impacts have been progressively reduced and these native forest areas have remained relatively undisturbed.