

Post-fire small-scale erosion control series

Fact Sheet 4 – Monitoring

It is important to regularly monitor your property after a bushfire for early detection of emerging erosion issues, as well as detecting other management issues such as weeds and pest animals.

Monitoring for weeds

Early identification and control before seed-set are the most important steps in weed control and eradication.

Perennial weeds with deep root systems are likely to survive bushfire and regrow, however their seed bank may be depleted. Weeds such as flatweed, docks, sorrel and onion grass are some of the first plants to recover and are often prominent after bushfires. These weeds provide a short-term groundcover but may need to be controlled in time.

In pastures with high infestations of difficult perennial weed grasses including Chilean needlegrass, serrated tussock and African lovegrass, the post-fire period may be an opportune time to establish competitive pasture, e.g. phalaris, cocksfoot and sub clovers. Land capability will determine if cultivation or no till methods of seed broadcasting are appropriate, and which species may establish effectively.

Figure 1: Pasture dominated by serrated tussock.



The same principles may apply as for managing weeds after drought. Be vigilant about monitoring areas where stock feed has been introduced, and earthmoving machinery has been operating. Identify and eradicate any new and emerging weeds quickly.

In bushland contexts, weeds suited to disturbance may regrow quickly on forest margins, in waterways and along tracks and containment lines. The post-fire period may provide an opportunity to reduce weed infestations in these areas. If identified at the seedling stage, many weed species may be hand pulled. Other bush regeneration techniques may also be used.

Figure 2: A post-fire bushland monitoring field day.



Figure 3: Identifying plant species post-fire.



Monitoring for pest animals

Controlling pest animal species (both herbivores and carnivores) is a crucial post-fire management activity.

From an erosion control perspective, grazing species including rabbits, pigs and deer may destroy regenerating groundcovers, compact or disturb the soil further and may place additional pressure on erosion control structures.

Figure 4: Consider rabbit baiting and ripping warrens to reduce grazing pressure on recovering pastures.



Local Land Services has increased efforts for strategic pest animal control in and around the boundaries of national parks in conjunction with other public land authorities.

Figure 5: Coordinated control programs for predator species such as foxes are important to reduce impacts to stock and vulnerable native species that have lost habitat.



Local Land Services helps landholders by providing advice and assistance in eradicating pest species.

We also work with private and government stakeholders to develop vertebrate pest management plans and cooperative management programs.

We coordinate group pest animal control programs, provide vertebrate pest management training and other services such as provision of baits to control pest animals.

Monitoring erosion control structures

It is important to see if erosion control structures are trapping sediment and groundcover is re-establishing. Keeping a photo record of these sites will be helpful.

If safe to visit, look at how the structures are performing during periods of heavy rainfall.

Are the structures working in slowing the speed of the flow? Are they secure or being dislodged or undercut by heavy flow? Are structures needed in other areas?

Landholder monitoring for weed invasion, pest animal activity and worsening erosion is especially important after bushfires.

More information

[Managing weeds after bushfires](#)

[NSW WeedWise](#)

[Land and soil capability](#)

[Land and soil capability mapping](#)

[Bush Regeneration handbook](#)

[Weeds and drought](#)

[Drought recovery guide](#)

[Pest control support](#)

[Feral Scan – citizen surveillance](#)

Contact LLS if you need assistance to access these links.

It may also be helpful to talk to your local LLS agricultural advisor for pasture establishment advice.