

SOUTH EAST FOREST RESCUE

S T O P P I N ' T H E C H O P P I N '

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29/6/04

Doug Mills
N.P.W.S.
Southern Directorate,
Threatened Species Unit.

RE: BREACHES OF THE IFOA-TSL IN COMPARTMENT 579 COUP 1, YAMBULLA SF No 126

Dear Doug,

An audit of compartment 579 was conducted on the 27/6/04 by SEFR and the following breaches were found.

BREACH 1

5.6. Tree Retention

k) Protection of retained trees

- i. When conducting specified forestry activities and post-logging burning, damage to trees retained under Conditions 5.6 f), g) and h), of this licence must be minimised to the greatest extent practicable. During harvesting operations, the potential for damage to these trees must be minimised by utilising techniques of directional felling.*

This coup has recently undergone a post-logging burn. After walking around the coup we observed countless retained H and R trees and dead stags that have either been completely burnt out or been brought down due to being severely burnt or weakened by the burn and blown over by the wind. Where we first stopped the car and got out, point F on the map (GPS 0724758/5891045), in approximately a 100m radius we noticed 4 retained trees on the ground and 8 dead stags burnt out. The whole coup is similar to this. The fire has also entered stream exclusions and burnt out trees in these areas.

This must have been an intense burn to create so much damage, and obviously there was no supervision by SFNSW as the fire has also crossed the boundary of the coup into neighbouring private property. Unfortunately we do not have any pictures of this. We will probably be out there late next week and will obtain some, although there are so many all you have to do is walk around for a few minutes and you will easily find heaps.

BREACH 2

5.7. Stream Exclusion Zones

- f) Specified forestry activities, except road and snig track construction in accordance with condition 5.7 (i) and road re-opening, are prohibited within Stream Exclusion Zones implemented under conditions 5.7 (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.*

The burn has also ripped through the 1st order streams marked A, B, C and D and parts of the 2nd order exclusion marked E have also been affected. This has also been reported to the EPA who are going to undertake an investigation in relation to pollution of waters. We see no reason why both EPA and NPWS should not prosecute SFNSW over this same breach. We have 2 photos of the 1st order stream marked A if you would like to see them.

The damage caused by this burn far exceeds the damage done in Bodalla 3022 that you investigated last year. We would hope that this investigation provides a better outcome, and that SFNSW are prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. If you require any other information please do not hesitate to contact me and I am available to meet you in the field (except Sunday to Wednesday). It would also be possible to combine this with the inspection of cpt 434 of Yambulla SF as they are reasonably close to each other.

Thank you for your time investigating these breaches and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

Scott Daines.