

2004 Tumut Softwood Project

Australian Forestry Management Pty Limited (AFM)



Forests NSW Annual Report

Financial Year 2009-2010

Legal Context

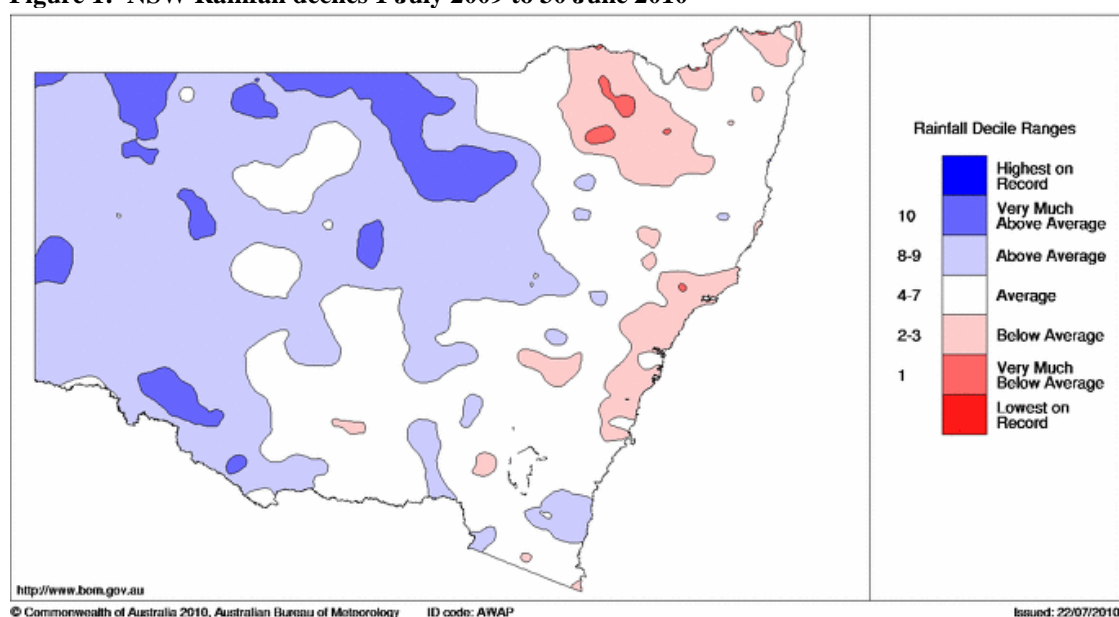
This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 Part 3(h) of the Forestry Management Contract between Australian Forestry Management Pty Limited and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales (Forests NSW) for the 2004 Softwood Project.

Overview

The plantations at Dr Vance and The Valley are in good condition and are generally performing well.

Rainfall has been near average during the reporting period between winter 2009 and winter 2010. Total rainfall at Tumbarumba from July 09 to June 10 was 887mm compared to the long term average of 981mm. Total rainfall for Yass from July 09 to June 10 was 721mm compared to the long term average of 590mm.

Figure 1: NSW Rainfall deciles 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010



The main management issue during the year was a wild fire, started by lightening in The Valley, which destroyed 9 ha of stocked plantation. This occurred in January 2010.

Stand Condition

The Dr Vance plantation is in good condition with good growth being achieved during the reporting period.

The Valley property also has good growth of trees planted in 2005 and restocked trees planted in 2006. These areas account for the major portion of the property. Areas that were subject to post drought restocking in 2007 are in good condition but notably smaller compared to trees planted in 2005 and 2006.

Stocking is acceptable in the majority of both properties.

Dr Vance (2005 Age Class) showing general tree growth and condition - August 2010.



Pest and Disease Information

Localised areas of pest damage were noted during the report period, including some stem damage. Brumbies and straying livestock have been a contributing factor.

Efforts to control pest animals have continued through the reporting period. This included rabbit control and feral pig trapping or poisoning and removal of stray livestock from the plantation.

Activities Undertaken

Grazing in parts of The Valley continued in 2009-10 and has been effective in reducing grass fuel levels and associated fire hazards during the summer.

Pest animal control has occurred during the reporting period.

Fire trail and road maintenance and noxious weed control has also been undertaken.

Fire Incidents

No fire incidents occurred close to the Dr Vance plantations.

On January 27 2010 a fire started from a lightning strike in Compartment 2004 of The Valley property. FNSW were in the vicinity undertaking road maintenance work, however as the fire was located on a steep rocky slope direct control of the fire was not able to be achieved. Nine ha of stocked plantation was destroyed by the fire. Details of this incident have been separately reported to Agriwealth. The NSW Rural Fire Service incident number for this fire is 10012730176.

The Valley fire – burnt area



Other Management Issues

Nil

Planned Activities for 2010/2011

- Replanting of area burnt by wildfire
- Introduction of additional grazing into suitable areas to reduce grass fire hazard
- Pest animal control
- Blackberry spraying
- Maintenance of tracks and access roads
- Fire risk reduction works and surveillance

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