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Science project 2006-1 Monitoring post-fire effects from the 2001 Nuyts wildfire

Progress Report

title and summary

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Report Status

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Planning -	

Science Project Overview

Part	Checklist Last Updated
Part A - Summary & Approval	bla

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Context Summary

Understanding the effects of different fire regimes is important for developing and implementing ecologically appropriate fire regimes and for managing fire for the protection of life and property. This study was established to take advantage of the opportunity presented by an unplanned fire that was ignited by lightning in March 2001 following an extended period of below-average rainfall.

Aims Summary

Monitor the impact of severe bushfire on plants, invertebrates, vertebrate fauna and stand structure in karri/tingle forest.

Progress

A manuscript reporting on recovery of overstorey and mid-storey trees and eucalypt regeneration has been submitted to journal and is being revised following peer review.

Management implications

- This study contributes to the development of ecologically appropriate fire regimes for tall forests in southern Western Australia. Results to date indicate that long-term fire exclusion can result in very severe fire impacts on many components of the forest ecosystem and that large-scale, high-intensity bushfires can have undesirable ecological outcomes, including simplification of plant population structure and depletion of seed banks.
- Information provided by this project is being used to plan the reintroduction of prescribed fire into the area burnt by the 2001 bushfire.

Future directions

- Revised manuscript on tree recovery and seedling regeneration to be submitted for publication.
- Bird survey data will be written up as a short communication.