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Science project 2012-29 Long term response of Jarrah forest understorey and tree health to fire regimes

Progress Report

title and summary

Version created on Aug. 4, 2014, 1:58 p.m.

Last Modified on by

Report Status

Status	Last Updated
Planning -	

Science Project Overview

Part	Checklist Last Updated
Part A - Summary & Approval	bla

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Context Summary

This study is a long term strategic research project to better understand the effects of fire regimes, including prescribed fire, on the floristic composition of jarrah forests. This knowledge is important for developing and implementing ecologically appropriate fire regimes and for managing fire to reduce risk to the community, biodiversity and other environmental values.

Aims Summary

- Understand and quantify the long-term effects of various fire regimes on the floristic composition of jarrah forests.
- Determine the long-term effects of various fire regimes on tree health and growth rate.

Progress

- Floristic assessments have been completed at all sites.
- Tree measurments were completed at the McCorkhill site.
- Data are being prepared for analysis and write-up.
- Burn treatments have been implemented according to schedule, with autumn burning undertaken at Perup in April 2014.

Management implications

Tree growth data show that fire treatments have had no signifcant effect on tree mortality and growth. Further data analysis is required to assess the long term effects of fire on floristic composition and richness.

Future directions

- Continue fire treatments - the value of this project is that it is designed as a long-term investigation of fire regimes.
- Prepare, analyse and report on data collected since 1986, and prepare a scientific paper for publication.