



Gordonvale World Heritage Area Reserve

Management Plan



2015 – 2020

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Front Image: Gordonvale and the Vale of Rasselas landscape © Grant Dixon

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Reserve Management Framework

Adaptive Management

The TLC aims to demonstrate excellence in adaptive management for nature conservation and has adopted the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation*, which is an international system of adaptive management developed by the Conservation Measures Partnership (<http://cmp-openstandards.org>). The *Open Standards* provides a guide to planning and implementing conservation actions and incorporates a model of adaptive management as shown in Figure 1.

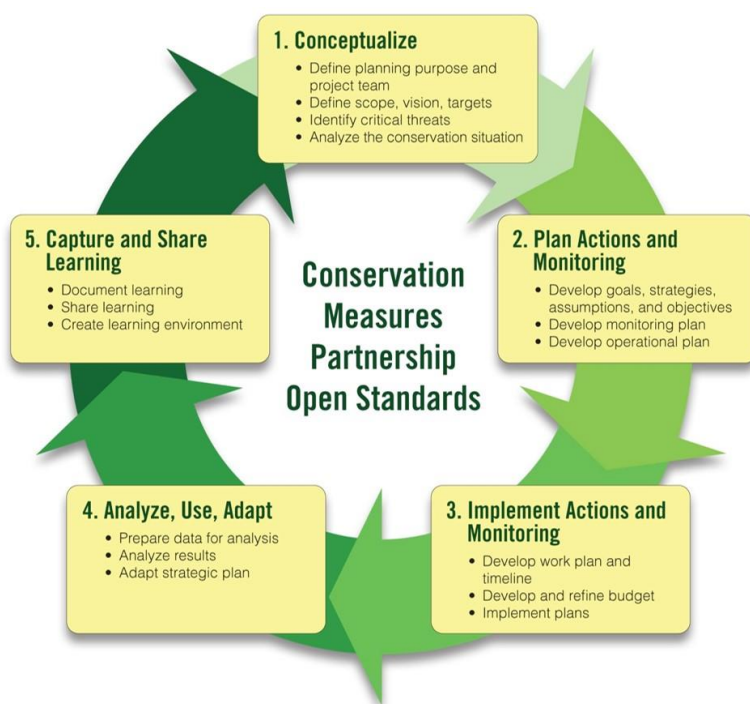


Figure 1 Open Standards adaptive management model

Conservation Action Planning

This management plan represents the outcomes of the first and second stages of Conservation Action Planning, using the *Open Standards* adaptive management model, plus it also includes the first year's work plan. Conservation targets have been selected that describe broad ecosystem classes or habitat types, often with nested targets that are dependent upon the protection of the primary target. Ecological indicators are selected for each target and used to monitor changes in their condition. Threats to each of the targets are then identified, along with the factors that contribute to the threats, and these are prioritised depending on the extent, likelihood and severity of the impact of these threats to the conservation targets. Strategies to manage these threats are developed, with consideration given to their environmental, social and economic feasibility of each strategy.

Implementation of Management Strategies

Strategies to mitigate the threats to conservation targets are assessed for their feasibility and prioritised based on a combination of factors. These include likelihood and extent of mitigating the threat, the resources required and the resources available to implement the strategy.

Five-year work plans are developed to implement the management strategies and to record the specific activities to be undertaken, their timing and the resources required. Work plans also allocate budgets, allowing the TLC to plan ahead to ensure appropriate capacity to deliver reserve management activities.

Ecological parameters are also considered when scheduling works, to ensure that projects are undertaken when they are most likely to succeed. Progress against activities in the work plan is reviewed annually.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The TLC implements a monitoring and evaluation strategy across all of its permanent reserves. Monitoring of specific ecological indicators enables the collection of scientifically robust information on the status and trends of the conservation targets. Measuring the success of management actions is also critical for ensuring successful long-term management of the targets. A monitoring and evaluation plan is prepared for each reserve; this plan has four types of monitoring conducted at intervals from 1 to 5 years:

- **Long-term ecological monitoring** establishes a baseline measure of ecological indicators and subsequently provides an early warning of deleterious changes in the conservation targets. The results of this monitoring allow reserve managers to develop mitigation measures and reduce future costs of remedial management.
- **Annual reserve assessments** are undertaken once per year by TLC reserve management staff across all permanent reserves to identify any new or emerging threats that have the potential to reduce the viability of the targets. Early identification of threats allows early management interventions to mitigate a threat.
- **Management effectiveness evaluation** provides land managers with information that is essential to determine the adequacy of management efforts. Data are collected on management inputs and biodiversity outputs, using indicators specific to measuring the success of management strategies. This information is then used by TLC reserve managers to make more-informed decisions on land management, measure progress towards performance objectives and determine the effectiveness of management strategies.
- **Change detection analysis** using remote sensing GIS data, is undertaken to assess the impact of management strategies on vegetation cover and changes in surrounding land cover that could indicate any 'leakage' – shifting of threatening process from a reserve to surrounding areas. Where this is identified, the TLC works with neighbouring landholders to develop local or regional mitigation strategies.

Reporting and adapting

The results obtained from the monitoring program are used to adapt and direct on-ground works programs and update annual work plans and reserve management plans. The status of conservation targets, trends in ecological indicators and outcomes of reserve management activities are communicated to the TLC Board and TLCs Science Council, stakeholders and the community through a range of regular communication channels including an annual report.

Gordonvale WHA Reserve Management overview

VISION	The Gordonvale WHA Reserve is managed for its natural, ecosystem, wilderness and cultural values.
CONSERVATION TARGETS	GOALS
Native Ecosystems	Maintain or improve the condition of native ecosystems on the reserve
SOCIAL TARGETS	GOALS
Cultural Heritage Values	Cultural heritage values of Ernie Bond's settlement are retained
Wilderness Values	No change to the wilderness character of the region caused from within the Reserve
Community Connection with the Landscape	Community connection with the reserve and region is maintained or enhanced
STRATEGIES	OBJECTIVES
Build Resilience to Climate Change	Conservation targets are more resilient to threats
Fire Management	No unauthorised fires start on the reserve
Weeds and Disease Management	Existing weeds eradicated by 2017 and any new outbreaks addressed in a timely manner
Community appreciation	Enhanced community appreciation of the cultural and wilderness values of the reserve and region
Cultural Heritage Preservation	Ernie Bond's legacy preserved
Development Guidelines	Any development on Gordonvale is consistent with the TWWHA management objective
Neighbour Relations	Effective communications maintained with neighbours
KEY ACTIONS	MONITORING ACTIVITIES
Climate change effects are considered	Condition of conservation targets
Promote conditions of access	Visitor feedback
Promote fuel stove only	Fire incidents
Maintain neighbour communications	None identified
Control weeds	Annual reserve assessment
Provide reserve information	Visitor feedback
Protect cultural heritage	Cultural preservation strategy in place
Maintain community engagement	Communication events

Introduction

TLCs Gordonvale WHA Reserve is 80.87 hectare in size and located in a remote southwest Tasmania (Fig 2) completely surrounded by the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, which is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). It is one of only a few private properties included in the TWWHA and has World Heritage Area (WHA) status. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention objective is to identify, protect, conserve, present and, where appropriate, rehabilitate the natural and cultural values, and to transmit that heritage to future generations in as good or better condition than at present (Parks and Wildlife Service 1999).

Gordonvale is nestled in a large glacial valley known as the Vale of Rasselas, traditional home territory of Tasmania’s Aboriginal Pangerninghe clan of the Big River nation. It boasts spectacular scenery, including the peaks of Great Dome and Wylde’s Craig and forms part of a wide landscape of undulating buttongrass plains, riparian vegetation, scrub and forest which are home to many of Tasmania’s distinctive wildlife. Gordonvale is also known to many bushwalkers, both past and present, as the iconic home of a legendary Tasmanian pioneer, Ernie Bond.

This management plan is supported by a more comprehensive background document about the reserve, its acquisition and its special values (Tasmanian Land Conservancy 2015).

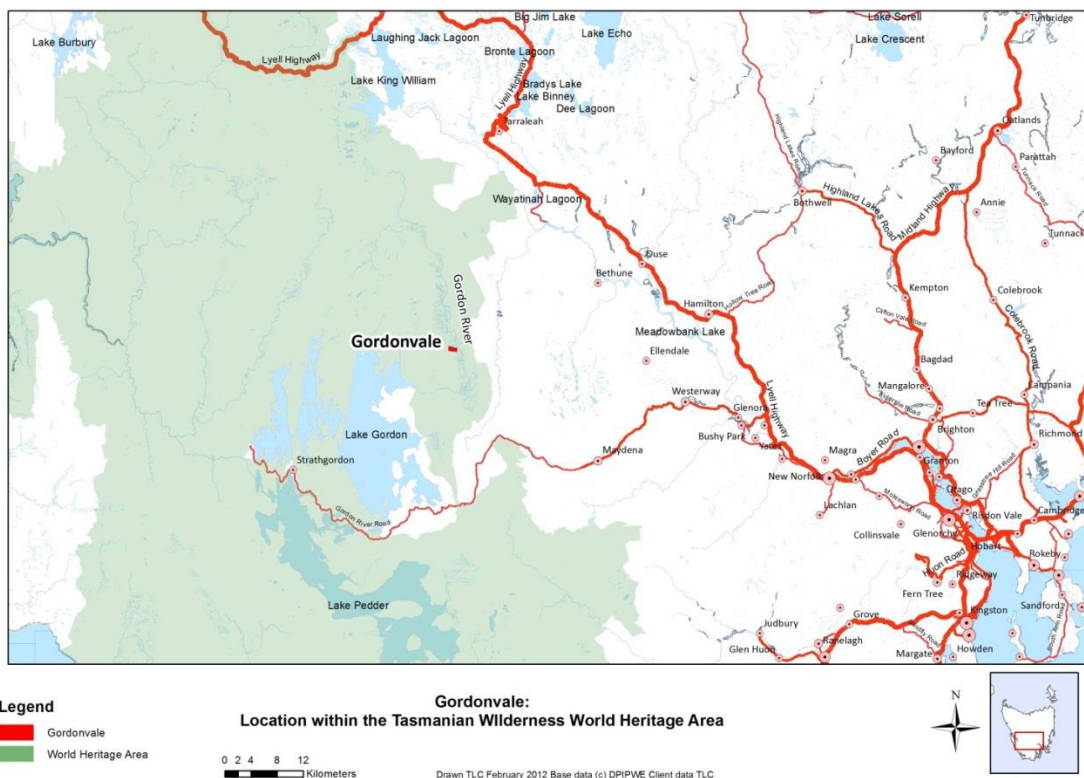


Figure 2 Location of Gordonvale Reserve within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Conservation Target

Native Ecosystems

Priority: Medium

Goal: Maintain or improve the condition of native ecosystems on the reserve.

Four TasVeg communities occur on the Gordonvale WHA Reserve (Table 1, Figure 3). *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forest over rainforest dominated by old-growth White-topped stringy, occupies a fire-protected, south-facing slope and the riparian zone along a small creek that crosses the property. It also contains a small area of disturbed land (FRG) holds the remnants of Ernie Bond’s settlement which is gradually reverting back to its natural state. *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over Leptospermum (WNL) occupies much of the property and is in excellent condition, with high species richness, no weeds and complex vegetation structure.

Buttongrass moorlands with emergent shrubs are widespread on Gordonvale and form part of a vast extensive moorland system in very wet situations with poor drainage on nutrient poor rock types such as quartzite. The dominant plant species in this vegetation community is *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus* with diverse emergent shrubs such as *Melaleuca squamea*, *Baekkea gunniana*, *Oxylobium ellipticum* and *Richea procera* and a variety of sedges and herbs occur in inter-tussock spaces.

Viability

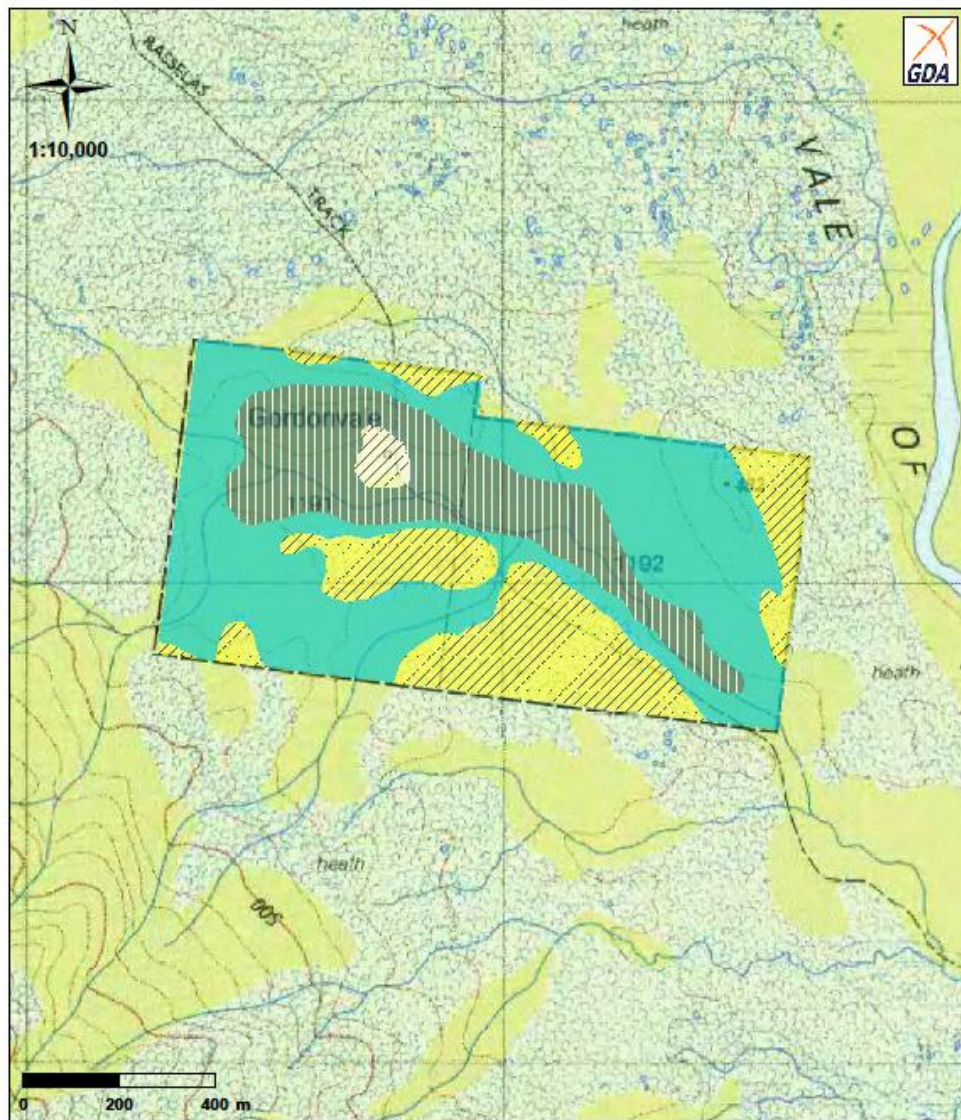
Key Environmental Attribute	Indicator
Vegetation condition	Floristic diversity
	Structural complexity
	Weed occurrence

The viability of the target has been rated as very good, based on the integrity of the surrounding landscape and minimal footprint of Ernie Bond’s settlement. The trends of the ecological indicators will be quantified over time.

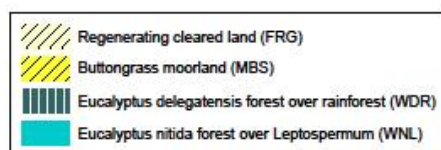
Table 1 Vegetation communities on the Gordonvale WHA Reserve

Vegetation community	TASVEG code	Status *	Area (ha)
<i>Eucalyptus delegatensis</i> forest over rainforest	WDR	Not listed	16.4
Buttongrass moorland with emergent shrubs	MBS	Not listed	20.8
<i>Eucalyptus nitida</i> forest over leptospermum	WNL	Not listed	40.3
Regenerating cleared land	FRG	Not listed	3.0
Total area (hectares)			80.5

No threatened flora or fauna species are known to occur on the reserve (Table 2); however, a number of rare plants i.e. toothed *oritites* and grooved cheeseberry occur within 5 kms of the reserve and habitat for the Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll and wedge-tailed eagle is widespread in the area. One of the natural features of Gordonvale is the myriad of small pools in the buttongrass moorlands and these potentially contain species like mountain shrimp and the rare Hickman’s pygmy mountain shrimp. Other notable species such as ground parrot occur in the wider area and the endemic scrub tit was observed foraging in tree ferns along creek lines of the reserve in September 2012. The introduced superb lyrebird was also heard calling nearby.



Gordonvale - Vegetation (TASVEG)



Map produced by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy - 31/08/2012

Figure 3 TASVEG Vegetation communities on Gordonvale WHA Reserve

Threats and management

The 2009 State of the Environment Report notes that in the past decade or so there has been increase in both significant fire weather days in Tasmania and in fires started by lightning. These trends are expected to increase as climate change intensifies. For a remote and undefendable location like Gordonvale, wildfire, arising from either natural or manmade escape, could see the entire property burnt, with particular impacts on fire sensitive vegetation like rainforest species in gullies and wet areas.

There are a few thistle infestations that have the potential to spread and to compete with native plant species for resources. Rhododendron plants – regarded as heritage at Gordonvale – has been unable to set viable seeds as the honey-bee and all native pollinators are incapable of pollinating the flowers. However, the bumblebee is now spreading across much of Tasmania and is capable of pollinating this plant. Careful mapping of existing plants will be required to note any spread, and if this occurs, then a revision of their management as heritage may be warranted.

The spread of *Phytophthora* into this area could potentially threaten sensitive moorland plant species.

Table 2 Threats to the native ecosystems and their management responses

Threat	Impact	Threat rating	Management strategy
Inappropriate fire	Loss of fire sensitive species and ecosystems	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire management• Visitor management• Neighbour relations
Weeds and disease	Spread into unaffected areas	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weed and disease management• Visitor management
Climate change	Loss of species at risk e.g. rainforest	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build resilience in conservation targets

Table 3 Threatened species which may occur on the reserve based on the presence of suitable habitat

Threatened Species	TSPA /EPBCA	Type of NVA record	Comments
Flora			
toothed orites (<i>Orites milliganii</i>)	r/-	NVA record 5km	Suitable habitat occurs on property - heathy margins of the forest
grooved cheeseberry (<i>Planocarpa sulcata</i>)	r/-	NVA record 5km	Suitable habitat occurs on property - heathy margins of the forest
Fauna			
wedge-tailed eagle (<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>)	e/EN	Suitable habitat	Wide ranging species – areas of old-growth forest on the property provide suitable nesting habitat
Tasmanian devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisi</i>)	e/EN	Suitable habitat	Wide ranging species, likely to be in the general area
spotted-tailed quoll (<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>)	r/VU	Suitable habitat	Wide ranging species, likely to be in the general area

TSPA – *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*,

EPBCA – *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Social Targets

Cultural Heritage Values

Priority: Medium

Goal: Cultural heritage values of Ernie Bond's settlement are retained

Gordonvale was the outpost home of the legendary pioneer Ernie Bond, who purchased the property in 1934. Ernie built his house and outbuildings and during his 18 years there lived a fairly solitary self-sufficient life with few companions other than his dog, livestock and native wildlife. His reputation for hospitality and kindness became legendary to all who passed his way reflecting the spirit of a true pioneer in the wilderness. 'Gordonvale' is registered on the Tasmanian Historic Archaeological Sites Catalogue (THASC 8112-009) with a heritage listing on the dwellings, garden, and exotic vegetation, camping area, pits and farm implements. Some of the structures were still standing in the 1980s but have subsequently fallen to ruin with few remains other than fragments of post and rail fencing, farming implements, dwelling foundations, some garden plants and decaying felled timber. Documenting, and where appropriate, protecting these cultural remnants is an important component of retaining Ernie Bond's legacy.

Viability

Indicators and their status are yet to be developed. However, status is suspected as poor due to continuing decay and loss of cultural remnants.

Threats and management

Threats to this target are natural and induced loss and decay of infrastructure remnants. Past lack of management and capacity to undertake protective and restorative works has resulted in their current state of disrepair. The TLC will need to gain better site knowledge and expert cultural heritage advice to address any need for restoration and protection. Spring bulbs and exotic plants within Ernie Bond's garden should be retained for cultural reasons but not allowed to spread beyond this precinct.

Threat	Impact	Threat rating	Management strategy
Vandalism	Site disturbance and loss of values or structures	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community engagement• Visitor management
Natural decay	Continued deterioration and loss of cultural heritage values	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural heritage strategy

Wilderness value

Priority: High

Goal: No change to the wilderness character of the region caused from within the Reserve.

The concept of wilderness has been questioned (Reynolds 2015) as it may belittle the history of aboriginal occupation of the landscape. In the context of Ernie Bond's settlement at Gordonvale, the concept becomes even more questionable. Nevertheless, the Gordonvale WHA Reserve is surrounded by the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, is within the TWWHA and is designated as having WHA status: its world heritage context and its wilderness values are therefore significant.

Gordonvale is unusual as a private land parcel within the TWWHA – less than a dozen such parcels exist – and it must be expected that pressure to use these parcels for enhanced access to the TWWHA and for embedded experience of the wilderness values will increase over time. The TLC will need to assess its position to this, as it seeks to balance people's appreciation of and connection to the landscape with its cultural, natural and wilderness values.

Although this management plan only applies to the 80ha Gordonvale WHA Reserve, the area needs to be managed in sympathy with the wilderness values of the wider region.

Viability

Indicators for wilderness values and their status are yet to be developed. However, the viability is assumed to be high due to the landscape context and its untrammelled nature.

Threats and management

The key threats to loss of wilderness values are inappropriate development, disturbance caused by careless or uninformed visitation and degradation of site values from weeds, pests or disease.

Threat	Impact	Threat rating	Management strategy
Inappropriate development	Loss of wilderness character, compromise of remoteness	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development Guidelines
Careless, uninformed visitation	Site disturbance	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community engagement• Visitor management
Weed, pest invasion	Loss of wilderness character.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitor management• Weed and disease management

Community Connection with the Landscape

Priority: Low

Goal: Community connection with the reserve and region is maintained or enhanced.

The TLC encourages connection to the landscape as an end in itself, and to ensure that reserve networks are valued and supported in the community. Access to this reserve and the ability to use it as a base to further explore the region is a goal for all of our reserves, and for reserves generally.

The remoteness and isolation of this region has long attracted recreational users who over generations have fostered a sense of community and attachment. Members of the bushwalking community hold valuable knowledge about the cultural and conservation values of the Gordonvale WHA Reserve and may be able help the TLC with management. Providing opportunities for interested parties to remain engaged or to contribute will help protect the reserve and well as the wider WHA landscape.

The cultural history of this reserve and the wilderness character of the region is important to the bushwalking community and the people of Tasmania more widely. The TLC seeks to provide access to this reserve while not compromising these values, and seeks to ensure effective communications to achieve this.

Viability

Key Attribute	Indicator
Community involvement	Number of engagements promoting or improving conservation or cultural protection of Gordonvale

Threats and management

There are no real threats to community connection to the landscape apart from the lack and loss of knowledge and inability of the community to access this knowledge, either in person or via remote means.

Threat	Impact	Threat rating	Management strategy
Loss of knowledge	Lost opportunities to better understand and manage the reserve	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community engagement

Management Strategies

Build Resilience to Climate Change

Priority: Low

Objective: Conservation targets are more resilient to threats

Climate change is pervasive, global in impacts and unmanageable at a local level. The TLC recognises its responsibility to try and address climate change and takes several general approaches to this as it:

- Seeks to enhance the carbon carrying capacity of its reserves
- Participates in carbon markets and seeks to develop more options for payment for ecosystem services
- Seeks to develop resilience in reserve’s ecosystems and species
- Seeks to understand and aid adaption pathways for ecological targets.

Key actions to implement most of these approaches lies outside of each reserve, however implementation of other reserve strategies such as fire, weed, and disease management will help increase the resilience of conservation targets to threats.

A recent review has identified climate change’s potential impact on the fauna values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Mallick 2013). Changes in climate will affect most conservation targets in the Gordonvale WHA Reserve, particularly buttongrass moorlands and any associated restricted fauna species.

Long-term monitoring on the reserve is essential to identify any change in extent or condition of conservation targets and when remedial recovery actions are needed.

Key Monitoring Activities	Details
Condition of conservation targets	Install and maintain long-term ecological monitoring of conservation targets to inform management and trigger intervention if needed.

Fire Management

Priority: Low

Objectives: No unauthorised fires start on the reserve

TLC recognises the threat posed by unplanned fires to human life and the environment but acknowledges the difficulty of responding to fire in this remote location. The TLC will implement the restrictions of a 'fuel stove only' policy which will be identified by signage and associated material including the closure of TLCs reserves during days of total fire ban. The TLC will work with Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tasmania Fire Service in the event of a bushfire in this area and keep up to date with any changes to fire policy, any fire restrictions or management burns being undertaken in the wider region.

Monitoring indicator	Details
Fire incidents	Map bushfire boundaries. Record unauthorised campfires.

Weed and Disease Management

Priority: Medium

Objective: Existing weeds are eradicated by 2017 and any new outbreaks are addressed in a timely manner

Small infestations of Californian thistle have been identified on-site as well as spring bulbs and rhododendrons associated with Ernie Bond's settlement. *Phytophthora* has not been identified at Gordonvale therefore the reserve and the wider surrounding area have been identified as a *Phytophthora* management zone by the PWS in the TWWHA plan to ensure this root rot fungus does not reach the area. No other invasive pests, weeds or diseases are known on the reserve at this time.

The aim of this strategy is to eradicate existing infestations of Californian thistle on the reserve by 2017 and recommend biosecurity procedures to prevent or minimise the infestation of any new pest, weed or diseases in the future. Annual monitoring as part of the annual reserve assessment will ensure that any follow-up control can be undertaken.

The exotic plant species associated with Ernie Bond's settlement (e.g. spring bulbs and Rhododendron etc.) will be conserved for heritage purposes but their current distribution will be mapped and monitored to ensure they do not spread beyond this precinct.

TLC entry signs and web information will inform visitors about entering sensitive areas and of dirt carrying disease such as *Phytophthora*, or weed seeds and not to transfer soil or water across the reserve.

Monitoring indicator	Details
Weed and 'heritage' exotic plant extents	Map and record weed control works and 'heritage' exotic plants distribution. Scout for new weeds during the annual reserve assessment

Community engagement

Priority: Low

Objective: Enhanced community appreciation of the cultural and wilderness values of the reserve and region

The TLC encourages visitation at its reserves but recognises the remoteness of Gordonvale, its wilderness setting and the designated 'self-reliant recreation' zoning in the TWWHA Management Plan (Parks and Wildlife Service 1999). The TLC recognises that foot access to Gordonvale involves crossing the Franklin – Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and that many visitors may be on-route to Lake Rhona with Gordonvale as a temporary stopover site.

Bushwalkers retain a special connection with the Gordonvale area and its past history and the TLC aims to continue to foster this relationship and sense of place. Where possible the TLC will enlist the help of the bushwalking community to assist with reserve activities such as assessment and monitoring, weed mapping and preservation of the Ernie Bond legacy.

Visitors are encouraged to appreciate and enjoy the cultural and wilderness values of the reserve and its region, and act in an appropriate manner to retain these values.

This means that visitors need to be aware of

- reserve entry conditions,
- biosecurity protocols including awareness of dirt carrying disease such as Phytophthora, weed seeds
- not to transfer soil or water across the reserve
- conditions such as fuel stove only, no pets, no disturbance to flora or fauna or cultural objects.

This information will be provided on entry signs and via other TLC communication channels.

Monitoring indicator	Details
Visitor numbers	Document the number of people who visit the Reserve as a result of TLC engagement activities
Community events and communications	Document TLC events and communications with supporters and the wider community (via newsletter, website and other media)

Cultural Heritage Preservation

Priority: Medium

Objective: Ernie Bond's legacy is preserved

The legacy of Ernie Bond and his settlement at Gordonvale has been documented in various sources but the settlement physically has deteriorated to scattered remnants of huts, tracks, fences and farming implements which will continue to disappear over time. Community knowledge and a willingness to be involved with oral or physical preservation are essential if we are to retain any of these last fragments. A preservation strategy is needed on how best to proceed with undertaking this, however, in the immediate term the existing remnants of Ernie Bonds settlement will not be disturbed and the current distribution of the spring bulbs and Rhododendron will be mapped to ensure they do not spread beyond their former precinct.

Monitoring indicator	Details
Cultural heritage condition	Assess the condition of cultural remnants and garden plants during annual reserve assessments

Development Guidelines

Priority: Low

Objective: Any development on Gordonvale is consistent with the TWWHA management objective

The TLC recognises the importance of ensuring the Gordonvale WHA Reserve remains an integral part of the TWWHA landscape. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan (PWS 1999) specifies a system of zoning that defines the levels of development and management input that apply around Gordonvale. This management plan is currently being reviewed. Much of the Vale of Rasselas and the eastern slopes of the Denison Range currently lie within a Self-reliant Recreation Zone and recognised as Wilderness. Development guidelines for this reserve need to ensure consistency with the surrounding WHA landscape.

The TWWHA (1999) management objective for the Self-reliant Recreation Zone is:

- To retain a challenging and relatively unmodified natural setting that suitably experienced and equipped people can use for recreation purposes. (TWWHAMP p 58)

The management prescriptions for this zone include:

- Provide minimal management input, and then only for environmental protection, monitoring and essential safety purposes;
- Allow sustainable recreational use, however provide new facilities only for the protection of values;

The management objectives for the Wilderness Zone are:

- To allow natural processes to operate with minimal interference;
- To retain a challenging unmodified natural setting that suitably experienced and equipped people can visit for wilderness recreation and scientific purposes; and,
- To use wilderness as a primary means of managing, protecting and conserving World heritage and other natural and cultural values.

Key Monitoring Activities	Details
None identified	No specific activities required

Neighbour Relations

Priority: Low

Objective: Effective communications maintained with neighbours

Wherever possible existing or new policies or procedures and management actions should be shared and coordinated across neighbouring properties in a strategic way, especially so given the World Heritage Area status of the reserve. The TLC recognises the importance of maintaining good relationships with PWS and other neighbours and will actively seek opportunities for collaboration and development of partnerships in regional land management issues such as access, visitor numbers, weeds and fire management. Neighbouring landholders may also be the holders of important historic and cultural knowledge of the landscape which can assist the TLC in improving protection of culturally sensitive sites at Gordonvale.

Key Monitoring Activities	Details
Collaboration	Number of collaborations/ partnerships, shared activities

Gordonvale WHA Reserve Work Plan 2015-2016

Gordonvale Reserve Work Plan 2015-2016				
Action	Team	When	Work units (days)	Status
Build Resilience to Climate Change				
Install long-term ecological monitoring across key conservation targets on the reserve	SP	FY16	1	Not commenced
Fire Management				
Ensure access information to Gordonvale indicates 'Fuel Stove Only' and visitors are aware TLCs reserves are closed during days of total fire ban.	RM & FCE	FY16		Not commenced
Maintain regular communications with PWS re changes to fire policy, annual fire restrictions or management burns being undertaken, also with Tas Fire on any burns in the wider area	RM	FY15	0.5	Underway
Weeds and Disease Management				
Ensure TLC information informs visitors about entering sensitive areas and of dirt carrying disease such as Phytophthora, or weed seeds and not to transfer soil or water across the reserve.	RM	FY15		Underway
Control Californian thistle with annual follow-up monitoring incorporated into the annual reserve assessment task.	RM	FY15	3	Underway
Neighbour Relations				
Contact neighbours especially Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania, to discuss management issues as they arise and ensure all are kept informed of TLC management and activities onsite.	RM	FY16		Ongoing
Community appreciation				
Foster community engagement by canvassing bushwalking groups through TLC communication channels, e.g. web, newsletter, blog, public events etc. to determine their interest and capacity to assist with management actions. Seek feedback from visitors.	FCE	FY16		Not commenced
Develop Gordonvale sign signalling community involvement.	RM	FY15		Completed
Install Gordonvale sign at key access location	RM	FY15		Completed

Develop reserve visitation brochure containing relevant biosecurity and track information. Make this information easily and widely accessible.	SP & FCE	FY15		Underway
Ensure entry information informs visitors about the natural and cultural values, conditions of entry, TLC policies and management objectives.	SP & FCE	FY15		Underway
Seek feedback from visitors to the reserve on aspects such as reserve condition, status of track, cultural heritage objects, visitor experience, etc.	RM	FY16		Not commenced
Ensure reserve information is easily and widely accessible, including for eg at the PWS walker registration booth and TLC web site	RM	FY15		Underway
Cultural Heritage Preservation				
Seek funding or volunteer assistance to develop a strategy to preserve Ernie Bond's legacy.	SP	FY16		Not commenced
Map the current distribution of bulbs etc and inspect during annual reserve assessment to ensure no spread.	RM	FY15		Underway
Ensure existing remnants of Ernie Bonds settlement including garden plants are not disturbed until heritage advice is received.	RM	FY16		Not commenced
Development Guidelines				
Review changes to 'wilderness' in the revised TWWHA Management Plan and its implications for this reserve. Team: RM Reserve Management, SP Science & Planning, FCE Fundraising and Community Engagement	SP	FY15		Not commenced

Management Plan Process

Management Plan Status

The final draft Gordonvale WHA Reserve Management Plan was reviewed by the TLCs Science Council before being submitted to the TLC Board for approval. As part of the Open Standards Adaptive Management process, information on progress on conservation management actions, threat abatement and management effectiveness monitoring, will be kept current.

Management Responsibilities

TLCs staff are responsible for undertaking the management of the reserve. This includes the co-ordination of contractors, consultants and volunteers where they are required to implement the management actions outlined in this Management Plan. Relevant experts from the TLC Board and Science Council will also be requested to provide advice and guidance where needed. Wherever possible, the TLC works with neighbours to manage cross-tenure threats. The TLC will endeavour to act as a good neighbour to all parties and, where possible, undertake co-operative or complementary management where both parties seek a similar outcome (e.g. weed control and fire management). The TLC will undertake every endeavour to ensure that management of this reserve does not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area.

Long-term management costs will be met through the TLC Foundation, an endowment fund that seeks to use compounding interest to pay for the costs of the organisation, and by ongoing fundraising or through relevant partnerships and grant opportunities as they become available.

Stakeholder Involvement

The major land management stakeholders to this plan are the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, DPIPW and Forestry Tasmania. The Private Land Conservation Program will monitor the status of the conservation values identified in the covenant. These major stakeholders will be involved with practical implementation of these management actions and any monitoring or adaptive changes needed.

Management Plan Review

This document will guide on-ground management of the reserve over the coming years and be the basis to develop annual work plans and budgets. The plan identifies a range of conservation targets, threats, strategies and strategic actions based on our best current knowledge but these may change over time as our information increases and monitoring can better inform our activities. In implementing the adaptive management process identified by the TLC's Reserve Management Policy, progress towards meeting the objectives of this plan will be reviewed at regular intervals not exceeding every two years. These reviews may lead to amendments to the plan.

A full review of the plan will occur at a time no earlier than five years and no later than ten years from the date of adoption of this plan.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

PWS Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania

TLC Tasmanian Land Conservancy

TWWHA Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Covered by the TWWHA Management Plan 1999

WHA World Heritage Area