

Work Practice LM 6.03

Works in Hawkweed Sites

Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board ('the Board')

1. Scope

This work practice applies to any individual, group of individuals, contractors, sub-contractors, organisations or businesses carrying out works within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort.

2. Definitions

Falls Creek Alpine Resort - the area defined as Falls Creek Alpine Resort under the *Alpine Resorts Act 1983*.

Falls Creek Resort Management - as defined under the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997*.

Hawkweed - refers to the two known species of hawkweed occurring in Falls Creek Alpine Resort, *Pilosella aurantiacum* (orange hawkweed) and *Pilosella piloselloides* (king-devil hawkweed) and any other species of hawkweed that may be found within the Resort.

Hawkweed site - refers to any previous hawkweed records identified on Parks Victoria's database, recent known records not yet included in this database, or physical plants.

Works that impacts on a hawkweed site - work that will disturb or remove soil or vegetation found within 2m of a hawkweed site.

Topsoil - Soil in the top 30cm of the soil profile.

The Resort - the area defined as Falls Creek Alpine Resort.

Works - refers to any action that will impact upon a Hawkweed site.

3. Introduction

Hawkweeds are perennial herbs from the Asteraceae (daisy) family. The scientific name for hawkweeds has recently changed from the genus *Hieracium* to *Pilosella*, however *Hieracium* is still referred to in the legislation. Hawkweed can spread quickly and has had severe negative consequences on environmental and agricultural values in both New Zealand and North America. The entire genus is prohibited entry into Australia by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS), and the genus is listed as a State Prohibited Weed in Victoria.

Three species of hawkweed are known to exist in the Australian Alps, orange hawkweed (*P. aurantiacum*), king devil hawkweed (*P. piloselloides*) and mouse-ear hawkweed (*P. officinarum*). To date, only orange and king devil hawkweed have been found within Falls Creek Resort. The ability to produce large amounts of seed, combined with stoloniferous growth results in rapid vegetative spread and dispersal via wind and animals. As known populations are relatively small it is possible that if appropriate resources are allocated Hawkweeds can be eradicated from the Victorian Alps not too far into the future. Early detection and treatment are essential to achieving this goal of eradication.

All three species are managed under the Falls Creek Hawkweed Eradication Project, which is a partnership between Parks Victoria, the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Falls Creek Resort Management Board.

4. Purpose

This work practice outlines the appropriate management of known hawkweed sites during development or disturbance within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort. The purpose of this work practice is to ensure that the spread of hawkweeds via translocation of contaminated soil, machinery, or the disturbance of living plants or dormant seeds is nullified during developments or works.

Work Practice LM 6.03

Works in Hawkweed Sites

5. Responsibilities

Records of hawkweed sites within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort will be added to the Parks Victoria database. Information on all new sites and alterations to existing sites should be communicated directly to FCRM Land Management who will then contact the Hawkweed control manager at the Parks Victoria Mt. Beauty office.

Identification of new sites at any time is the responsibility of everyone living, working or visiting the resort.

6. Procedures/Practice Guidelines

All works that disturb soil within Falls Creek Alpine Resort must be authorised by the Director Economic Development and Land Management, Falls Creek Resort Management prior to the commencement of works. Falls Creek Resort is effectively a contaminated area for hawkweed. All outside works within the Resort must be assessed for the presence of hawkweed and any soil disturbance within the Resort will be treated as assumed contaminated soil. The method of disturbance and movement of soil must be approved by the Director Economic Development and Land Management prior to works commencing. Hawkweed sites need to be identified during the planning and application phase of projects that require permit applications to be submitted to the Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Information on hawkweed sites and how this works practice applies can be obtained by contacting Falls Creek Resort Management.

All works that occur within the Resort must include this Work Practice in Site Environmental Management Plans (SEMP's) that are submitted to DELWP or if not required under the planning scheme to be discussed with an FCRM representative. Those works that will occur in an area that contains a Hawkweed site must further describe how the works are likely to impact on the known sites within the works area. The protocols to be followed will depend on the type and location of the works. The site foreman must be inducted with the Works in Hawkweed Sites Work Practice prior to works commencing by an FCRM representative. All staff working on site must be inducted by either the site foreman or by a FCRM representative.

If a new Hawkweed plant is found during works then work in this area needs to cease and the FCRM land management team notified immediately for follow up.

When undertaking works in the Resort the following procedures must be followed:

6.1 For works where a Hawkweed site is present but not directly disturbing the known hawkweed site (i.e., no soil disturbance within 2m of a hawkweed site):

- Retain any Hawkweed site markings and avoid disturbance to these areas
- Enable maintained access to the Hawkweed site for regular monitoring. Ensure the hawkweed site is not to be covered by materials/ equipment etc.

6.2 For soil disturbance and removal from anywhere within the Resort: Where soil is to be moved to an alternate location

- Area of soil to be removed and location must be approved by a FCRM representative prior to the works commencing
- Remove soil using either machinery or hand tools and place in transport vehicle. There must be no incidental spreading of soil on the site during removal. When possible, lay out plastic sheeting or a similar impervious material on the bed of the transport vehicle.
- Cover the soil on the transport vehicle with plastic or a similar impervious material to ensure no soil is lost during transportation.

Work Practice LM 6.03

Works in Hawkweed Sites

- Return the transport vehicle to the worksite and follow the equipment hygiene procedure.
- Wash down the plastic or covering material as per the equipment hygiene procedure.
- For large projects that excavate deep into the subsoil, the risk of contaminated Hawkweed soil will be considered as part of the SEMP with individual case-by-case details to be specified regarding the washing down, the staging of soil material and the movement of soil to locations outside of the Resort. Topsoil is to be treated as the highest priority for minimising weed spread.
- If soil is moved off mountain the receiver of the soil should be notified that the soil has come from a Hawkweed contaminated area. After soil is emptied the truck should be washed down following the hygiene procedure below.
- If soil is proposed for use in another location within the Resort, then the risk of Hawkweed spread will be assessed by FCRM and the movement pathway logged by FCRM's Environment Officer.

6.3 For soil disturbance and removal from anywhere within the Resort: Where soil will remain on site

- Ensure PV have clearly marked any known hawkweed plants onsite. Ensure that no material stockpiles, access routes, waste receptacles or equipment storage are placed on or within a two (2) metre radius of a marked hawkweed site.
- Maintain excavated/ disturbed topsoil on site and ensure it is marked and can be accessed by Hawkweed eradication staff, or maintain excavated/ disturbed topsoil on site and bury to a depth of at least 30cm,
- Ensure that access to the site remains open and safe for monitoring by either FCRM or PV staff.

7. Equipment Hygiene

- All vehicles, machinery, equipment and footwear must be washed down with water after working with contaminated soil or working in a known hawkweed site.
- Machinery and tools must be washed down onsite or as soon as reasonably practicable (in some instances FCRM crews may select to transport covered equipment to the triple interceptor washdown bay at the FCRM workshop) immediately after working with contaminated soil or before moving to a different location if they have been accessing a Hawkweed site. Areas to be washed down include all parts of machinery or tools that have come into contact with contaminated soil including machinery and vehicle tyres. The area of washdown should be bunded to prevent seed spread due to water runoff, suitable bunding may include silt bags or silt fencing. All soil and vegetation must be washed from the vehicle.
- Footwear must be washed down prior to leaving a known hawkweed site. Hawkweed sites are marked with orange flags and/or flagging tape.
- Trucks that have transported soil off the mountain should wash down their vehicle at an appropriate washdown bay after emptying loads of soil.

8. Reporting

All works that impact on hawkweed sites must be reported to Parks Victoria and the database updated accordingly.

Work Practice LM 6.03

Works in Hawkweed Sites

9. Monitoring

Sites that have had soil removed during construction will remain on the hawkweed database and will be continued to be monitored as in accordance with the weekly annual monitoring program.

10. Other references and related documents

State of Victoria. 2019. Hawkweed. www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

11. Regular review of this Work Practice

The Board will review this Work Practice where required, to keep up-to-date with changes to laws, government policy, etc.

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