

Hawkweed Eradication Project

Volunteer Newsletter 2024/2025



Season Update

This newsletter has been prepared by the Hawkweed team at Parks Victoria (PV) to provide an update for volunteers interested in the Hawkweed Eradication project at Falls Creek.

This year has seen some changes occur within the Hawkweed Eradication project. The (PV) team have undertaken the implementation of a new spatial data capture system which has streamlined the process of data collection in the field. We also have a new Project Officer, who has been working hard to ensure a high standard of operation. And probably most exciting to volunteers of this program, in consultation with volunteers, steps have been put in place to re-design the Hawkweed volunteer program which will hopefully be implemented next season.



Figure 1. The team at a new site on top of Basalt Hill.

Hawkweed Control Team

This year we had four field staff working from November 12th through to 4th of April. Two of our experienced returning staff members, Greg and Elise, were joined by newcomers Yas and Laura in the search for Hawkweed.



Figure 2. A large patch of Mouse Ear Hawkweed found near Pretty Valley Pondage.



Figure 3. Volunteers braving the cold conditions in search of hawkweed.

Falls Creek Alpine Resort

Falls Creek Alpine Resort (FCAR) Management pitched in again this year in surveying the mountain bike tracks, as well as completing passive survey within the resort. Staff members from FCAR helped for six days during the season.

Contractors

Practical Ecology (PE) returned for another season of HIA monitoring and surveying for new sites. This is their third year of a three-year contract. They spent more time surveying this year than in previous years.



Figure 4. A difficult find of two King Devil hawkweed rosettes hiding in some foliage.

Volunteers

This year three one day volunteer trips were run with a total of seven volunteers attending. During these surveillance days, three news sites were identified. Only three days were run this year due to budget constraints. However, as mentioned above, plans are in place to trial a new model of volunteering for the Hawkweed Eradication Project. The new model will include greater volunteer involvement in the planning and delivery of the volunteer sessions, with support from Parks Victoria staff. The aim is to trial this new model next season.

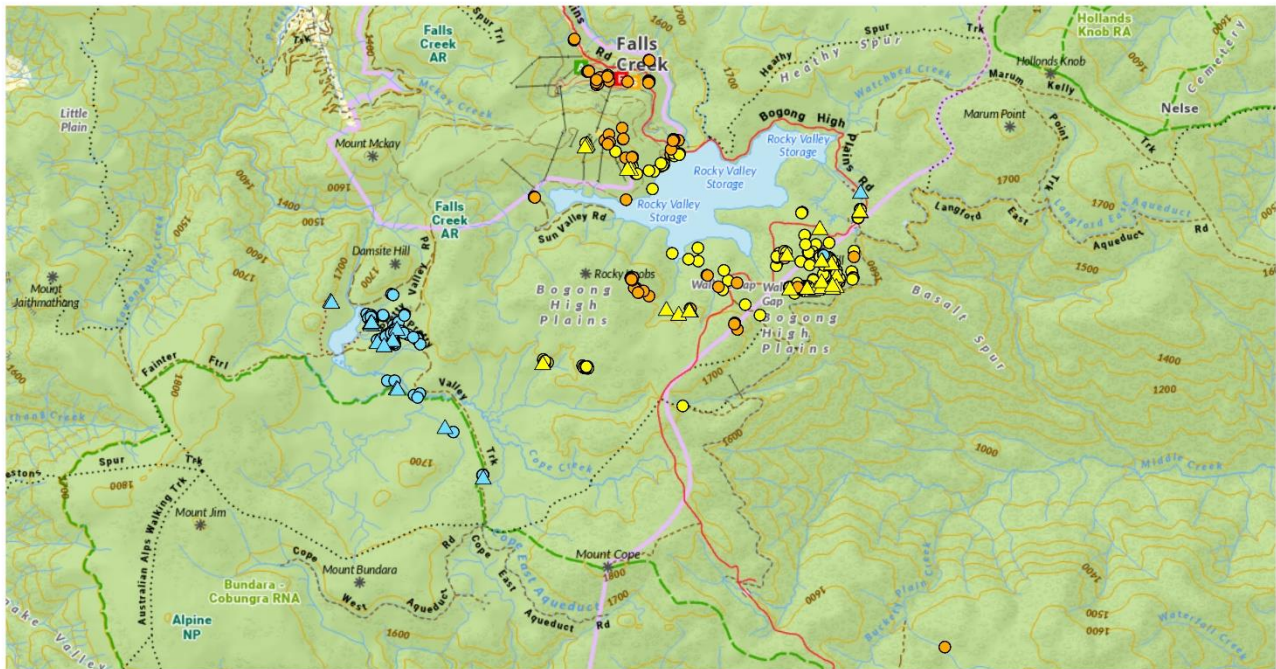


Figure 5. Surveying on a windy day.

New and re-emergent sites

This season 50 new Hawkweed sites were found, 34 King Devil Hawkweed, 16 Mouse-Ear Hawkweed and 0 Orange Hawkweed. Of the previously known and monitored sites, 70 were found to be active. There were 51 King Devil, 14 Mouse-Ear, 5 Orange Hawkweed sites that showed activity.

An interesting new site was an infestation of Mouse Ear Hawkweed that was found on the northwestern side of Pretty Valley Pondage. Before this, there were no known sites of Hawkweed this far west. Surveillance grids on this side of the pondage will follow up on this discovery next year.



New and Previously Known Sites 2024-2025

09/04/2025
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
Projection: Transverse Mercator



Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.
Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action.

Legend

New Sites

- ▲ King Devil
- ▲ Mouse Ear
- ▲ Orange

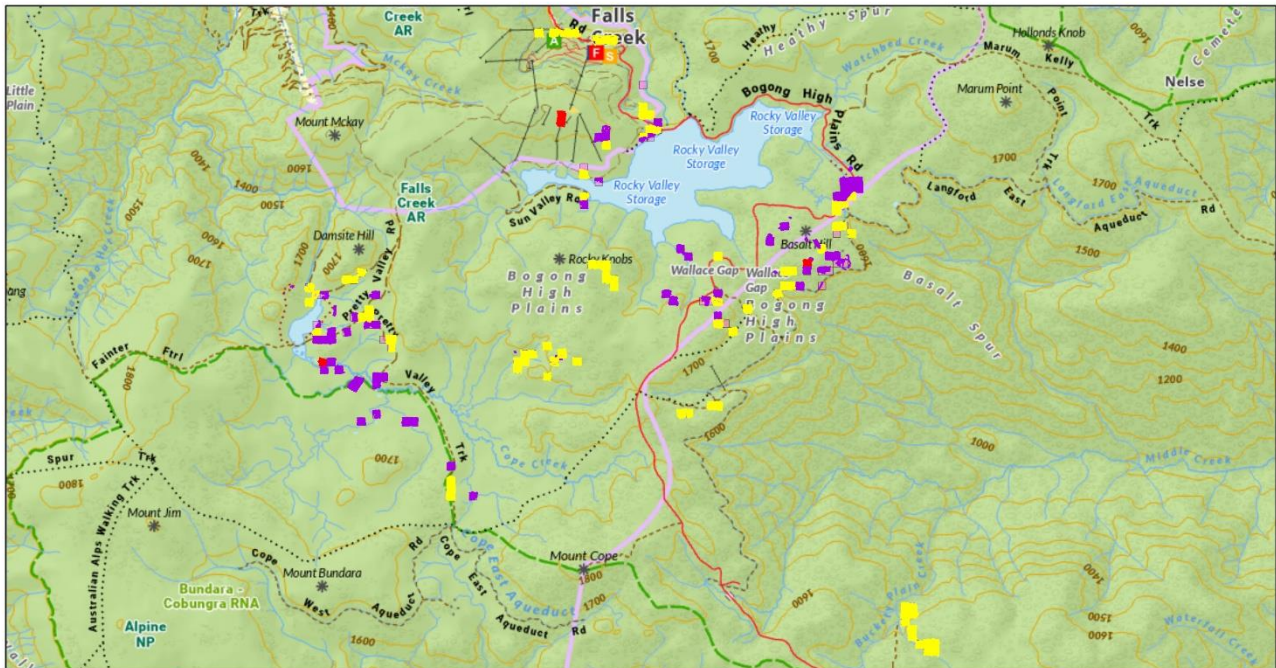
Previously Known Sites

- King Devil
- Mouse Ear
- Orange

Figure 6. Map showing new and previously known sites across the Bogong High Plains.

Surveillance

This year 107 grids were surveyed over 1207 hours. This is an increase in both hectares surveyed and hours surveyed when compared to the average hours spent surveying over the previous five seasons.



Grids Surveyed 2024-2025

09/04/2025
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 VICGRID94
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.
Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action.

Legend

- Parks Victoria
- Practical Ecology
- Volunteers
- Hawkweed Survey Grids 2425

Further Information

This volunteer newsletter has been prepared by the Hawkweed Project Officer to ensure regular up to date communication regarding the 2024/2025 Hawkweed Eradication Project at Bogong High Plains to interested parties.

The content summarises the key issues and outcomes for the period. Should the reader desire additional information please email; Jack Bennie at jack.bennie@parks.vic.gov.au