Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Ecological Thinning Demonstration Site

OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate that selected ecological thinning of a monodominant species like White Cypress Pine can increase patches for other species to regenerate and to increase biodiversity. This site near Corowa NSW, is dominated in patches with White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) regrowth. The ecological thinning will open up spaces and the canopy to allow other species such as Grey Box, Yellow Box and native understorey species to establish and to provide habitat for wildlife. A few control White Cypress Pine trees were also tagged to monitor diameter growth inside & outside the demo site area.

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

The Redlands Hill Reserve is 61ha protected Grassy Woodland public reserve. 1 ha of White Cypress Pine woodland was marked out for the demonstration. The density of trees was on average 21,400 stems per ha. The target for this area is 250 to 300 stems per ha. In the thinned area there is noticeable regeneration of Wedged-leaf Hop Bush, Varnish Wattle and Golden Wattle. It is hoped that the remaining White Cypress Pine will increase their size. Some understorey tubestock was also planted in the reserve.



Tagged White Cypress Pine tree at demonstration site



Tubestock planting in a White Cypress Pine Woodland

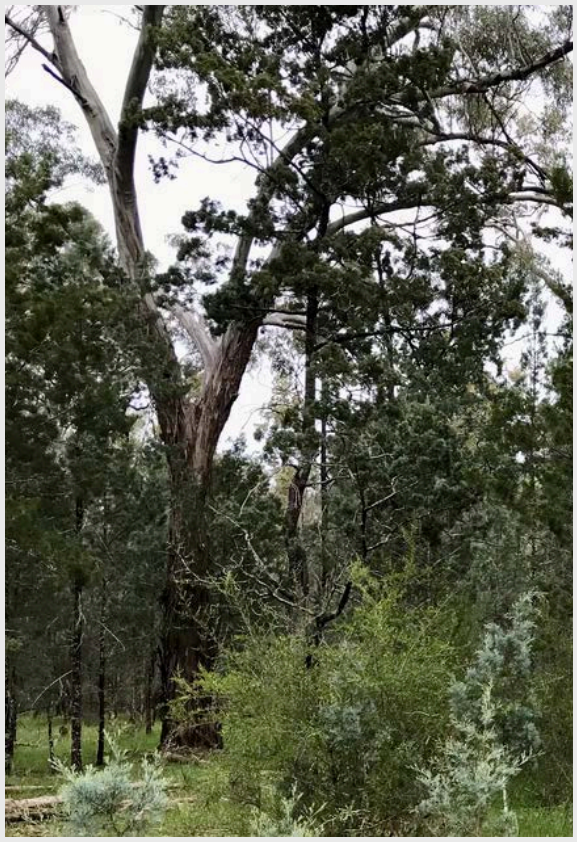
KEY STEPS

- Assess if ecological thinning is needed to increase biodiversity
- Seek advice and any permits needed from your Local Lands Services.
- Only thin out young trees (saplings less than 15 cm diameter) cut these saplings at their base.
- Exclude livestock from thinned area.
- Spray out or remove any weed species
- Monitor any regeneration from other native species

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

SEEK EXPERT ADVICE FIRST

EXCLUDE LIVESTOCK & CONTROL WEEDS



A White Cypress Pine Woodland with a diversity of native species

A LOCAL NETWORK OF DEMONSTRATION SITES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED UTILISING 'BEST PRACTICE' RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE. THIS IS SHOWCASING OF THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC, PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR INCOME STREAMS FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE.

KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- Plan your site well
- Find out if you need permits from NSW government authorities early in your planning stage
- Map out area for ecological thinning & mark saplings to be removed
- If necessary, obtain quotes for fencing and sapling removal costs
- Monitor for weeds & regeneration of natives

COST CONSIDERATIONS

- Fencing site - materials & labour
- Spraying weeds - maintaining site
- Sapling thinning - cutting and removal
- Planting - tubestock and guards

Ecological thinning is the selective removal of individual native trees to improve or maintain the ecological value of an area

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Australian Government | Future Drought Fund | Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated | Holbrook Landcare Network | Corowa District Landcare