

MEGAN BOWDEN

AUSTRALIA, NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE
KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

RANGERS: HOLDING THE THIN GREEN LINE. SERIES ONE

"Reminds me how lucky we are & how dedicated the Rangers in Africa/Congo are. Puts my grizzles in perspective".

After completing a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, various volunteer & temporary jobs with the NPWS, I was successful in gaining a Rangers position based at Kosciuszko National Park (Kosi). Always wanted to be a Ranger or Forester, loved the bush, plants and animals. Always wanted to work at Kosci and got it 1st placement & haven't left.

Kosi is the largest national park in NSW & one of the largest conservation reserves in Australia. The Park was declared in 1944 & is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It contains continental Australia's highest mountains as well as outstanding scenery, glacial landscapes, unusual plants & animals - some found nowhere else. The cultural landscapes of the park are wide-ranging & protects a large number of cultural remains & histories. The snow-fed rivers of the mountains provide some of Australia's most important water catchments. The Park's natural & cultural features attract about 3 million visitor days each year, here to bushwalk, camp, mountain bike, snow & water ski, horse ride & four wheel drive.

As a land manager I am responsible for planning & implementing weed & feral animal control programs, new & redeveloped picnic & camping areas, walking tracks, historic (huts) & aboriginal site conservation, fire suppression & fuel management, search & rescue (summer & on snow).

I have really enjoyed rebuilding/reconstructing 10 huts that were burnt in the 2003 bushfire. Working with staff, volunteers from the Kosi Huts Association & family descendants. Huts ranged from corrugated iron, river stone, weatherboard, split slabs to log cabins using modern & traditional techniques like splitting slabs with a maul & froe. Wild Horse management has been one of the most challenging projects.

In time I hope the thin green line will have more support as people become aware of the dedication/ultimate sacrifice of Rangers in Africa & other countries. Fantastic foundation.



"In 20 years time I would like protected area management supported with more funding/staff & more community involvement/education programs. We are pretty lucky when compared to other countries in the world".



Environment,
Climate Change & Water
National Parks & Wildlife Service



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