

Guide to using Forest Explorer

DSE – Melbourne

FS0095

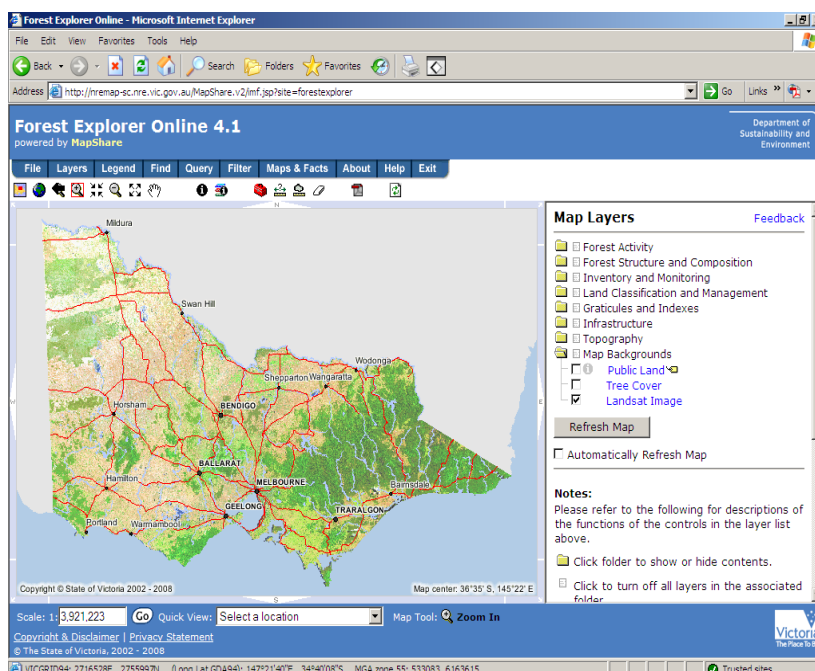
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Background

Forest Explorer Online is an interactive mapping product for viewing online maps of Victoria's forests.

To access Forest Explorer Online visit www.dse.vic.gov.au and click on 'Interactive Maps' and then 'Forest Explorer Online'. Use it to plan your next camping, walking, trail bike, 4WD or fishing trip, or to find out more about who manages public land.

You can click features on and off to view information most useful to you. Once you have the map view you want, you can add text, draw symbols or add labels to personalise your map. Maps you create can be saved as PDF documents for emailing to friends or printed out.



Overview of Key Functions

The following information provides an overview of the key functions of Forest Explorer Online to help you in the use of some of its key features. Mapping tools are activated by clicking the small symbols above the map - when in use a red box surrounds them e.g.

Tabs

File

Opens the File functions menu in the information window. Open and save sessions and other functions.

Layers

The Layers tab contains a list of spatial information that can be displayed on the map. For example layers of Infrastructure such as roads and towns or Forest Activity such as State forest recreation sites and tracks or Topography Layers such as contours and Map Background Layers such as Public Land types.

Map layers are turned on and off by clicking your mouse on the tick boxes (which ticks the box to show the layer is active). If the tick box of the layer is grayed out, then you need to zoom to the correct scale for the layer to appear (you can do this by clicking on the plus symbol **+** next to the layer name).

Ensure you click the **Refresh the map button** to change the information displayed when layers are clicked on or off.


Legend

Shows a legend for the map, explaining the symbols used for each visible layer.

Find

Displays a page with various methods to "zoom" the map to a location matching your search criteria.

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Query	Build an ad-hoc query to do more detailed searches of layers that have queryable attributes.
Filter	Apply a filter to a layer to restrict what features are drawn. Use Clear tool  to remove filter.
Maps & Facts	Some forest layers have professionally designed map products in PDF format available to download. They are ready-to-print A1 size and are either 1:25,000 or 1:50,000. Currently the available map themes include Species & Stand Height (1:25,000), Relative Age (1:50,000), and Eucalypt Group (1:50,000).
About	Display information about the Forest Explorer Online.
Help	View Online Help.
Exit	Close Mapping Window

Buttons and Tools

Buttons initiate immediate action when you press them with the mouse. Clicking a tool sets a mode for the map cursor to perform some action when you click or drag the mouse on the map. The active tool is outlined in red, and its name and icon is displayed on the status bar under the map.



Index map (button)

When you click this button, a small overview map displays that shows the location of the main map window. Depending on the map extent, the overview map may show a rectangle or a pushpin to signify the location. The overview map can be used to stay oriented as you zoom in and out. If you change the map's extent, the overview map will automatically update. You can also change the extent of the map by clicking on the overview map.



Full Extent (button)

This button zooms you to the full extent of the map. The full extent is usually the extent of the map displayed when the viewer is initially launched.



Zoom Previous (button)

When you press this button, the map extent changes to the extent that it was before the last extent change.



Zoom In (tool)

The Zoom In tool allows you to window into an area of interest. To zoom in there are two options:

- "Left mouse click" a point on the map you wish to enlarge. Repeat "left mouse click" to continue enlargement; or
- Draw a red rectangle around an area you wish to enlarge. "Left clicking" on a point and, keeping the mouse button depressed, "pull" the rectangle being formed until it covers the area of interest and release the mouse button.



Zoom 50% (button)

Zoom in to half the current map extent centred on the current map centre.



Zoom Out (tool)

Once activated simply click on the map where you wish to reduce the view or back out from. Repeat as necessary.



Zoom 200% (button)

Zoom out to twice the current map extent centred on the current map centre.



Pan (tool)

The Pan tool is used to move the area shown in the map window to the left, right, up or

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down. This is accomplished in two ways:

Simply click on the map, and the map will be centered at the location you click, or Drag the map by "left clicking" the mouse cursor, keeping the left button depressed, dragging the map window until the adjusted area of interest is displayed. When the mouse button is released, the map will redraw.



Identify (tool)

The identify tool is used to display information about a particular feature within a layer. To use:

- Activate the Identify Tool by clicking the symbol above the map.
- Open the list of layer by clicking
- Activate the desired layer into the identify mode by clicking , once active it will be black . Please note different layers require certain scales for the Identify tool to work, you may need to zoom in
- Click the feature on the map you wish to identify and results will appear on the right hand side of the screen (please note it must be within layer, use the tab to help).



Drill Down Identify (tool)

The drill down identify tool displays information about each visible layer at the map position clicked. Some sites display information about layers that are not visible too. To use, simply click the map and view the results in this window.



Markup Tools (button)

Clicking on this button displays a range of additional tools which can be used to mark up the map with your own information (as detailed below).



Location (tool)

When activated, this tool will display the location coordinates (latitude and longitude) at the point you click on the map.



Markup (tool)

This tool is used to put a marker graphic (a blue star) on the map at the point that you click. You can erase the symbol using the Erase Markup tool or the Clear button.



Line Markup (tool)

This tool is used to add a line graphic to the map joined by the points that you click. You can erase the line using the Erase Markup tool or the Clear button.



Rectangle Markup (tool)

Use this tool to add a rectangle graphic to the map. To draw a rectangle, "left click" the mouse at one corner of your rectangle, then keeping the mouse button depressed, "drag" the rectangle being formed until it covers the area of interest, then release the mouse button. You can erase the rectangle using the Erase Markup tool or the Clear button.



Polygon Markup (tool)

This tool is used to add an area graphic to the map outlined by the points that you click. You can erase the polygon using the Erase Markup tool or the Clear button.





Label Markup (tool)

Adds a label from the feature table of a layer to the map at the point you click. Click on a feature, then select the layer and field name that you would like to use for your label. You can also choose the text color and size. Labels can be removed later using the Erase Markup tool or the Clear button.

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Text Markup (tool)

This tool is used to add your own text to the map. Click the map where you want your text, then a form appears for you to enter the text. When you enter the text and click the OK button, your text will be added. You can erase the text using the  Erase Markup tool or the  Clear button.



Grid Markup (button)

Adds a numbered grid to the visible map. When you click this button, a form opens for you to choose the number of horizontal and vertical sections for your grid. A grid is useful when printing a map to indicate areas to people unfamiliar with the terrain. You can erase the grid using the  Erase Markup tool or the  Clear button.



Erase Markup (tool)

Removes user markup from the map using a point or a box. If you click the map, markup graphics at the point clicked will be removed. You can click and drag instead to create a rectangle to remove the graphics within the rectangle. For some graphics such as points, lines, and text, it is difficult to click exactly on the graphic, so rectangles work best.



Measure (tool)

The Measure tool is used to calculate distances between points that you click on the map. The first time you click the map, the location of the point that you clicked will be displayed in the information area of the screen. When you click additional points, their locations and the distance between the points will also be displayed. If you want to start over, either click on the tool again on the toolbar, or click the "Clear Points" button in the information window.



Measure Area (tool)

The Measure Area tool is used to calculate the area of the polygon that you draw by clicking on the map. As you click the map, a polygon will be drawn and the area of the polygon will be displayed in the information area of the screen. If you want to start over, either click on the tool again on the toolbar, or click the "Clear Points" button in the information window.



Clear (button)

Clears the selected features or markup graphics that you have placed on the map. If there is only one layer with selected features or only the user markup layer, the selection or user graphics will be immediately removed. If there are multiple things to be cleared, a list will be shown to allow you to choose what you want to clear.



Mapshare PDF Map (button)

To create a PDF map (to print or email) simply click the button and enter a title and select a map size appropriate for your printer.



Refresh the map (button)

Refresh the map frame.

For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forests. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on ☎ 136 186 or visit DSE's website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>