

VicForests Special Management Plan (SMP)

Forest Management Area:	Tambo (14)
Forest Management Block:	Mt Alfred (735)
VicForests SMP Number:	VFSMP52
Planned Prepared by:	VicForests Biodiversity Planner
Date:	29 July, 2013

Featured Attributes:

Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*)

VicForests Special Management Plan Area:

- VicForests Reserved Habitat Area (VFRHA): 148.5471 hectares;
- Area Source: Geographic Information System (GIS).

VicForests Special Management Plan Site Description:

The area covered by this Plan is contained completely by State Forest, and is mapped as part of the East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregion. The second order stream associated with the detection sites is located within the Watts Creek catchment (east branch)

Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) mapping indicates that the VFRHA has been designated as either Lowland Herb-rich Forest (48%) or Lowland Forest (52%). Both of these forested EVC's have relatively similar structural characteristics that are dominated by a eucalypt canopy, a conspicuous presence of understorey vegetation (shrubs or medium herbs), and relatively high cover of organic litter (protection and prey source). Each of these forest types could therefore be considered to provide suitable habitat for this particular species.

A review of historical data demonstrates that harvesting disturbance has been confined to a relatively small proportion of the overall VFRHA (27%). All recorded activity was undertaken during the 1990-91 financial year. Harvesting operations completed at this time were conducted using the less intensive Single Tree Selection (STS) silvicultural system.

SFRI data analysis also suggests that the forest fits within a predominately late mature to mature aged stand classification with no significant disturbance events having been recently recorded.

The VicForests SMP overlaps with existing Forest Management Zones (FMZ) within the southern section. These formal conservation reserves have been created for values including EVC protection (Lowland Forest, Lowland Herb-rich Forest and Dry Valleys Forest), and Powerful and Sooty Owls (SPZ-823) and Powerful Owl (SPZ-954 and SMZ-953).

VicForests Special Management Plan Objectives:

- Adequately protect suitable habitat surrounding confirmed Giant Burrowing Frog detection sites (both breeding and non-breeding areas);
- Be consistent with conservation measures as described in the Giant Burrowing Frog Action Statement.

VicForests Special Management Plan Prescriptions:

- Establish a 300 metre exclusion buffer (either side of the hydrological feature) for both 1 kilometre upstream and 1 kilometre downstream of any confirmed Giant Burrowing Frog records.

Note: While the Giant Burrowing Frog Action Statement requires only a 100 metre buffer on either side of a second order stream record, it does also allow for this prescription to be varied at particular sites.

More recent species literature (Penman et al., 2008) suggests that a larger 300 metre buffer

zone would likely provide a more effective conservation measure (for both male and female) given that this frog spends the majority of the year (97%) in forested areas away from breeding sites. It was estimated in this study that 95% of a catchment would fall within 300 metres of a potential breeding site.

VicForests Coupe Management Prescription:

- No harvesting, silvicultural or new roading activities are permitted within any area designated as Giant Burrowing Frog Reserved Habitat.

See attached map, or associated GIS shape file for more specific VFSMA boundary features.

Monitoring of the VicForests Special Management Plan:

- Correct application of the VicForests SMP prescription will be monitored as part of routine pre-harvest planning processes;
- Protection of reserved habitat will be monitored as part of mandatory post-harvest capture and review.

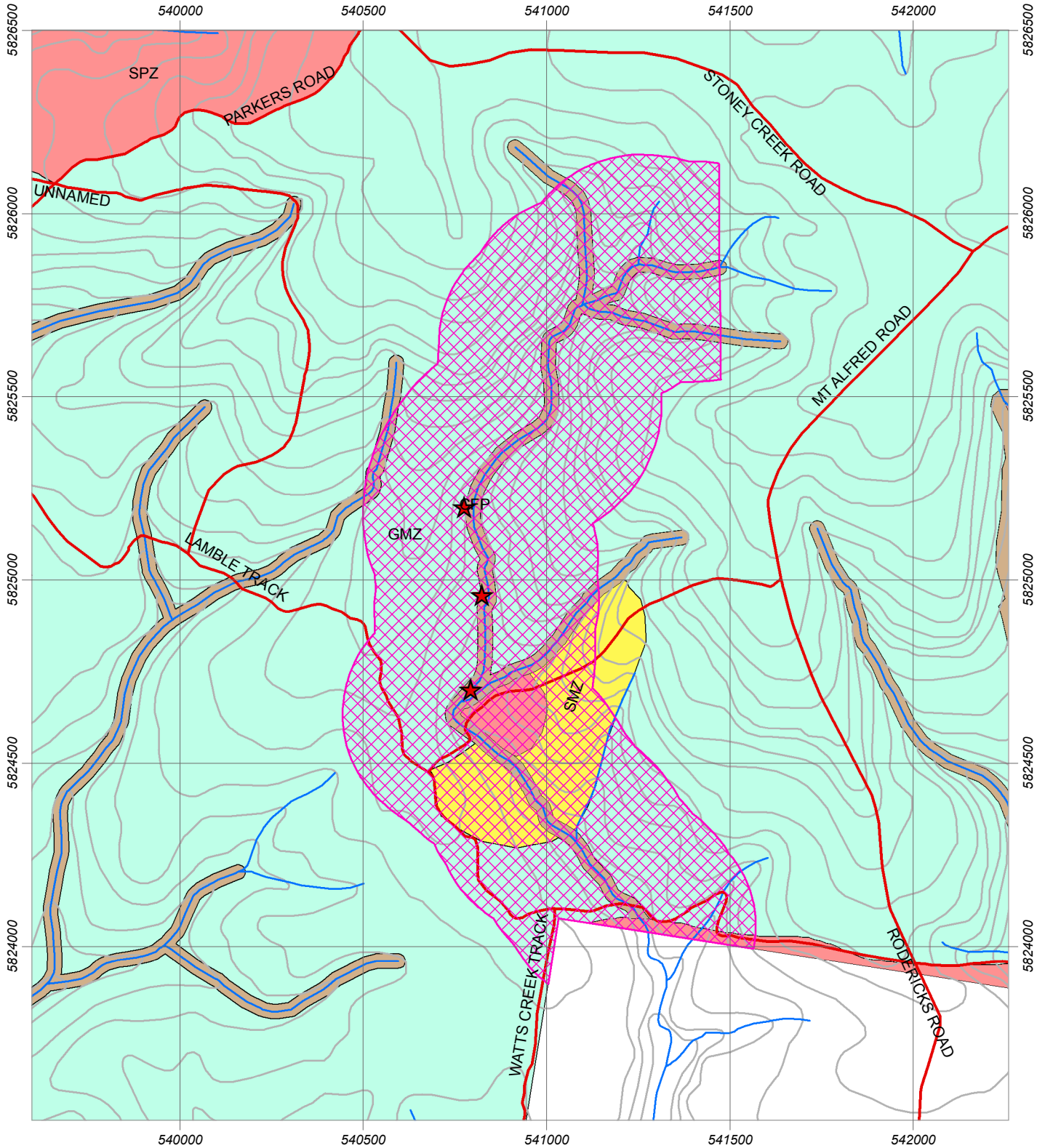
References:

- Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*) Action Statement, No. 61 (2003);
- Penman, T. D., Lemckert F. L. and Mahony M. J. (2008) Spatial ecology of the giant burrowing frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*): implications for conservation prescriptions. Australian Journal of Zoology. **56**: 179-186
- Aerial Photography & GIS Interpretation.

Approved by:		Title:	Conservation Biologist
Signed:		Date:	30/07/2013

Attached: VicForests Special Management Plan Map

VICFORESTS GIANT BURROWING FROG SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (VFSMP52)



LEGEND Land Tenure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth Other Public Land Licenced/Leased Plantations Private Land Conservation Parks and Reserves Special Protection Zone Special Management Zone General Management Zone Water Bodies 		Coupe Boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved TRP 2009-14 Coupe Approved TRP 2009-14 Driveway Proposed TRP 2009-14 Coupe 	Management Prescriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VicForests Giant Burrowing Frog Reserved Habitat Buffer 	Map Scale 1:15,000 <div style="text-align: center;"> 0 100 250 500 </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Meters</p>
Base Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads Hydrology Contours 	Sighting Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VicForests Survey Sightings 3rd Party Sighting Locations 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> </div> <div> <p>Projection GDA 94 (Zone 55)</p> </div> </div> <p>Map Date: July 2, 2013</p>		

Disclaimer: This map is generated from VicForests and Victorian Government data and may be of assistance to you. However, VicForests does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it.