

VicForests Special Management Plan (SMP)

Forest Management Area:	East Gippsland
Forest Management Block:	Cobon (885)
VicForests SMP Number:	VFSMP74
Planned Prepared by:	VicForests Biodiversity Planner
Date:	28 October, 2013

Featured Attribute:

Long-footed Potoroo (*Potorous longipes*)

VicForests Special Management Area (VFSMA):

- VicForests Long-footed Potoroo Special Management Area: 157.20 hectares;
- VicForests Long-footed Potoroo Reserved Habitat Area: 59.64 hectares;
- Area Source: Geographic Information System (GIS).

VicForests Special Management Area Site Description:

This VFSMA is fully contained by either existing Parks and Reserves (Cobon Nature Conservation Reserve) or State forest. It forms part of the larger Combienbar River catchment, and is mapped within both the Highlands - Far East and East Gippsland Uplands Bioregions.

This Plan utilises a substantial proportion of the Cobon Nature Conservation Reserve and the adjoining Special Management Zone (SMZ). The associated SMZ (M-885-05-01) is managed by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) as part of the Value Adding Utilisation System (VAUS) experimental trial (RS 0021).

Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) mapping indicates that the vast majority of the VFSMA is located within wetter forest types, including proportions of Wet Forest (67%), Cool Temperate Rainforest (10%), Warm Temperate Rainforest (4%) and Damp Forests (2%). The remaining forest classes mapped within the area are Lowland Forest (12%) and Shrubby Dry Forest (4%). All of the forest types described could be considered as either primary or secondary habitat for the Long-footed Potoroo species.

The Reserved Habitat Area is contained predominately by hydrological features, and the surrounding lower slopes and more sheltered topographical aspects. EVC mapping demonstrates that the majority of this Reserved Habitat Area has been classified as either Wet or Damp Forest (53%), Lowland Forest (21%), or Cool and Warm Temperate Rainforest (26%).

A review of historical data indicates that harvesting activity within the VFSMA has occurred over an area of 66.56 hectares (42%). However, this was undertaken during a period from 1991 to 2000. Harvesting operations employed during this period were conducted utilising a Seed Tree Retention (STR) system.

Of the overall site disturbance within the VFSMA, only 16.44 hectares (28%) is confined to the area that has been specifically designated as Long-footed Potoroo Reserved Habitat. Once again, harvesting was conducted under an STR system. The most recently recorded harvesting event was conducted during the 1999-00 financial year. SFRI analysis also suggests that the remaining undisturbed forest consists largely of a mature to late mature age classification with no significant fire events having been recorded across the site.

DEPI preferred habitat modelling for the Sooty Owl overlaps with a significant proportion of the VFSMA (62%). This modelling would indicate that the associated forest vegetation has the structural characteristics and age profile, which is compatible for Long-footed Potoroo habitat.

See attached map for specific boundary features.

VicForests Special Management Area Objectives:

To protect Long-footed Potoroo habitat at detection sites in State forest (or other public land) outside the Core Protected Area, and as prescribed by the Long-footed Potoroo Action Statement. Habitat designated as Core Protected Area is formally captured in both the existing forest management zoning scheme, and conservation reserve system.

VicForests Special Management Area Prescriptions:

- Long-footed Potoroo detection sites outside the Core Protected Area will generate a VFSMA of approximately 150ha;
- Within the VFSMA area, at least one third will be protected from timber harvesting and new roading. This will be known as Long-footed Potoroo Reserved Habitat;
- The VFSMA will have a general restriction of one third of the total area that can be harvested in any three year period. If more than one coupe is to be harvested in the VFSMA in the same year, the coupe must be separated by at least the equivalent of another coupe width.

VicForests Coupe Management Prescription:

No harvesting, silvicultural or new roading activities are permitted within the area designated as Long-footed Potoroo Reserved Habitat.

See attached map for specific Reserved Habitat boundary features.

Monitoring of the VicForests Special Management Area:

- General VFSMA restrictions relating to harvesting area and spatial distribution of coupes will be monitored as part of routine pre-harvest planning processes;
- Protection of Reserved Habitat Area will be monitored as part of mandatory post-harvest data capture and review.

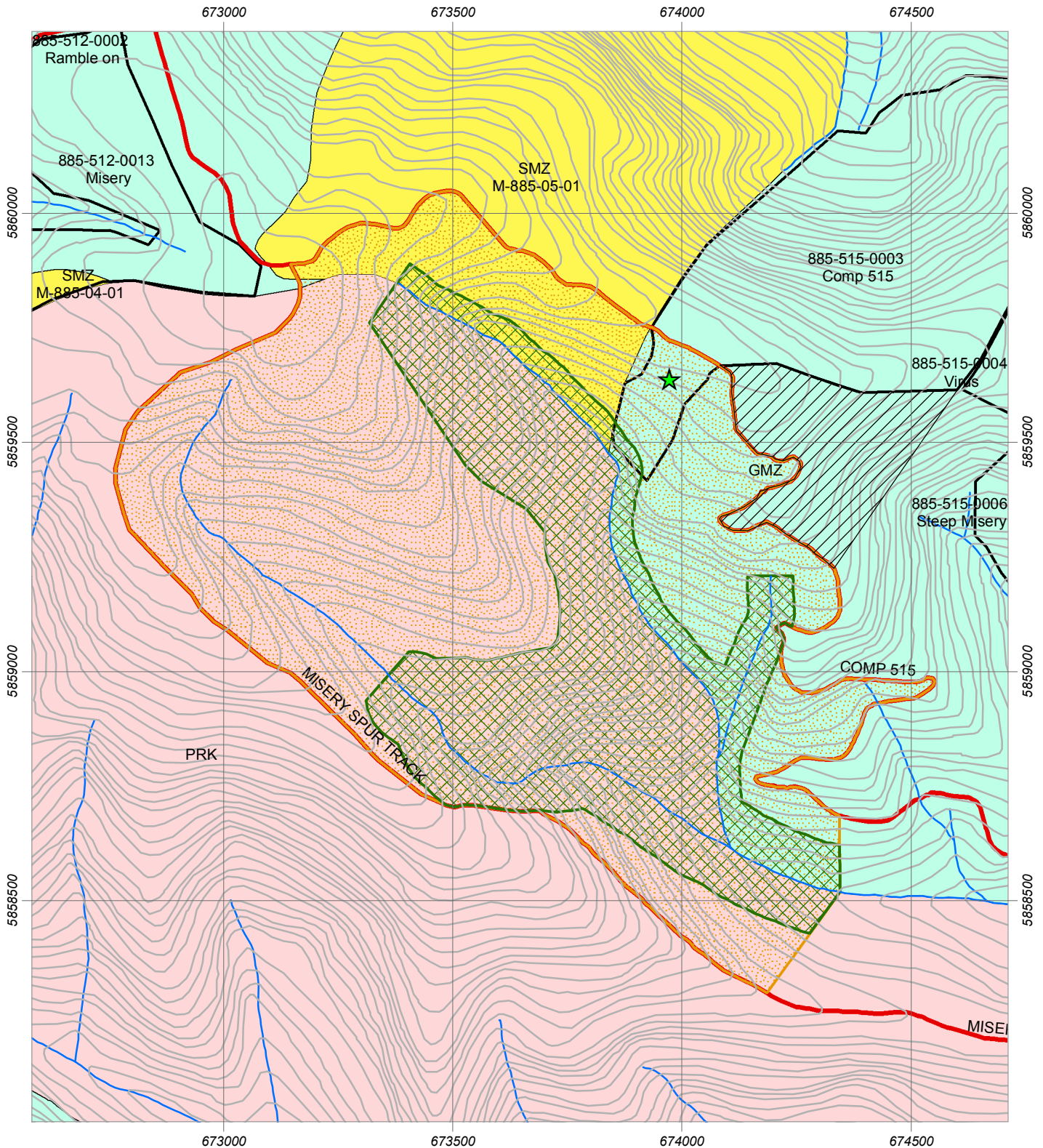
References:

- Long-footed Potoroo (*Potorous longipes*) Action Statement, No. 58 (Revised 2009);
- Aerial Photography & GIS Interpretation.

Approved by:		Title:	Conservation Biologist
Signed:		Date:	30/10/2013

Attached: VicForests Special Management Plan Map

VICFORESTS LONG-FOOTED POTOROO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (VFSPMP74)



LEGEND		Map Scale 1:12,000	
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 Long-footed Potoroo Special Management Area VicForests Long-footed Potoroo Reserved Habitat Area 	Map Scale 1:12,000 0 100 250 500 Meters
Base Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads Hydrology Contours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VicForests Survey Sightings 3rd Party Sighting Locations 	 Projection GDA 94 (Zone 55) 	Map Date: Sep 20, 2013

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.