

VicForests Special Management Plan (VFSMP)

Forest Management Area:	East Gippsland
Forest Management Blocks:	Goongerah (891) Bowen (901)
VicForests SMP Number:	VFSMP76
Planned Prepared by:	VicForests Biodiversity Planner
Date:	6 December, 2013

Featured Attribute:

Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*)

VicForests Special Management Plan Area:

- VicForests Reserved Habitat Area (VFRHA): 118.795 hectares;
- Area Source: Geographic Information System (GIS).

VicForests Special Management Plan Site Description:

This VFSMP is fully contained within either the Snowy River National Park (57%) or Bonang State Forest (43%). It forms part of both the Stony Creek and Swampy Creek catchments, and is mapped within the East Gippsland Uplands Bioregion.

This Plan utilises a proportion of both the existing Special Protection Zone (SPZ) and Special Management Zone (SMZ) network. These associated forest management zones have been specifically designated by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) as Linear Reserve (P-891-05-01), and Road Landscape (M-891-04-01).

Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) mapping indicates that the VFRHA is located predominately within either Damp Forest (61%) or Wet Forest (38%). Yellow-bellied Gliders inhabit a range of vegetation types across East Gippsland, including these mature, higher elevation mixed species forests.

A review of historical data indicates that there has been a relatively low level of disturbance throughout the designated area. Harvesting activity within the VFRHA has occurred over an area of only 28.616 hectares (24%). Operations were undertaken during an extended period from 1965 to 2002. The silvicultural system employed was largely Seed Tree Retention (STR), although it is noted that in earlier harvesting periods a less intensive Single Tree Selection (STS) regime was utilised (8%). The most recently recorded timber harvesting event was conducted during the 2001-02 financial year (18.79 hectares).

SFRI analysis suggests that the forest vegetation within the VFRHA consists largely of a mature to late mature age classification, with no significant fire disturbance having been recently recorded across the site. Stand height was estimated in this data set to be between 37-43 metres. The primary eucalypt species identified in the plan area were *E. cypellocarpa* (Mountain Grey Gum) and *E. fastigata* (Cut-tail) with a scattered occurrence of both *E. obliqua* (Messmate) and *E. sieberi* (Silvertop). *E. denticulata* (Shining Gum) is also known to be found within the immediate area. Most of these listed species are considered to provide a favourable foraging substrate for the Yellow-bellied Glider.

Old Growth forest has been mapped over an area of 69.918 hectares (59%). This modelled data would indicate that the associated forest vegetation has the structural characteristics and age profile which is compatible for the Yellow-bellied Glider.

This assumption is fully supported by DEPI preferred habitat modelling for both the Sooty and Powerful Owls. A large proportion of this spatial data set overlaps not only with the VFRHA (69%) but also extends uninterrupted for many kilometres to the north of the detection site. Formal Owl Management Areas (OMA's) have been created in the immediate vicinity to

recognise the presence of both these large forest owl species.

Site visits confirmed that there is a significant presence of large old and often senescent, hollow-bearing eucalypt stems present throughout the retained area. Large crown size and a mixture of both smooth and rough barked species would potentially provide a temporal diversity and abundance of foraging opportunities for this species across the range of the Plan.

VicForests Special Management Plan Objectives:

To provide appropriate Yellow-bellied Glider habitat protection around all State forest detection sites (located outside the existing Forest Management Zoning and Conservation Reserve network) in accordance with the provisions of the East Gippsland Forest Management Plan (conservation guidelines) for management of this species.

VicForests Special Management Plan Prescriptions:

In order to conserve key threatened species and areas of high mammal richness or diversity, provide and protect approximately 100 hectares of suitable Yellow-bellied Glider habitat (including the detection site) from the direct effects of timber harvesting operations.

VicForests Coupe Management Prescription:

No harvesting, new roading or silvicultural activities are permitted within the area designated as Yellow-bellied Glider Reserved Habitat Area.

See attached map for more specific boundary features.

Monitoring of the VicForests Special Management Plan:

- Correct application of the VFSMP prescription will be enforced through routine pre-harvest planning processes;
- Coupe Monitoring Records (monthly) will be undertaken during the period of harvesting activity to ensure that all operational and environmental compliance standards are met;
- Protection of the Reserved Habitat Area will be monitored as part of mandatory post-harvest data capture and review.

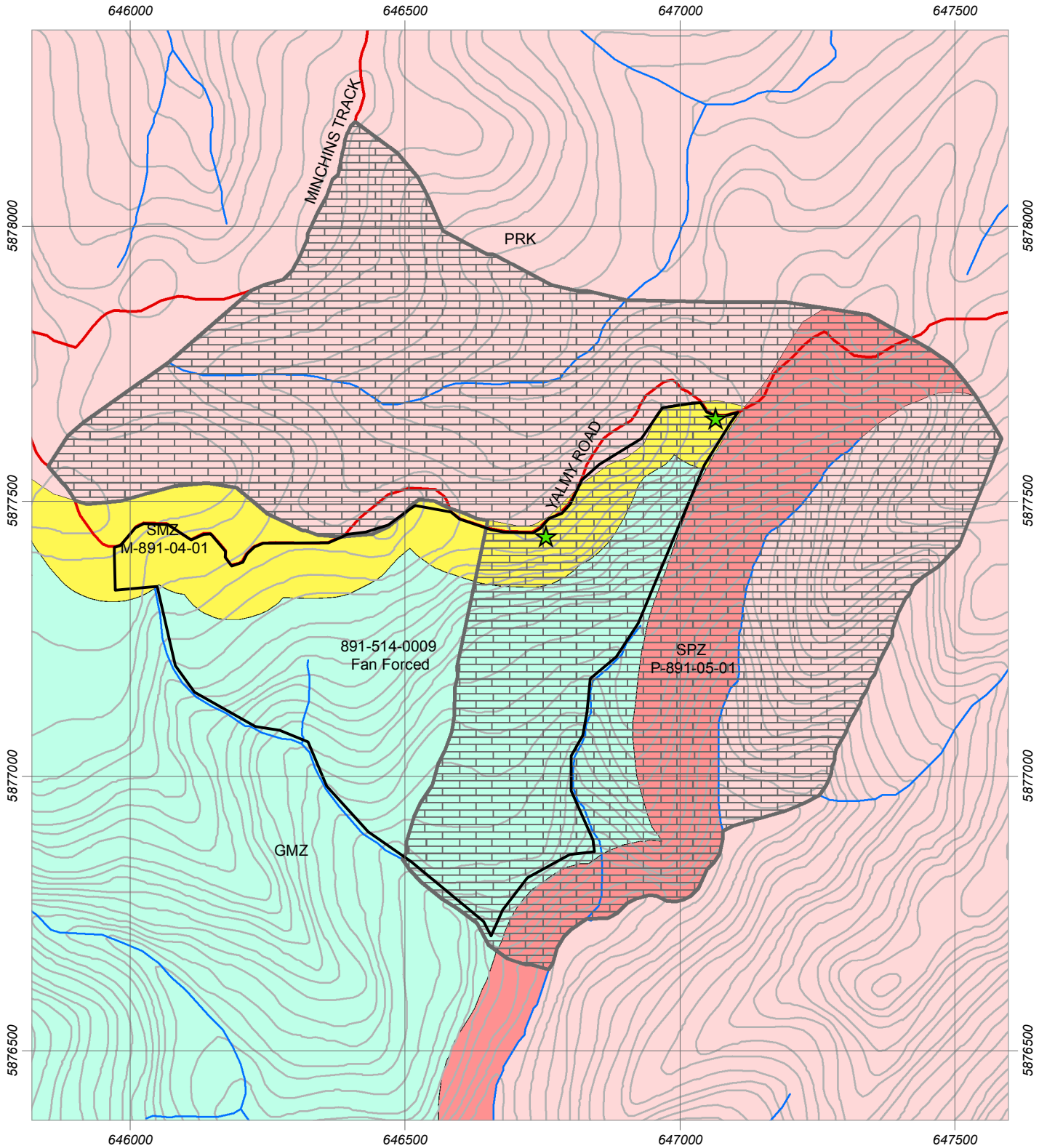
References:

- Forest Management Plan for East Gippsland Forest Management Area (1995);
- Aerial Photography & GIS Interpretation.

Approved by:		Title:	Conservation Biologist
Signed:		Date:	10/12/2012

Attached: VicForests Special Management Plan Map

VICFORESTS YELLOW-BELLIED GLIDER SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (VFSMP76)



LEGEND		Coupe Boundaries	Management Prescriptions	Map Scale 1:10,000
Land Tenure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth Other Public Land Licensed/Leased Plantations Private Land Conservation Parks and Reserves Special Protection Zone Special Management Zone General Management Zone Water Bodies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved TRP 2009-14 Coupe Approved TRP 2009-14 Driveway Proposed TRP 2009-14 Coupe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VicForests Yellow-bellied Glider Reserved Habitat Area VicForests Survey Sightings 3rd Party Sighting Locations 	<p>0 100 250 500</p> <p>Meters</p> <p>Projection GDA 94 (Zone 55)</p> <p>GDA</p>
Base Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads Hydrology Contours 		<p>Map Date: Nov 15, 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.