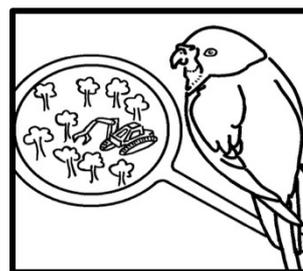


Forestry Watch Survey Report

Coupe Number: AR0050F

Location: Arve River, Near Geeveston

Date: 15/12/2019



Size: 60 ha **Year to be logged:** Anytime in the next three years
Percentage old-growth: 73%

Natural Values: Five giant trees over 5m diameter, old-growth, masked owl habitat, spotted tail quoll habitat, numerous hollow-bearing trees, high carbon storage capacity.

Introduction

Forestry Watch conducted a citizen science survey of coupe AR0050F on the 15th of December 2019. This coupe was selected by the team due to its high percentage of old-growth and the potential for good quality habitat.

Vegetation

AR0050F is listed on TASVEG as *Eucalyptus regnans* forest with the western 23.7 ha as Eucalyptus plantation. The Forestry Watch survey confirmed this and found that *Eucalyptus obliqua* was also a common species.

Excluding the 24ha of plantation, the survey found that there was no evidence of past human disturbance, indicating old growth forest.

Survey findings:

- Five large trees over 5m in diameter, which trigger protection under the 'Giant Tree Policy'
- High quality masked owl habitat
- Old growth forests, with high carbon storage potential
- Good habitat for spotted tailed quolls and devils

Density of Large Habitat Trees: 56 per ha

Tree Number	Diameter at Breast Height (m)
1	5.8
2	5.3
3	5.7
4	5.3
5	5.6

Survey Conclusion:

Our survey found five large trees over 5 m in diameter. These trees are eligible for protection under Sustainable Timber Tasmania 'Giant Tree Policy'. However, these trees were not identified on the Forest Practices Plan. Forestry Watch as notified Sustainable Timber Tasmania about the importance of five trees on this coupe. There are also many other old-growth trees present on the coupe, which provide high quality habitat for many species. We recommend that these forests are protected in order to protect these giant trees, wildlife and the large volume of stored carbon within this forest.

Previous findings:

A search of the Natural Values Atlas, a state government database which records threatened species information, has found the following threatened species to occur near the coupe:

- There are four recorded masked owl sightings within 8 km
- Swift parrots have been observed within 10 km
- Several Tasmanian devil and spotted quoll sightings nearby

Threatened Species Information:

Swift parrot (Lathamus discolor), Critically Endangered (EPBC 1999)

The biggest threat to Swift Parrots is habitat destruction. Ideal nesting habitat is mature hollow bearing trees within 10 kilometres of flowering *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian Blue Gum) or *Eucalyptus ovata* (Black Gum). High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots is considered to have more than 15 trees over 100 cm diameter per hectare or 8 trees over 150cm.

Masked owl (Tyto novaehollandiae subsp. Castanops), Vulnerable (EPBC 1999)

The Tasmanian Masked owl is estimated to have only 500 breeding pairs remaining. Masked owls require large hollows only found in mature forests. The main threat to the masked owl is the clearing of nesting and foraging habitat. High quality masked owl habitat is considered to have more than eight trees over 150cm dbh per hectare.

Tasmanian Devil (Sarcophilus harrisii), Endangered (Threatened Species Act 1995)

The Tasmanian Devil have large ranges which span over several square kilometres. Old-growth forests provide important habitat for denning, which includes hollow logs and dense vegetation. Logging native forests can destroy dens or potential denning habitat.

Old growth and carbon storage

Old growth is defined as 'Ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances are now negligible'. Old-growth *Eucalypts regnans* forests are the most carbon dense forests in the world. Large, old trees still grow in width and draw down more carbon than younger trees. Logging of old growth followed by intensive harvesting cycles causes the release of carbon stored in forest soils in a process that continues centuries after initial logging.

If you would like more information about the methodology used in this survey, would like to use the data, or have any general questions, please contact us. If you would like to join one of our surveys, please send us an email or keep an eye out for events on our facebook page.

forestrywatch@gmail.com



Above: Giant tree of 580cm dbh



Left: A citizen scientist in front of the giant tree