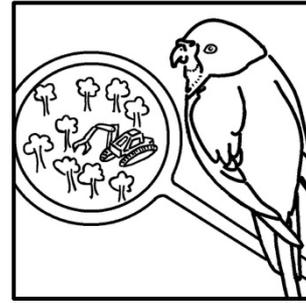


Forestry Watch Survey Report

Coupe Number: EP021C

Location: Esperance, near Dover

Date: 20/01/2020



Coupe Snapshot:

Size:	25 ha	Year to be logged:	Anytime in the next three years
Percentage old-growth:	77%		
Natural Values:	Stands of large mature rainforest trees, swift parrot habitat, masked owl habitat, spotted tailed quoll habitat, numerous hollow-bearing trees, high carbon storage capacity, large area of old-growth.		

Introduction

Forestry Watch conducted a citizen science survey of coupe EP021C on the 20th of January 2020. This coupe was selected by the team due to its high percentage of old-growth and the potential for good quality habitat.

Vegetation

EP021C is *Eucalyptus obliqua* wet forest over rainforest. The coupe contained some notably large rainforest trees, including Myrtle beeches (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) of 127cm and 97cm diameter and leatherwoods (*Eucryphia lucida*) of more than 50cm diameter, with one of 88cm. A large section of the coupe is classed as old growth, which has no signs of past human disturbance, indicating old growth forest.

Survey findings:

- Stands of large mature rainforest trees
- High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots, within 10km of large area of feeding habitat
- High quality masked owl habitat
- Large section of growth forests, with high carbon storage potential

Density of Large Habitat Trees

Density of Large Habitat Trees >150cm diameter	Density of Medium Habitat Trees 150cm>100cm diameter
47 per ha	7 per ha

Conclusion:

Our survey shows that the forests within this coupe contain excellent nesting habitat for swift parrots, as there are lots of large trees with hollows and it is within 10km of a large area of feeding habitat (728 ha of Blue Gum forests). The majority of this coupe is old-growth forest, with lots of mature rainforest trees and is therefore of high conservation importance. Forestry Watch recommends that these forests are protected in order to protect 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 and special features to occur near the coupe:

- Within 10kms of 728 ha of feeding habitat for swift parrots
- Observations of masked owl, Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll, swift parrot, Mt Mangana stag beetle found within 5km

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.

Spotted tailed quoll (Dasyurus maculatus), Vulnerable (EPBC 1999)

The spotted tailed quoll requires large tracts of forest with potential den sites. Den sights and hollows required by prey are removed by intensive forestry practices, especially when logging is followed by burning, rendering the area unsuitable habitat.

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.

Mt Mangana stag beetle (Lissotes menalcas), Vulnerable (Threatened Species Act 1995)

The Mount Mangana stag beetle is endemic to the wet forests of southern Tasmania. It lives in logs rotting on the forest floor. The greatest threat to the beetle is the removal of these logs by forest clearing and burning.

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