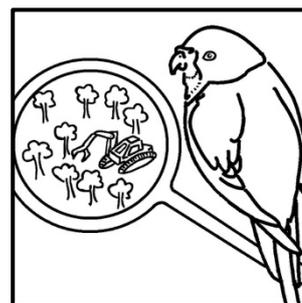


Forestry Watch Survey Report

Coupe Number: EP048C

Location: Esperance, near Dover

Date: 20/01/2020



Coupe Snapshot:

Size:	91 ha	Year to be logged:	Anytime in the next three years
Percentage old-growth:	97%		
Natural Values:	High percentage of old-growth, swift parrot and masked owl habitat, numerous hollow-bearing trees, high carbon storage capacity.		

Introduction

Forestry Watch conducted a citizen science survey of coupe EP048C 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

EP048C is listed as *Eucalyptus obliqua* Wet Forest (Undifferentiated) by TASVEG. Forestry Watch found that the forests should be revised to *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over rainforest and *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over Leptospermum. The coupe has no evidence of past human disturbance, indicating old growth forest.

Survey findings:

- High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots, close to large areas of feeding habitat
- High quality masked owl habitat
- Old growth forests, with high carbon storage potential
- High quality habitat present for a variety of other non-threatened species

Density of Large Habitat Trees

Density of Large Habitat Trees >150cm diameter	Density of Medium Habitat Trees >100cm diameter
80 per ha	20 per ha

Conclusion:

Our survey shows that the forests within this coupe contains excellent habitat for swift parrots, as there are lots of old trees with hollows and it is within 10km of a large area of feeding habitat (167 ha of Blue Gum forests). The high density of large trees means that this forest would store large amounts of carbon. The majority of this coupe is old-growth forest 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 other features to occur near the coupe:

- Within 10kms of 167ha 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 in diameter 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.

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