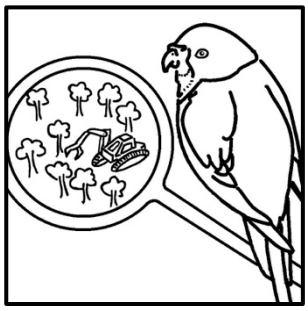
Forestry Watch Survey Report

Coupe Number: RU030E

Location: Russel River, near Lonnavale

Date: 20/01/2020



Coupe Snapshot:

Size:	**60 ha**	**Year to be logged:**	**2020**
Percentage old-growth:	**33%**		
Natural Values:	Swift parrot habitat, masked owl habitat, spotted tailed quoll habitat, numerous hollow-bearing trees, high carbon storage capacity, important habitat corridor.		

Introduction

Forestry Watch conducted a citizen science survey of coupe RU030E on the 20th of January 2020. This coupe was selected by the team due to its potential for good quality habitat.

Vegetation

RU030E is listed on TASVEG as *Eucalyptus delegatensis* wet forest (undifferentiated*)*. Forestry Watch found that the forest is more similar to *E. delegatensis* over rainforest and *E. delegatensis* over Leptospermum. The old-growth section of this coupe shows no past human disturbance, indicating old growth forest.

Survey findings:

- Coupe borders the Russel Ridge conservation area and provides a vital habitat corridor
- High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots, within 10km of large area of feeding habitat
- High quality masked owl habitat
- Old growth forests, with high carbon storage potential
- High quality habitat 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
33 per ha	7 per ha

Conclusion:

Our survey shows that the forests within this coupe contains excellent habitat for swift parrots, as there are lots of trees with hollows and it is within 10km of a large area of feeding habitat (471ha). The coupe borders the Russel Ridge conservation area and provides a vital habitat corridor between this area and other remaining forests. This makes the conservation of this coupe important as it's in an area of extreme habitat fragmentation, with little remaining old growth forest. 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 405 ha of feeding habitat for swift parrots
- Observations of masked owls, 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.

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