



## **Detection of high density of Greater Gliders – Gap rd/Jug Handle Tk**

**Logging coupes 895-508-0002, 890-508-0001**

**Date of survey:** 21/04/2017

**Date of report:** 17/06/2017

### **Names of Surveyors:**

Ed Hill, Lizzie Nicholson, Harry Holbrook (Group 1)

Andrew Lincoln, Jake McKenzie (Group2)

### **Methods:**

Two groups conducted spotlighting surveys along a section of Bendoc-Orbost Rd and Jug Handle tk. The survey was targeting greater gliders but the presence of other arboreal mammals was also recorded.

Group one headed north from the intersection of Bendoc- Orbost rd and an unnamed track located approximately 100m south of the intersection of Jug Handle Track on the east side of Bendoc – Orbost rd. Group one walked north along Bendoc – Orbost rd, past Jug Handle Track until reaching the north east corner of coupe 890-508-0002, at this point the group turned around, walked back to Jug Handle track and proceeded up Jug Handle track continuing to spotlight until reaching the south west corner of coupe 890-508-0002.

Group two commenced their spotlighting survey at around 8:44pm pm on the unnamed track located approximately 100m south of the intersection of Jug Handle Track and Gap Rd on the east side of Gap Rd. This track cuts through the centre of coupe 890-508-0001, running in a south-easterly direction for approximately 350m before reaching the private land on the east side of coupe 890-508-0001.

Spotlights were used to identify the presence of Greater gliders (*Petauroides volans*) within VicForests' proposed logging coupes 895-508-0002, 890-508-0001, 890-508-0019. Handheld 12V spotlights and 350 Lumens LED Lenser H14.2 head torches were used to search the canopy of Eucalyptus trees.

Each group used a Garmin 64S GPS unit to record locations of the greater glider sightings. Group one used a Cannon DSLR camera to capture images of greater gliders where possible. Data was recorded and kept in various formats.

Conditions were poor with steady light rain intermittent throughout the survey period tending to heavier rain towards the end of the survey.

**Results:**

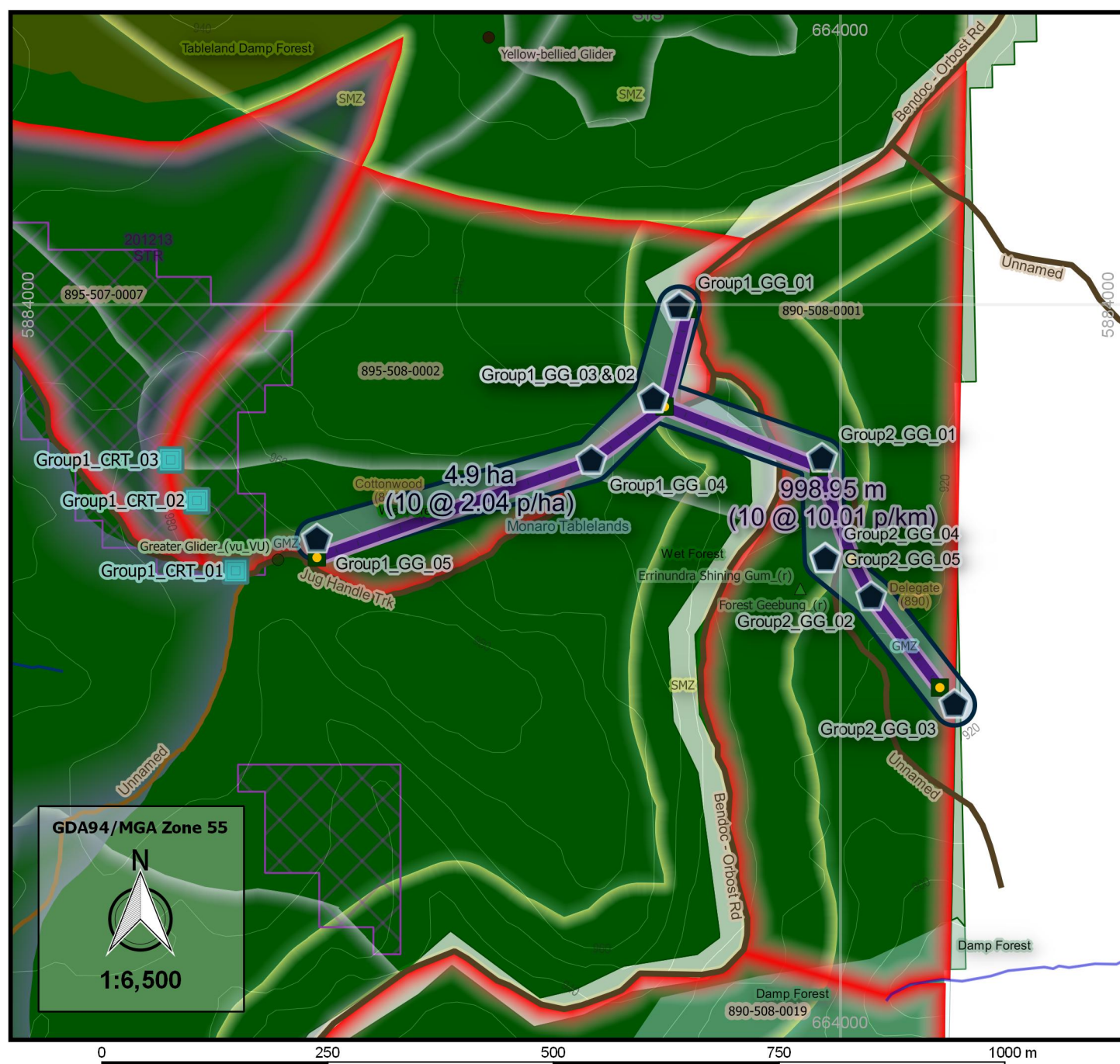
Group one recorded five Greater gliders and group two recorded five greater gliders. The combined results, considering findings from both groups, totalled 10 Greater Gliders over a distance of 998.95 metres.

Three ringtail possums were also observed.

**Figure 1: Survey results table from group one and two.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Map Label</b>	<b>Recording Location</b>	<b>Bearing</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Animal Location</b>	<b>Cumulative Greater Glider number</b>
20:36	Group1_GG_01	55 H 663831 5883995	283°	10m	55H 663821 5883997	1
20:44	Group2_GG_01	55 H 663976 5883820	20°	10m	55H 663979 5883829	2
20:47	Group1_GG_02	55 H 663805 5883887	303°	15m	55H 663792 5883895	3
20:47	Group1_GG_03	55 H 663805 5883887	303°	15m	55H 663792 5883895	4
20:59	Group2_GG_02	55 H 664034 5883676	0°	0m	55H 664034 5883676	5
21:00	Group1_GG_04	55 H 663724 5883827	0°	0m	55H 663724 5883827	6
21:15	Group2_GG_03	55 H 664110 5883576	140°	25m	55H 664126 5883557	7
21:26	Group1_GG_05	55 H 663420 5883720	0°	20m	55H 663420 5883740	8
21:36	Group1_CRT_01	55 H 663315 5883707	96°	15m	55H 663330 5883705	
21:51	Group1_CRT_02	55 H 663287 5883783	0°	0m	55H 663287 5883783	
21:53	Group2_GG_05	55 H 664013 5883718	270°	30m	55H 663983 5883718	9
21:54	Group2_GG_04	55 H 664013 5883719	270°	30m	55H 663983 5883719	10
22:00	Group1_CRT_03	55 H 663254 5883819	23°	10m	55H 663258 5883828	

**Appendix 2: Greater Glider locations along a distance of 998.95m adjacent to and within coupes 895-508-0002, 890-508-0001, Gap rd / Jug Handle Tk – Bendoc**



**Legend**

*Current Investigation*

- Greater Glider Locations
- Greater Glider recording locations
- Common Ringtail Possum
- High Density Recording of Greater Gliders (10 GG's along 998.95m @ 10.01 GG's p/km)
- High Density Recording of Greater Gliders (10 GG's in 4.9 ha @ 2.04 GG's p/ha)

*Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (rare/threatened/protected)*

- VBA\_FAUNA25 Records
- VBA\_FLORA25 Records
- VBA\_FAUNA100 Records

*Scheduled Logging*

- VicForests Timber Release Plan [Approved TRP\_Boundaries\_October\_2016]

**Prior Logging History [LOG\_SEASON]**

- 196465
- 196869
- 196970
- 197071
- 199697
- 199798
- 201213

*Forest Management Zones [FMZ100; DELWP Oct 2016]*

- Special Management Zone
- General Management Zone

*Ecological Vegetation Classes [NV2005\_EVCBCS (modelled)]*

- Damp Forest
- Tableland Damp Forest
- Wet Forest

*Other Layers*

- Modelled Old Growth Forest [MOG2009]
- Roads**
  - Road
- Watercourses**
  - Watercourse
- Contours

## Discussion:

The results of this survey show a significant population of Greater gliders within logging coupes 895-508-0002 and 890-508-0001. At least 10 Greater gliders are present within coupes 895-508-0002 and 890-508-0001 that are threatened by logging.

The detection of the 10 Greater Gliders within this investigation shows that a “high density” of Greater Gliders exist at this location as each of the 10 Greater Gliders were detected at a rate of 10.01 Greater Gliders per kilometer (more than 10 per kilometer), and/or each of the 10 greater Gliders were found at an estimated density of 2.04 Greater Gliders per hectare (more than 2 per hectare).

Both the “*Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria’s State forests 2014*” (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, The State of Victoria, 2014) through its “*Planning Standards for timber harvesting operations in Victoria’s State forests 2014, Appendix 5 to the Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria’s State forests 2014*” and the Forest Management Plan For The East Gippsland Forest Management Area (Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, East Melbourne, December 1995) require that an SPZ (Special Protection Zone) of approximately 100ha of suitable habitat be established for records of > 2 individual Greater Gliders per hectare and > 10 individual Greater Gliders per kilometre.

In order to meet the requirements of the High Density of Greater Glider prescriptions contained within the regulatory framework governing logging operations in Victoria's State Forests, SPZ's to protect these Greater Glider configurations must be established and fully implemented prior to any logging operations in this area.

**DELWP should immediately protect this area of greater glider habitat through the creation of a special protection zone that would prevent the loss of significant greater glider habitat in these coupes that would occur if logging proceeds.**

Given the recent listing of the Greater Glider on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act DELWP and VicForests should cancel planned logging of coupes 895-508-0002, 890-508-0001 and protect this significant greater glider stronghold.

Logging is a well-documented threat to greater gliders. There is overwhelming and demonstrable evidence of the impact logging has on greater glider populations, which has contributed to their recent decline.

Logging, as a threat to greater gliders, is referred to several times in the Scientific Advisory Committee final recommendation to list the species on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act as well as the Federal Government’s conservation advice that accompanied the federal listing of the species as vulnerable.

Other threats such as bushfire and drought are harder to manage for because where, when and how severely they will impact on habitat is hard to predict. However logging is an avoidable threat that is easily controlled. Protection from logging of known areas of habitat for greater gliders is the only way to stop an avoidable threat with certainty and ensure the protection of this population of greater gliders.



## Appendix 1: Photos



Greater glider detected on group one survey – location: 55H 0663831 / 5883995



Greater glider detected on group one survey – location: 55H 0663724 / 5883827



Ringtail possum recorded on group one survey. Location: 55H 0663287 / 5883783