

Detection of a high density of Greater Gliders at coupes
893-503-0018, 893-503-0019,
Old Bonang – Bendoc Rd / Pines Tk

Date of Survey: 10th March 2019

Date of Report: 4th June 2019

Author: Dave Caldwell

Surveyors: Dave Caldwell, Sarah Day, three volunteers - Alan, Gabi, Grace.

Abstract

This report details the detection of a high density of Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) on the night of 10th March 2019 by volunteers for Goongerah Environment Centre GECO.

11 Greater Gliders were detected during a nocturnal spotlight transect over a distance of 1km through coupes 893-503-0018 and 893-503-0019.

Introduction

The Greater Glider was once considered common but has now declined in a large part of its range (Lindenmayer et al., 2011; Woinarski et al., 2006; Maloney, 2007; Kavanagh and Webb 1998). The loss of large hollow bearing trees and a reduction in preferred feed trees from; inappropriate logging, wildfire, and possibly increased predation is believed to be the cause of the decline. The Greater Glider was listed in 2017 under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988) and is listed vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)

The current management regime for the protection of Greater Gliders in Victoria is;

'Establish a SPZ of approximately 100 ha of suitable habitat where verification records report more than 2 individuals per hectare, more than 10 individuals per km or more than 15 individuals per hour of spotlighting, or where substantial populations are located in isolated or unusual habitat.'(DEPI, 2014)

Method

Spotlighting was conducted on the night of March 10th 2019. Cloud cover was approximately 100%. There was no rainfall, nor was there any wind during the transect. Equipment used was 3x halogen spotlight backpacks, LED lenser P7 hand-held torch, 1x LED handheld spotlight of 580 lumens, and LED lenser P14 head torch and smaller head torches for backup and personal navigation through the bush. Bushnell and Nikon 8 x 42 power binoculars were used to confirm observations. Waypoints were recorded using Garmin 64s handheld GPS units.

Results

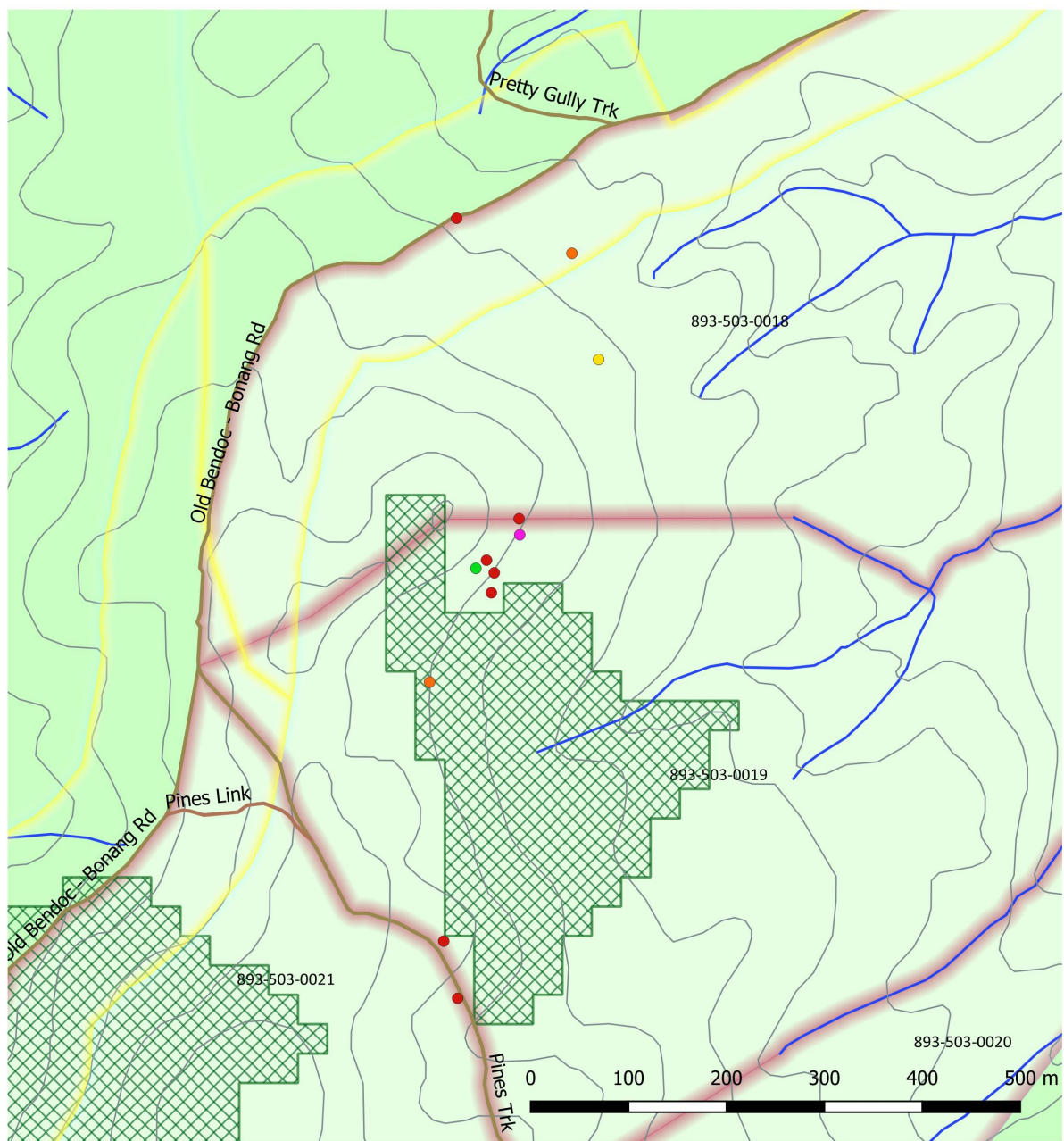
A total of 11 Greater Gliders were sighted over a 1km spotlight transect. Yellow Bellied Gliders were heard calling on 3 occasions during the transect. A single individual Mountain Brush-tail Possum was observed. All animals were heard or sighted by multiple volunteers.

Table 1, detailed results

Time	Species	Number of individuals	Bearing	Distance	Easting GDA94	Northing GDA94
2108	Greater Glider	1	323°	15m	658842	5884488
2110	Yellow Bellied Glider	1	235°	25m	658842	5884488
2128	Yellow Bellied Glider	1	128°	50m	658869	5884379
2155	Greater Glider	2	196°	10m	658789	5884200
2204	Greater Glider	1	274°	15m	658789	5884217
2214	Mountain Brush-tail Possum	1	130°	5m	658744	5884166
2219	Greater Glider	1	194°	15m	658763	5884161
2223	Greater Glider	1	56°	15m	658755	5884174
2225	Greater Glider	1	0°	0m	658760	5884141
2248	Greater Glider	1	172°	15m	658697	5884050
2252	Yellow Bellied Glider	1	93°	50m	658697	5884050
2340	Greater Glider	1	189°	20m	658711	5883785
2344	Greater Glider	1	156°	15m	658726	5883727
30	Greater Glider	1	340°	5m	658724	5884523
Total Greater Gliders		11				
Total Yellow Bellied Gliders		3				
Total Possums		1				

Recommendations

It is obvious that the high density of Greater Gliders recorded at this location inhabit a significant tract of old growth and high conservation forest. As such this habitat should be regarded as "suitable habitat" and included in any informal reserve created following this report. Further, as there is no logging history recorded for this cluster of coupes; 893-503-0018, 0019, 0020, and very marginal history for 893-503-0021, it is recommended that the entire area constitutes "suitable habitat" and should be treated as such.



Spotlight 10.03.2019

- Road 1
- Road 2
- EG Topographic
- EG Hydrology
- MOG2009
- Approved TRP 2017
- VICTORIA
- SMZ

Observed arboreals

- Greater Glider and Yellow Bellied Glider
- Greater Glider x 2
- Greater Glider
- Mountain Brush Tail Possum
- Yellow Bellied Glider