

Report on remote camera survey of *Potorous longipes* Black Cuttings Track

Study location	Black Cuttings track (3km south of the Yalmy road and Mt Jersey road intersection; Yalmy forest block)
Coupe Numbers Concerned	846-502-0003, 846-502-0010, 846-502-0013, 846-502-0015, 846-502-0016 and 846-502-0006 (Note: coupe 846-502-0006 has been logged and burnt within the last five years)
Date of report	01/04/2010
Aim of study	To determine presence/absence of <i>Potorous longipes</i>
Method of study	Baited remote survey cameras
Participants	Tod Billington, Brittany Chapman, Juliana Lee, Andrew Lincoln, Tim Gentle, Alex Selemba

- Abstract**
- This survey detects the presence of *Potorous longipes* several times on the border between scheduled coups 846-502-0010 and 846-502-0013 and within 846-502-0016 which is directly adjacent to 846-502-0015. These detections are by way of video footage. The details of these detection are given below.
 - Several diggings suggesting *Potorous longipes* were encountered throughout the study area. A photographic example of this is provided below.
 - At an earlier time the presence of *Potorous longipes* was also detected in a coup studied in this report (coup 846-502-0003). On the 1st of March 2009 a skull remains of *Potorous longipes* was discovered and later verified as such by Peter Menkhorst in conjunction with other specimens in the museum of Victoria.

Skull remains location:
GDA UTM: 55 H 0643317 5870437

A report detailing this was sent to the Department of Sustainability and Environment in March 2009 and should be read in conjunction with this report; ("Pre-Logging Report of Coupes 846-502-0003, 846-502-0010 and 846-502-0013 Orbost District", Lincoln, A., 2009).

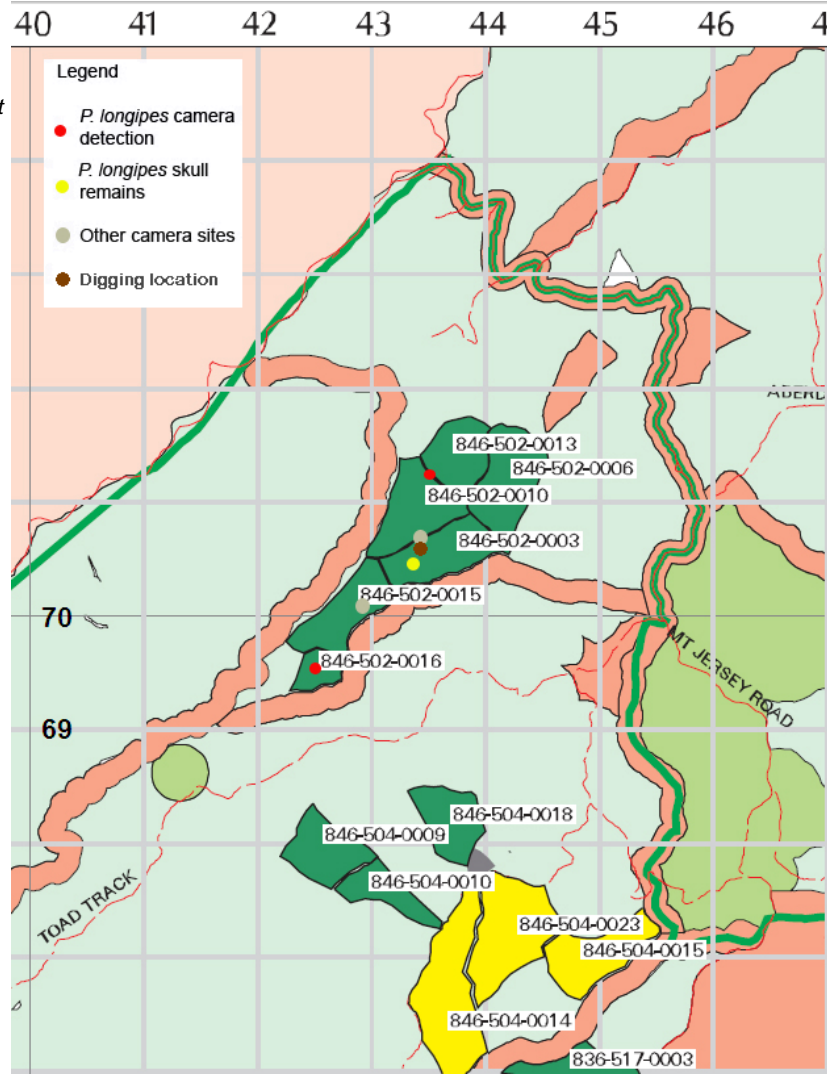
- To our knowledge no action has as yet been taken to protect the habitat of this species at this location.

Study location

The study location spreads over coups 846-502-0003, 846-502-0010, 846-502-0013, 846-502-0015, 846-502-0016 shown in the following map (Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Study area

(Detail from East Gippsland FMA - Orbost District, Approved Timber Release Plan with amendments applied - Harvest Years 200910 – 201314 – Vicforests, 16/07/09 Datum: GDA 94)



Date of study

21/02/2010 – 31/03/2010

Used method of Study

4 Keep Guard motion sensing infrared cameras were placed out each with a pistachio essence and truffle essence based bait in metallic tea infusers. Cameras were set either to capture video or still footage. Cameras were first checked on the 21/03/2010 and again on 31/03/2010. Each camera records the date, time and duration of each video at the start of its footage.

Results of survey

1. *P. longipes* was detected ten times over the duration of twenty seven days. Included in this footage *Potorous longipes* is observed digging and gathering and carrying nesting materials in its tail. Also, two individuals of *Potorous longipes* were recorded in the one image. This camera was set to capture only video footage of ten seconds duration.

Camera Location

55H 0643518 // 5871259
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

Recordings were on; 02/03/2010, 03/03/2010, 07/03/2010, 07/03/2010, 08/03/2010, 08/03/2010, 08/03/2010, 10/03/2010, 27/0/2010 and 29/03/2010.
(Corresponding to Figures 2-11 below)

Figures 2-11 are all still images saved from these recordings where the first example (i.e. 2a, 3a) for each figure is the opening footage and the second example (i.e. 2b, 3b) is a detail from later on in the recording.

Figure 2a.



Figure 2b.



Figure 3a.



Figure 3b.



Figure 4a.



Figure 4b.



Figure 5a.



Figure 5b.



Figure 6a.



Figure 6b.



Figure 7a.



Figure 7b.



Figure 8a.



Figure 8b.



Figure 9a.



Figure 9b.



Figure 10a.



Figure 10b.



Figure 11a.

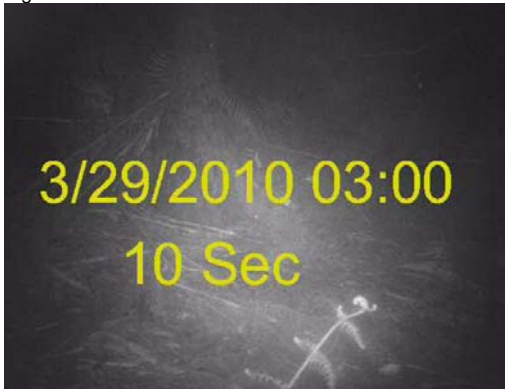


Figure 11b.



Results of survey cont.

2. *P.longipes* was detected four times over the duration of thirty days. This camera was set to capture only video footage of ten seconds duration.

Camera Location
55H 0642534 // 5869541
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

Recordings were on; 01/03/2010, 25/03/2010, 25/03/2010 and 31/03/2010. (Corresponding to Figures 12-15 below)

Figures 12-15 are all still images saved from these recordings where the first example (i.e. 12a, 13a) for each figure is the opening footage and the second example (i.e. 12b, 13b) is a detail from later on in the recording.

Figure 12a.



Figure 12b



Figure 13a.



Figure 13b.



Figure 14a.



Figure 14b.



Figure 15a.



Figure 15b.



Results of survey cont.

- 3. Digging sites for underground fungi indicating *P. longipes* diggings were encountered across the study area. Below are images and location information of one of these findings.

Digging Location
 55H 0642523 // 5869615
 (GDA94, UTM/UPS)



photos by: Alex Selemba

Summary

P. longipes was detected fourteen times by video footage in this survey.

P. longipes diggings for underground fungi were encountered.

P. longipes skull remains were found within the study site (noted from an earlier report listed above).

Conclusion

The detection of *P. longipes* in the studied area is considered very significant to the participating surveyors, the local community and many Victorian citizens expecting the conservation of our threatened fauna and flora to be sustained. Due to the current conservation status and corresponding preservation requirements for this species the management intentions for this site will need reviewing.

The area of this discovery is currently designated as a proposed logging coupe by VicForests under their East Gippsland FMA - Orbost District, Approved Timber Release Plan with amendments applied - Harvest Years 200910 – 201314 – Vicforests, 16/07/09 as coups 846-502-0003, 846-502-0010, 846-502-0013, 846-502-0015, 846-502-0016 and 846-502-0006.

The obvious conflict between the existence of a threatened/ endangered species, recognised at both the state and national level, and plans to log its habitat must be redressed immediately. The proposed logging of this area will negatively impact on the species and its required habitat, and hence should be placed under immediate protection.

Included at the end of this report are extracts from the 2009 reviewed action statement pertaining to the Long-footed Potoroo. These extracts highlight both the minimum actions required by land managers and users to assist the conservation of this species as well as the need to involve and respect the communities participation in this endeavor.

It is expected therefore that at least the actions in extract; "*Appendix 1: Prescriptions to be applied in state forests*" listed below will be enacted before any destructive practices to the species habitat, such as the scheduled logging, are pursued. It is hoped that the conservation of the species is taken seriously and that in future areas containing Long-footed potoroos are not scheduled for logging. It is understood that this will require understanding presence/absence of threatened species in areas scheduled for destruction and that this too would be the minimum action a society concerned about the conservation of its land could undertake.

If the issues raised by this report concern your duties and responsibilities with regard to the action required in the Long-footed potoroo action statement, please respond to the author of this report with your intended actions.

Authors

Andrew Lincoln
asl80@hotmail.com

01/04/2010

Conservation status

The Long-footed Potoroo (*Potorous longipes*) is listed as 'endangered' in Australia under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Long-footed Potoroo (*Potorous longipes*) is listed as 'threatened' in Victoria under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act).

The Long-footed Potoroo (*Potorous longipes*) is considered 'endangered' in Victoria according to the Department of Sustainability and Environment's (DSE) *Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 2007*.

Conservation Objective

Long term objective

To ensure that the Long-footed Potoroo can survive, flourish and retain its potential for evolutionary development in the wild.

Intended Management Actions

The intended management actions listed below are further elaborated in DSE's Actions for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) system. Detailed information about the actions and locations, including priorities, is held in this system and will be provided annually to land managers and other authorities. It is intended that the targets specified below be met within the five year timeframe of this Action Statement.

Objective I To protect populations or habitat from potentially incompatible use

...

Action 4 Protect Long-footed Potoroo habitat at detection sites on public land outside the Core Protected Area

Establish additional protected areas where Long-footed Potoroos have been detected in State forest or other public land outside the Core Protected Area. In State forest, apply the protection measures specified in Appendix I. The protection measures will be formally reviewed in 2014.

Responsibility: DSE, VicForests

...

Objective IV To increase community awareness and support

Target: Opportunities for involvement have been identified, promoted and supported.

Action 13 Develop and distribute community awareness material

Information on the need for special management of the Long-footed Potoroo and on the species' ecology will continue to be distributed to the community, especially in East Gippsland (including the Dargo area) and north-east Victoria. The unique occurrence of the Long-footed Potoroo in these areas should be included as part of the promotion of ecotourism, forest management and the wildlife of the regions. Liaison with deer hunting associations (and especially hunters who use hounds) will be increased to improve their understanding of the importance of the baiting program for the great Dividing Range population and to try to develop mechanisms to minimise the risks of baiting to hunters' dogs. Fact sheets should be added to the DSE website to increase the accessibility of information.

Responsibility: DSE, Parks Victoria

Action 14 Involve the community in recovery activities

Involve the community in the management of the Long-footed Potoroo by providing opportunities for volunteers to assist with field work if appropriate.

Responsibility: DSE

Appendix I: Prescriptions to be applied in State forest:

1. Each Long-footed Potoroo (LFP) detection site outside the Core Protected Area will generate a Special Management Zone (SMZ) of approximately 150 ha.
2. As far as possible, SMZ boundaries will follow recognisable landscape features such as ridges, spurs and watercourses.
3. Within each SMZ, at least one third (~50 ha) will be protected from timber harvesting and new roading.
4. This will be known as Long-footed Potoroo Retained Habitat.
5. The LFP Retained Habitat will include the best LFP habitat in the SMZ, which will generally be in gullies and on lower, sheltered slopes.
6. The LFP Retained Habitat may include areas otherwise unavailable for timber harvesting due to restrictions under the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting.
7. The SMZ will also have a general restriction of one third of the total area that can be harvested in any three year period. If more than one coupe is to be harvested in an SMZ in the same year, the coupes must be separated by at least the equivalent of another coupe width.
8. The SMZ, with the LFP Retained Habitat clearly delineated, will be shown as part of the Forest Management Area zoning scheme.
9. The SMZ will be designed by DSE, in consultation with VicForests, and approved by DSE.
10. If the ~150 ha area includes any part of an existing conservation reserve or Special Protection Zone (SPZ), these areas will retain their existing reservation or zoning status but will be considered for inclusion as part of the area of retained habitat. In such cases, the final area designated as SMZ may be correspondingly smaller.

End of extracts.