

POTOROO SMA – CATTLEYARD TRACK

Report on remote camera survey of *Potorous longipes*

Date of Report	27/05/2010
Study area	Within Long Footed Potoroo and Spot-tailed Quoll Special Management Area and along Cattleyard Track (within the Rich Forest Block).
Coupe Numbers Concerned	<p><i>Proposed Additional Coupes to Orbost TRP;</i> 842-511-0029, 842-511-0030, 842-511-0031, 842-511-0032, and 842-511-0033, 842-515-0012, 842-515-0013, 842-515-0014, 842-515-0015, 842-515-0016, 842-515-0017, 842-515-0019, 842-515-0021, 842-515-0022, 842-515-0023, 842-515-0024, 842-515-0025, 842-515-0026</p> <p><i>Coups listed on Approved TRP (including some which have already been logged);</i> 842-511-0004, 842-511-0020, 842-515-0018, 842-515-0020, 830-502-0015, 830-502-0016</p>
Aim of study	To determine presence/absence of <i>Potorous longipes</i>
Method of study	Baited remote survey cameras
Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This survey detects the presence of <i>Potorous longipes</i> several times within or adjacent to the coupes listed above. These detections are further detailed below.• These detections are principally by way of video footage and include a detection of conical shaped diggings suggesting the presence of <i>Potorous longipes</i>. Evidence of these detections are detailed below.

Study location

Incorporating coups listed in “*Coup numbers concerned*” above and displayed on the following two maps titled Figure 1 and Figure 2. Detection sites have been drawn on these maps and are explained according to the following key.

Map Key:

- *Potorous longipes* remote camera detection
- Conical shaped diggings suggesting the presence of *Potorous longipes*

Figure 1: Study area displayed on; 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

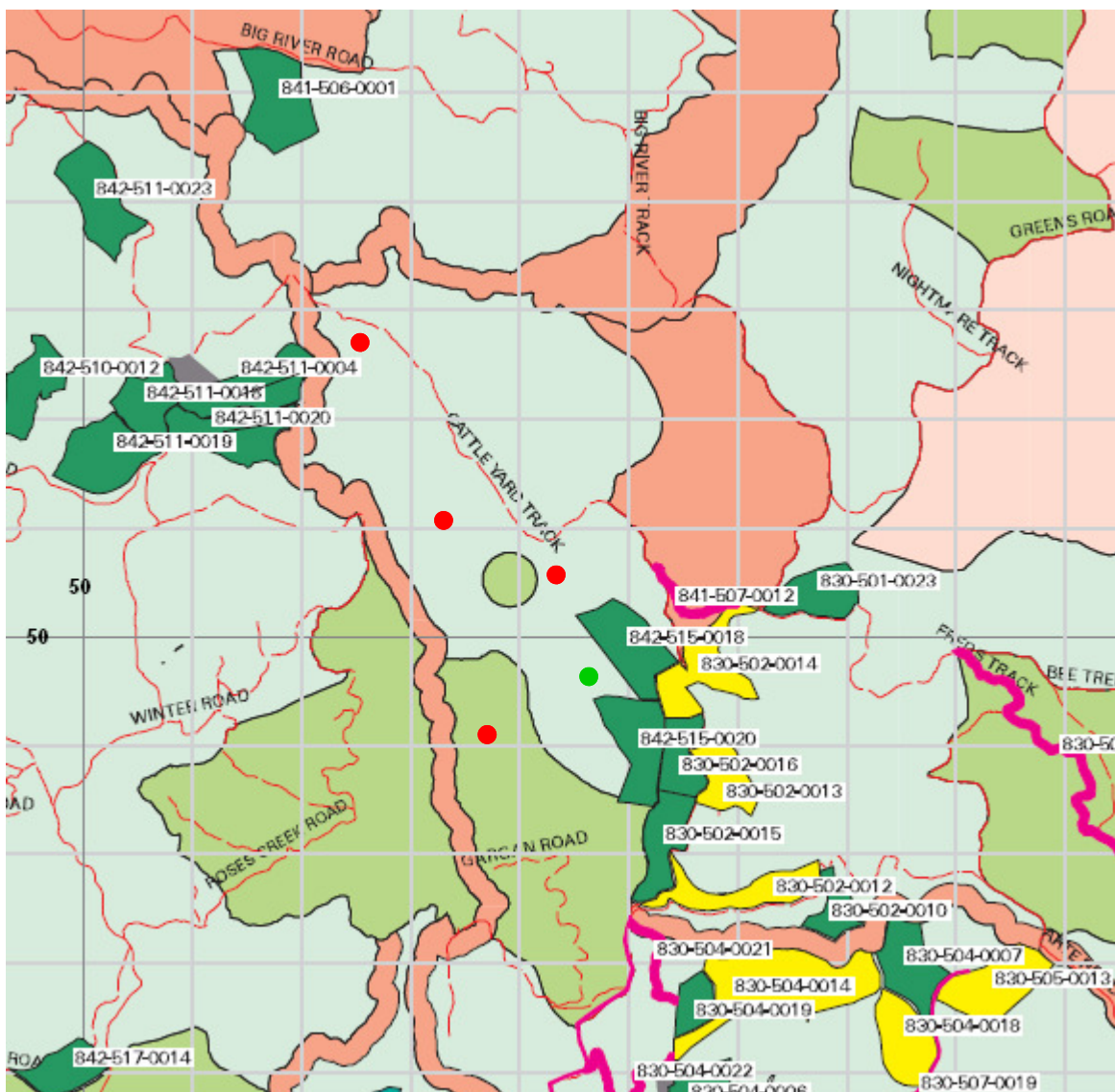
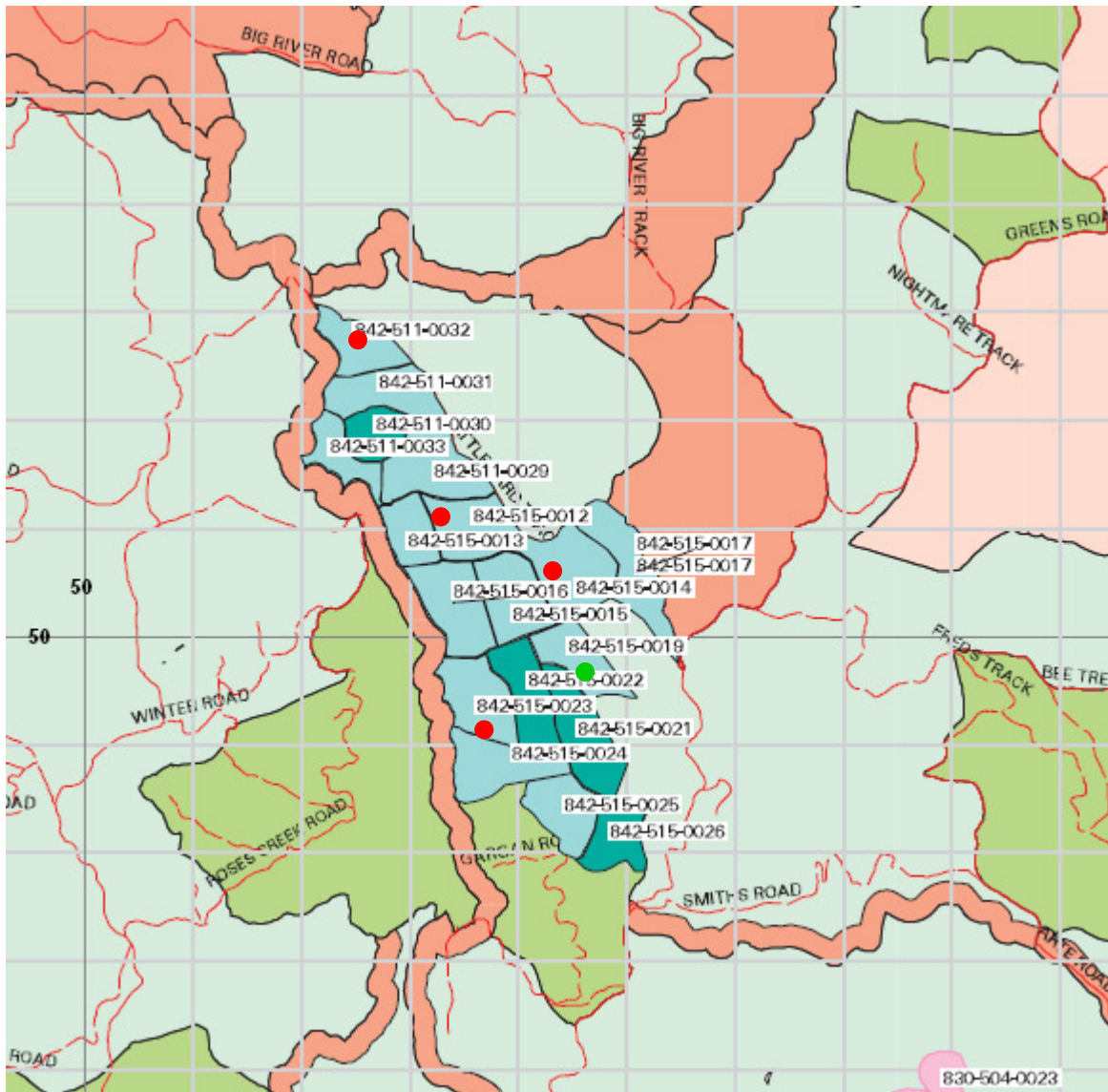


Figure 2: Study area displayed on; Detail from *East Gippsland FMA - Orbost District, TRP Change: Additional coupes and/or roads – Awaiting approval (Process 2754) - Harvest Years 200910 – 201314 – Vicforests, 05/03/10*
 Datum: GDA 94



Date of study	22/04/2010 – 23/05/2010
Used method of Study	5 Keep Guard and 3 Moultrie motion sensing infrared cameras were placed out each with a pistachio essence and or truffle essence based bait. Cameras were set to capture video footage. Cameras were first checked on the 09/05/2010 and again on the 23/05/10 and 24/05/2010.
Surveyors	Tod Billington, Frank Bird, David Caldwell, Brittany Chapman, Kit Daly Owen Hanson, Rob Johnston, Andrew Lincoln

Results of survey *Potorous longipes* was detected several times at four separate locations and conical shaped diggings suggesting the presence of *Potorous longipes* was detected at another separate location. Details are provided below.

1. *P. longipes* camera detection location #1;
Camera used; Moultrie
Camera settings; 1x Photo and 1x 5 second video
Bait; Honey/Oats/Peanut Butter/Truffle oil

Camera Location
55H 0653471 // 5849160
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

3 recordings were on; 26/04/2010, 03/05/2010, 07/05/2010.
(Corresponding to Figures 3-5 below. Note; figure 3a is the photo and 3b is a still taken from the 5 second video)

Figure 3a.



Figure 3b.



Figure 4a.



Figure 4b.



Figure 5a.



Figure 5b.



**Results of survey
cont.**

2. *P. longipes* camera detection location #2;
Camera used; Keep Guard
Camera settings; 1x 20 second video
Bait; Honey/Oats/Peanut Butter/Truffle oil

Camera Location

55H 0654396 // 5850621
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

2 recordings. Taken between 23/04/10 and 09/05/10.
(Figures 6-7 are all still images saved from these recordings)
NB: Time code stamp was not set on this camera)

Figure 6.



Figure7.



**Results of survey
cont.**

3. *P. longipes* camera detection location #3;
Camera used; Keep Guard
Camera settings; 1x 20 second video
Bait; Honey/Oats/Peanut Butter/Truffle oil

Camera Location
55H 0653282 // 5851145
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

2 recordings. Taken on 25/04/10 and 30/04/10.
(Figures 8-9 are all still images saved from these recordings where the first
example (i.e. 8a, 9a) for each figure is the opening footage and the second
example (i.e. 8b, 9b) is a detail from later on in the recording)

Figure 8a.



Figure 8b.



Figure 9a.



Figure 9b.



**Results of survey
cont.**

4. *P. longipes* camera detection location #4;
Camera used; Moultrie
Camera settings; 1x photo and 1x 5 second video
Bait; Honey/Oats/Peanut Butter/Pistachio essence

Camera Location
55H 0652580 // 5852719
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

3 recordings were on; 22/05/2010, 22/05/2010, 23/05/2010.
(Corresponding to Figures 10-12 below. Note; figure 10a is the photo and 10b is
a still taken from the 5 second video)

Figure 10a.



Figure 10b.



Figure 11a.



Figure 11b.



Figure 12a.



Figure 12b.



**Results of survey
cont.**

5. Conical shaped diggings suggesting the presence of *Potorous longipes* were encountered. Below are images and location information of one of these findings.

NB: Vegetation was dominated by wire grass and a dense stand of ground fern species.

Digging Location
55H 0654633 // 5849672
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)



Summary

P. longipes was recorded nine times by video footage in this survey.

Conical shaped diggings suggesting the presence of *Potorous longipes* were encountered.

Discussion

That *P. longipes* was detected at this site is not surprising to the author considering the study location overlapped a Special Management Area designed to protect this endangered species. That this area could be mapped for logging, presumably containing known occurrences of the long footed potoroo seems to the author an act contrary to the intentions and requirements of the species' action statement and the situation that allows this to happen will need investigating and changing.

Some of the area of this discovery is currently designated as scheduled logging coupes by VicForests under their East Gippsland FMA - Orbost District, Approved Timber Release Plan with amendments applied - Harvest Years 200910 – 201314 – Vicforests, 16/07/09, and as proposed logging coupes on their *East Gippsland FMA - Orbost District, TRP Change: Additional coupes and/or roads – Awaiting approval (Process 2754) - Harvest Years 200910 – 201314 – Vicforests, 05/03/10*. The obvious conflict between the existence of an endangered species, recognised at both the state and national level, as well as internationally (where the IUCN Red List of threatened species lists *P. longipes* as *endangered*) and plans to log its habitat must be redressed immediately.

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 carry out these actions and respond to the author of this report with plans of your actions.

Author

Andrew Lincoln
asl80@hotmail.com

27/05/2010
(Pages; 11)

Below are extracts from: "Action Statement – Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act – No. 58 (revised in 2009) – Long-footed Potoroo – *Potorous longipes*", DSE, 2009

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.