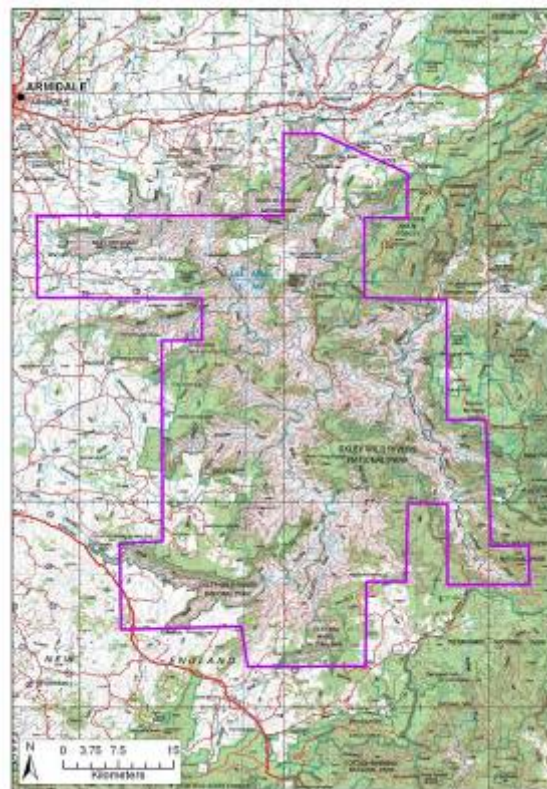


Oxley Wild Rivers National Park



MAINLAND ISLAND CHARACTERISTICS

Jurisdiction	New South Wales
NRM Region	Northern Rivers
LGAs	Armidale Dumaresq Uralla Walcha
Size	213, 000 hectares
Dominant Type	Eucalypt open forests
Land Tenure	National Park World Heritage Area Limited private landholdings
Surrounding Issues	Land use Pest density Weed density

Overall Priority	Conservation Value	Threat Status
Very High	Very High	High

Key Biodiversity Values

Key biodiversity and conservation values of OXLEY WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK

- 23 threatened species
- 1 threatened community
- 10 migratory species
- Very high species richness
- Very high endemism
- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area
- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia National/Commonwealth Heritage Place
- Native vegetation present
- Vertebrate pest species present

CONSERVATION VALUE

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Biodiversity values	Very High (16)
2 Uniqueness	High (3)
3 Representativeness	Medium (2)
4 Adjacency	Very High (4)
5 Area to perimeter ratio	Very High (4)

THREAT STATUS

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Density of pest species	High (6)
2 Pest impact level	High (6)
3 Invasion fronts/range boundaries	High (3)
4 Land use risk	Very High (5)
5 Weed density	High (3)
6 Area without statutory protection	Low (1)



Key Threats and Impacts

Pest Species Present or Potentially Present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cane toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral cat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rodents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carp, European carp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral water buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilapia, Mozambique Tilapia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European red fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral donkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Indian Myna, Common Myna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather loach; Oriental weather loach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European wild rabbit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wild dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral camel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral horse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red-eared slider turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Potential impacts of pest species on matters of National Environmental Significance

Feral cat <i>Apus pacificus</i> <i>Litoria aurea</i> <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i> <i>Pseudomys oralis</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow <i>Litoria aurea</i> <i>Litoria booroolongensis</i> <i>Mixophyes balbus</i>
Feral deer <i>Cynanchum elegans</i>		Feral pig <i>Cynanchum elegans</i> <i>Diuris pedunculata</i> White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland
Wild dog <i>Merops ornatus</i>	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	
European red fox <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> <i>Litoria aurea</i> <i>Merops ornatus</i>	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i> <i>Pseudomys oralis</i> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	European wild rabbit <i>Cynanchum elegans</i> <i>Thesium australe</i> <i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>

Other threatening processes

- Situated on pest invasion front / range boundary
- High risk land use
- High density of Weeds of National Significance

Highest priority biodiversity issues

Pest impacts on Brush-tailed rock wallaby (see below)

Pest management actions identified in recovery plans for *Pseudomys oralis* and *Xanthomyza phrygia*



CRITICAL SYNOPSIS OF VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT REGIME

<p>Need for vertebrate pest management</p>	<p>Management of vertebrate pests is required in order to protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage values of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area in order to meet Australia's international obligations as a signatory nation to the World Heritage Convention. Management is also required to ensure the Australian World Heritage management principles are met as prescribed under the <i>Environment Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>NSW Department of the Environment and Climate Change has a legal obligation to protect threatened species listed under the NSW <i>Threatened Species Act 1995</i>. Vertebrate pests can cause direct and indirect impacts to threatened plant and animals species located in the mainland island.</p>
<p>Planning instruments</p>	<p>The following management plans outline local and regional pest control actions relevant to the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park mainland island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves Strategic Overview for Management (2000) ▪ Feral Horse Management Plan, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Northern Tablelands Region (NSW NPWS, 2006) ▪ Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Oxley Wild Rivers State Conservation Area, Cunnawarra National park and Georges Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management (DECC and NPWS, 2005)
<p>Management actions</p>	<p>Control of wild dogs along boundary areas is a priority where there is significant economic loss to neighbours from wild dog attack. Wild dogs are controlled using a combination of methods, including baiting, aerial shooting and cooperative fencing with neighbours (DECC, 2009).</p> <p>Feral goats are controlled using a combination of ground and aerial shooting in conjunction with adjoining landowners. Pigs are trapped, poisoned and are also controlled with a combination of ground and aerial shooting. Effective strategies for the control of deer are yet to be developed. A feral horse management plan is in place for the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (DECC, 2009).</p>
<p>Monitoring regimes</p>	<p>The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia: A Monitoring Strategy (Chester & Bushnell, 2005) details monitoring programs undertaken within Oxley Wild River National Park and the broader World Heritage Area. The report recommends monitoring regimes which should be undertaken within this area, including monitoring of pest animal species.</p>
<p>Management responsibility</p>	<p>Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service</p>
<p>Cost-benefit analysis</p>	<p>Cost effectiveness of different feral horse control measures is presented in the NSW Model Code of Practice for the Humane control of Feral Horses (Sharp & Saunders, 2004)</p>
<p>Special features</p>	<p>Due to public outcry following an aerial culling of feral horses in Guy Fawkes River National Park in October, 2000, the NSW Minister for Environment banned the aerial culling of horses in national parks. The primary technique used for trapping of horses in the Oxley Wild River National Park utilises a combination of trap paddocks and steel trap yards (NSW NPWS, 2006).</p>
<p>Summary / comments</p>	<p>This area contains one of the largest populations of vulnerable (EPBC Act) brush-tailed rock wallaby in Australia (DECC, 2009). Numerous other threatened and endangered species are also known to occur within this area. The management of vertebrate pests is therefore important to the conservation of these species and their habitat.</p>

References:

Chester, G. and Bushnell, S. (Eds) (2005) *Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia: A Monitoring Strategy*. Department of Environment and Conservation and Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, New South Wales. http://www.jcu.edu.au/rainforest/publications/cerra_monitoring.pdf

Department of Environment and Climate Change (2009) *Department of Environment and Climate Change*. Viewed 22 May 2009. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkManagement.aspx?id=N0043>

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