

Conservation Action Plan

Mountain pygmy-possum (*Burramys parvus*)

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Site details

AIS site	AIS-E0-210
Site location	An area of 4353 hectares in Kosciuszko National Park
NPWS contact	Team Leader - Conservation, Southern Ranges Branch

Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for mountain pygmy-possum	<p>The endangered mountain pygmy-possum is a small, nocturnal ground-dwelling possum that hibernates in winter. Weighing between 30 to 80 grams this species has fine dense fur and a furred tail that is longer than its body. The mountain pygmy-possum is the only Australian mammal entirely restricted to the alpine and subalpine zone in areas above the winter snowline and nests deep within boulder-fields and scree slopes.</p> <p>Seventy percent of the mountain pygmy-possum's diet is invertebrates such as the migratory bogong moth, caterpillars, beetles, spiders and millipedes; the remainder comprises fruits and seeds from species such as the mountain plum pine and snow beard-heath.</p>

Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Inappropriate fire regimes	<p>Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that alters vegetation composition, structure, and function of mountain pygmy-possum habitat may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and food availability and affect the persistence of mountain pygmy-possum at the sites.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the low genetic diversity and small population size of the mountain pygmy-possum.</p>
Feral predators	<p>Predation of mountain pygmy-possum by feral cats and foxes.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the low genetic diversity and small population size of the mountain pygmy-possum.</p>

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Key risk(s)	Description
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and/or spread of weeds (e.g., St John's wort, blackberry and ox-eye daisy) to the extent that the area of suitable habitat is reduced.
Feral herbivores	Competition and habitat degradation of the mountain pygmy-possum habitat by introduced herbivores, such as feral rabbits and deer through grazing and trampling.
Anthropogenic climate change	<p>Changes to weather patterns, climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions and fire, or availability of bogong moths may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of mountain pygmy-possum at the sites.</p> <p>This risk is exacerbated by the low genetic diversity and small population size of the mountain pygmy-possum.</p>
Disturbance	<p>Activities that lead to a reduction in the availability of bogong moths may lead to a decline in mountain pygmy possum at the sites.</p> <p>Authorised infrastructure and maintenance activities (e.g., maintenance of roads, powerlines and infrastructure) that leads to degradation of habitat by machinery use.</p>

Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the mountain pygmy possum within 12 months of the adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas - implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas - integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. • Implement fire management consistent with the guidance. • Implement supplementary food and water to maintain individuals after fire events until habitat has sufficiently recovered.

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Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent practicable, reduce the density of foxes to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the mountain pygmy possum and maintain the density at or below that level by baiting, trapping and shooting. • To the extent practicable, reduce the density of cats to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the mountain pygmy possum and maintain the density at or below that level by undertaking periodic feral cat control (e.g., shooting, trapping or other approved methods).
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on the mountain pygmy-possum, by targeted application of physical, biological, and chemical weed control.
Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent practicable, reduce rabbit and deer densities to levels that are not having an ecologically significant impact on the mountain pygmy-possum, and maintain densities at or below those levels, by trapping, baiting and shooting and other approved integrated control measures.
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a decline in species trajectory is attributed to impacts of anthropogenic climate change, investigate ex-situ management of the population. • As required, provide supplementary habitat or augment existing habitat at the sites
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether infrastructure maintenance, visitor use and activities on surrounding land is having an adverse impact on mountain pygmy-possum. If adverse impacts are observed implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrade/realignment of trails to avoid known habitat. - installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide use near sites. - installation of barriers or other suitable protective structures to minimise impacts from infrastructure maintenance and visitor use. - installation of signs, threatened species marker posts or barriers to delineate sites and minimise impacts from visitor use.

Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are undertaken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the mountain pygmy-possum population	Population estimate	Implement annual monitoring to estimate the number of individuals in the mountain pygmy possum population.

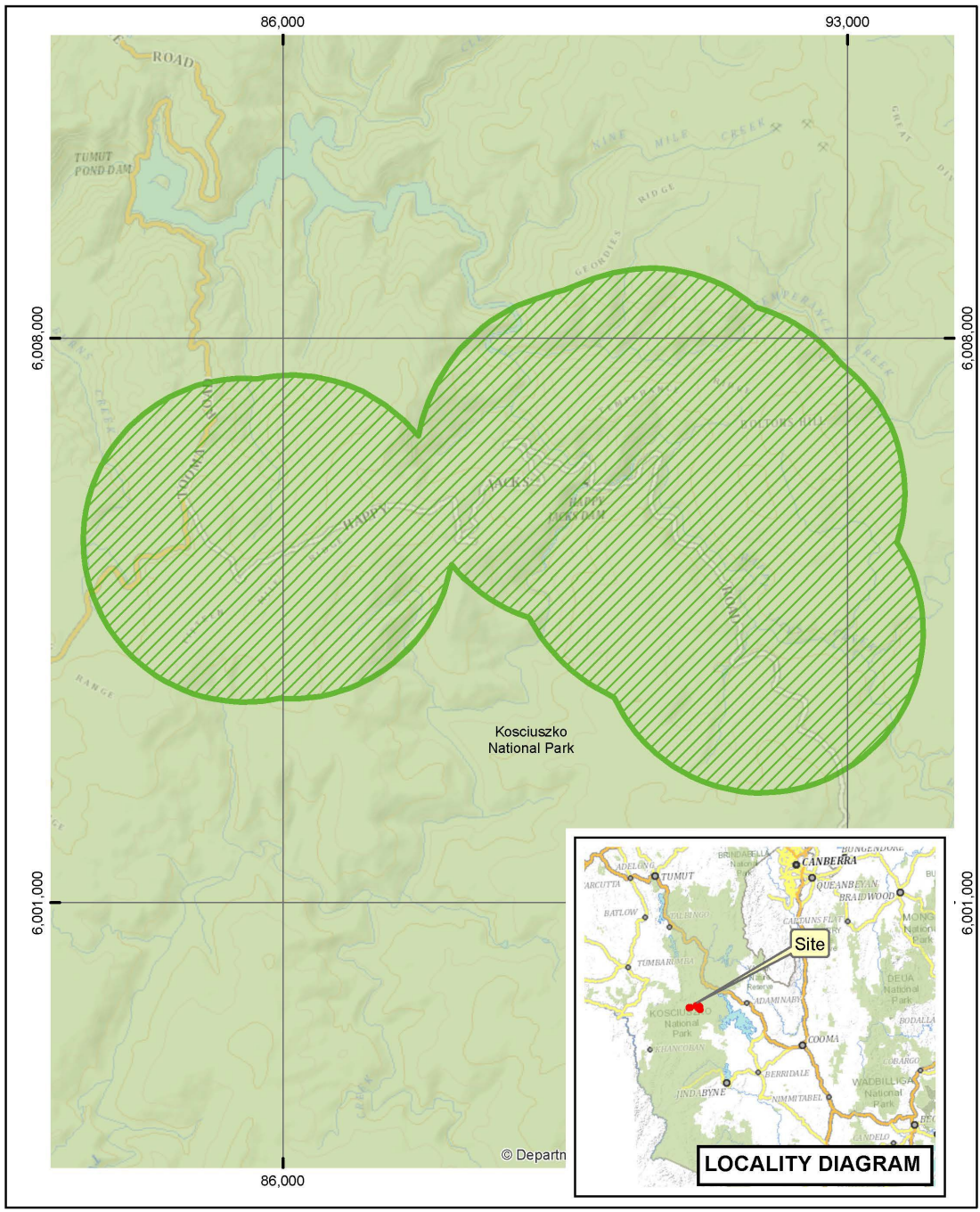
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.

Evaluation of conservation action plans



This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified assets (Reg. 78H).

The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

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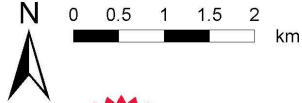


Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-210
Asset of
Intergenerational Significance
Mountain pygmy-possum
(*Burrhamys parvus*)
Kosciuszko National Park

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Date prepared March 2023

Date approved June 2023

Approved by Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage Group

Due for review June 2028

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ISBN 978-1-923018-30-3; EHG2023/0142; July 2023.