MU 35  TABLELAND GULLY MOUNTAIN GUM – BROAD-LEAVED PEPPERMINT GRASSY FOREST

- **CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS**
  Regional: MU73 Cool Montane Wet Forest/MU8 Tableland Ridge Forest/MU14 Western Tablelands Dry Forest
  State: Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests

Number of Sites: 3  Average number of identified native species per plot: 39.3

- **DESCRIPTION**

The deeper gullies and sheltered slopes of the metamorphic and Permian hills of the western Cox's catchment carry a dry, grassy, moderately tall (c. 25 metres) open forest. The primary tree species are tall mountain gum (*E. dalrympleana*) and the closely related ribbon gum (*E. viminalis*) with smaller broad-leaved peppermint (*E. dives*). Snow gum (*E. pauciflora*) is present in the small tree layer on sites close to the creeklines, and red stringybark (*E. macrohyncha*) occurs on partly sheltered sites on Permian sediments. The understorey is generally very open and grassy and typically occurs in two layers. A taller layer of larger tussock grasses (such as *Joycea*) and graminoids like *Lomandra* and *Dianella*, and a lower layer that is dominated by smaller lomandras, tussock grasses like *Poa* and a variety of forbs. As sites become increasingly exposed the community grades into Map Unit 34 in the Mount Walker area and Map Unit 37 on Permian substrates.

The community favours metamorphic substrates on stony loam soils, although extensive areas also occur on the Permian strata of the northern Cox's Valley. The favoured position is lower in the landscape, typically where it is moderately well sheltered, at elevations between 780 metres and 1100 metres above sea level. The distribution of the community spans a rainfall band between 800 millimetres to 1100 millimetres per annum though most falls in the lower range.

Data analysis suggested associations with multiple vegetation complexes described by Tindall et al. (2004). This may arise because of lower sampling effort used in that study. It also reflects that while the habitat is sheltered, the vegetation still comprises an assemblage of plant species that are also found in drier environments associated with ridgetops. It forms a component of Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests of Keith (2004). Reservation levels of this community are low, improved only by the recent additions of Mt Walker to the reserve network. Clearing has been restricted to accessible sites in the study area, though across the range of the community levels of clearing are likely to be greater (Tindall et al. 2004).

- **STRUCTURAL SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratum</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>AvLowHt</th>
<th>AvHt</th>
<th>maxHt</th>
<th>AvCover</th>
<th>SDcover</th>
<th>minCover</th>
<th>maxCover</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>10.33</td>
<td>26.33</td>
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</table>

- **FLORISTIC SUMMARY**

**Trees**

*Eucalyptus dalrympleana, E. dives, E. pauciflora, E. viminalis, E.bridgesiana*
Low Trees and Shrubs
Acacia falciformis, Leucopogon lanceolatus, Lissanthe strigosa

Ground Covers
Asplenium flabellifolium, Cymbonotus lawsonianus, Desmodium varians, Dianella caerulea, D. revoluta, Dichondra repens, Geranium solanderi, Gonocarpus tetragynus, Helichrysum scopioideae, Hydrocotyle laxiflora, Joycea pallida, Lomandra filiformis, Lomandra longifolia, Microlaena stipoides, Oxalis perennans, Poa sieberiana, Pteridium esculentum, Senecio quadridentatus, Stackhousia monogyna, S. viminea, Stellaria pungens, Viola betonicifolia

Vines & Climbers
Clematis glycinoides, Glycine clandestina

- **KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES**

- **Easily recognisable features to assist in identifying this map unit are:**
  - Taller open forest with abundant broad-leaved peppermint (E. dives), snow gum (E. pauciflora), mountain gum (E. dalrympleana) and ribbon gum (E. viminalis) over a grassy understorey. Shrubs are typically uncommon or scarce.
  - Favours metamorphic substrates and the basal Permian strata, usually on moderate sheltered slopes and gullies.

- **EXAMPLE LOCATIONS**
Gullies between Mount Walker and Rydal, and in the upper reaches of the Cox’s River Valley near Blackfellowsland Rock.
CONDITION ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disturbance Class</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
<th>Proportion Extant (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Low</td>
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<td>7.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Medium</td>
<td>573.99</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C High</td>
<td>162.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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THREATENED PLANT SPECIES

Possible: Baloskion longipes, Derwentia blakelyi, Diuris aequalis, Eucalyptus cannonii

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Name</th>
<th>Group Score</th>
<th>Group Freq (%)</th>
<th>Non Group Score</th>
<th>Non Group Freq (%)</th>
<th>Fidelity Class</th>
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