

Saving our Species project 2013-14 annual report card

Smoky Mouse

Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>
NSW status:	Critically endangered
Commonwealth status:	Endangered
Management stream:	Site-managed



Photographer: Jackie Miles and Linda Broome

Overall project status*

- Populations at all key management sites are generally stable or increasing
- All management is being implemented as planned; too early to detect response to management at some sites
- Management at some sites requires review/amendment to ensure that the project is likely to meet its objectives
- Major review of / changes to the project required to ensure long-term objectives are likely to be met

*For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Project summary

Key management sites:	Nullica; Wadbilliga
Action implementation:	7 of 9 actions were implemented as planned for the financial year (includes species population monitoring actions + other project actions fully or partially implemented)
Total expenditure:	\$57,781 (cash and in-kind)
Project partners:	Forestry Corporation of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage; Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Management site 1: Nullica

LGA: Bega Valley

Project partners: Forestry Corporation of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage; Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
Unknown	Yes	Forestry Corporation of NSW; Office of Environment and Heritage	Unknown

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Forestry Corporation of NSW	\$10,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$47,781

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Dieback caused by Cinnamon fungus (<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>) - many of the heathy plants in the habitat are highly susceptible.	Collect soil samples from the 30 monitoring sites and conduct appropriate testing to identify infection	Yes
Dieback caused by Cinnamon fungus (<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>) - many of the heathy plants in the habitat are highly susceptible.	Implement hygiene protocols for vehicles and walkers entering the areas; State Forest and OEH staff predominantly.	Yes
Predation by cats and dogs, particularly if forestry or road maintenance activities reduce cover and increases predator activity.	Trap cats using soft-catch traps especially in and around known locations of high-density.	Yes
Predation by cats and dogs, particularly if forestry or road maintenance activities reduce cover and increases predator activity.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using sandpads.	Yes
Predation by foxes	Implement fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP) for the South East Forests site.	Yes
Too frequent burning, such as 4-7 years for hazard reduction burning, is likely to be deleterious to the shrub and hypogean fungi resource.	Monitor vegetation species recruitment and adult condition post fire / logging events annually for 3 years, then every 3rd year to year 12 and every 5 years thereafter.	Yes
Too frequent burning, such as 4-7 years for hazard reduction burning, is likely to be deleterious to the shrub and hypogean fungi resource.	Develop appropriate fire / forestry prescription for the species based on monitoring data that is ongoing for the species and vegetation characteristics (Species Management Plan; P Kambouris and L. Broome).	No

Site summary

Smoky Mice detected at four of the thirty monitoring sites in September 2013. Thirty-seven cats and three foxes were trapped from May 2013 to May 2014. Sand pad monitoring indicated low fox and dog numbers, but cat numbers remain high. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* detected on 16 sites.

Management site 2: Wadbilliga

LGA: Bega Valley; Cooma-Monaro; Eurobodalla

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted
Unknown	No

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
N/A	\$0

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Uncertainty about the species' density and distribution throughout the area. Likely to be more individuals.	Survey to establish extent of high quality habitat and map, primarily target Wadbilliga National Park.	No

Site summary

This site has yet to be surveyed. It is very remote, steep and difficult to access and survey efficiently with remote cameras. Current plans are to train a detector dog to locate occupied nesting burrows of Smoky Mice.