

SOUTH EAST FOREST RESCUE

S T O P P I N ' T H E C H O P P I N '

C/o PO Box 98, Central Tilba, NSW, 2546 Ph: 0427221691/0244737075

21 June 2004

Doug Mills
N.P.W.S.
Southern Directorate,
Threatened Species Unit.

IFOA-TSL BREACHES, COMPARTMENTS 114/116, BENANDARAH STATE FOREST No 838

Dear Doug,

An audit of compartments 114 and 116 of Benandarah SF was undertaken on Sunday 20/6/04 by members of SEFR and the following breaches were found in the areas we inspected.

5.6 Tree Retention

g) Protection of retained trees

ii. In the course of conducting specified forestry activities, logging debris must not, to the greatest extent practicable, be allowed to accumulate within five metres of a retained hollow-bearing tree, recruitment tree, stag, Allocasuarina with more than 30 crushed cones beneath, eucalypt feed tree, or Yellow-bellied Glider or Squirrel Glider sap feed tree. Logging debris within a five metres radius of retained trees must be removed or flattened to a height of less than one metre. Mechanical disturbance to ground and understorey must be minimised to the greatest extent practicable within this five metres radius. Habitat and recruitment trees must not be used as bumper trees during harvesting operations.

Cpt 116

At point A on the map (GPS 0248352/6049494) there was a marked H tree with debris piled more than a metre high. Photo 1.

Point B on the map (GPS 0247234/6048995) there was a marked H tree with debris piled more than a metre high. Photo 2.

Point C on the map (GPS 0247247/6048990) there was a marked R tree with debris piled more than a metre high. Photo 3.

Point D on the map (GPS 0247475/6049277) there was a stag with debris piled more than a metre high.

Point E on the map, SE edge of dump 11 there was a large ironbark that was not marked which had log dump debris pushed against it several metres high.

Cpt 114

At point F of the 114 map (GPS 0248904/6050451) there was a tree that was not marked but had H tree qualities with debris piled more than a metre high. Photo 4. In the vicinity there were no other H or R trees observed.

As can be seen from the above, this type of breach is a reoccurring problem and is only the tip of the iceberg as we have only audited a small area of the compartment. At most of these trees a machine had been within several metres of them and could easily have removed the debris from around the base. If a post logging burn were to be conducted in this compartment it would see the damage or destruction of many trees retained for threatened species habitat.

5.6 Tree Retention

The following condition must be implemented within the regrowth zone:

c) Regrowth Zone Hollow-bearing Tree Retention

i. A minimum of ten-hollow bearing trees must be retained per two hectares of net logging area.

Where this density is not available then those hollow-bearing trees present within the net logging area must be retained.

At point G on the map (GPS 0247497/6049099) a hollow was found in a tree head on the ground (photo 5). There were no marked H or R trees around and there was not 10 marked trees in the 2 ha around this felled hollow-bearing tree. Also at point D there was a hollow in the crown of a felled spotted gum. Again there was no noticeable H or R trees in the vicinity of this felled tree.

In the areas that were inspected it was noticed that there were many stumps of greater diameter than that of the retained trees. The number of retained trees that were marked was also a low number. These two observations and the two felled hollow trees point to a major breach of the tree retention prescription and urgent action is needed to ensure this minimal protection for threatened species habitat is adhered to.

We would request that these breaches be investigated by you and the full force of the NPWS be brought to bear on SFNSW. If you require further information or would like a field inspection with us please make contact with us.

Regards,
Scott Daines
Tony Whan