

Step 14

Monitor fauna habitat

Monitoring changes in the habitat available for a range of animals can show whether this habitat is being maintained.

Making changes to management will have an effect on native animals and their habitat. Monitoring for several years shows whether basic habitat features are changing over time. For example, monitoring may show if habitat is becoming more suitable for a wider range of species.

If there is a reduction in the structure of habitat there will be major effects on the different animals that use that area. The ecosystem of the site will also be affected. Changes in management activities may be required, particularly if a threatened animal is present.

The result of this monitoring method does not show whether animals are actually using habitat that is suitable for them.

Aim

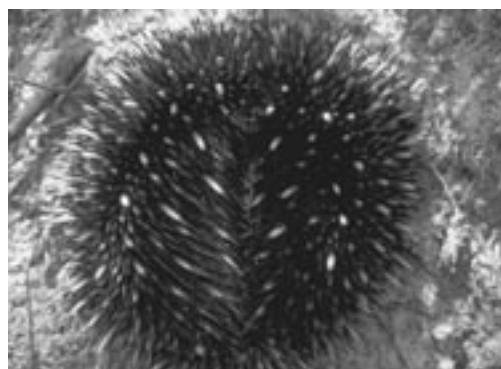
- To reassess the condition of fauna habitat over at least five years to ensure that habitat is being retained.



Golden Sun moth



Blue-tongue lizard



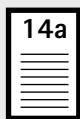
Echidna



Dianella longifolia

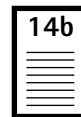
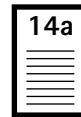
Materials

- Sheet 14a
- Sheet 14b
- Map
- Overlay 4
- Camera



Method

1. Choose the management units to be monitored for habitat condition. Use the same locations each time. Choose a time interval appropriate to the subject being monitored.
2. Mark the location of the monitoring site on Overlay 4.
3. Record the habitat features of each management unit on Sheet 14a. Describe the location and methods to be used.
 - Add up the habitat features for each management unit. The total is the habitat score
 - Convert the habitat score to a ranking by using Table G. Record the habitat ranking for each management unit on Sheet 14a.
4. Repeat the monitoring over a period of time at each chosen location.
5. Record any other observations and any follow up activities that may be required.
6. Record the fauna at the monitoring locations, for example, records of bird sightings. Maintain this record on Sheet 14b.
7. Compare the differences over time. Consider which habitat features have changed and why this may be so.
8. Take a photo to help show changes that have occurred.



Example

Step 14a: Habitat assessment

Object(s) of monitoring: To record any change in habitat condition and diversity

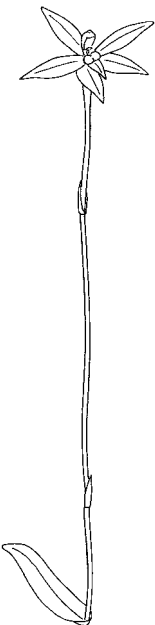
Details of monitoring (*how it is being done and how often*): In the woodland identify the presence of habitat features. Photos are taken from marked star pickets.

Location (*including Management Units, direction, height, reference points*): See monitoring map (Overlay 4) H1: Unit C;

Management: Unit A2: rotationally grazed occasionally

Monitoring location: H1	Management unit: C	
Monitoring date	11/12/97	3/12/01
Have you heard or seen small native birds?		Y
Is there a very low incidence of feral animals?	Y	Y
Are mosses or lichens present?		
Is the ground covered with litter?	Y	Y
Are there surface rocks or rocky outcrops present?		
Are there more than 10 native species in the groundlayer?	Y	Y
Is there a mix of tree ages present, i.e. saplings through to old growth?	Y	y
Total number of 'yes' answers	12	15
Habitat condition rating	M	M

Follow up actions: 11/12/97: fence off to prevent stock camping in site.



Glossodia major