

working in forests today



Ecologist

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Combining the results of field research with the best available knowledge on wildlife management is the key task for Forests NSW ecologists.

'I work in some amazing forest environments looking for native plants and animals. Conservation of wildlife living in State forests is a fundamental aim of forest management, so we need to know exactly where animals are living and plants growing.

'I often work through the night surveying for nocturnal creatures like frogs, bats and gliders. We have special traps and techniques to trap or spot these animals and I still get a thrill from each and every animal I see.

'Survey results are one of the tools planning foresters use to decide where timber harvesting will be allowed and where it will be excluded.

'There are threatened species like Hastings river mouse and rufous scrub-bird found in State forests near Wauchope. There are special measures in place to ensure they have the space, habitat and food supplies they need when timber harvesting is planned near where they are found.

'One of my favourite local species has to be the brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*). This feisty little carnivore has been known to eat chickens in a chook house, while the males die soon after mating when they are just a year old!

'I also work with other local land owners and managers to eradicate pest animals such as foxes and wild dogs which can have devastating effects on the health of forests.'



Ecologist — a scientist who studies the relationship between plants, animals, microorganisms and their environment.



Left: The giant barred frog, one of the many species of frog protected in State forests. During spring and summer listen for the deep grunt like call of the male near forest streams.



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