

# Threatened Species of **Rover**



# Best Practice Management for Threatened Species

## Introduction

The plant and animal species found in an area can show whether the country is healthy for wildlife and being managed sustainably. We place particular value on some of these species because they are rare or threatened in the Northern Territory, Australia or worldwide, or are only found in a small area. Some are important because their presence shows that the special needs they share with a wide range of other species are being met.

Most land in the Northern Territory is already managed in a way that supports native wildlife, by avoiding clearing and loss of ground cover, and with few weeds or pest animals. However, a few native species can only flourish under active management, and these deserve special attention. Species that have become threatened usually depend on one or more elements of the environment that are sensitive to change. Restoring these elements will benefit a wide range of wildlife, and if the threatened species is present, their number should also recover. A diverse range of habitats is needed to support the diversity of wildlife. So a range of different management actions will be required to preserve all species.

Many of the management actions recommended can also improve the sustainability of pastoral production. Most adjustments needed are also considered best practice for pasture management, such as using moderate stocking rates and periodically spelling country, managing weeds and controlling feral animals. These practices help ensure healthy and productive native pastures. In very few cases, pastoral production is incompatible with the preservation of a particular threatened species. Management for these species necessitates removing stock and other grazing animals from key areas of habitat. Some species persist only under the lightest grazing pressure. This booklet explains how to manage grazing pressure across the property to make sure there is habitat for these species even on a production property.

Wetland and marine species face particular challenges associated with overfishing and pollution.

## Using this booklet

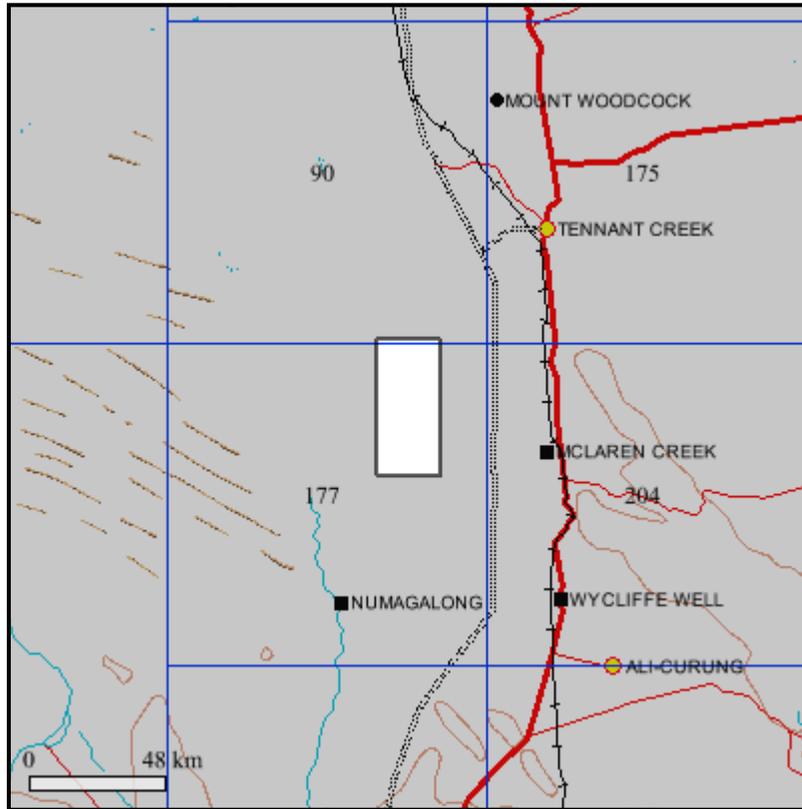
This booklet provides information to help land and sea managers protect threatened species and their habitats in the Northern Territory. Using the recommended management actions will also benefit a wider range of native plants and animals.

Databases kept by the Northern Territory Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) were used to identify all threatened plants, frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals recorded in the selected area, or within grid cells that overlap the area. This list reflects the range of threatened species likely to be found in the selected area, and the range of habitats and management challenges faced. However, future booklets for this area may include additional species as databases are updated several times a year.

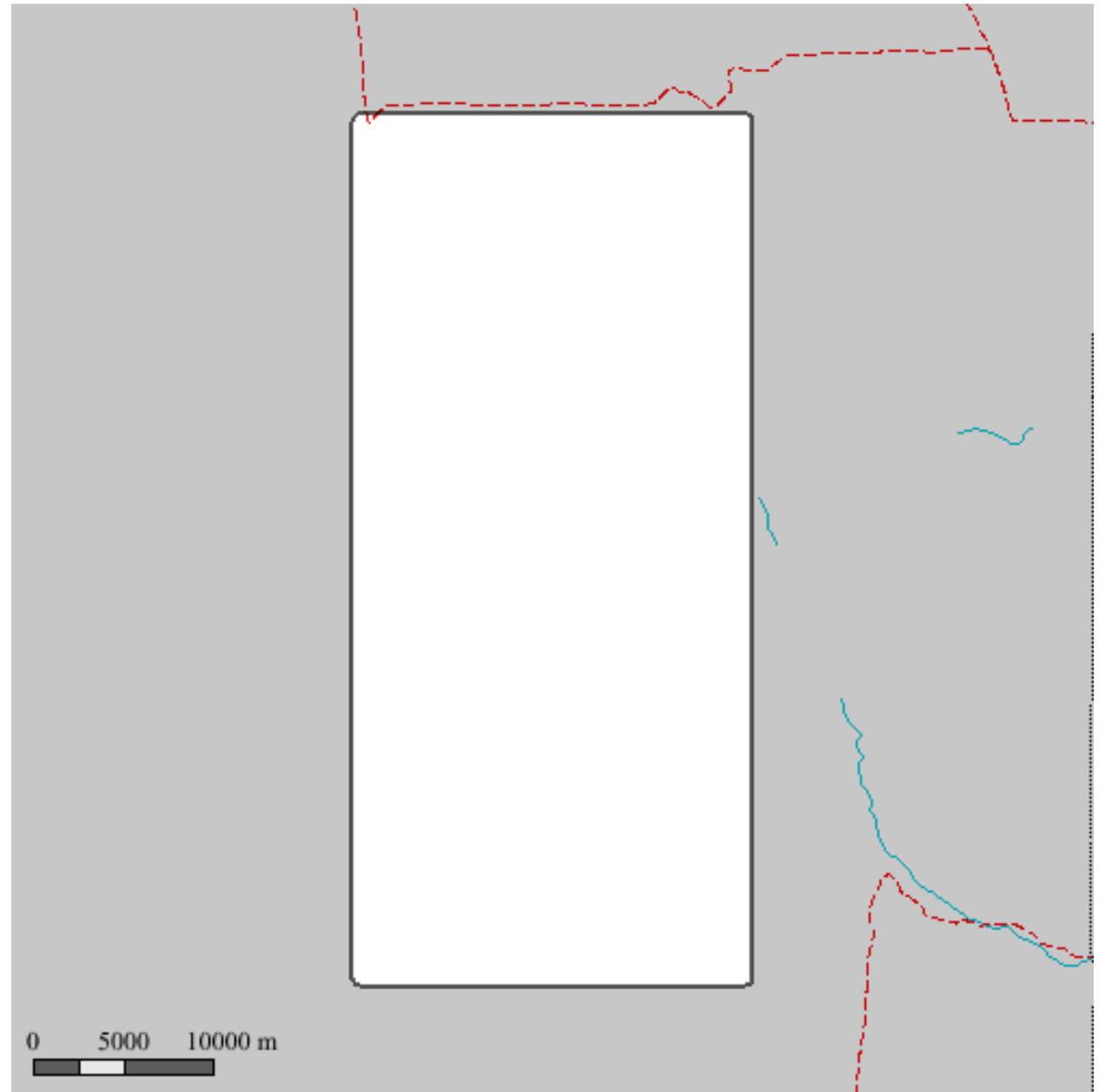
A more detailed explanation of the recommended management actions, listed at the bottom of each species page, can be found in the management guidelines for weeds, pest animals and practices for wildlife conservation booklets.

Additional threatened species booklets and information on natural resource values for this and other areas in the Northern Territory can be found on the Infonet ([www.infonet.org.au](http://www.infonet.org.au)), North Australian Land Manager ([www.landmanager.org.au](http://www.landmanager.org.au)) and DLRM (<http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/biodiversity-conservation/animals/home>) web pages.

## Location Map for Rover



Species listed in the table below were recorded from all the grid cells shown above that overlap Rover



# Species List

## Threatened species of the Rover in the Northern Territory

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	NT Status	National Status	ID	Info
Birds	Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	VU	.	.	
Mammals	Brush-tailed Mulgara	<i>Dasycercus blythi</i>	VU	VU	351695	<a href="#">Info</a>
Mammals	Crest-tailed Mulgara	<i>Dasycercus cristicauda</i>	VU	EN	351695	<a href="#">Info</a>
Mammals	Greater Bilby	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	VU	VU	177125	<a href="#">Info</a>
Mammals	Southern Marsupial Mole	<i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>	VU	EN	352105	<a href="#">Info</a>

\* Click on the "Info" links on the right to go to the management related information on each species. Where the "Info" column is blank no management guidelines have been created, usually because the species is not a significant threat to wildlife.

**EN** = Endangered

**VU** = Vulnerable

# Crest-tailed Mulgara (Ampurta)

*Dasyercus cristicauda*

**What it looks like:** The Crest-tailed Mulgara, also known as the Ampurta, is a stocky, short-legged marsupial with small ears and a pointed snout. Except for the black brush at the end of its tail and its dark eyes, it is pale fawn. It can grow to about 30 cm long, including its tail, which is about one third of its total length.

**Where it lives:** Crest-tailed Mulgaras are arid zone animals that shelter in burrows by day and emerge at night to feed on insects and other small animals. They have been found living in sand dunes amongst Canegrass (*Zygochloa paradoxa*) and Spinifex (*Triodia basedowii*). Records come from across the arid zone, including from the Northern Territory, with greatest numbers in the Simpson Desert, in Queensland, and northern South Australia. Confusion in identifying this species has only recently been resolved. However, there is enough certainty in the records to show that the Crest-tailed Mulgara is one of the many arid land species in decline.

**Importance as an indicator:** The decline of the Crest-tailed Mulgara and other arid zone mammals is symptomatic of deteriorating environmental conditions. Possible threats to this species include widespread fires, predation by cats and foxes, and overgrazing by cattle, rabbits and other introduced herbivores. However, closer examination of the ecology of this species is required to determine which of these factors is most important.

**Look after Crest-tailed Mulgara (Ampurta)** and other arid land mammals by controlling cats and foxes. Use patch-burning to reduce risk of widespread wildfires. On pastoral properties, maintain a moderate grazing pressure, periodically spell country from grazing to allow recovery of ground cover plants and use strategic placement of waterpoints and fences to ensure some areas are rarely grazed.



Photo: © Peter Canty

**Northern Territory Status:** Vulnerable

**Australian Status:** Vulnerable

**Text compiled** by Gabriel Crowley & Mark Ziembecki

**based on** Woinarski J.C.Z., Pavey C., Kerrigan R., Cowie I. & Ward S. 2007. Lost from our Landscape - Threatened Species of the Northern Territory. Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Darwin.

<http://www.landmanager.org.au/view/index.aspx?id=351695>

*Last updated January 2013*

## Best practice management for Crest-tailed Mulgara (Ampurta) in the Northern Territory

- Maintain ground layer
- Graze moderately & periodically spell country from grazing
- Exclude stock from at least part of pastoral properties
- Manage fire
- Report new populations
- More information is needed about this species

**What it looks like:** The Greater Bilby is a large bandicoot with soft silky grey and shimmery pink fur over most of its body. It has a clean white belly, and a white-tipped, chocolate-coloured tail. It has a long and delicate snout ending in a pink nose, and large, rabbit-like ears.

**Where it lives:** Bilbies were once found through the woodlands, spinifex grasslands and shrublands of mainland Australia, wherever sandy soils were suitable for building extensive burrows. Management by Traditional Owners maintained a patchy fire regime, protecting habitat needed for shelter and promoting food diversity. Favoured foods include termites, witchetty grubs, spiders, truffles and the bulbs of sedges. In the Northern Territory, Greater Bilbies are still found patchily through the Tanami, Sturt Plateau and Great Sandy Desert bioregions.

**Importance as an indicator:** The Greater Bilby's decline across mainland Australia signifies that all is not well in arid land environments. This species faces a range of pressures that, together or alone, could be responsible for its demise. These include predation by cats and foxes, disease, a shift in fire regime that reduces availability of suitable spinifex patches, and competition from introduced grazing animals, especially rabbits. Rabbits may also occupy Bilby burrows. Couch Grass has been replacing the wetland plant Yalka (*Cyperus bulbosus*), which is an important food plant for bilbies.

**Look after Greater Bilby** by controlling fox, cat and wild dog numbers using effective methods. Reinststate a patchy fire regime that provides both areas of recently burnt and long unburnt country in close proximity. Use strategic placement of fences and waterpoints to manage grazing pressure on pastoral properties, ensuring that parts of the property remain ungrazed. Periodically spell country to allow recovery of the grass layer. Control grazing by feral animals, particularly rabbits. Control Couch Grass around wetland in which Yalka grows.



Photo: © NRETAS

**Northern Territory Status:** Vulnerable  
**Australian Status:** Vulnerable

**Text compiled** by Gabriel Crowley & Mark Ziembicki

**based on** Pavey, C. 2006. National Recovery Plan for the Greater Bilby *Macrotis lagotis*. Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Alice Springs.

Woinarski J.C.Z., Pavey C., Kerrigan R., Cowie I. & Ward S. 2007. *Lost from our Landscape - Threatened Species of the Northern Territory*. Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Darwin.

[www.landmanager.org.au/view/index.aspx?id=177125](http://www.landmanager.org.au/view/index.aspx?id=177125)

Last updated June 2009

## Best practice management for Greater Bilby in the Northern Territory

- Maintain ground layer
- Control pest animals
- Graze moderately & periodically spell country from grazing
- Exclude stock from at least part of pastoral properties
- Manage fire
- Investigate/manage disease

# Southern Marsupial Mole

*Notoryctes typhlops*

**What it looks like:** This small, furry creature has an almost featureless face, a fat body, a short, stumpy tail, and long fingernails designed for digging. Its body colour can be anything from almost white to golden red.

**Where it lives:** Southern Marsupial Moles live in sandy deserts, where they spend most of their time underground feeding on insects and other small animals. They appear to be most common in well-vegetated dunes, but are also found in sandy plains and river flats. Their distribution covers central Western Australia, northern South Australia and south-western Northern Territory, as far north as just east of Kalkarindji.

**Importance as an indicator:** A decline in the species' abundance has been reported by Aboriginal people living within its range. Threats faced by the species are thought to include predation by feral cats and foxes and dingoes, and soil compaction caused by stock movements or by vehicles. Altered fire regimes, resulting in a decline in food abundance, is also considered important.

**Look after Southern Marsupial Mole** by managing feral animals. Control large animals, such as camels, to reduce soil compaction and loss of vegetation cover, and cats and foxes, which have had a significant impact on native arid land mammals. On pastoral properties, ensure a moderate grazing pressure, and spell country from grazing to allow the recovery of ground cover plants whenever practicable. Maintain plant diversity by implementing a fire regime that ensures a mosaic of habitats burnt at different times, with no areas being burnt more frequently than every three to five years. Small areas may need to be burnt most years in order to create breaks in the fuel load. Fires should only be lit under mild weather conditions, when extent of burn can be controlled.



Photo: © NRETAS

**Northern Territory Status:** Vulnerable  
**Australian Status:** Endangered

**Text compiled** by Gabriel Crowley & Mark Ziembicki  
**based on** Woinarski J.C.Z., Pavey C., Kerrigan R., Cowie I. & Ward S. 2007. *Lost from our Landscape - Threatened Species of the Northern Territory*. Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Darwin.

[www.landmanager.org.au/view/index.aspx?id=352105](http://www.landmanager.org.au/view/index.aspx?id=352105)

Last updated June 2009

## Best practice management for Southern Marsupial Mole in the Northern Territory

- Maintain shrub layer
- Maintain ground layer
- Control pest animals
- Graze moderately & periodically spell country from grazing
- Manage fire
- More information is needed about this species