

Action Statement

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

No. 199

Granite Rustyhood

Pterostylis sp. aff. *boormanii* (Beechworth)

Description and distribution

The Granite Rustyhood (*Pterostylis* sp. aff. *boormanii* [Beechworth]) is endemic to Victoria, occurring in the Victorian Northern Inland Slopes Bioregion in the vicinity of Beechworth. There are fewer than 50 plants in the wild, in three known populations.

The Granite Rustyhood is reserved at Beechworth Historic Park and Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, both managed by Parks Victoria.

Habitat

The Granite Rustyhood occurs in *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* - *E. macrorhyncha* - *Callitris endlicheri* open forest or woodland with a sparse shrubby understorey and grassy ground layer, on well-drained, dark brown granitic loam.

Conservation status

National conservation status

The Granite Rustyhood is not listed under the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**.

Victorian conservation status

The Granite Rustyhood is currently classified as 'endangered' in Victoria according to 'Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Vascular Plants in Victoria - 2003' (DSE 2003).

The Granite Rustyhood is listed as 'Threatened' under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**.



Distribution in Victoria

Decline and threats

Current threats and severity

Biology/Ecology

High - Limited or absent natural pollination; conditions for maintenance of fungal activity unknown.

Weed invasion

Low at present - exotic annual grasses a potential threat

Grazing

Moderate - rabbit and kangaroo grazing.

Inappropriate fire regimes

Unknown.

Site disturbance

High – off road vehicles, close proximity to tracks, seasonal disturbance by orchid enthusiasts.

Potential threats and risk

Illegal collection

Low – no evidence of collection in the past; sites are not well known. Granite Rustyhood is highly vulnerable to accidental damage especially from orchid enthusiasts and photographers, so that site confidentiality is vital. Involvement from non government organisations and individuals will be limited to a small number of individuals with a proven track record in its conservation (Friends of Chiltern).

- Searches in 2001 failed to re-locate the Chiltern Road population.

Previous management action

- Searches in the Beechworth area 2001.
- Monitoring of two populations commenced in 2001.
- Liaison with Parks Victoria and Friends of Chiltern.
- All known sites were visited during preparation of the Action Statement.
- The Chiltern-Mt Pilot site was burnt during the January/February 2003 fires.

Major conservation objective

Long-term objective

To ensure that the Granite Rustyhood can survive, flourish and retain its potential for evolutionary development in the wild.

Objectives of this Action Statement

1. Maintain existing populations.
2. Protect and manage habitat.

Overall approach

Known and potential populations will be surveyed to determine population sizes and habitat requirements and to provide ecological knowledge necessary for management. Broad-scale risk management will include track closure and/or realignment and maintenance of site confidentiality. Recruitment has been observed at one population (Fiddes Track). The Chiltern-Mt Pilot requires urgent reassessment following the fires. Populations will be re-stocked using seed from cultivated plants. Recovery will be jointly managed by DSE and PV. Friends of Chiltern will maintain their involvement.

Intended management action

The intended management actions listed below are further elaborated in DSE's Priority Actions Information System. Detailed information about the actions and locations, including priorities, is held in this system and will be provided annually to land managers and other authorities.

1. Conduct a search for the Chiltern-Mt Pilot population.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division
2. Conduct surveys in suitable habitat in the broad vicinity of the known populations.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division
3. Acquire baseline population data at the known populations.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division
4. Assess habitat of known populations in order to identify ecological correlates.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division
5. Assess threats to known populations, with emphasis on site disturbance and grazing.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region
6. Plan and implement measures to mitigate threats, if required.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region
7. Conduct annual censusing of the known populations, and collate, analyse and report on census data.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division
8. Collect and store seed from and determine seed viability.
Responsibility: DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division, Royal Botanic Gardens
9. Undertake fine-scale site management to improve conditions for seedling establishment.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region
10. Propagate plants and cultivate *ex situ* to provide seed for dispersal on site.
Responsibility: Royal Botanic Gardens, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division

11. Disperse seed when conditions for seedling establishment are optimal.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE North-east Region, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division
12. Involve community groups in recovery actions where appropriate and provide support under the Botanic Guardians scheme.
Responsibility: Parks Victoria, DSE Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division, DSE North-east Region

References

DSE (2003) *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Vascular Plants in Victoria - 2003*. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria, Australia.

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Further information can be obtained from Department of Sustainability and Environment Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statements are available from the Department of Sustainability and Environment website: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

This Action Statement has been prepared under section 19 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 under delegation from Professor Lyndsay Neilson, Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment, September 2004.

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