

## **Key Habitats and Corridors for Forest Fauna of North-East NSW; April 2001.**

### **Mapping derivation summary**

- Pattern analysis of 120 priority forest fauna species modelled distributions (PATNMAP program) to identify fauna assemblages and their predicted distributions;
- Key Habitats derived for each assemblage (based on thresholds of probability of occurrence for each assemblage (cores) and for the constituent species of each assemblage (hot spots)) then combined, along with Centres of Endemism (mapped previously for UNE / LNE RFAs);
- Potential corridors, or least cost pathways, derived (CORRIDORS program) for each assemblage, plus a between assemblages run, then combined and refined (POLYEDIT program) using fine scale map layers (e.g. vegetation cover, landsat images, topographic maps, species (NSW Wildlife Atlas) records, estimates of spatial requirements of focal species for assemblages concerned;

### **Notes concerning the mapping**

- Mapped across all tenures but private lands the focus for refinement. Emphasis to identify private lands where conservation management would protect or enhance conservation of key habitats and connectivity. Public lands (NPWS, NSW SF, Crown) often mapped as reservoirs of key habitats and focus areas (start, end, node points) for landscape linkages.
- Maps available to inform vegetation, water, catchment planning, along with other land use planning and assessment- as focus areas for conservation and as a potential contextual landscape framework for other features (e.g. ecosystems, old growth, flora);

### **Caveats concerning the mapping**

- Regional in perspective (more localized key habitats and linkages not been mapped);
- Based on fauna modelled distributions developed for the UNE / LNE RFAs;
- Value judgements and decision rules have formed an important part of the analysis; the precautionary principle has been invoked in considering value judgements;
- As of April 2001- approach not peer-reviewed but presented at numerous forums;
- As of April 2001- formal field evaluation has not been undertaken.