



FOREST MONITORING

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FORESTCHECK is a monitoring project that indicates changes and trends in biodiversity associated with forest activities. Observations have been collected at 67 permanent monitoring grids

established across the Swan, South West and Warren regions. Since 2002, information has been gathered on 3900 species that occur in the jarrah forest, including fungi, plants, invertebrates, birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs. Many were new to science and are yet to be named. Other observations recorded for each grid include forest structure, regeneration stocking, litter fuel loads and the amount and condition of coarse woody debris. It has been observed that most species groups are resilient to the impacts of timber harvesting, with monitoring 10 years after harvesting showing few changes in species richness between disturbed and reference sites.

This data informs forest management policies and practices and has contributed to periodic revision of operational guidance documents for forest activities. Information gathered from monitoring has been used to validate predictive models for forest growth and species distribution and provides a framework for studying the response of jarrah forest ecosystems to timber harvesting, prescribed burning, bushfires and extreme weather events.