

The species

The red-tailed phascogale is a small marsupial carnivore. It weighs about 50 g, so is about midway in size between a mouse and a rat. It is in the same family as the chuditch and the Tasmanian devil.

It is possum-like in its habits, feeding and sheltering in trees. However, it will commonly come to the ground to feed. It favours mature wandoo and rock oak habitat, but may be found in other types of woodland. It can make leaps of up to 2 metres and can thus move thru the canopy of woodland habitat for considerable distances without the need to come to the ground.

Phascogale are nocturnal and feed largely on insects and spiders, but also small birds and mice.

They mate in winter and the males then all die, so the species is critically dependent on the survival of the young of the year. Young are weaned before the end of October.

The project

The Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare Zone and Wildlife Research and Management Pty Ltd have won NHT funding to study this species in the Wagin-Dongolocking area over a 3 year period.

Key aims of the project are:

1. to establish where phascogale occur, to be achieved by collating sightings from landholders and by fauna survey in targeted sites, and
2. to encourage landholders and community members to protect and enhance remaining habitat.

Protection of habitat may be achieved by

- by improved management practices,
- long-term management agreements,
- fencing of remnant vegetation, and
- the construction of corridors linking remaining remnant vegetation.

What this means for you

Funding is available to facilitate on-ground works and will be carefully targeted to maximise biodiversity benefit.

The Red-tailed Phascogale – an endangered species



The red-tailed phascogale is an endangered marsupial that is now largely confined to the southern wheatbelt of Western Australia. Most of its remaining habitat has been severely fragmented by agriculture and it is also threatened by feral cats and foxes.

Have you seen this animal? If so fill in and return the enclosed sightings form.

Sightings of the
Red-tailed Phascogale

Please return completed form to:

Danielle Perrie Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare Zone PO Box 311 Wagin WA 6315
Fax 9861 2125/ Tel 9861 2222 / email wwlandcare@agric.wa.gov.au to report a sighting.

Sighting Date:

Area:

Location:

Please give as much detail as possible –property name, location number, road name, distance and direction from road/intersection, reserve name/number, distance and direction from town.

Longitude

Latitude

Describe the sighting:

Have Phascogale been seen at this location before? Was it in remnant vegetation (if so, what area) or in or near a house (if so, how far from was this from bushland)? What was the animal doing? What time of day was it?

Other Information:

Include other relevant information such as: vegetation type, fire history, fox control, adjoining remnant vegetation, corridors

Name and contact details of observer

Name

Address:

Phone

Email: