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# Media Release

## Monitoring landscape burns

Members of the Bairnsdale Field Naturalists Club, Bird Life East Gippsland and the Australian Native Plant society enjoyed a field day with DSE fire management staff on Tuesday September 27.

The day involved a trip to Mount Elizabeth, east of Tambo Crossing in East Gippsland to inspect burn monitoring sites and learn more about DSE's burn monitoring program.

Landscape Mosaic Burn Coordinator, Greg McCarthy said DSE is trying to see what changes there are over time in plant and animal abundance after burning.

"These have to be monitored long term, over a number of fire rotations, not just after one burn," he said.

"We'll assess trees for hollows and fissures, bark type and the effects of the burn."

"This is really important to determine whether a tree will form potential habitat for a bird or animal that might like to make a home there."

"We're keen to get feedback on our methodology and whether you think it's effective."

Greg also talked about the aerial photography of landscape mosaic burn areas like this one and how a combination of high resolution colour and infra-red photography has helped to identify the burnt and unburnt areas after a burn.

"This is one of the first times we've been able to map the mosaic of burning with this sort of technology," he said.

"We're on the cutting edge of being able to work out what's been burnt and what hasn't under the canopy, which is vital information for future burn planning."