



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8552/1
Permit Holder:	Pinjarra Race Club Inc.
Duration of Permit:	26 September 2019 – 26 September 2024

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of recreation.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 109 on Diagram 60089, Pinjarra.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.752 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8552/1

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Dieback and weed control

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Soil management

The Permit Holder must not add fertiliser to the soil without the prior addition of a nutrient retentive material to minimise the risk of phosphorus export.

8. Erosion control

The Permit Holder must ensure that the construction of the racecourse extension commences within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this permit:

- (a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared;
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
- (d) the date clearing activities ceased;
- (e) the date that construction of the racecourse extension began;
- (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit;
- (g) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (h) actions taken to minimise the risk of phosphorus export in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit.

10. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under Condition 9 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation; and

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned; and

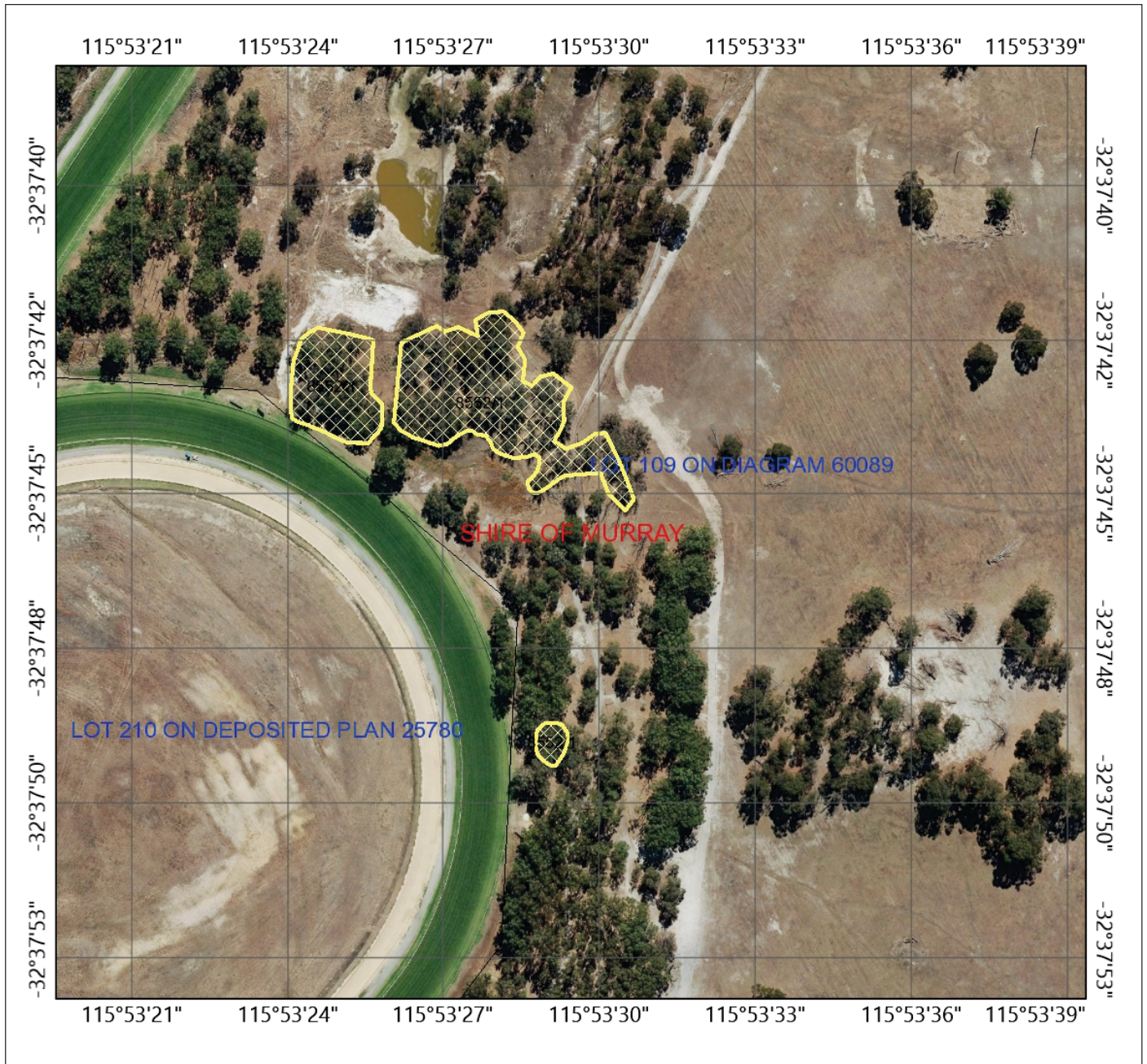


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

27 August 2019

CPS 8552/1 Plan



Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Local Government Authorities
- LGA
- MURRAY, SHIRE OF
- Cadastre (LGATE_218) - SLIP

0.1 0.04 0.1 Kilometers



WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

Mathew
Gannaway
2019.08.27
16:26:39
+08'00'

Officer Date

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

Disclaimer: This map is used as a generic static output for reference purposes. Information on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. While the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, has made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of this data, the department accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies and persons relying on this data do so at their own risk.

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Locality Map



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8552/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Pinjarra Race Club (Inc.)
Application received date: 14 June 2019

Property details

Property: Lot 109 on Diagram 60089
Local Government Authority: Shire of Murray
Localities: Pinjarra

1.3. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.752		Mechanical Removal	Recreation

1.4. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 27 August 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 14 June 2019 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principles (g) and (i) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the other remaining clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the sandy soils within the application area are prone to wind erosion if left bare for extended periods of time. To mitigate this risk, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the permit holder to complete the racecourse works within three months of clearing.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing followed by the proposed land use has a high risk of resulting in off-site eutrophication. To minimise the risk of offsite eutrophication, management measures have been conditioned on the clearing permit (discussed further within the Decision Report).

The Delegated Officer also determined that the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent native vegetation. To minimise the impact association with weeds and dieback, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.752 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 109 on Diagram 60089, Pinjarra, for the purpose of extending the racecourse.

Vegetation Description: The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Guildford vegetation complex which is described as a mixture of open forest to tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) - *Eucalyptus wandoo* (Wandoo) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) and woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* (Wandoo) (with rare occurrences of *Eucalyptus lane-polei* (Salmon White Gum). Minor components include *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum) - *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark) (Heddlle et al., 1980).

A report 'Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey – Pinjarra Racecourse Pinjarra' provided by the applicant (Pinjarra Race Club Inc., 2019) described the vegetation within the application area as 'parkland cleared' with dominant species being *Corymbia calophylla*, *Eucalyptus rudis*, *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*, *Eucalyptus botryoides* over exotic grassland (Dell Botanicals, 2019).

Vegetation Condition:

The condition of the vegetation within the application area, based on reports provided by the applicant, indicate that the vegetation within the application area is in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, which is described as no longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Description

The application area occurs within the following mapped soil types:

- Pinjarra P8 Phase, described as broad poorly drained flats and poorly defined stream channels with moderately deep to deep sands over mottled clays; acidic or less commonly alkaline grey and yellow duplex soils to uniform bleached or pale brown sands over clay (Schoknecht et al., 2004);
- Pinjarra B2 Phase Flat, described as very gently undulating sandplain with well to moderately well-drained deep bleached grey sands with a pale yellow B horizon or a weak iron-organic hardpan 1-2 m. (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments:

The total estimated size of disturbance is approximately 3.35 hectares as the proposed works includes the removal of 0.752 hectares of native vegetation and the removal of approximately 2.5 hectares of vegetation consisting of planted non-native species (Dell Botanics, 2019). The 0.752 hectares of native vegetation is subject to this assessment.

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 13 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Aerial image showing the application area (hatched blue)

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has noted that the location of the racecourse extension was selected with consideration of impacts to native vegetation and the total area of disturbance contains mostly introduced species (Pinjarra Race Club Inc., 2019).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and lack of native understorey density and diversity (Dell Botanics, 2019) the application area is not likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

According to available databases, eight Threatened fauna species, two specially protected species, four species protected under international agreement, four Priority 4 (P4) species and three P3 species, have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Noting the lack of dense native understorey vegetation, the application area is not likely to provide significant habitat for ground dwelling fauna species. It is noted that many of the species listed are shorebird species and water dwelling species and are found in association with the Murray River and the Peel Inlet which is not represented within the application area.

Three threatened black cockatoo species have been recorded within the local area, including *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) and *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) (collectively known as black cockatoos). Suitable breeding habitat for these species includes trees which either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, including tuart and marri trees, a suitable DBH is 500 millimetres (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). A survey of the total disturbance area recorded 34 trees with a DBH of 500 millimetres or greater (Harewood, 2019).

The survey noted that 11 of these trees contained hollows, however the hollows were not considered to be suitable for nesting by the abovementioned black cockatoo species (Harewood, 2019). Two of the trees appeared to contain large hollows but neither were considered to be suitable for use by threatened black cockatoo species due to the depths of hollows, orientation of hollows and height from ground level (Harewood, 2019).

The proposed clearing includes the removal of 0.6 hectares of black cockatoo foraging habitat consisting of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus rudis* (Harewood, 2019). However, the foraging habitat is not considered to be significant, as *Eucalyptus rudis* is rarely foraged upon by black cockatoos (Harewood, 2019) and *Eucalyptus rudis* contributes towards 0.55 hectares of the total 0.6 hectares of foraging habitat within the application area. In addition, the proposed clearing is within 10 kilometres of the Marrinup State Forest and approximately 12 kilometers of the Dwellingup State Forest which are likely to contain vast amounts of suitable black cockatoo foraging habitat.

According to available databases, 12 threatened flora species and 30 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The report provided by the applicant recorded no priority of threatened flora species during the survey (Dell Botanics, 2019). Noting the application area is in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and contains an understorey largely dominated by exotic species, the application area is not likely to impact on priority flora, or include, or be necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

According to available databases, no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) have been mapped within the application area. The closest mapped conservation significant ecological community is a TEC endorsed by the Western Australian Minister for Environment, known as 'Shrublands on dry clay flats', located approximately 1.5 kilometres from the application area. The application area is not considered to be representative of this TEC and noting the distance to this TEC, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on this TEC or on any known PECs.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The application area is located within the Swan Coastal Plain Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 38 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent. The mapped Swan Coastal Plain vegetation 'Guildford complex' retains approximately 5 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 13 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the local area, Bioregion and mapped vegetation type retain less than 30 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared landscape. However, noting the extent of proposed clearing and the condition of the vegetation within the application area (being completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition), the application area is not considered to contain a high level of biodiversity, contribute to a wildlife corridor or contain conservation significant flora, fauna or communities. Therefore, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared landscape.

According to available databases, no watercourses intersect the application area. The closest watercourse to the application area is a minor perennial watercourse, located approximately 415 meters north east of the application area. The application area is located within a multiple use wetland with the wetland covering an area of 32,517 hectares. Multiple use category wetlands are wetlands with few important ecological attributes and functions remaining (Water and Rivers Commission, 2001). The application area contains riparian vegetation in the form of *Eucalyptus rudis*, which is considered to be growing in association with the abovementioned multiple use wetland. Given the scope of works, the size of the application area and the existing land use, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause any unacceptable environmental impacts to this larger mapped wetland occurrence with potential impacts (such as increased sediment run-off), likely to be localised and short term.

There are numerous conservation areas within the local area, the closest are two small un-named nature reserves located more than three kilometres east of the application area. Given the distance between these conservation areas and the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

The chief soils mapped within the application area are the Pinjarra P8 Phase and the Pinjarra B2 Phase (Schoknecht et al., 2004). Land degradation risk mapping indicates that the mapped land units within the application area have a low risk of water erosion, water logging and flood risk, however the Pinjarra B2 phase mapped land unit has a high wind erosion risk, and high phosphorus export risk (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2018). The proposed clearing and resulting land use has a risk of causing off-site eutrophication as soil nutrients may enter the groundwater and be transported into the local drainage system in the absence of nutrient retaining vegetation.

With regard to wind erosion, limiting the amount of time that bare soil is present on site will mitigate this risk, therefore, the permit has been conditioned to reflect this measure. The risk of off-site eutrophication can be managed with the application of nutrient retentive material to the soil to reduce phosphorus loss (DPIRD, 2019), and the permit has been conditioned to reflect this measure.

Noting the limited extent of clearing, and low flood risk of the mapped land unit, the proposed clearing is not likely to result in the exacerbation of flooding on or off site.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principle (f), may be at variance to Principles (g) and (i) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the other clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The application area is within 70 meters of a registered Aboriginal site of significance – Lodged: site ID 3786 Pinjarra Massacre (camp, massacre, meeting place). It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and to ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are disturbed as a result of any activities.

The application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) website on 10 July 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions were received.

The Shire of Murray have provided a Development Approval for the extension of the Pinjarra Race Course on 15 August 2019 (Ref: P116/2019).

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species, Canberra.
- Dell Botanics (2019) Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey-Pinjarra Race Course. Perth. DWER ref:A1800018
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2018) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed July 2019).
- Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>
- Harewood, G (2019) Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment- Pinjarra Racecourse Shire of Murray. DWER ref:A1800019
- Hedde., E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Pinjarra Race Club (Inc.) Clearing Permit Application and Supporting Information, CPS 8552/1. DWER ref:A1797997
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- Shire of Murray (2019) Development Approval for Equestrian Facility. DWER ref:A1817553
- Water and Rivers Commission (2001) Position Statement: Wetlands, Water and Rivers Commission, Perth
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase-the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed July 2019).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Heritage
- DBCA Estate
- DEC Covenant
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- National Trust WA Covenant
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed July 2019)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands