Department of Sustainability and Environment

Spring Soak Woodland

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

81% of Spring Soak Woodlands have been cleared. 82% of what remains is on private land.

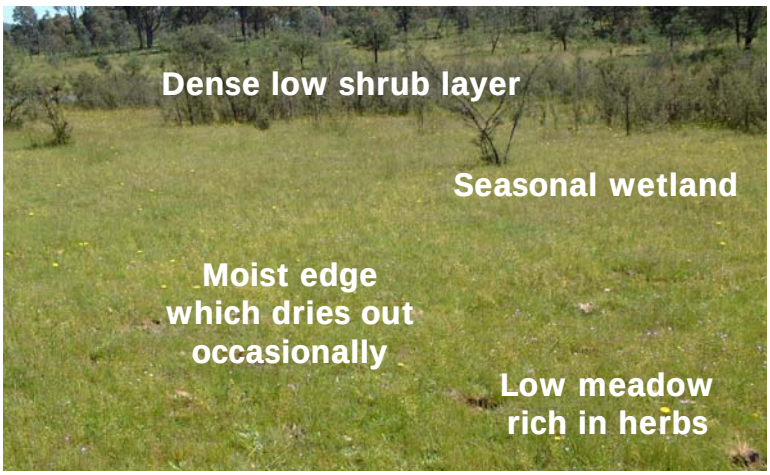

Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 1. An example of Spring Soak Woodland, in moderately healthy condition.

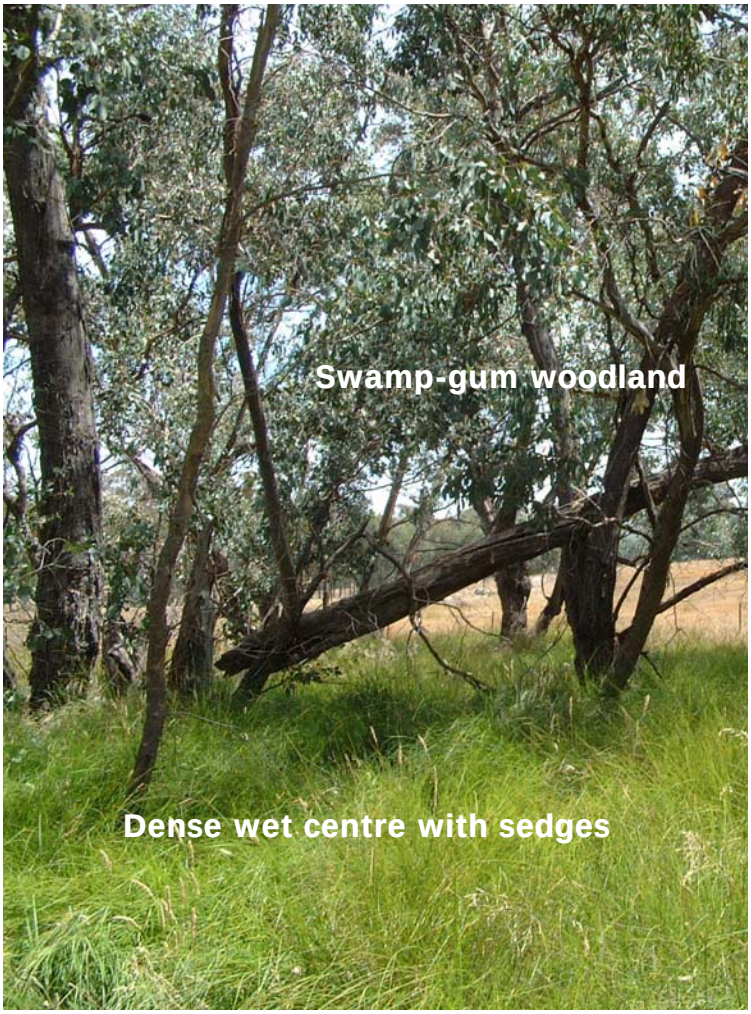

Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 2. An example of Spring Soak Woodland, in moderately healthy condition, showing a wet area dominated by sedges, surrounded by a woodland of Swamp-gum.

Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 3. An example of Spring Soak Woodland, in moderately healthy condition, showing a dense shrub layer of Prickly Tea-tree with a wet centre, dense with rushes and sedges.

Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 4. An example of Spring Soak Woodland, in moderately healthy condition. This site is surrounded by a healthy stand of Kangaroo Grass.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Victoria The Place To Be

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Description

Spring-soak Woodlands are seasonal wetland communities commonly associated with plateaux and outwash slopes of granite hills at elevations of 130-500m, with an annual rainfall of 500-750mm.

These springs support a range of vegetation types in a radial pattern around the source of moisture.

The wetter centre contains the taller sedges with species like Ground Fern, surrounded by a shrubby or heathy woodland of Swamp Gum or Blakely's Red Gum, often dominated by Prickly Tea-tree, with Golden Spray found on most intact sites.

On the outer edge where it is moist, but would occasionally dry out, a low meadow, rich in herbs and small sedges occurs. Species such as Yellow Star, Faries Aprons, Swamp Istome, Small Mud-mat, Sundews and Common Bog-sedge occur.

Figures 5-8. Prickly Tea-tree, Narrow Goodenia, Fairies Aprons, Purple Diuris.

Photos: Mary Titcumb

Species To Look Out For

Flora: Narrow Goodenia (Vv), Branching Raspwort (k).
Fauna: Barking Marsh Frog (d), Pobblebonk Frog, Eastern Yellow Robin, Superb Blue Wren.

Figure 9. Pobblebonk Frog
Photo: DSE/McCann

Figure 10. Eastern Yellow Robin
Photo: DSE/McCann

Figure 11. Superb Blue Wren
Photo: DSE/McCann

Why Spring-soak Woodlands are Threatened

More than 81% of Spring Soak Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European settlement. Many of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now also threatened, and some are extinct. Over 82% of this remains on private land. Therefore, the support of private landholders is essential for the ongoing conservation of Spring Saok Woodlands.

Current threats include, **alteration of natural drainage regimes** (particularly through damming and draining, changes spring-soak hydrology; can result in native species loss, and disrupts the delicate balance of the remnant), **grazing** (causes loss of native species through selective grazing and trampling, disturbs the soil, hinders native plant regeneration, and increases nutrient levels), **weed invasion** (particularly Paspalum, Phalaris and Blackberry), **increases in nutrients** (favour weeds; can eliminate native plants; and cause excessive growth of some species - shading out others), **isolation** (restricted movement of fauna, difficult to maintain healthy gene pool), lack of natural **regeneration**, **soil disturbance** (eg. ploughing and pugging, favouring weed species) and **pest animals**.

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Management Tips

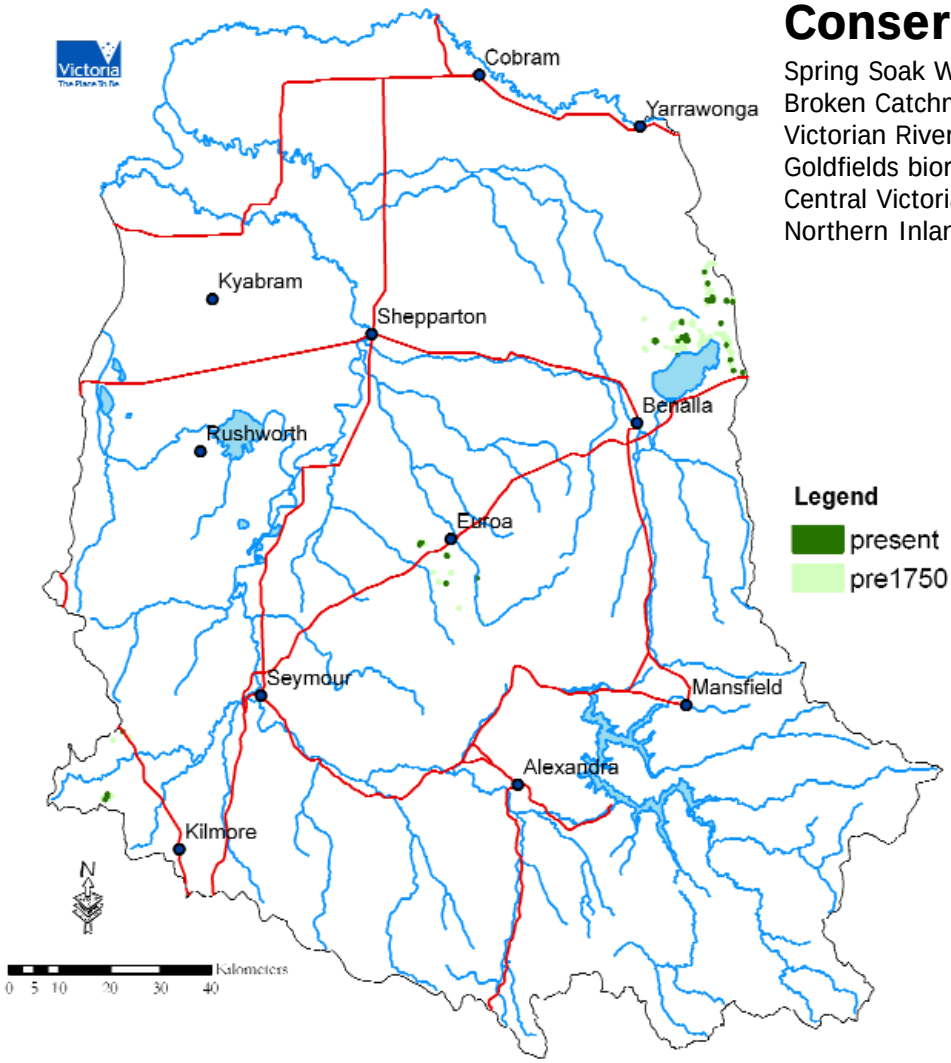
Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 12. An example of Spring Soak Woodland, in an agricultural landscape in February. This seasonal wetland would benefit from having stock removed, particularly while soils are wet, during Spring and early summer, and a buffer of native vegetation surrounding it.

 # May require expert input in decision making and planning. See your local DSE, DPI or CMA representative for further advice.

Photo: Mary Titcumb

Figure 13. An example of Spring Soak Woodland, in November. This shows how wet these sites can be, and illustrates the importance of removing stock at these times.



Conservation Status

Spring Soak Woodland is threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Victorian Riverina bioregion : Extinct
Goldfields bioregion : Endangered
Central Victorian Uplands bioregion : Endangered
Northern Inland Slopes bioregion : Endangered

Figure 14. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Spring Soak Woodland and its mosaics and complexes in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The boundaries of the vegetation have been exaggerated to allow for the small scale of the map. The map was produced from Base Data from DSE Corporate Library. The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information on this map. Any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

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