Seven Creeks Instream Woody Habitat Mapping 2016

What is instream woody habitat and why is it important?

Instream woody habitat, commonly referred to as snags, consists of trees, branches and logs that fall or are washed into rivers and streams. Snags play a vital role in maintaining the health of waterways by:

- helping protect the stream bed and bank from erosion
- providing habitat for fish, birds, frogs and bugs
- providing refuge areas to avoid predators and fast water flow
- providing feeding sites and food sources
- providing spawning sites for breeding
- increasing diversity (depth, width) of stream channels
- helping develop scour pools which create refuge areas during periods of drought.

The lack of snags has been identified as a major contributing factor to the decline of many fish populations including threatened species such as trout cod, Macquarie perch and black fish that are found in the Seven Creeks.

Instream habitat mapping

To help the Goulburn Broken CMA prioritise where to reintroduce snags in the Seven Creeks, instream habitat mapping was carried out along the creek between Gooram Falls and Neelands Rd in March 2016 by Arthur Rylah Institute and Goulburn Broken CMA staff.

This information was then used to create maps (see over page) that guide re-snagging works. The blue areas are those with no to very small amounts of snags while the red sections have more snags.

Figure 1 Re-introduction of timber - Seven Creeks 2017

To find out more about the Seven Creeks project, phone Sue Kosch on 5797 4400 or visit the Goulburn Broken CMA website.

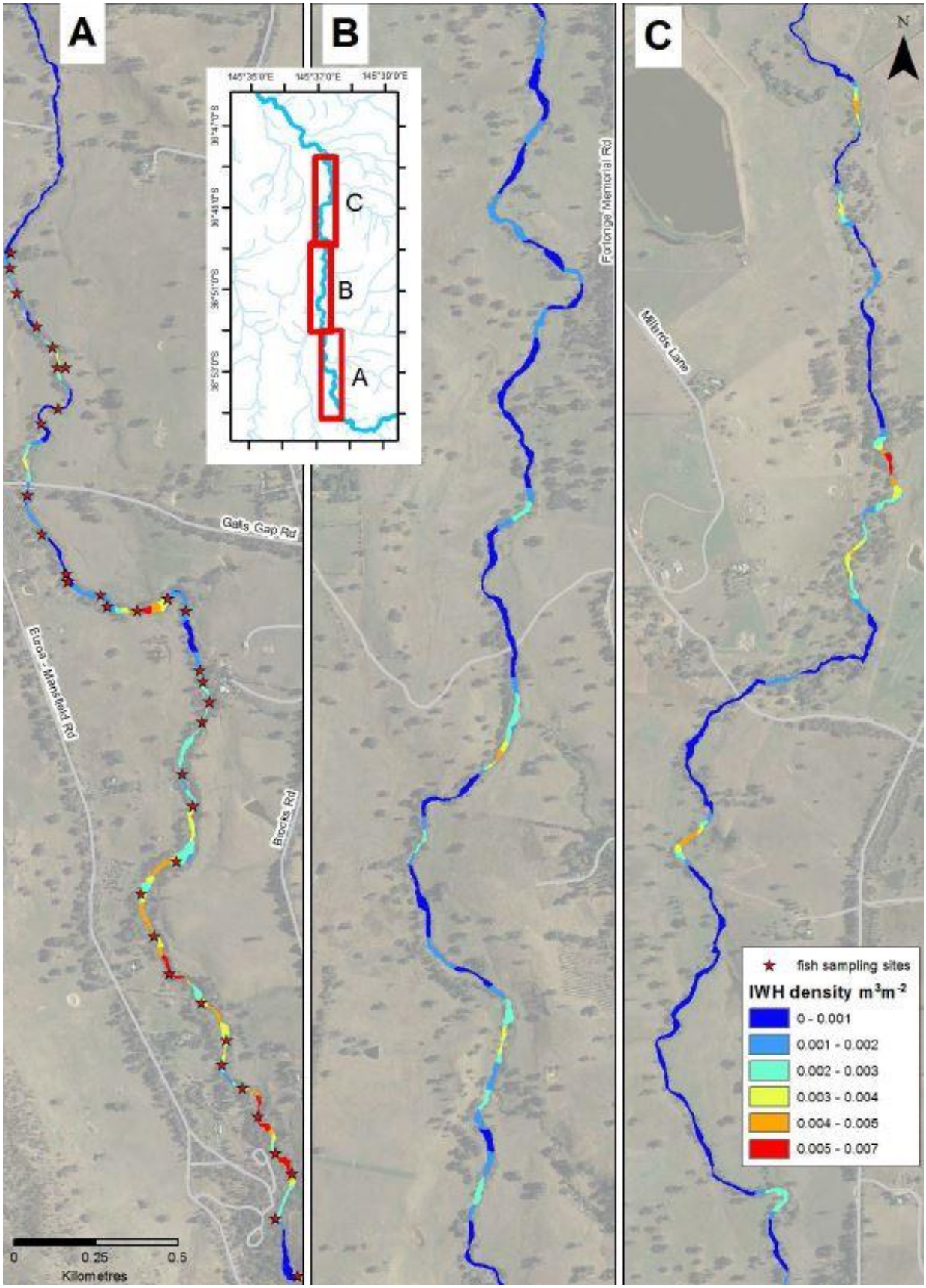

Figure 1 Seven Creeks Instream woody habitat (IWH) density (m3 m`2) Blue=none/few snags Red=increased numbers of snags