

Mud Hut Swamp

Location and Description

Mud Hut Swamp is an ephemeral wooded swamp located about 240 km north of Alice Springs. This isolated swamp is dominated by smooth-barked coolabah *Eucalyptus victrix* and is the largest swamp in the Burt Plains bioregion. It is fed by Bloodwood and Murray Creeks in the south-east and runoff from low hills and rises to the north and west. Mud Hut Swamp remains inundated for relatively long time after flooding, and may hold water for several months.

Tenure and Land Use

Mud Hut Swamp is entirely pastoral leasehold land within one pastoral lease (Mount Stirling Station). The main land use within the site is pastoral operations.

Significance Rating

National Significance

Ecological Values

Mud Hut Swamp is the largest swamp in the Burt Plains Bioregion and is isolated from other swamps. The swamp can hold water for several months after flooding and is likely to support a range of wetland birds, fish and plants.

Management Issues

This site is poorly surveyed and little information is available on the processes affecting the conservation values of the Site.

Condition

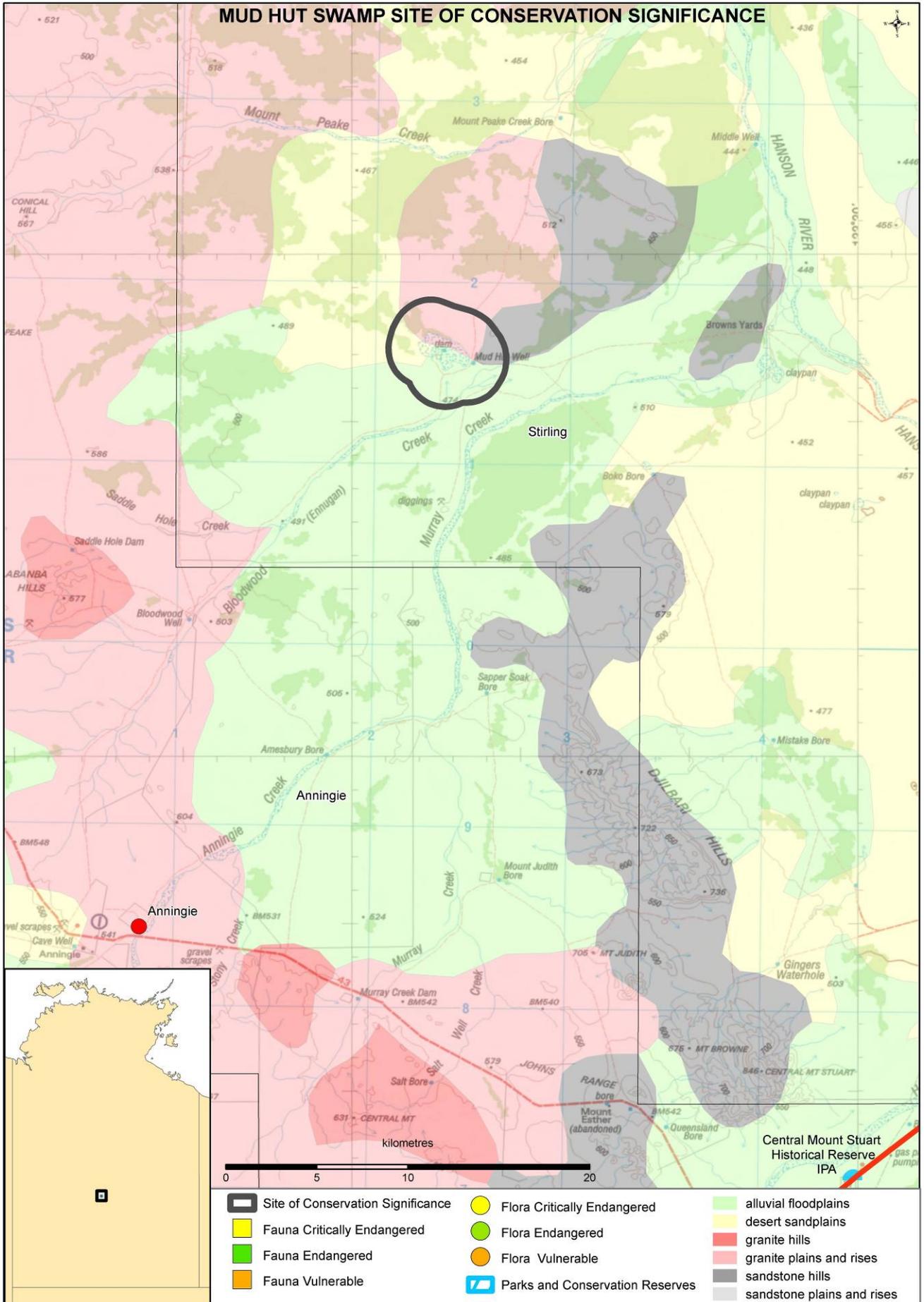
No information located.

Current Conservation Initiatives

The lessee of Mount Stirling Station is currently erecting a fence around Mud Hut Swamp.



MUD HUT SWAMP - SITE OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE



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	SOCS Number	45 (NT Parks and Conservation Masterplan Map Number 70)
	Latitude/Longitude	21 ° 33' South, 133 ° 18 East (at centre)
	Bioregion	Burt Plains
	Description	The boundary of this site has been delineated based on wetland mapping in Duguid <i>et al.</i> (2005), with a 2km buffer added. The site encompasses an area of 27 km ² . Northern Anmatyerre, about 50 km south-east of Mud Hut Swamp, is also identified as a site of high conservation significance in the NT.
THREATENED SPECIES	Significance Rating	Not Significant
	Threatened plants and animals (Listings at National/NT level CR - Critically Endangered, EN - Endangered, VU - Vulnerable, NT - Near Threatened, LC - Least Concern, DD - Data Deficient)	No threatened species are reported from this site.
ENDEMIC SPECIES	Significance Rating	Not Significant
	Notes	None known
WILDLIFE AGGREGATIONS	Significance Rating	Not Significant
	Marine turtles	Not applicable
	Seabirds	None known
	Waterbirds	No large aggregations of waterbirds are known from this site but 12 waterbird species are recorded from the swamp.
	Shorebirds	None known
	Other aggregations	None known
WETLANDS	Significance Rating	National Significance
	Ramsar criteria met	Not assessed
	DIWA criteria met	Mud Hut Swamp is not listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA), but assessments by Duguid <i>et al.</i> (2005) found that it meets Criterion 1.
	Notes	Mud Hut Swamp is the largest and best example of a smooth-barked coolabah <i>Eucalyptus victrix</i> swamp in the Burt Plains Bioregion. It is isolated from other similar large swamps and differs from them in vegetation and landform. The swamp was flooded in late 1999 and probably had additional inflows in 2000-01, with water lasting until April/May 2002 (Duguid 2005). It was filled again in 2004. There is anecdotal evidence that the swamp was continuously full for 3-4 years in the 1970s (Duguid 2005).
	Rivers	None known
FLORA	Significance Rating	Not Significant
	Notes	No restricted range or relictual species are recorded from this site.
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES		Mud Hut Swamp is recognised as being significant for biodiversity conservation by Duguid <i>et al.</i> (2005). Following inundation, Mud Hut Swamp is thought to support important populations of wetland birds, fish and plants, but detailed surveys have not been conducted to date.

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MANAGEMENT ISSUES		<p>Fire: No parts of the site were burnt more than twice in the period 1997-2005.</p> <p>Feral animals: No information located</p> <p>Weeds and invasive exotic plants: No declared or high priority weeds species are presently known from this site, but couch grass <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> is likely to be spreading in the site.</p> <p>Other: Grazing pressure may potentially affect the conservation values of the swamp (NRETA 2005); the extent and nature of all management issues affecting the conservation values at the site cannot be well defined because there has been insufficient biological survey in the area.</p>
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION	NRM groups	No information located.
	Protected areas	The site is not included within the formal network of protected areas in the NT.
	Current management plans	<p>Site-specific management plans: No information located.</p> <p>Other management plans: Australian Weeds Strategy (NRMMC 2007).</p>
	Monitoring programs and research projects	<p>The landholder is currently fencing Mud Hut Swamp (Greening Australia NT).</p> <p>Across the NT, fire is mapped continuously under the North Australia Fire Information Project http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi/app/init.jsp</p>
	Management recommendations	<p>Develop a conservation management plan for the Swamp in conjunction with the landholder (NRETA 2005).</p> <p>Provide extension services to assist landholders in implementing agreed conservation management initiatives (NRETA 2005).</p> <p>Nominate the Swamp for inclusion on the DIWA list (NRETA 2005).</p>
KEY REFERENCES	Papers and reports	Duguid, A., Barnetson, J., Clifford, B., Pavey, C., Albrecht, D., Risler, J. and McNellie, M. (2005) <i>Wetlands in the arid Northern Territory. A report to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage on the inventory and significance of wetlands in the arid NT.</i> NTG Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts. Alice Springs.
	Contributors	