

Dr Don Driscoll



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Research Interests

Conservation Biology

- **Habitat Fragmentation and Loss**
- **Spatial Population Dynamics**
- **Conservation Genetics**
- **Phylogeography of reptiles across the Eyre Peninsula**
- **Response of South Australian mallee animals and plants to fire**

Qualifications

Phd, University Western Australia

Because human-dominated land-uses occur at a landscape scale, we need to understand how species use whole landscapes. Don takes a range of approaches to tackling this problem, including manipulative experiments, natural experiments, dispersal studies and the application of population genetic techniques. He places a strong emphasis on testing ecological theory using applied conservation problems.

Current Research Projects

MALLEE BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM: Recovering a fragmented landscape

Don is currently developing research projects that will examine the impact of habitat loss and fragmentation on mallee ecosystems, including interactions with a range of management regimes. These projects are aimed at discovering how best to redesign the landscape to conserve biodiversity. Projects will be founded on concepts like metapopulation theory, population genetics and theories underlying community ecology, but will also resolve practical problems like what is the best fire regime, is feral predator control effective, or how wide should corridors between remnants be?

FIRE! A manipulative experiment to examine the role of fire and fire frequency in mallee ecosystems is the first major project to begin under the mallee biodiversity program.

Research Collaborations and Partners

Dr Meredith Henderson, Joe Tilley, SA Dept. of Environment and Heritage, fire ecology

Professor Steve Donnellan, Evolutionary Biology Unit. Phylogeography of reptiles

Dr Steve Cooper, South Australian Museum, dasyurid identification using genetics.

Dr Louisa Halliday, DEH West Region. Habitat fragmentation

Ongoing collaboration with researchers at DPIWE, Tasmania, Uni. of Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania examining the impacts of natural habitat fragmentation and post-fire succession on invertebrates in southwest Tasmania eucalypt forest and rainforest.

- Conducting multidisciplinary collaborative research on Australia's biodiversity & landscapes
- Providing innovative interpretation of biodiversity research for a wide variety of end-users