



ACT
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FERAL PIG NUMBERS ON DECLINE

Latest monitoring results indicate that feral pig numbers in Namadgi National Park are on the decline, Rural District Manager of Parks and Conservation Service, Brett McNamara said.

“The latest data reveals that 9.6% of test plots set up in Namadgi showed some evidence of feral pig activity, down from 17.65% in 2008. These results demonstrate a significant and sustained reduction in both pig numbers and impact,” Mr McNamara said.

“Feral pig activity is monitored using 500 plots across Namadgi. The plots measure the amount of impact damage caused by pigs and gives an estimate of the population.

“This long term monitoring and evaluation program, which has been running since the mid-1980s, is essential to Namadgi’s evidence based management of introduced pests. Eradication is not feasible or possible, so control programs aim to achieve a sustained reduction in the damage caused by feral pigs.

“Feral pigs cause significant damage by ‘rooting’ or ‘ripping’ up areas of vegetation as they feed. Damaged areas are generally slow to recover allowing the invasion of weeds into sensitive locations, including the habitat of the northern corroboree frogs and broad toothed rats,” Mr McNamara said.

Namadgi National Park undertakes an annual pig control poisoning program which involves over 16 rangers as well as field officers.

Namadgi National Park is Canberra’s significant water catchment area and covers 106,000 hectares of the ACT.

Statement ends

Media contact: Lannon Harley, telephone 6207 1286