

BRIDLED NAIL-TAILED WALLABY

Endangered

Vulnerable

Critically Endangered

Extinct in the Wild

Extinct



Common name

Bridled nail-tailed wallaby

Scientific name

Onychogalea frenata

Habitat

The bridled nail-tailed wallaby lives in dense, acacia shrubland and open, grassy woodland but prefers transitional vegetation between these areas.

Habitat range/distribution

Towards the end of the 19th century, the bridled nail-tailed wallaby was a common species that lived from west of the Great Dividing Range, north to Charters Towers in Queensland, south to north-western Victoria, and possibly extending west to eastern South Australia. It now survives in a small percentage of the area it once lived in.

Description

The bridled nail-tailed wallaby is a small animal. Males weigh 5–6kg and females weigh 4–5 kg. It is grey to light tan in colour with distinct white lines forming a 'bridle' from the back of the neck to behind the forelimbs and along the sides of the face. It also has a black stripe down the length of the back.

Importance

The bridled nail-tailed wallaby plays an important role in promoting regeneration of native plants, including non-woody, broad-leaved plants, chenopods (succulents including pigweed), flowering plants and grasses. Additionally they help to reduce the fuel load in forests and grasslands, which can decrease wildfire risk.

Key threats

- Habitat loss, modification and degradation caused by continued vegetation clearing, drought, changing fire patterns and introduction of weeds such as buffel grass.
- Introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats, and to a lesser extent, wild dogs.
- Competition for food with introduced livestock (mainly sheep) and rabbits.

What is being done to help protect and conserve this species

Conservation and management priorities for the species include:

- predator control at all sites of unfenced subpopulations and biosecurity measures at fenced subpopulations,
- preventing habitat loss, disturbance and modifications,
- implementing appropriate fire management methods to protect key habitat refuges,
- moving individuals to join small existing subpopulations and to start new subpopulations, and
- monitoring the progress of conservation actions and adapting them if necessary, to contribute to species recovery.

Become a bridled nail-tailed wallaby champion

- Report sightings to the local departmental office.
- Volunteer with organisations, such as Australian Wildlife Conservancy and Bush Heritage Australia. They assist on-ground activities to recover the species.
- Take part in research projects to uncover information that will improve their conservation management.
- Talk to your friends and family about threats to bridled nail-tailed wallaby and what they can do.



We were hunted in the early 1900s for our fur and because we were considered a pest.

WALLABY FIND-A-WORD

Find these words running horizontally or vertically

- Mammal
- Grasses
- Habitat
- Joey
- Protect
- Stripe
- Tail
- Bridle
- Merrin
- Endangered
- Arid
- Paw
- Recovery
- Pouch
- Fur

E	I	M	S	T	R	I	P	E	G	S	K
Q	B	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	R	I	N
N	I	R	R	E	M	X	H	C	A	L	P
T	W	Y	N	H	E	L	L	W	S	A	R
S	M	X	L	A	T	P	P	Y	S	M	O
E	L	D	I	R	B	A	R	Y	E	M	T
O	G	E	A	S	W	E	E	P	S	A	E
B	X	E	T	M	V	O	T	N	L	M	C
W	R	U	F	O	J	Y	Q	X	U	V	T
S	J	H	C	U	O	P	O	D	I	R	A
N	A	E	L	H	Z	J	P	D	H	Z	N
K	R	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	E	D

With no confirmed sightings for about 30 years, we were believed to be extinct until 1973 when a fencing contractor reported seeing us on a property in central Queensland.

