



MEDIA RELEASE

Northern half of Gregory National Park to be closed

Northern sections of Gregory National Park, including in and around the Victoria River sector of the Park are set to be closed next week as part of an ongoing feral animal control program.

NT Parks and Wildlife Chief District Ranger Garry Fischer is urging visitors to exercise caution and adhere to the advisory signs and any directions given by a ranger.

"The Bullita Stock Route, Tawukam, Humbert and Wickham/Gibbie 4WD tracks will be closed to all traffic from Monday 2nd July to Friday 6th July to ensure the removal of feral animals is done without risk to public safety," Mr Fischer said.

"All other tracks and marked roads will remain open.

"Again, public safety is our first priority and there will be buffer zones in place to ensure no visitors are able to access the relevant areas".

More than 20,000 people visit Gregory National Park each year, with the 4WD tracks and the opportunity to experience a remote wilderness very popular among visitors.

An aerial survey of the whole Victoria River District carried out last year found that feral animal numbers were high.

"Their presence means they're competing with and destroying the resources and habitat of native wildlife, in addition to causing severe soil erosion and introduction of weeds," Mr Fischer said.

"As part of the feral animal control program their removal is required to minimise public safety risks, reduce the destruction to the environment and ensure native animals' resources and habitat are saved".

Mr Fischer said the park closure complies with the *'Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act'*.

People can go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks for more information about parks and reserves administered in the NT by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Ends

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Media Note - For further information contact Garry Fischer, Chief District Ranger at Gregory National Park on 8975 0936