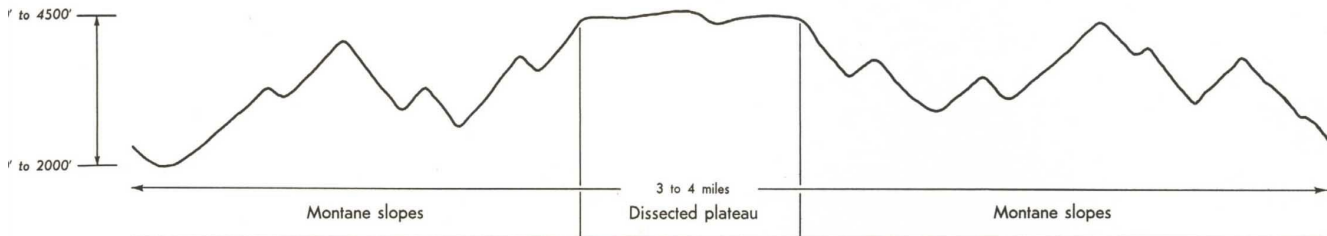


# COBUNGRA LAND SYSTEM

## COBUNGRA LAND SYSTEM

Area: 43 square miles 1.1% of catchment

### Distribution of land forms



### Land system diagram

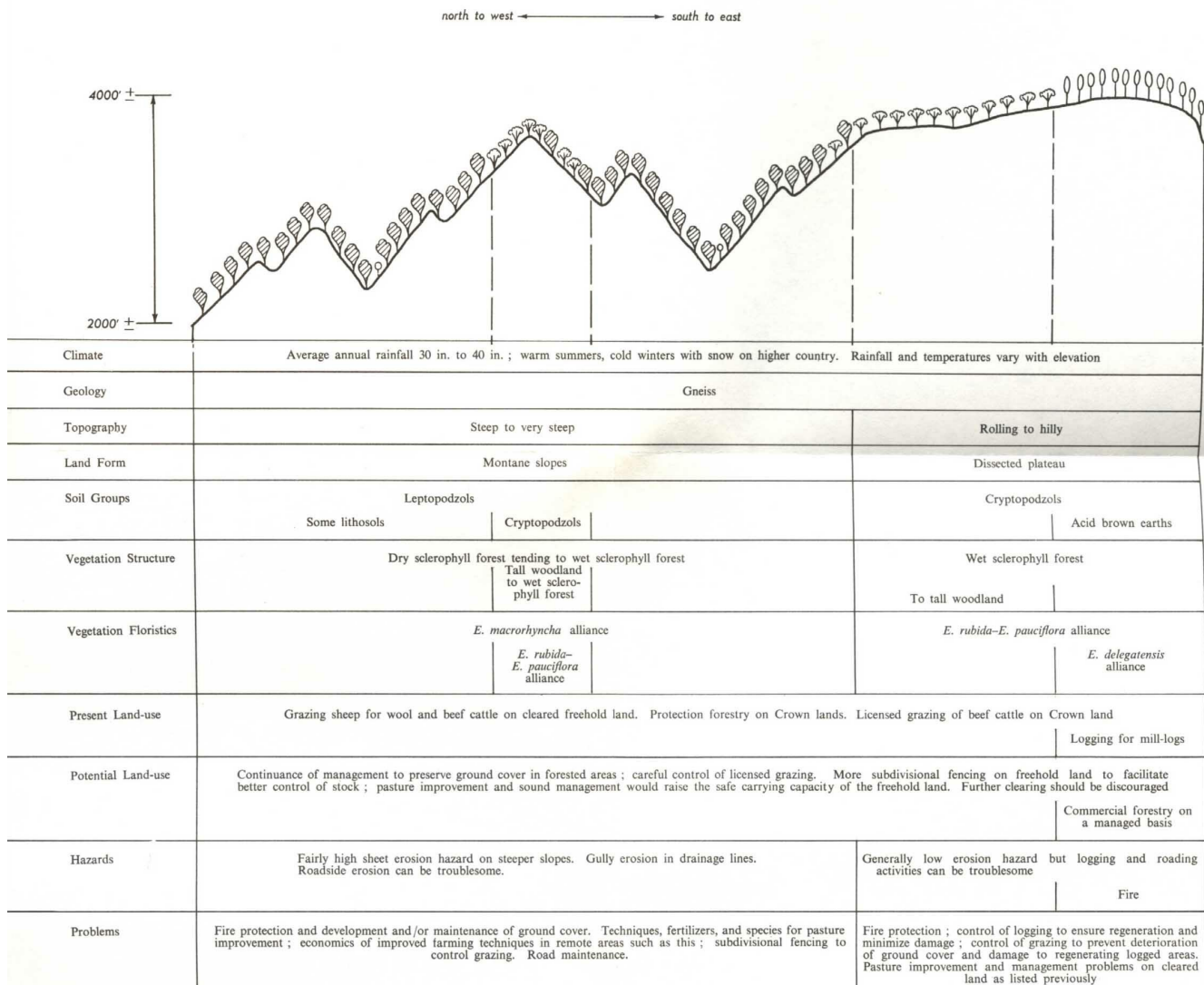


Fig. 22 – Cobungra Land System

The Cobungra land system consists of two separate areas in the south-western corner of the catchment. The northern area is at the head of Ti-tree Creek and the southern area is on either side of the Cobungra River to the north of its confluence with the Victoria River. Mt. Battery and Grays Hill are prominent hills in the southern area.

The area occupied by the land system is 43 square miles, which is a little over one per cent of the total catchment. Most of the area is Crown land, but there are areas of freehold land on the Middle Creek fall, on the lower slopes in the valley of the Bundarra River and on the eastern side of the southern part of the land system.

Plateau remnants at elevations of about 3,500 feet to 4,000 feet make up about 40 per cent of the area of this land system; the remainder is steep to very steep montane slopes (Figure 22). The plateau remnants appear to be part of the same land-surface as those found in the Bogong land system, and may be related to those in the Bunjil, Koetong and Pinnibar land systems.

The rocks of the land system are gneiss and other similar coarse-textured and silica-rich rocks.

The mean annual rainfall of the northern area is possibly 45 inches or more on the plateau, however the southern area is somewhat influenced by a rain shadow, and an average rainfall of below 30 inches may be expected. Occasional Winter snow on peaks and higher ridges and plateaux may be expected. Because of the higher elevations, summers are generally milder and winters cooler than in areas of similar country in, the north.

The soils in the drier parts of the land system are leptopodzols, and in the higher-rainfall areas cryptopodzols are predominant. Greater accumulation. of organic matter occurs at the high elevations, and in some areas, such as on parts of the Ti-tree Creek plateau, the soils are acid brown earths. Lithosols occur on steep slopes and ridge tops.

The steeper slopes of the drier parts of the land system support dry sclerophyll forest of the *E. macrorhyncha* alliance, with a ground flora of grasses and occasional heathy shrubs. Tall woodland to wet sclerophyll forest of the *E. rubida-E. pauciflora* alliance occurs at the higher elevations in the higher-rainfall areas. The understorey is usually composed of grasses and low shrubs. In sheltered localities on the Ti-tree Creek plateau, and just below the plateau where soil-moisture availability is high, wet sclerophyll forest of the *E. delegatensis* alliance occurs.

At lower elevations, the drier parts of the land system are subjected to occasional sheet erosion. Cleared freehold country is largely unimproved and often shows signs of being over-grazed and sheet eroded. The logging road which extends onto the plateau country around Ti-tree Creek is poorly drained and rills and shallow roadside gullies have formed in it.\* The drier and steeper country has a fairly high erosion hazard because of the poorly structured and coarse-textured soils. Burning or over-grazing of these areas would undoubtedly lead to extensive sheet erosion of the steeper slopes, and lower down, where the run-off waters are concentrated by converging drainage lines, gully erosion would be initiated.

Logging of the patches of *E. delegatensis* is the main form of land-use practised in the Crown lands, however these areas of commercial timber are located only in the northern part of the land system. There is some licensed grazing of cattle on the Crown lands. Grazing of sheep for wool is the main form of land-use on freehold land within the land system.

Protection of the area from fire is of prime importance, and to further this end, a more extensive road system is desirable. Emphasis must be placed on adequate road drainage and safe disposal of drainage water. Regular maintenance is essential.

Sowing of improved pastures may be possible on some of the cleared freehold land, however much of it is probably too steep. Applications of superphosphate to encourage the clovers and subdivisional fencing to facilitate the control of grazing on these steeper slopes are needed.

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\* This road has been replaced by a new road, which continues over the Bogong High Plains and links up with the Mt. Beauty-Rocky Valley road.