

Witchelina Management Plan- Summary 2017/18 financial year

Updated: 9th September 2017

Conservation Actions

| Goal | Strategy | Objective | Action |
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| Goal 1- Manage total grazing pressure | Goat Control (GC) | GC1- Maintain goat numbers at less than 100 on the property at any one time. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the most appropriate method of control (mustering, aerial shooting or ground shooting), 2. Implement appropriate control method, 3. Undertake biannual aerial survey to assess population density and abundance. |
| | Rabbit Control (RC) | RC1- By 2014, identify priority areas for rabbit control. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map warrens (by motorbike with GPS), 2. Consult with traditional owners to avoid inadvertent damage to cultural sites, 3. Control rabbits (rip warrens or use other method). 4. Monitor controlled areas (photopoints) |
| | | RC2- By 2018, reduce the number of active rabbit warrens in priority areas by 80%. | |
| | | RC3- Map and control 50km ² of mapped rabbit warrens in priority areas each year for 5 yrs. | |

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| | Stock Management (SM) | SM1- Replace 20km of old boundary fence with new stock proof fence per year. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a boundary track around the whole property for access to boundary fences. 2. Conduct regular boundary fence inspections documenting the current condition of fences, maintenance requirements and stock pressure, 3. Prioritise fences that require replacement or maintenance, 4. Identify water points close to boundaries and decommission by either blocking inflow or excluding stock with fences. 5. Undertake appropriate management actions |
| | | SM2- Maintain 40km of boundary fence to a stock proof standard per year. | |
| Goal 2- Manage the impact of predation pressure | Fox Control (FC) | FC1- By 2018, fox sightings and numbers killed have decreased from 2012 levels. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake spotlight shooting on all designated tracks 5 times per year, 2. Undertake 1080 ground baiting of all designated tracks and water points 4 times a year, 3. Collect up to 30 gut samples (foxes and cats) each spotlight shoot, 4. Undertake nocturnal spotlight surveys of tracks that are not shot. |
| | Cat Control (CC) | CC1- By 2018, cat sightings and numbers killed have decreased from 2012 levels. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake spotlight shooting on all designated tracks 5 times per year, 2. Trial cat trapping (using telemetry) in strategic areas and expand if successful, 3. Collect up to 30 gut samples (foxes and cats) each spotlight shoot, 4. Undertake nocturnal spotlight surveys of tracks that are not shot. |
| | Dingo Control (DC) | DC1- By 2018, dingo and wild dog sightings and numbers killed have decreased from 2012 levels. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake spotlight shooting on all designated tracks 5 times per year, 2. Undertake 1080 ground baiting of all designated tracks and water points 4 times a year, 3. Participate in aerial 1080 baiting program, 4. Undertake night time spotlight surveys of tracks that are not shot. |

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| Goal 5- Vegetation recovery where it has been denuded or degraded | Track Maintenance (TM) | TM1- repair and maintain 100km of track each year. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise network of roads and tracks to be maintained 2. Maintain essential tracks and implement appropriate erosion control measures. |
| | Active land restoration (ALS) | ALS1- by 2015, trial a range of restoration techniques in 200 hectares of degraded land. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify suitable areas of degraded land to undertake restoration activities, 2. Utilize new information garnered from the Flinders Uni's seedbank project to inform restoration techniques. 3. Undertake restoration trials on suitable land to identify best restoration methods. |
| Goal 7- Establish or maintain healthy populations of key vertebrates | Healthy Populations (HP) | HP1- by 2020, populations of flora and fauna are well understood on the reserve. | 1- Support biological survey work and research projects that further the aims and objectives of the Nature Foundation and its reserve management. |
| | | HP2- By 2020, the distribution of threatened species and other key flora and fauna is understood on the reserve. | 1- Support biological survey work and research projects that further the aims and objectives of the Nature Foundation and its reserve management. |
| | | HP3- By 2020, the population viability of threatened species and other key flora and fauna is understood on the reserve. | 1- Support biological survey work and research projects that further the aims and objectives of the Nature Foundation and its reserve management. |
| | | HP4- By 2020, Project supporting the understanding of arid ecology and ecosystem services and functions have be supported. | 1- Support biological survey work and research projects that further the aims and objectives of the Nature Foundation and its reserve management. |

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| Goal 8- Manage the impact of weeds | Weed Control (WC) | WC1- By 2020, the distributions of weed infestations have not increased. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Map all known and new infestations of Buffel Grass and Noogoora Burr,2. Control all infestations of Buffel Grass and Noogoora Burr (either grub or spray),3. Regular wash-down of vehicles and heavy machinery,4. Monitor all known weed infestations. |
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Monitoring

| Goal & Indicator | Vegetation Community | | | | | |
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| | Stony plains and rises | Drainage lines and floodplains | Sand dunes | Ephemeral wetlands | Lake Torrens edge | Rocky hills and Valleys |
| GOAL 1 – Reduction of total grazing pressure | | | | | | |
| Indicator – Recruitment and survival of Bullock Bush seedlings | | | | | | ✓ |
| Indicator – Reduction of graze line on Bullock Bushes | | | | | | ✓ |
| Indicator – Number of domestic herbivores (sheep, cattle, horses) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Indicator – Number of feral herbivores (goats, rabbits, camels) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Indicator – Number of native herbivores (euros, reds, western greys) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Indicator – Vertebrate species diversity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
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| GOAL 2 – Reduction in feral predators | | | | | | |
| Indicator – Number of foxes | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Indicator – Number of cats | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Indicator – % of fox baits taken | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Indicator – % of suitable sites occupied by Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies | | | | | ✓ | |
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| GOAL 5 – Vegetation recovery where it has been denuded or degraded | | | | | | |
| Indicator – Increase in Bitter Saltbush (<i>Atriplex stipitata</i>) in denuded areas | | | ✓ | | | |
| Indicator – Increase in Bladder Saltbush (<i>Atriplex vesicaria</i>) in degraded areas | | | ✓ | | | |
| Indicator – Viable population of Pearl bluebush | | | ✓ | | | |
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| GOAL 7 – Establish or maintain healthy populations of key vertebrates | | | | | | |
| Indicator – % of suitable sites occupied by Slender-billed Thornbill | | | ✓ | | | |
| Indicator – % of suitable sites occupied by Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies | | | | | ✓ | |
| Indicator – % of suitable sites occupied by Short-tailed Grasswren | | | | | ✓ | |
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