

[Click [here](#) and type recipient's reference]

[Click [here](#) and type CALM reference]

Alan Wright

(08) 95251202

(08) 95255547

alanwr@calm.wa.gov.au

Dr B. Wykes

Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group

Leeuwin Barracks, Locked Bag 5001

Fremantle WA 6959

Dear Dr B. Wykes

During the 21 June to the 24 June 2005, personnel from the Perth Hills District of the Department of Conservation and Land Management undertook the annual Western Shield Fauna Monitoring operation in the Bindoon Army Training Grounds.

This operation involved setting 60 small cage traps in the training grounds at 200 metre intervals along established transects (i.e South Break and Roberts Road)

An addition 30 traps were set in the northern section of the Bindoon Army Training Ground to collect information on fauna activity prior to the commencement of aerial fox baiting. This new transect site will require annual fauna monitoring over the forthcoming years to assess animal recovery rates in the new fox baiting area..

The commencement of extension of the new aerial fox baiting area in the Bindoon Army Training Ground is an important addition to the existing operation foxglove aerial baiting area which occurs in the adjoining Julimar State Forest. Bindoon Army Training Ground has been identified as an area of high conservation value and the control of foxes in this area will facilitate in the natural dispersal of native fauna into suitable habitat in this area. Over time these new establishing populations should create a more sustainable and robust populations for the recovering protected species.

Traps were checked and cleared daily with all new captured animals being ear tagged for future identification. The sex, body weight and size and reproductive status of each animal was recorded prior to release.

Sixty were set along South Road and Robert Road with an addition thirty traps set north of the army settlement area. The information we collect during this monitoring activity will enable us to identify individual animals and monitor their movements, growth, health and reproduction in the Army Training Grounds area..

Species Captured and % Trap Success Rate in Bindoon Army Training Ground

Table 1 SOUTH BREAK \ ROBERTS ROAD TRANSECT

Species	New		recapture		retraps		Total Captures			Trap success %
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Chuditch	15	8	2	6	6	13	23	27	50	19.20

Table 1 NORTHERN TRANSECTS

- **LOCATION DETAILS** : TRACK RUNNING IN EAST WEST DIRECTION .TRANSECTS COMMENCED AT STELLE HILL ON WESTERN SIDE OF TRAINING GROUND AND PROCEEDED EAST .15 TRAPS SET (AMG REF 430000E \ 6548000N)
- **LOCATION DETAILS** : NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF TRAINING GROUND.TRACK RUNNING PARRELEL TO CALINGIRI ROAD.15 TRAPS SET. (AMG REF 430000E \ 655320N)
- **LOCATION DETAILS** :ARTILLERY ROAD, WETERN SIDE.APPROXIMATELY 1 KM SOUTH OF MAIN OFFICE \ SETTLEMENT.10 TRAPS SETON THE 24 OF JUNE (AMG REF 430400 E \ 6542600)

Species	New		recapture		retraps		Total Captures			Trap success %
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
Chuditch	3	2					3	2	5	4.16
Echidna	1						1		1	N \ A

Category Description

New	Animals caught for the first time, measured and tagged
Recaptured	Animals captured at a previous trapping session ,measured and tag details recorded.
Retrapped	Animals captured during this trapping session on an earlier day.Tag number recorded.
Escaped	Animals escaped during handling,tags and measurements incomplete

RESULTS

- 55 Chuditch were captured in the Bindoon Army Camp area in 2005
- 26 males and 29 females
- New Animals Caught : males 18and 10females
- Three females were carrying pouch young
- Trap success rate was 19.20 %.
- A record of animals, tag numbers,sex ,reproductive statte and location caught was recorded prior to release

This year monitoring represented the fourth consecutive year of monitoring on the south break transect .Table three below represents a breakdown of the last four years results.

TABLE 3 – South Road Transect Chuditch Captured and % Trap Success Rate

YEAR	Total number of captures	Trap success rate (%)
2002	10	4.44
2003	17	8.87
2004	32	12.90
2005	50	19.20

DISCUSSION

The trap success rate has increased within the Bindoon Army Ground area as the chuditch continues to expand into vacant habitat. Within the new transect area on one night ten traps were set resulting in five new chuditch being caught in the unbaited area adjacent to Artillery road. Other trapping efforts in the northern transects only resulted in one echidna being caught, however trapping in this section was not conclusive and further trapping along other tracks in this area next year will create a more clear picture of animal abundance in the Bindoon Army Ground .

The Department would like to thank the Department of Defense for their continued support of the Western Shield Program.

Please contact Stefan De Hann on 92951955 if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Mike Meinema
District Manager
Perth Hills District