Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED FAUNA RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION	
Recovery Team name	Geocrinia Recovery team
Reporting Period (Financial / Calendar Year)	Calendar year 2009

Current membership		
Member		**Representing**
1. Chair	Kim Williams	DEC SW Region
2. EXEC OFFICER	Nil	
3.	Caitlin Prowse	DEC Blackwood District
4	Peter Mawson	DEC Species and Communities Branch
5	Dale Roberts	UWA
6	Helen Robertson	Perth Zoo

Dates meetings were held	A team meeting was held 10 Nov, 2009. Email communications occurred on a regular basis throughout the year.
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	The annual monitoring program was completed and field assistance was provided to the Perth Zoo's captive frog breeding program re: collection of source animals and egg masses. A translocation proposal for release of captive bred *G.alba* metamorphs and 1 yr animals has been approved for the 2010 season. A completely revised and update Recovery Plan has been completed and is awaiting endorsement by DEC and submission to DEWHA.
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from the actions in your Recovery Plan)	
Action 1 – Population monitoring	Population monitoring was undertaken Sept to Nov 2009, covering 71 sites and 300 hrs work with mixed results. Creek systems were generally quite moist and / or flowing well having received good winter rainfalls compared to previous years. Most larger sites recorded a

	small increase in calling males and small sites were steady. Only one additional site was elevated to the extinct category. Monitoring at the 2000 *G.vitellina* egg mass translocation site was completed. Four calling males were recorded at the GV7b site, up from three the previous year, whilst the GV7c site dropped from four to two. The GV7b site has now been able to maintain a small population of frogs for 9 years, demonstrating that it is possible select appropriate habitat and translocation as a conservation tool is an option.
Action 2 – Captive Breeding	Collaborative work with the Perth Zoo continued with further *G.alba* specimens and egg masses collected for use in their captive breeding program. Site selection for potential *G.alba* translocation site was completed with temperature and rainfall loggers in place since Nov 2008.
Action 3 - Protect Habitat	Investigations into a deliberate clearing of fenced and occupied *G.alba* habitat by a newly developed viticultural business reported in 2008 progressed. A series of illegal drugs crops were located in core *G.alba* sites during the monitoring season. Local police removed the plants and media coverage in the Augusta Margaret River Mail highlighted the serious impacts on habitat these activities are having. Further Illegal firewood cutting and rubbish dumping at one site within Forest Grove National Park was recorded during the year. Remote surveillance was installed but failed to identify the perpetrators. Further repair and reinforcing works were undertaken at two sites adjoining *G.vitellina* sites to control illegal access to the sites.
Action 4 – Feral Control	NRM funds have been acquired to enhance the intensity and expand the monitoring of both *G. alba* and *G. vitellina* sites for pig impacts for the Jan – June 2010 period.
Action 5 – Acquire resources	NRM funds have been acquired to undertake weed control on private lands containing frog fences to assist in maintaining the integrity of habitat and fences over the June – Dec 2010 period.
Action 1 – Population monitoring	Population monitoring was undertaken Sept to Nov 2009, covering 71 sites and 300 hrs work with mixed results. Creek systems were generally quite moist and / or flowing well having received good winter rainfalls compared to previous years. Most larger sites recorded a small increase in calling males and small sites were steady. Only one additional site was elevated to the extinct category. Monitoring at the 2000 *G.vitellina* egg mass translocation site was completed. Four calling males were recorded at the GV7b site, up from three the previous year, whilst the GV7c site dropped from four to two. The GV7b site has now been able to maintain a small population of frogs for 9 years, demonstrating that it is possible select appropriate habitat and translocation as a conservation tool is an option.
High Priority Actions Requiring Funding	
Task	**Amount needed and what for**
1) Hydrological Trends analysis	Approx $200,000 – Engage hydrologists to collate current and historical data for existing ground water monitoring bores and install new bores where required for key sites in the core habitat zones, to determine hydrological characteristics. Make recommendations on a

	sub catchment basis for habitat protection.
2) Translocation monitoring	$25,000 pa for 3 years - Salary & operational costs for monitoring 2010 captive bred alba translocation after the first year.
3) Ecological Water Requirements of key sites in core habitat.	Approx $120,000 - Engage Specialist Hydrologist for over 2 breeding seasons for 2x 6 months periods to determine flow parameters and characteristics of key sites in the McCloud Creek and Spearwood Creek systems. Provide advice on stream bypass requirements in construction & operation of private water storage dams.
4) Pilot Study to investigate the potential for pollution from herbicides and pesticides influencing viability and conservation of Geocrinia populations.	Approx $50,000 (one off) – Undertake partnership project with Tertiary Institutions to devise & implement water sampling and analysis regime for selected core habitat sites.