CENTRAL FOREST REGION
THREATENED FLORA RECOVERY TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT

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by

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for

The Central Forest Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team

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SUMMARY

The Central Forest Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team was established in early 1994. The team has changed membership recently due to the retirement of the Region's Botanist, Graham McCutcheon and because of Departmental restructuring. Following the team's restructure, work commenced on the review of the status of about 97 taxa in the Region. With the near future employment of a contract botanist and the collation of records and availability of accurate locality data recently made available the production of the management plan will be completed by the contract deadline.

INTRODUCTION

The Recovery Team was set up early in 1994. Funding for its work is provided by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ESP Project 440) and CALM.

The team has met on four occasions during 1994. The team has changed membership recently due to the retirement of our Botanist, Graham McCutcheon and internal Departmental restructuring. The membership is currently as follows:-

Scott Wood	CALM Central Forest Region (Chairperson)
Andrew Brown	CALM, WATSCU
Kim Williams	CALM Central Forest Region Nature Conservation Program Leader
Andrew Horan	CALM Central Forest Region Wildlife Officer
Peter Eckersley	Harvey Shire Councillor, local government representative
Elsa Dexter	Australian Nature Conservation Agency

Representatives for WA Water Authority, Western Power, Main Roads WA, and Westrail have been appointed but have not yet met with the rest of the team. A Volunteer Co-ordinator has yet to be nominated and approached to join.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 1994

Office based searches for all existing information pertaining to Declared Rare Flora and species in priority 1-3 categories has been undertaken. Tasks undertaken and the percentage completed are as follows:

- All relevant files within the districts, regional and state operational headquarters administration systems have been checked and pertinent information extracted (100%).
- Relevant records contained in the WA Herbarium located and information extracted (100%).
- Photographs or photocopies of each species obtained (70%).
- Records for some species (approx. 4%) are incomplete and require liaison with the original collector to complete the database.

Recent downloading and reformatting of reports generated by the new CALM declared threatened flora database has provided the team with good locality data that it did not have previously for 95% of the declared rare flora populations in the region. The remaining 5% are being acquired manually.

A draft list of species requiring field work on a district by district basis has been produced. Options for undertaking this task are still being examined.

A review of the computer resources available and their suitability has resulted in the purchasing of a 486 laptop PC to cope with the data and report writing needs of the team co-ordinator and current acting team botanist.

Trialing of a suitable PC-based mapping package has been undertaken and it appears to be suitable, although further trialing is still required.

The Team has not been able to progress the data collection and production of the management plan to the extent that was originally envisioned, due to the following unforeseen factors:-

I. The sudden illness and retirement of the team botanist (Graham McCutcheon) has severely limited our progress.
II. The second, smaller influencing factor has been CALM's Central Forest Region's recent restructuring.

With the team restructure and employment of a contract botanist, using the additional ANCA funds recently provided, the production of the management plan will be completed by the contract deadline.

FUTURE TASKS

- Undertake office based searches for all existing information pertaining to the species in the declared rare category.
- Complete updating all data collected to date to reflect the changes to the State wide priority list which was updated in October 1994.
- Appointment of contract Botanist to prepare draft management plan.
- Field Surveys of species populations to assess threats and condition.
- Collection/preparation of line drawings.
- Computer generated map production of location of species populations.
- Preparation of the management plan document.