

APPLY ANIMAL TRAPPING TECHNIQUES



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PUBLICATION NOTES

BHP Billiton Iron Ore is proud to support Greening Australia to provide valuable conservation and land management training to communities throughout the Pilbara through the Indigenous Training Program.

This Learning Guide series has been developed as part of our partnership of the program.

Gavin Price, Head of Environment, BHP Billiton Iron Ore

Greening Australia is proud to produce and provide the comprehensive suite of new ALEP Learning Guides. The guides are compatible with the new horticulture and conservation industries training package and are suited to developing skills in Indigenous communities within remote areas of the country where employment opportunities are limited. We would like to thank BHPBIO for their generous support in the development of the guides.

Brendan Foran, National CEO, Greening Australia

The second series of ALEP Guides is aligned with a number of units of competence from the *Training Package AHC10–Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management* (Release 8.0). The units selected are frequently used within Certificates I to III in Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management. As such they cover, where possible, the elements, performance criteria and required skills and knowledge of each unit.

The principal goal of these resources is to support the learning process; the learning activities may complement a trainer's assessment plan. The intent is that they will be used in an interactive manner with learners rather than as self-paced study guides. The structure and sequence have been designed to follow the logical steps of the practical tasks wherever possible. Concepts are introduced and then consolidated with discussion and/or practical activities.

The writers consider that these guides can provide a sound technical foundation but also strongly encourage trainers to complement the guides with additional, authentic resources from relevant industry texts and websites. The guides can be used in part or in their entirety but should always be linked to practical activities to strengthen the teaching and learning.

Genuine consideration was given to the level of language used in the guides. The goal has been to find a balance between simplifying the language to an accessible level and ensuring that the vocational concepts are addressed. The writers contend that with appropriate support these texts can provide an opportunity for students to strengthen their language, literacy and numeracy skills, which may be required for pathway progression.

A number of Aboriginal people have been involved in developing this ALEP Guide, which is considered suitable for use within a program based on Aboriginal pedagogies.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Apply Animal Trapping Techniques*. In this unit you will learn how to use traps for the purposes of scientific study of wildlife or capture of pest animals for culling. This kind of work is generally carried out in a project team comprising several organisations.

Before you begin this unit, it is recommended that you have studied the unit *Recognise fauna* and the knowledge and skills from *Observe and report plants or animals*. There are ALEP Guides for both of these units.

This learner guide does not attempt to cover the use of baits and toxins. In conservation and land management, the most commonly used baits and toxins are classified as schedule 7 poisons. The use of these requires specialised training determined by the poisons Act in each state or territory. If you need to use this kind of poison, you will need to do additional training.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

To complete this training, you will need the following:

1. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2. Trapping equipment suitable for the activity
3. Vehicle and camping equipment suitable for the activity

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

To complete this training you will need the following:



Much of the training for this unit should be completed on the job.

SECTION	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTORY (Y/N)	DATE
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES			
2.3	Learn about the target species		
2.4	Learn about non-target species		
2.9	Legislation and Codes of Practice		
DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES			
2.2	The purpose of the trapping activity		
2.5	Select a site		
2.6	Select the type of trap to use		
2.8	Dos and Don'ts on someone else's property		
PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES			
2.9	Complete travel plans and JSAs		
3.1	Vehicle pre-start check		
PROJECT			
2.9	Create a portfolio of documents relevant to WHS		
5	Participate in trapping activity		
WORKBOOK ACTIVITIES			
1.2	Relevant legislation in your state or territory		
2.7	Plan the timeframe for the trapping activity		
2.8	Get permits and permissions		
3.3	Plan equipment needs for trip		

1

BEFORE YOU START

REMEMBER

A **HAZARD** is anything that can cause injury or damage to the health of a person or animal.

RISK is the chance of a hazard causing injury.

NOTE

A **zoonosis** is a disease that can be passed from an animal to a human.

Animal trapping is often a regular aspect of a ranger's role. Trapping can be used for survey work or controlling the population of a species. There are a number of things you need to think about before you start planning a trapping project.

1.1 WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY (WHS)

With every job, you and your work team need to think about the hazards involved and ways to minimise the risk of harm. The things you wear (PPE) and the things you do to minimise risk are called controls.

There are hazards specific to working with traps. These can vary depending on the animals you trap and the kind of traps you use.

You must always follow your workplace Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Safe Work Method Statements (SWMSs).

In *Section 2.9*, we'll look more closely at the SOPs you'll use, and you'll be able to use this information to complete the Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for your project.

HAZARDS	CONTROLS
Animal scratches or bites causing injury and/or infection or exposure to zoonoses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to safely handle animals • Disinfect hands after handling animals or scats • Pay special attention to where you are walking • Wear suitable gloves while handling animals if appropriate • Have a well-stocked first aid kit, including dressings and disinfectant
Manual handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow SOP • Work in pairs
Trips, slips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay special attention to where you are walking, especially when you are looking for tracks and signs
Prescribed burning in your survey area (done by other people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with local authorities, communities and pastoralists during planning • Take a satellite phone in case of emergency
Working in remote areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all pre-start checks on vehicles and equipment • Follow SOPs or SWMSs • Work in pairs and keep fit and healthy • Take a satellite phone in case of emergency
Sun exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow SOPs • Take regular breaks in shade • Use sunscreen • Drink plenty of water • Wear appropriate PPE

1.2 LEGISLATION

When using traps, there are a lot of laws you need to follow. These are designed to protect you, the animals you capture and the environment. These laws are covered in the ALEP guides shown on the right.

WHS legislation must be followed with all your work. In general, you must accept your duty of care. This means you need to:

- Complete the training provided by your employer and required by law, and follow the processes learnt
- Use and look after PPE and safety equipment as directed
- Follow workplace policies and procedures
- Report any accidents and near misses
- Follow manufacturers' safety instructions on equipment and when using dangerous materials
- Make suggestions as to how to reduce risks in the workplace

Environmental legislation is designed to protect flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places that are important in Australia and internationally. Much of the work rangers do increases the effect of these laws.

Animal welfare legislation must be followed when working with any live animal. In particular, these laws are to protect vertebrate animals from cruelty.

There is animal welfare legislation in each state or territory. Breaches of this legislation, such as inhumane treatment of animals, can result in large fines or imprisonment.

There are national model codes of practice on animal welfare. These are specific to working with different species. If your state or territory does not have its own codes of practice, you should use these model ones.

REMEMBER: *A vertebrate is an animal with a spinal column or backbone.*

CAPTURE AND HANDLING ANIMALS

Most states and territories have legislation about trapping and handling animals. In general, this legislation will require the project you are working on to have a permit to trap animals.

There are usually different permits required, depending on your purpose:

- Capturing native animals for scientific research (including education)
- Capturing feral or invasive species for culling

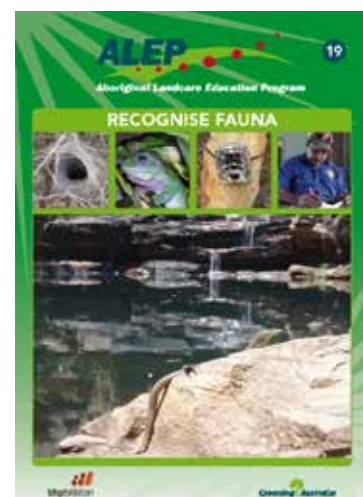
The relevant information for each state or territory is included in the *Resources* section.



ALEP Guide 15 covers WHS legislation.



ALEP Guide 16 covers environmental legislation.



ALEP Guide 19 covers animal welfare legislation.



See Resource R1, page 42



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY

Fill in the following information relevant for your state or territory using:

- The ALEP Guides mentioned on the previous page
- The information in the *Resources* section



See *Resource R1*, page 42

WHS legislation the project team needs to follow:

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Environmental legislation the project team needs to follow:

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Animal welfare legislation the project team needs to follow:

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Legislation about capturing and handling animals the project team needs to follow:

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Name any permits the project team needs to apply for and who will do the application.

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If you need any licensing or permits to participate in the project, how will you apply for these?

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