



Wednesday 11 January 2012

Ferals in target sights

With rabbit, fox and wild cat populations expected to flourish on the South Coast this Autumn and Spring, land managers are encouraged to take action against these destructive pests.

South Coast NRM is offering assistance with grants of up to \$1500 to land managers as part of the “Red Card for Rabbits & Foxes” control program.

Since 2004 the program has grown to encourage land managers across the broader landscape to control foxes, cats and rabbits at the same time to have maximum impact. The program complements existing government and community programs such as Western Shield.

Grants will provide additional capacity for the purchase of baits and traps, and the organising of community fox shoots.

South Coast NRM invasive species coordinator Matt Kennewell said the program experienced a two fold increase in control activities last year and the organisation was aiming to boost participation again in 2012.

Key to the effective control of rabbits, foxes and cats was timing, Mr Kennewell said, as the trio had a symbiotic relationship.

“The population dynamics of all three species are likely to change when one is affected so it’s really important to control these pests at the same time to limit impacts to livestock production, biodiversity and landscape sustainability.”

Applications for grants close on Friday 10 February and can be obtained from www.southcoastnrm.com.au or by calling Matt Kennewell on 0447 928 434.

Control activities must be located within the South Coast region which encompasses the Shires of Denmark, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Tambellup, Broomehill, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Esperance, and the City of Albany. Activities must start in March and be completed by 30 June 2012.

Information on control techniques including 1080 baiting can be obtained through South Coast NRM or the WA Department of Agriculture and Food.

Funding for the program is provided by the State Government and the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative.

ENDS

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