



media release

Wednesday November 18, 2009

Noongar landcare workers seek new opportunities

Creating training and employment opportunities for young Noongars is the focus of a new landcare initiative by South Coast NRM, Department of Indigenous Affairs and recruitment firm, Skill Hire.

Six young Noongar men have commenced work in Denmark and Albany on a biodiversity conservation project involving weed eradication and revegetation with native species.

The men will undertake a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management through Great Southern TAFE- skills that will equip them for a future career in land management.

South Coast NRM chief executive Rob Edkins said it was great to be working with Noongar trainees to address biodiversity conservation issues.

The not-for-profit organisation has spent \$130,000 on the initiative so far.

"South Coast NRM recognises that Aboriginal knowledge is integral to successful resource management in the region. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to engage Noongar landcare workers in the protection of the region's natural assets," Mr Edkins said.

Skill Hire branch manager David Flick said it was a great opportunity for the trainees to demonstrate their suitability for permanent employment, while making a difference to the environment.

"I expect that at the end of the traineeship, all these guys will be picked up in jobs in the region. The on-ground training they're receiving is invaluable," he said.

Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) regional manager Anthony Galante said the agency was coordinating the initiative and was looking for other partners to create projects and jobs that will enable this important work to continue.

"We are looking for landcare projects to be rolled out next year to provide these guys with ongoing training and employment opportunities. If there are organisations in the community who are keen for land management or conservation workers, then it would be great to discuss the opportunities."

Those interested in supporting this initiative should contact Anthony Galante at DIA on (08) 9842 3000 or David Flick at Skill Hire on (08) 9845 6111.

ENDS

Jenelle Carter
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
South Coast NRM
Direct (08) 9845 8521
Mobile 0428 928 536
Email jenellec@southcoastnrm.com.au

South Coast Natural Resource Management is the leading regional non-government group for natural resource management on the South Coast of Western Australia. As an independent non-profit organisation, we work with the community to improve the environment by preserving and protecting unique plants and animals, managing land and waterways, and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.