

Auditing Criteria –Whio Predator Trapping

	Performance Standard	Evidence
1.	Trap is set correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Correct bait for the current month is positioned in the holder. b) Trigger plate is angled approximately horizontal and as close to the baffle as possible. c) All trap plates move freely when the trap is set (springs are tensioned in a set position) d) The trap box is marked correctly with the trap number.
2.	Trap is secured correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Trap is secure in within the tunnel and correctly positioned. b) All mesh is securely fixed to the trap box with no gaps other than the opening aperture which shall measure no greater than fifty millimetres square. c) Internal baffle is in line with the trigger plate d) Tunnel lid is secured firmly
3.	Trap functions correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The trap can be sprung by gently lowering a 100 gram weight onto the distal end (end furtherest from the hinge) of the trigger plate. b) When it sets off the moving parts do not touch any part of the tunnel or baffles c) Double set traps do not spring off ‘sympathetically’ i.e. when one trap is sprung by a dummy capture (e.g. rolled newspaper ~40mm diameter) the other trap remains set. d) All moving parts on non-stainless steel traps are lubricated with builder’s pencil or graphite powder so that they move freely without binding when the trap is actuated.
4.	Trap is sited correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The trap box is positioned in such a way that it is unlikely to be damaged or accidentally sprung by stock and where located on visitor walking tracks is not obstructing passage. b) The trap box is seated firmly on the ground so that it is stable and does not move in any direction when moderately firm pressure is applied to it (palms placed flat on top of the box at opposite ends). c) Tunnel has been pegged to the ground if specified.
5.	Trap is cleaned correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The entire trap is substantially free of animal matter (fur, tissue and bone) from previous captures. b) Any uneaten bait and captures have been discarded at least 5m from traps and away from waterways. c) Both ends of the tunnel are clear of vegetation to 300mm. d) Tunnel is in good condition.

- All traps should be 'audited' at least once a year
- Whio Manager can assist in reviewing problem traps which haven't caught anything over two years
- It will usually not be practical to check the entire network in a single audit. Over subsequent audits you could seek to check sections missed in previous audits. To help avoid bias your audited sample of the network should be randomised. For example a check of 100 trap sets could consist of 5 separate sections of trap line each with 20 consecutive trap sets. From the entire network you could randomly select 5 trap site numbers each as the start point of a 20 trap section to audit. If you are constrained by time and unable to potentially check any part of the network, be aware of potential sampling bias. Sections that are inconvenient to visit for the purpose of audit are probably likewise for the purpose of servicing. Factors like capture rates of traps/lines or their exposure to the elements (e.g. sections in damp gorges or coastal exposed sites) may create higher trap cleaning/clearing/maintenance needs.