



MONITORING CHANGE IN WEED SPECIES PRESENCE

Why monitor change?

Monitoring change over time provides an indication of asset / resource condition and the progress towards achieving desired outcomes. It can be used to assist with decision making and can support the accountability of project activities.

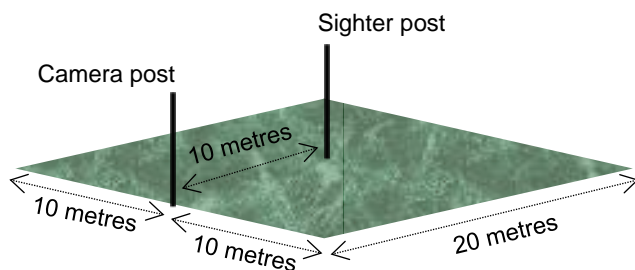
Equipment needed

- Photo monitoring site*
- Tape measure
- Camera (ideally 7 megapixels or higher)
- GPS (to record location)
- Field data sheet (to document information)

*See guideline for 'Setting up photo monitoring points' (www.territorynrm.org.au)

How to select the monitoring area

Measure out a 20m x 20m square with the sighter post from the established photo monitoring point in the centre of the area and the camera post halfway along the edge of the area.



Data recording

Monitoring should be undertaken at 6 month intervals and at approximately the same time each year so seasonal variation is not misleading when assessing visual changes. Make a note of any significant events that may have affected the site such as recent flooding or fire. Do not undertake monitoring directly after treatment.

Step 1: Within the area of the square record the percentage cover of:

- Native flora
- Weeds – list each species
- Organic litter
- Bare ground
- Rock
- Water

The total should add up to 100%. Use a table similar to Example 1, provided on this sheet. If you cannot identify the species take a photo and a sample.

Example 1.

| Feature | % cover in area | Notes / species / density |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| Native flora | 40% | Grass species |
| Weeds | 30% | Bellyache |
| | 10% | Grader grass |
| Organic litter | 10% | |
| Bare ground | 10% | |
| Rock | 0% | |
| Water | 0% | |
| Total | 100% | |
| Other comments | Native grass species seem to be increasing. | |

Step 2: Where weed species are present within the monitoring area, record the percentage of seedlings, juvenile plants and mature plants, with the total adding up to 100%. Each separate weed species should be recorded using this method. Use a table similar to Example 2, provided on this sheet.

Example 2.

| Weed species present | Seedlings % | Juvenile Plants % | Adult plants % | Total % |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| Bellyache | 25 | 50 | 25 | 100 |
| Grader grass | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 |

Data Management

Record and document all information. With the photo monitoring point sites you should have 1 digital folder per project with separate folders for each monitoring site. Add the information recorded in each monitoring area to the relevant monitoring site folder.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your Regional Coordinator for further information and support: 08 8942 8300 / info@territorynrm.org.au

The Dept. of Land Resource Management should be contacted for weed management advice.

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