



SETTING UP PHOTO MONITORING POINTS

What are Photo Monitoring Points?

Photo monitoring points can be used as a quick and simple way to visually monitor changes to landscapes over time. - This may include monitoring of:

- Weed growth/management
- Grazing pressure/management
- Feral animal impacts/management
- Erosion impacts/management
- Fire mitigation/management
- Recreation or human induced impacts/management
- Revegetation
- Reintroduction of native species
- Regeneration
- Dieback

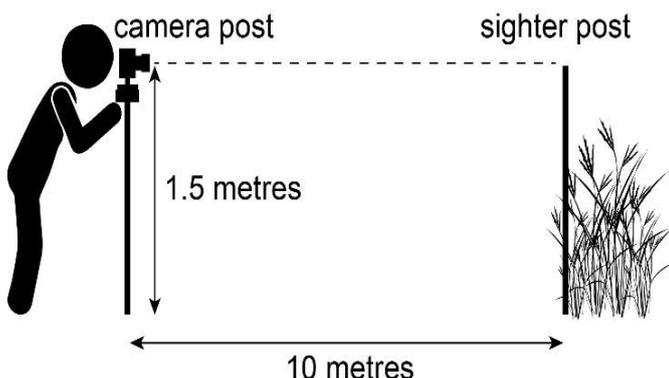
Equipment needed

- 2 star pickets per photo point
- Sledge hammer or post driver
- Tape measure
- 1 Identification tag per photo point (to fix to picket)
- Coloured flagging tape (to mark site and access)
- Camera (ideally 7 megapixels or higher)
- GPS (to record location)
- Field data sheet (to document information)

How to set up a Photo Monitoring Point

Ensure that the location is easy to find and access and that you will be able to capture the feature and broader area that you want to monitor. Mark an easily visible access point to the site.

Set up two pickets 10m apart, ideally running in a North South direction. The nearest picket to the target feature is called the *camera post*. The camera post should stand approximately 1.5m above ground and have an identification tag fixed to it.



Taking a recording

Hold the camera on the *camera post* facing the *sighter post* and aim towards the top of the sighter post. DO NOT use zoom as this changes the width of the field of view. Use date stamping features on the camera if available. On the field data sheet record the location and site ID, date, time and photo number (as shown on the camera).

Data Management

Record and document all information. Create 1 digital folder per project and add separate folders for each PMP. When downloading photos name them with the site ID and date the photo was taken.

Number of sites and frequency of photos

The number of photo monitoring points will depend on the monitoring objectives. It is also recommended to take other photos that indicate the broader landscape. This can help illustrate any vegetation or landscape changes. Photos should be taken at 3 to 6 month intervals and at approximately the same time each year so seasonal variation is not misleading when assessing visual changes.

Additional observational monitoring

Observational monitoring can provide more specific information on changes over time associated with land management activities. Useful information to record may include:

- Native species presence and abundance
- Invasive species presence and abundance
- Indicator species presence and abundance
- New species and abundance
- Evidence of presence (tracks, scats, damage)
- Pasture composition, condition and yield
- Recruitment of native plants (seedlings)
- Survival rates and health of seedlings/shrubs/trees
- Leaf litter and solid crust condition and status
- Percentage of ground cover

Additional guidelines for Monitoring change in weed species presence can be found at www.territorynrm.org.au

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.

Territory Natural Resource management is supported with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.