

## BOSQUE ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM

# Vegetation Monitoring Directions

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### Vegetation Monitoring Background

Conducted by professional botanists, vegetation monitoring quantifies the amount of cover by plants. Vegetation monitoring takes place along the southern boundary of each 5 x 30 m vegetation plot.

### Vegetation Monitoring Materials

- 50 m tapes
- vegetation data sheets, clipboards and pencils
- list of species at site previous year(s) and acronym list
- supplies for obtaining plant samples

### Vegetation Monitoring Directions

Locate the southeast and southwest corners of veg plot

A. Start each tape at the southeast rebar and stretch tape to the southwest rebar, keeping it as straight and as close to the ground as possible. If done properly the tape measure should read 30 meters at the southwest rebar.

Start where the tape reads 0, at the southeast rebar. Move along the tape from east to west, recording any living plant directly under or above the tape. Record 1) the point along the tape measure to the nearest centimeter where the plant first intersects the tape

measure, 2) the point where it stops intersecting the tape measure, 3) and the plant's name (see data sheet).

When there are overlapping clusters of the same species, count each cluster as one plant as long as the clusters overlap each other along the tape measure. Otherwise count each individual. Be sure to look up and note the canopy cover!

Gap rules: For grasses and forbs less than 1 m tall, if there is a 0-1 cm gap where plant is not present, ignore gap and say the plant is continuous. For plants 1-3 m tall, if there is a 0-10 cm gap, ignore the gap and say the plant is continuous. For plants greater than 3 m tall, if there is a 0-1 m gap, ignore the gap and say the plant is continuous.

When there are two or more different species of plants overlapping the tape, record each species as if the other one(s) is not present. If necessary, note whether plant has flowers, seeds, etc.

Once at the 30 m mark, remove the tape from rebar, unhook the other end and wind up the tape. Leave rebar in place. Move to next vegetation plot and repeat procedure until all plots are completed.

