

NOKES' PROPERTY PROJECT MEMO

To: Vegetation Analysis Specialists

From: Karen Launchbaugh, Team Leader

Subject: Assessment of Cover Plots at Nokes' Property

Date: October 15, 2008

As you know, one of the major projects of our firm this year is establishing monitoring plots on a forested property owned by Dr. Harold Nokes, near McCall, ID. I need to take the first step on preparing the reports for this project. I would like you to examine cover data you collected while on the Nokes' Property in early September. In this memo, I will outline requirements for this report (Report 3) which is due to be submitted to [Blackboard](#) on or before Monday, October 20 (by 7:00 p.m.)

The goal of this report is to compare cover estimates for the Line Intercept, Daubenmire, and Ground Cover methods used on the Long-Term Monitoring plots that we are establishing on the Nokes' Property

- Find your field data sheets for estimates of cover recorded on the permanent plot you established at the Nokes' Property
- From the Class Web Page (<http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range357/>) download the blank Excel spreadsheet for the Nokes' project on the "Assignments" page.
- Fill in the "Site Description" sheet with information about site location.
- Complete the "Species Code" sheet as much as you can. Make sure all names and species codes agree with the USDA Plants Database: (<http://www.plants.usda.gov/>).
- Enter your data for the "Line Intercept", "Daubenmire", and "Ground" tabs in the spreadsheet. Calculate cover for all of these methods.
- Download the PowerPoint file that will allow you to do a point analysis of the plot photos you took on your site. Conduct the point analysis.

Please submit a completed excel spreadsheet for your plot. You can do this individually or as a team. But, I need a copy of the Plot Spreadsheet from each person in class. (Yes, one for each person. It could be the same spreadsheet for everyone on the team, but I need to make sure everyone has the data).

Each individual should work independently to write a 1 to 2 page memo/report (do not exceed 2 pages), describing the general cover attributes of your site. You can include graphs or tables attached to the end of the report, or inserted in the document, without counting against the 2-page limit. Start with a general site description and purpose for the study. Then, briefly describe how you conducted each method in the field. Finally, describe the differences you see among methods (Line Intercept, Daubenmire, Ground).

Also, compare the point cover study you conducted on your photos with the Daubenmire cover estimates. Describe your confidence in these methods and difficulties encountered. I will use your comparison to determine which method future teams should use, so please make a clear recommendation.

In your report, consider reading articles on these different methods and alert me to pros or cons for each method. (*That is, refer to published literature in your memo*). I am especially interested in the value of taking pictures of plots in the field and analyzing them later. I will expect your completed spreadsheet and your written report by Monday, October 20 @ 7:00 p.m. submitted by Blackboard. Please contact me if you have any questions (klaunchb@uidaho.edu).