

MEMORANDUM

To: Rangeland and Riparian Habitat Class
From: Karen Launchbaugh
Date: December 2, 2008
Subject: Final Reports on Nokes' Monitoring Plots

All semester you have been summarizing and analyzing data. Now, the time has come to put it all together and write the final reports. Your task is to complete the final data spreadsheet, create a photo plot record (in PowerPoint), and work with your team to create a final report due by 10:00 p.m., Friday, December 12, 2008 by blackboard (<https://www.blackboard.uidaho.edu>).

1) Data and Picture Files (20 points): Work with your team to summarize data and submit a completed excel spreadsheet file of your results for 2008. One person on the team can submit this data and the other team members can simply submit a note explaining who submitted the data for the team. Electronic copies of the following items are needed:

- ▶ All information requested in the Excel Data Spreadsheet
- ▶ A PowerPoint file presentation of plot photos with 2008 photos (Use "Portrait" rather than "landscape." Include an introductory slide. Put 2 pictures per page. Just 2 or 3 are pictures required, but, include no more than 10 pictures. Use a white background.)

2) Summary of Plot Data (10 points): Your team will also prepare and submit a written report on the characteristics of your site. Again one person of the team can submit the report and other team members can submit a note stating who submitted the report.

- ▶ A 1-2 page introduction and site description (general description of vegetation type and topography) including clear directions on how to reach and locate the plot.
- ▶ A 2-3 page written summary and interpretation of data collected in 2008. You could include comparisons with other plots, detailed information from other sources, calculation of biodiversity, calculation of composition, etc. etc.
- ▶ Make sure to include a table or graph that presents % cover of Grass, Forb, Woody, and Total Vegetation based on Ground Cover, Line Intercept, Daubenmire, and Photo Point methods.
- ▶ You should also include a picture or two in this report.

Individual Report (20 points): Part of the final report you must conduct on your own, though you can get feedback from team members.

- ▶ Write a 2-3 page, single-spaced, interpretation of the data or some interesting aspect of the plot. You can focus on any aspect of the data that you find interesting and that you think would interest the land managers of the Nokes' Property. Write this as a professional memo addressed to Dr. Harold Nokes and refer to data your team collected. You could add additional data analyses or study one specific aspect of the study. Your response will be expected to include at least two references or relevant information.

Points to remember:

- Data can be presented in a table or a graph, but the same data cannot be presented in both a table and a graph.
- Table titles should be on top of the table and figure titles (including graphs, pictures, and figures) should be on the bottom.
- Use minimum number of units beyond decimal and be consistent throughout text and within each table.
- Use common names as much as possible. You can put scientific names in table or in parenthesis in text. For example, Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*).
- For plant names use scientific names, common names, and plant codes as laid out in the USDA Plants Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>).
- Cover can be basal, canopy, or ground cover... make sure to specify.
- Give a professional opinion, but make sure it is supported by your data and published research.