

Writing Good Field Notes and Site Descriptions

Write your field notes immediately when you get to a new site. Walk around a bit to make sure you have a “feel” for than enter important information in you field notebook:

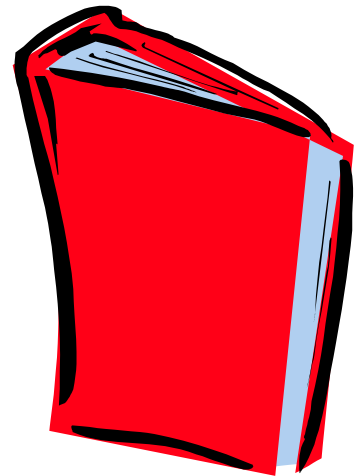
- Date
- Location of site (GPS location, map location, or driving direction)
- Major topographic features of the site (slope, aspect, geologic features)
- General soil attributes (texture, color, rockiness)
- Dominant plants or plant community characteristics
- Evidence of disturbance or past use (fires, trails, grazing, rodent activity)

Train yourself to write neatly and clearly. Remember, someday you will need to write a report about the data or plants you collected and you will need to interpret your own notes.

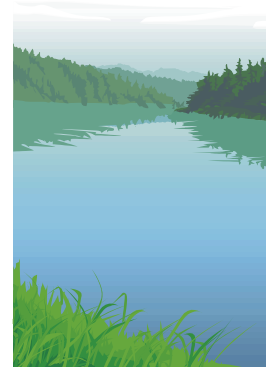
Drawings are also a good idea – they may help you remember what the site looked like when you get back to the office.

Make sure to note the field activities conducted on the site and the names of people present when you conducted the work.

If you are collecting plants, you may also want to note whether the plant was a tree or a shrub and how tall it was and what color the flower was when it was collected.



Record Major Site Characteristics!



Study Location & Documentation Data

Study Method						Study Number		
Allotment Name & Number					Pasture			
District				Resource Area				
Ecological Site				Plant Community				
Date Established		Established by (Name)			Map Reference			
Elevation		Slope		Exposure		Aerial Photo Reference		
Township		Range		Section		1/4	1/4	1/4
Location							Scale: ____ inches equals one mile	
Key Species								
1	2		3					
Distance and bearing between reference post or reference point and the transect location stake, beginning of transect, or plot								
Distance and bearing between location stake and bearing stake								
Transect Bearing				Vertical Distance Between Ground & Aligned Tape				
Length of Transect				Plot/Frame Size				
Sampling Interval						Total Number of Samples		
Notes (Description of study location, diagram of transect/plot layout, description of photo points, etc. If more space is needed, use reverse side or another page.)								
<p>Note: Depending on the study method, fill in the blocks that apply when a study is established. This documentation enables the examiners to conduct follow-up studies in a consistent manner to provide comparable data for analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.</p>								

Study Location & Documentation Data

Study Method <i>Daubenmire Trend</i>					Study Number <i>035-27W-08-03</i>		
Allotment Name & Number <i>Quaking Aspen -11037</i>				Pasture <i>Sheep Creek</i>			
District <i>Howe</i>			Resource Area <i>Lost Mountain</i>				
Ecological Site <i>Clayey-15-19" Northern Plains</i>			Plant Community <i>ARTR 2 - AGSP - PONE 3</i>				
Date Established <i>7/24/84</i>		Established by (Name) <i>Charlie Wagon</i>			Map Reference <i>Graystone 7 1/2 min. topo.</i>		
Elevation <i>4300</i>	Slope <i>Flat</i>	Exposure <i>East</i>		Aerial Photo Reference <i>BLM-24CN-A277A-4/22/78</i>			
Township <i>3 S</i>		Range <i>27 W</i>	Section <i>8</i>	1/4 <i>NW</i>	1/4 <i>SE</i>	1/4 <i>NW</i>	Scale: <u>2</u> inches equals one mile
Location							
Key Species							
1 <i>AGSP</i>		2 <i>PONE 3</i>		3			
Distance and bearing between reference post or reference point and the transect location stake, beginning of transect, or plot <i>The transect location stake is 100 ft. south (180°) of the reference post. Reference post is 3 miles west of Redtop Reservoir.</i>							
Distance and bearing between location stake and bearing stake <i>102 feet at 135°</i>							
Transect Bearing			Vertical Distance Between Ground & Aligned Tape <i>3 inches</i>				
Length of Transect <i>100 Feet</i>			Plot/Frame Size <i>20x50 cm - 6 cover classes</i>				
Sampling Interval <i>Every 2 ft. beginning at the 1-foot mark on the tape. Place the rear left corner of the frame at every 2nd foot mark along the right side of the tape.</i>					Total Number of Samples <i>50</i>		
Notes (Description of study location, diagram of transect/plot layout, description of photo points, etc. If more space is needed, use reverse side or another page.) <i>The two photo plots are located at 37 and 53 feet along the tape. Close-up photos are taken from the northeast side of the photo plots.</i>							
Note: Depending on the study method, fill in the blocks that apply when a study is established. This documentation enables the examiners to conduct follow-up studies in a consistent manner to provide comparable data for analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.							