

**REN CAPSTONE 2009-10
SITE ASSESSMENT EXERCISE
OCTOBER 24TH, 2009**

RFP#1

Shoveler's Pond wetland edge

Goal: promote amphibian breeding habitat

Objectives: suppress invasives & nonnative plants, increase presence and diversity of native emergents & create habitat refugia

RFP#2

Alder grove

Goals: Manage succession of stand towards conifer dominance and increase understory diversity

Objectives: suppress invasives, introduce and promote shade tolerant conifer and understory species

RFP#3

Willow thicket

Goals: increase structural and biological diversity with emphasis on bird habitat

Objectives: Thin willows, introduce species that attract birds, prevent invasive species establishment

RFP#4

Young deciduous forest

Goals: manage stand for tree survival and health while promoting native understory development

Objectives: suppress invasives, create stand management plan, introduce and promote a native understory

RFP#5

Nonnative dominated grassland

Goal: Create structurally and biologically diverse shrub-scrub habitat

Objectives: suppress nonnative species and introduce native shrub species

RFP#6

Seedling Garry oak woodland

Goal: promote development of Garry oak woodland habitat

Objectives: protect and nurture existing oaks, install more oaks, introduce common native associates of oaks

Field Exercise Instructions

Create four maps using overhead transparencies and four pen colors. Use map 1 as the template for the other maps. Use the map you sketched in the field as your base map.

Map 1 (black)

Perimeter

Map perimeter of area using compass & tape. Where is north?

Topography

Divide area into distinct topographic polygons and draw on map. Describe topography using slope & aspect with clinometer/compass.

Soils

Dig soil pits and describe texture, organics, biota, and moisture content in each polygon.

Hydrology

Show how water moves across your site. Where does precipitation go?

Map 2 (green)

Vegetation – native

Map trees and extent of canopy. Map patches of shrubs. Map location and extent of groundcovers with estimate of cover.

Map 3 (red)

Vegetation – invasive

Map patches of invasives. If not in discrete patches then map location and extent of invasives with estimate of cover.

Map 4 (blue)

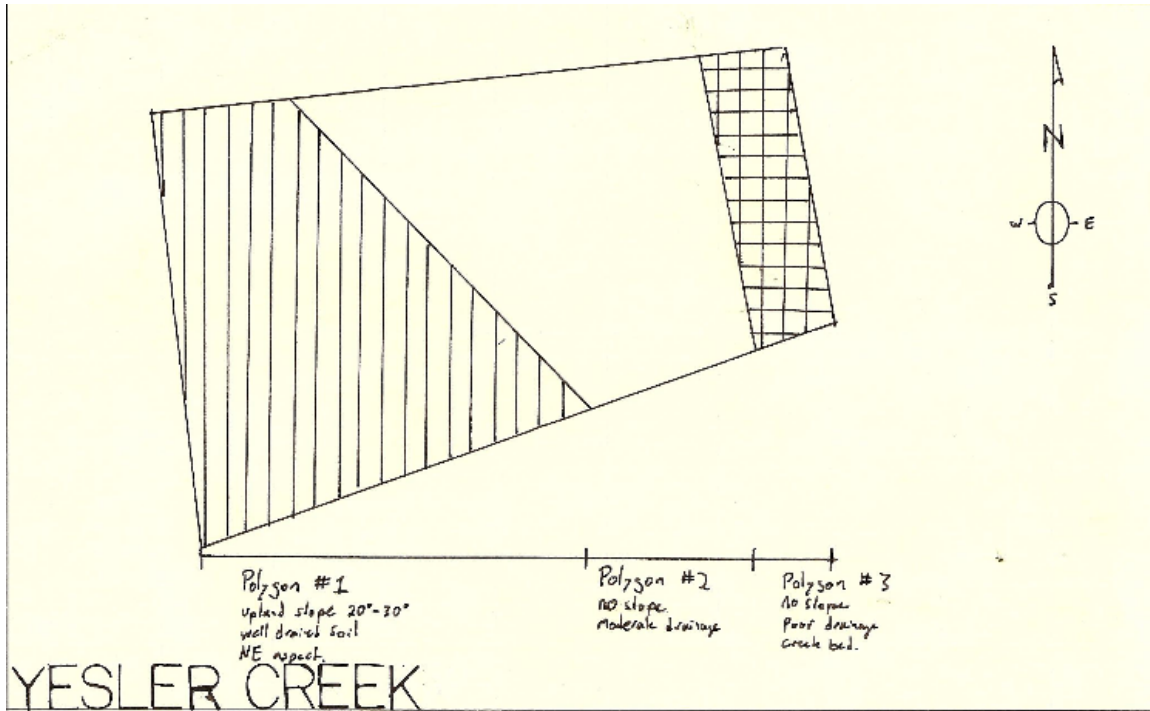
Disturbances

Map location and extent of observable disturbances.

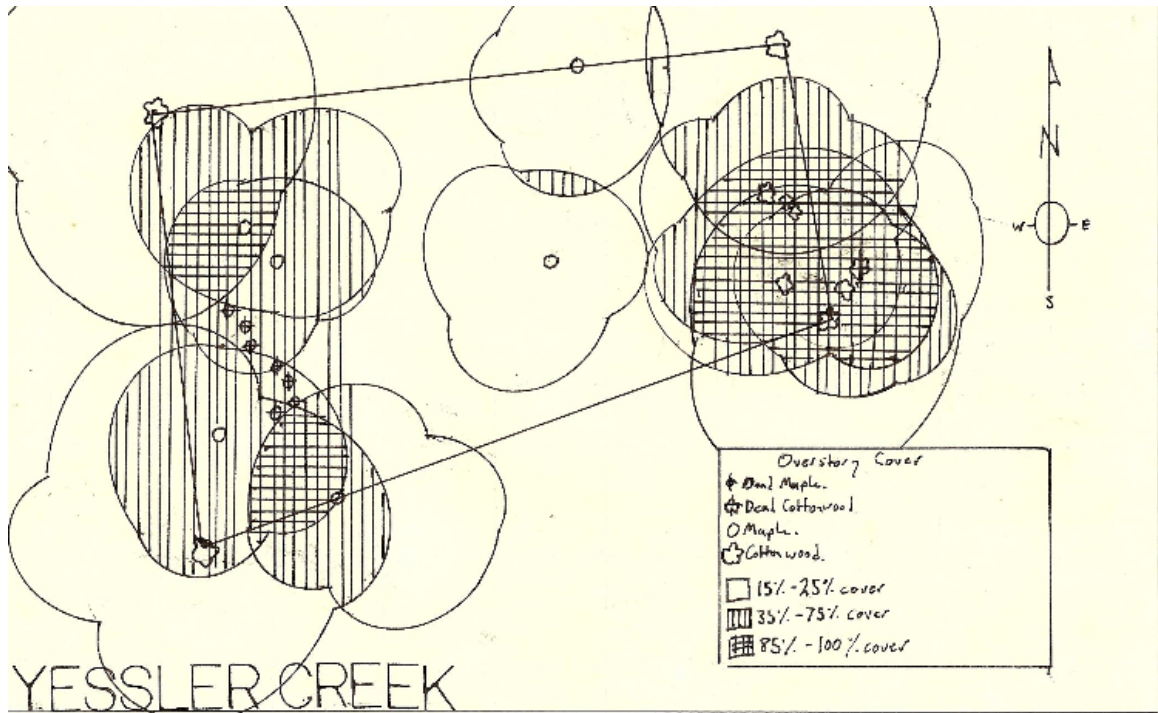
Matrix

Map what surrounds your area.

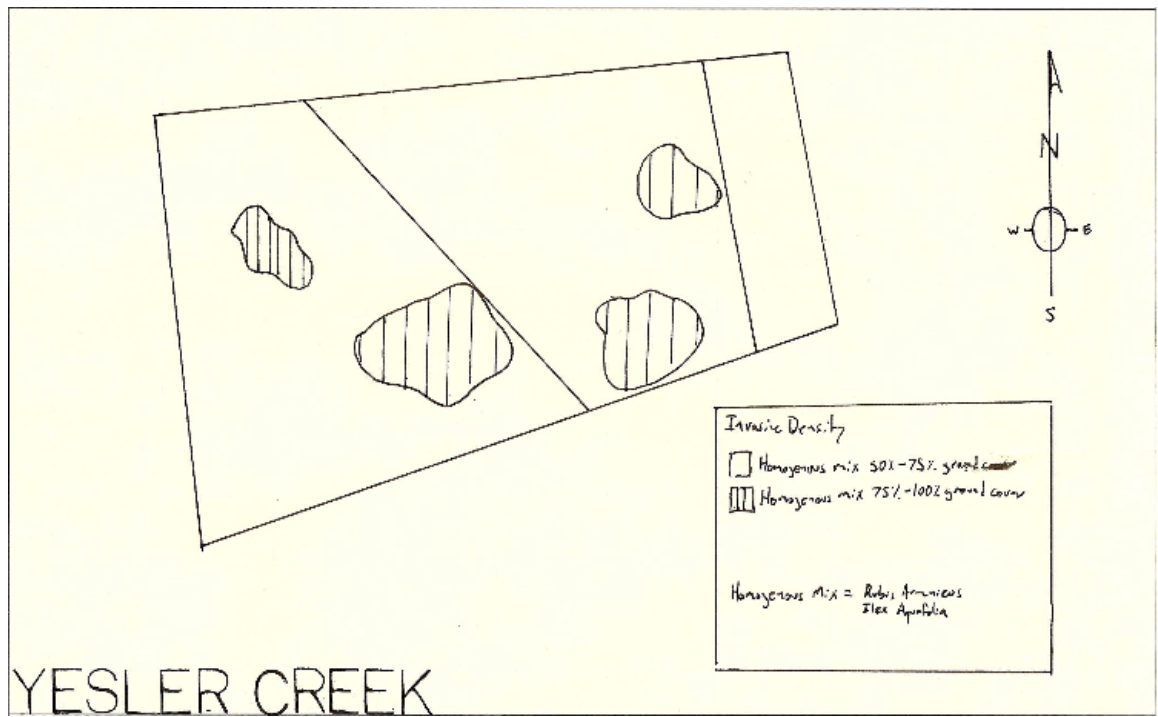
Examples from Yesler Creek 2008 project site assessment



Topographic polygons



Canopy cover



Invasive presence; notice patches of invasives correlate with canopy gaps!

Site Assessment Synthesis

Write a brief (two paragraphs) site analysis report with your team mates. Provide an analysis (two paragraphs) of the limitations/advantages of your site's present conditions to accomplishing the goals stated in the mini-RFP. Be sure to justify your analysis based on what you observed in your site assessment! Make a list of potential ecological functions provided by your site. Which ones are impaired? Which ones relate to the stated goals?

Develop a Working Design

Using your site analysis, the four maps you have created and the mini-RFP answer the following questions. You will be asked to present your working design to the class.

1. What sort of work would you do where on the site to implement the objectives?
2. What ecological principals would you likely need to consider in implementing your objectives?
How would you use them in meeting those objectives?
3. What would be some of the constraints/challenges to accomplishing your work?

Draw a quick map of your design on a transparency to share with the class.