

**Site assessment exercise**  
due Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 5PM  
send to the TA as Word document

Please include these elements in your site description:

(1) *Physical site description* - topography of the site, slopes, aspects, unique features such as creeks, depressions, ridges, mounds, etc. Include your measured perimeters and approximated area, locations of trails, roads, fences, culverts, etc.

(2) *History* - uses and activities have happened and are happening at this site. Be specific regarding the evidence of past use such as decaying stumps from logging, old pastures, accounts from the client and/or neighbors, historic documents, aerial photos, old land plats, etc.

(3) *Vegetation* - remnant dominant native vegetation (Latin names & common names) and any unique less common species, their distribution on the site (are specific types of vegetation associated with specific topographic features?) and estimate cover and height (guesstimates are OK! use metric!). Do the same with the nonnative/invasive species.

(4) *Soils* - texture and organic content (high, moderate, low) of soils associated with discernibly different plant associations/topographic features. The soils in a wet depression will be different than soils on a ridge will be different from soils along a creek bank which will be different from soils from an old pasture. You get the idea.

(5) *Hydrology* - how water flows through your site and give some sort of evidence for that. Creeks, ponds, seeps, mucky wet spots.

(6) *Matrix* - adjacent land and how they might affect your site; source of native propagules? Source of disturbance? Abrupt edge effects? very similar to site? Is your site part of a larger area to be restored? etc. so on and so forth.

(7) *Disturbances* - What disturbances have happened and continue to happen on your site? What has been their impact? Are those impacts diffuse or concentrated to certain areas? What is the source of the disturbance? How likely is it to continue after the project is completed?

(8) *Habitat features* - unique habitat features such as snags, beaver dams, etc.

(9) *Map* - Create a simple but informative site map which includes the above elements. The critical elements of the map are:

- Topography

- Vegetation
- Soils
- Hydrology
- Matrix
- Localized disturbances (such as trails, garbage piles, etc.)
- Habitat features

Use patterns and/or shading and/or colors to represent 'like' areas. For example:

*The blue shaded area represents a red alder stand with a salmonberry understory that has silty loam soils with a moderate organic component and the crosshatched sections represent the patches of Himalayan blackberry.*

You need not try to map every species and soil type; it will make your map busy and hard to read. **What you should begin to see is how your site will be divided into homogenous polygons that represent the intersection of topography, soils, hydrology, disturbance, and vegetation.** It may be that your site represents one big homogenous polygon or it may be more complex and made up of many polygons. Most likely you will have at least two.