WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Pest Free Waimakariri

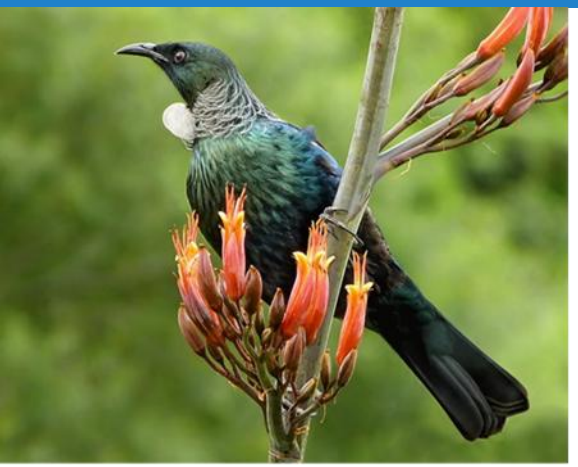
Going Beyond the Catch

Biodiversity Monitoring for Predator Control Programmes

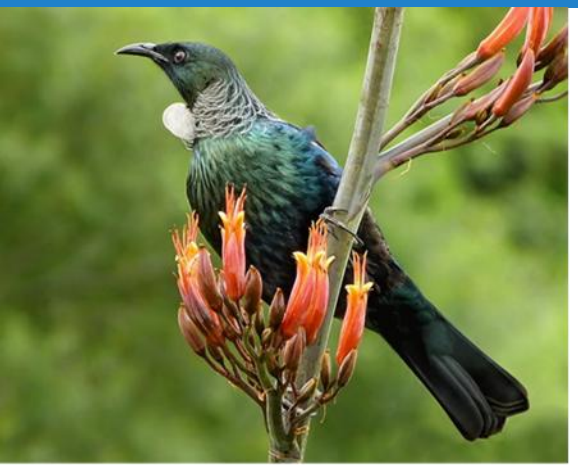
June 2026

Who are we and how do we work?

- Council initiated and supported organization
- Community Advocacy
- Preferred supplier – volunteer resource
- Richard Chambers – Key personnel

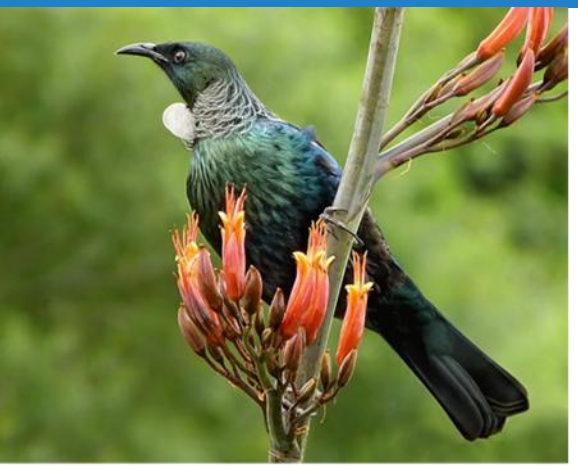


What is a successful predator/pest campaign?



Why Monitor?

- Monitor changes in target species
- Detect unintended changes in non-target species
- Informs adaptive management – intensity, timing and methods
- Provides accountability and evidence
- Supports ethical and social licence considerations
- Improves understanding of ecosystem dyanmics
- Early warning Signals!!
- Connects trappers to all parts of their environment and provides motivation

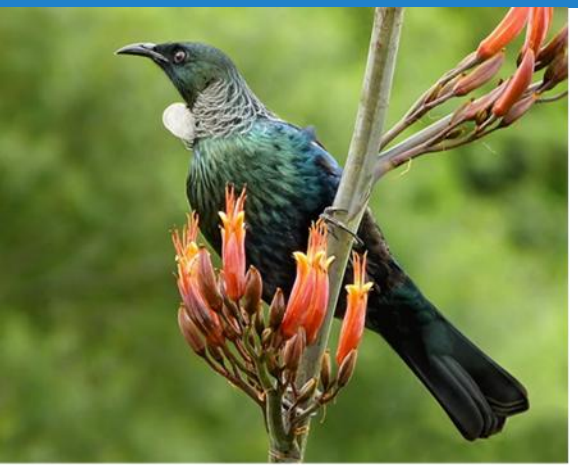


What are the desired impacts?

How can wee see the impact of our actions when there is nothing in the trap?

MONITORING IS YOUR KEY – Easy, Efficient, Replicable, Robust

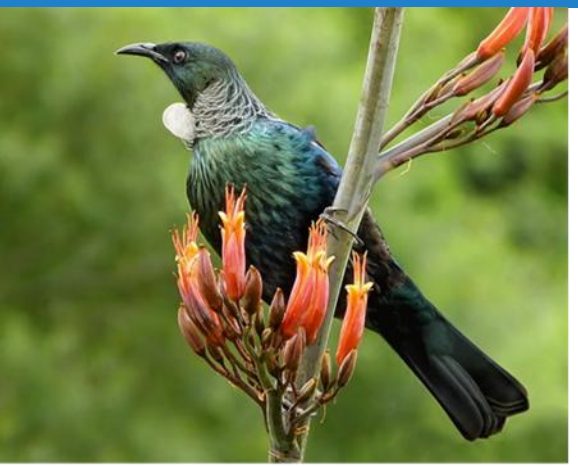
1. Bird counts
2. Invertebrate Counts
3. People data
4. Associated data – lizards, plant abundance/diversity/health



The easy (but immensely important) stuff…

- **Just five minutes of your day please** –bird survey and a dedicated practice to hone those musical aspirations
- **I'm the mother flipper** – wooden discs to record the amount of invertebrate life
- **Build it and they will come** - Stones piles/artificial refugia for lizards allow for the monitoring of population increase
- **Plotting** – simple vegetation measurements can detect changes in regeneration, health, composition

- And all the other motivation :-)




Invertebrate Monitoring:

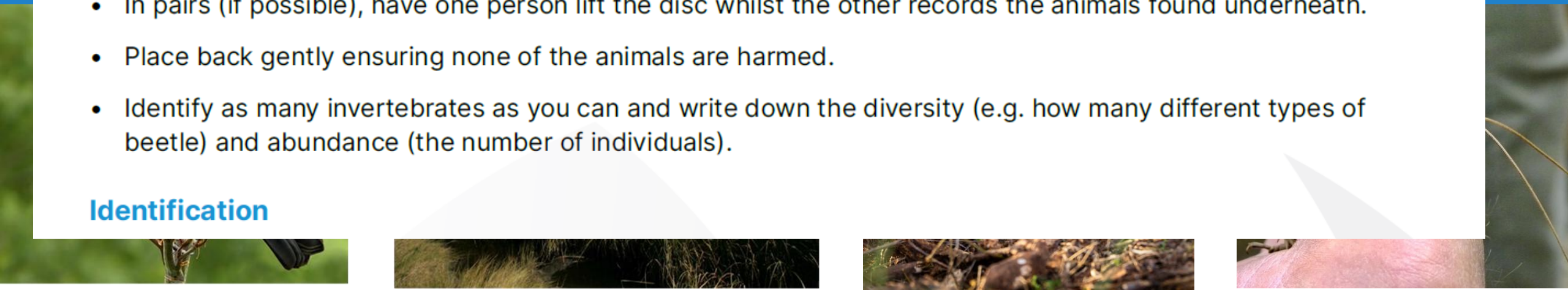
GREENSPACE

Invertebrate Identification and Recording Sheet

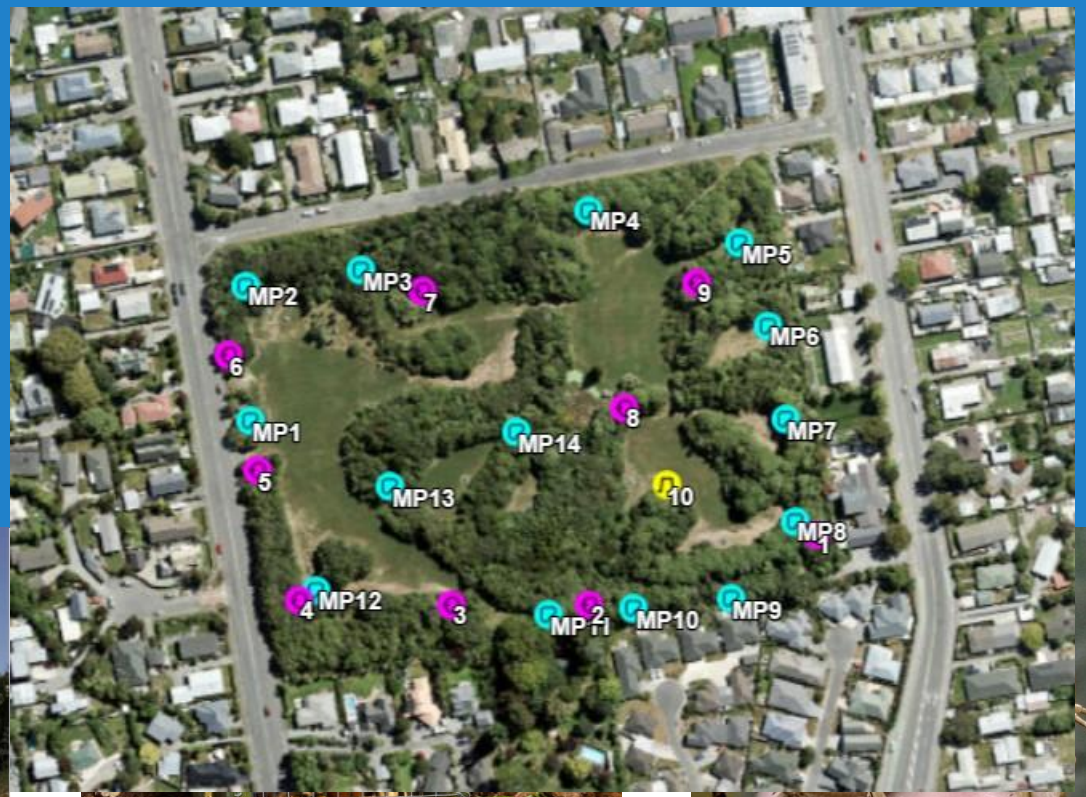
How to survey wooden discs

- Ensure the wooden discs have no vegetation under them, placed firmly onto bare soil.
- In pairs (if possible), have one person lift the disc whilst the other records the animals found underneath.
- Place back gently ensuring none of the animals are harmed.
- Identify as many invertebrates as you can and write down the diversity (e.g. how many different types of beetle) and abundance (the number of individuals).

Identification



Waimakariri – Matawai (Chew cards & Wooden Discs)



Bird Monitoring:

Before you start, you will need:

- Pen or pencil
- A notebook or record sheet
- Smartphone with a stopwatch/alarm
- Pair of binoculars

Instruction

1. Find a comfortable spot in the middle of your

2. Imagine a circle around your spot, usually diameter.

3. Set your alarm for 5 minutes or start your sto

4. Stay quiet and record how many different bird your imaginary circle.

5. Don't record the same birds, which moved with new ones.

6. Finish in 5 minutes.

7. Submit your results to the eBird free app.

Useful Links

Download the eBird app:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.cornell.birds.ebird&hl=en_NZ&gl=US

Download the Merlin app to identify birds:
https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/

Read more about New Zealand birds:
https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/

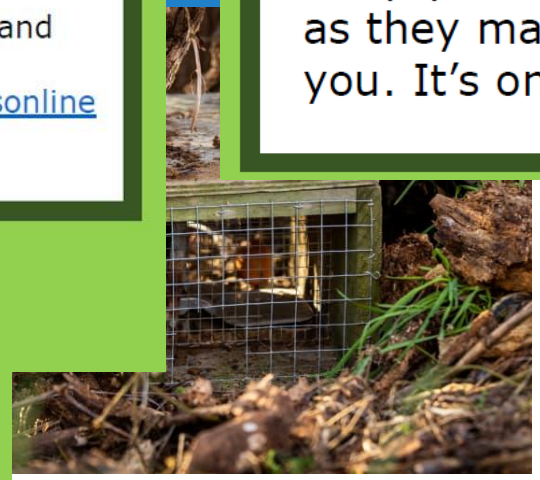
Tips and tricks:

If there are too many birds to count, make an estimate (e.g. 20 or 100).

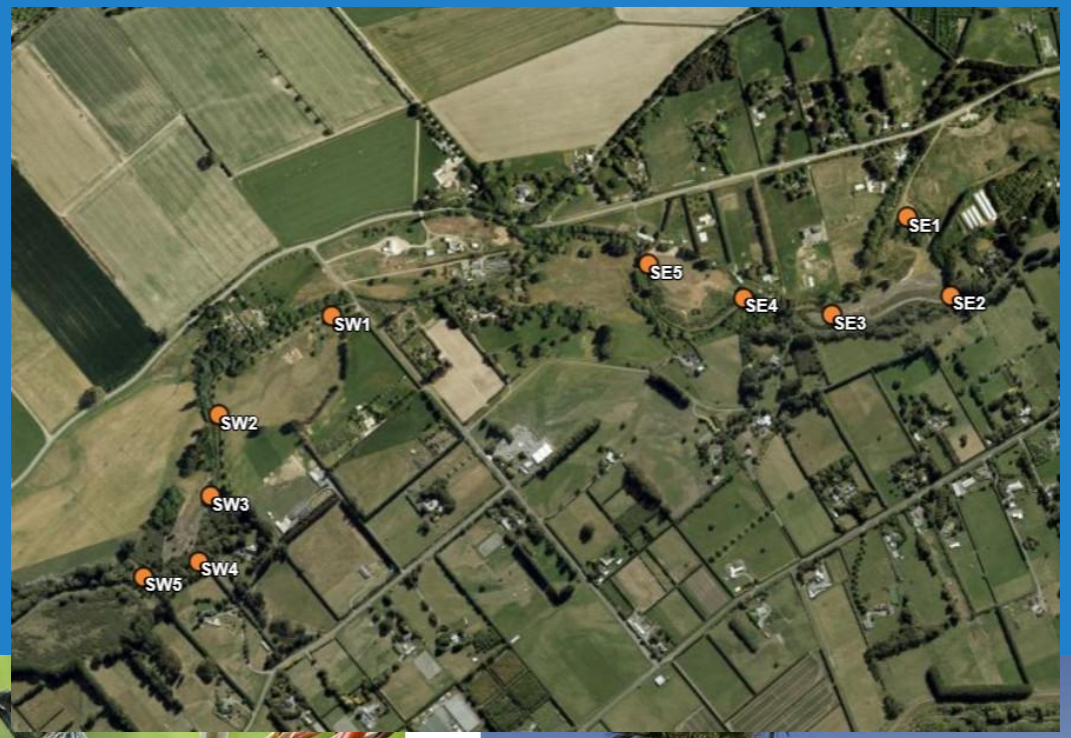
If you can't see a bird, use your binoculars.

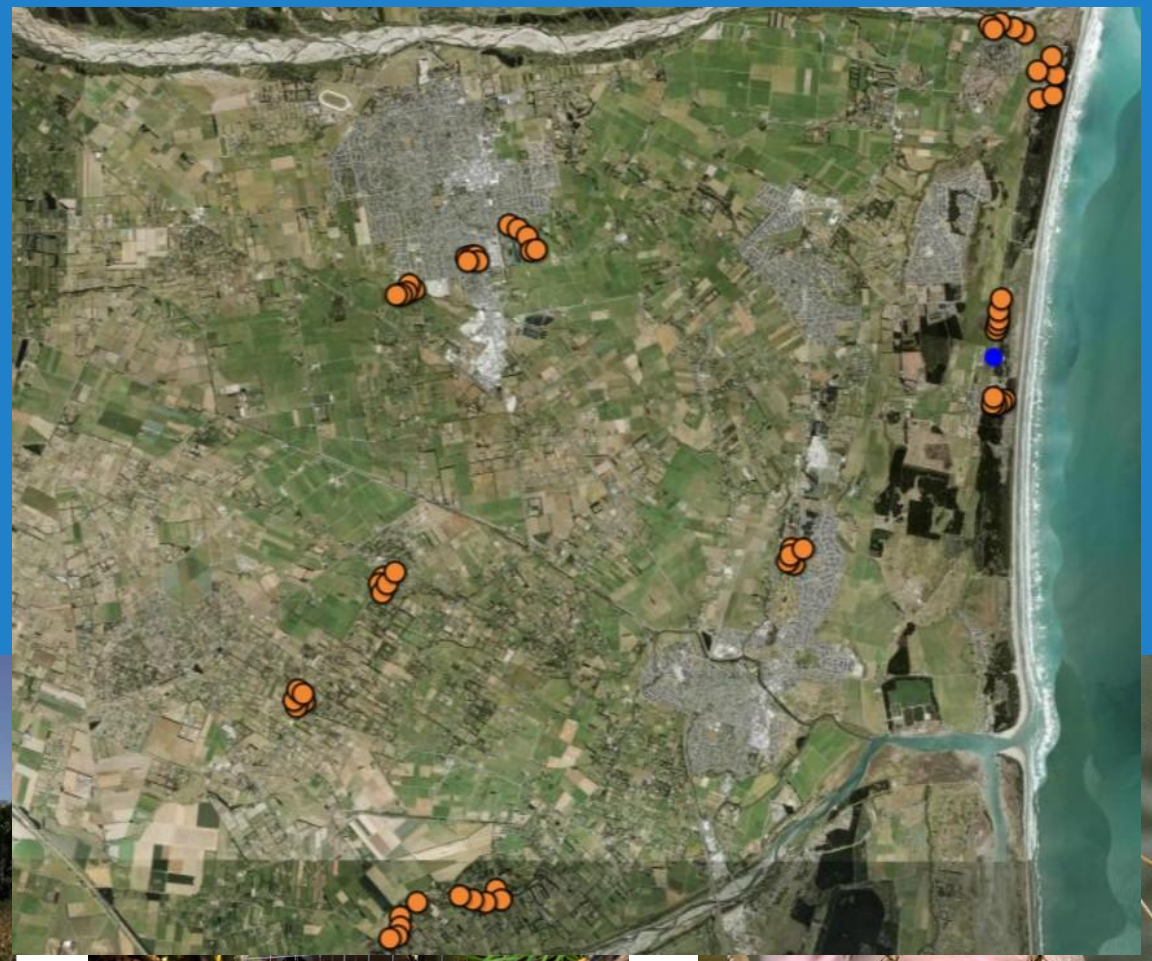
If you don't know a bird or its call, write down how they look, take a picture or record it to identify later.

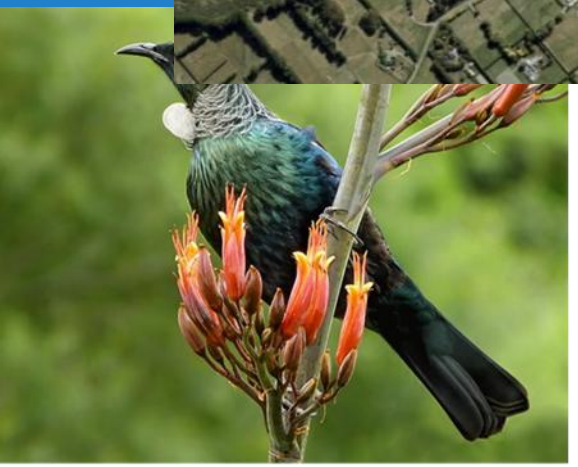
Keep your pets and infants away as they may distract the birds or you. It's only 5 minutes!



Waimakariri – Bird Counts

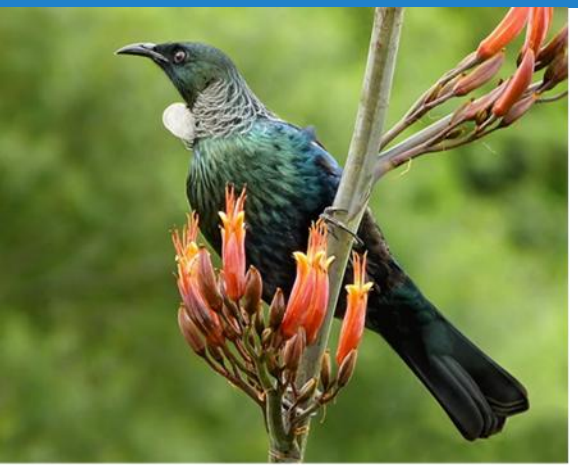


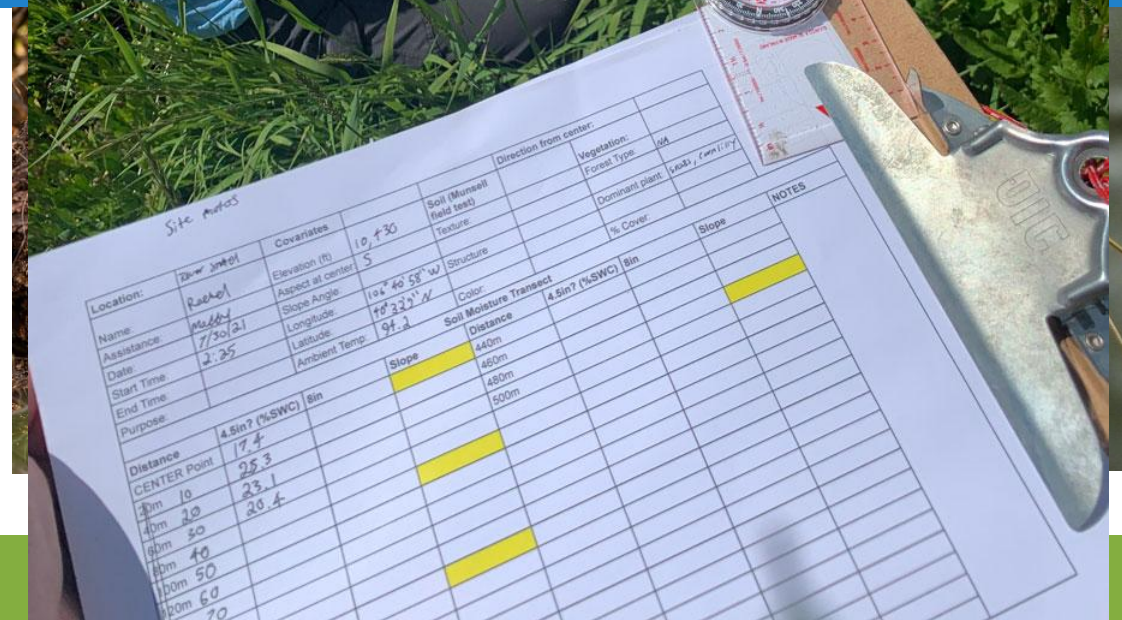




Vegetation Monitoring:

- Make it easy – mark the plot to return each year
- Record percentage cover of a range of plants
- Record numbers of target plants
- Measure plant height of target plants
- Count all different plants in an area
- Count native seedlings





Other Monitoring:

- Refugia piles / ACOs lizards (remembering not to touch of disturb
- Ground cover – moss
- Number of nests