FORMAK Vegetation Plot Form Issue date: 4-6-04

Plot Location

Names	Map Grid Reference	or	GPS Coordinates	Offset (if any)
Plot Name:	NZMS 260 Map No:		East:	Offset bearing:
Site Name:	East:		North:	Offset (m):
Catchment:	North:		Accuracy(m):	
Region:				·

Landform						
	Terrace		Face			
	Gully		Ridge			
Drainage						
	Poor		Good			
	Medium					

Altitude (m)	
Aspect	
Slope	

Plot Measurement

Assessed by	Recorded by		Date
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Location Diagram show approach to plot – location and bea made features etc.	aring of any transect l	ine on which the plot is located	– obvious natural and man
Description / Sketch of Area Assessed Include plot orientation	1 :	Notes:	

Photograph

Photo taken (✓)

(photo taken from plot start down plot line with distant end in centre of frame – 2.0m pole at 5m)

Canopy & Ground Cover

Point (m)	Ground Class	Ground Species	Canopy Intercept ("X" for intercept , "O" for sky)	Canopy Cover (see visual guide)	 Species Record species of each tree in circle of scope view. Note: may be more than one tree of same species Record from lowest to highest 					Lowe & high cove (m)	est
					Species1	Species2	Species3	Species4	Species5	low	hi
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1											
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Canopy Species			
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0	No browse
1	1-25% of leaves
2	26-50% of leaves
3	51-75% of leaves
4	76-100% of leaves

Ground Cover Classes

Record what is intercepted under the base of the height pole when it is held vertically at each 1m point on the tape measure. Classify this into the following classes:

Туре	Code	Description
Vegetation	V	Any vegetation that touches the pole within 10cm of the base (this is defined by the solid black tape on the pole). Includes woody seedlings, herbaceous vegetation, and grasses. Does not include live tree roots or trunks.
Root	Т	Live tree roots
Moss	M	
Fern	F	Any fern that touches the pole within 45cm of the base.
Leaf litter	L	Including dead sticks <3cm in diameter
Wood	W	Dead wood, branches and logs>= 3cm in diameter
Soil	S	Bare exposed soil where litter has been removed
Rock	R	Exposed bare rock or gravel

Ground Species: Where vegetation (V) or fern (F) is encountered – record the species.

Understorey Subplots

plot	Tally (Woody Species) % Cover (Spreading he 15cm – 45cm	46cm – 135cm	136cm – 3cm diam	Class
				1
				1
				1
				1
- 				
+				
				1

Multiple stems

- If forks into multiple stems above or on surface – Count as one seedling
- If forks below surface count as separate seedlings

Browse Classes

- 0 No browse observed
- 1 1-25% of stems with some browse
- 2 26-50% of stems with some browse
- 3 51-75% of stems with some browse
- 76-100% of stems with some browse

Browse is estimated as the % of individual stems or shoots in the 15 – 135cm range for the whole subplot

- unbrowsed stems less than 2cm in length are ignored
- when assessing ferns, each frond is counted as a stem
- Grass like plants: each leaf blade is counted as a stem
- Divaricating plants: internal inaccessible stems ignored

Tree diameter, saplings & epicormic shoots

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Sub plot	Species	Diameter (mm)	Saplings (tally)	Epicormics (tally)
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Sub plot	Species	Diameter (mm)	Saplings (tally)	Epicormics (tally)
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Tree Diameter

- Measured at "breast height" 1.35m above ground.
- See FORMAK Vegetation Plot Field Instructions (Appendix) for details of measuring diameter.

Multi Stemmed trees

- If forking below 1.35m, measure each stem individually and record them as linked on the above form linking the two cells ")" Saplings
- Greater than 1.35m in height and less than 3cm in diameter at breast height (1.35m)
- I forks into multiple stems above or on surface, count as one sapling
- If forks below surface, count as multiple saplings
- Epicormic shoots from tree stems are not counted as saplings. They are counted separately as epicormic shoots

Epicormics

- Sprouts that join a tree stem between 15cm and 1.35m above the ground.
- Less than 3cm in diameter at 1.35m above ground.