**Using a GPS to Collect Data on Vegetation Cover**

**Protocol**

1. Make sure you have:

* GPS, Batteries, Baggies, and Pink Tape
  + Tie at least 2 feet of pink tape to the GPS
  + Place the GPS and batteries into a baggie. If it is not raining, you can remove the GPS from the bag
* A hoop for surveying
* Copies of the data sheets provided

2. Travel to the desired location and turn on the GPS. Make sure the GPS sees at least 3 satellites.

3. Find a location to serve as a “benchmark” or calibration point for the GPS and take a way point at this location.

4. Select one person to act as scribe, one to handle the GPS, and a third to measure species cover with the hoop. Record the first four items on the data sheet.

5. With your back to the desired area, toss the hoop into the air behind you. This will provide some level of randomness for surveying.

6. Record the species and percent cover of each species for the hoops location. If the hoop includes non-veg ground cover, include that as well.

7. Repeat from step 5 for at least 6 locations. Make sure to change rolls so everyone has experience with the tools. Return to the benchmark at least 3 times and record that location as well.

**Data Sheet**

1. Date:

2. Data Collectors:

3. GPS Type:

4. HDOP at the start of data collection:

5. Plot data:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Plot # | Easting | Northing | Species | % Cover |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

6. HDOP at the end of data collection:

7. Notes: