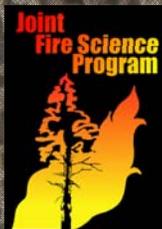


# Vegetation Monitoring to Improve Conservation



Protected areas comprise a small proportion of the total landscape. Conservation needs to incorporate actions on public and private lands to protect larger-scale ecosystem processes and maintain habitat connections. Long-term monitoring studies that include local landowners should be a key aim for conservation.

**In 2009 we began re-monitoring plots on private land that had not been surveyed for over ten years. Lessons:**

- Maintain frequent, open and honest communication with landowners even in years when monitoring will not occur
- Ask permission for everything you want to do
- Check for landownership and boundary changes frequently
- Share results freely and frequently
- Answer landowner's questions promptly
- Maintain up to date files of all communication
- Be prepared for people to say no!

**When selecting experimental areas consider:**

- Potential for land-use change
- Threats from development
- Ease of access

**When laying out experiments:**

- Mark locations robustly (rebar or T-posts)
- Record GPS locations accurately
- Establish permanent photo points
- Consider who will do the monitoring, and when
- Keep monitoring protocols simple - and follow them!
- Record unknown species, keep herbarium specimens

'Fires@ALE' is a collaborative long-term monitoring project. Our sites, established in the early 1990s, span public and private land and provide a unique perspective on the challenges of successfully maintaining long-term projects.



Multiple observers get the job done faster but their estimates often differ. Frequent recalibration is critical.

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