

USES OF PHOTOPOINT MONITORING:

- 1 . **Vegetation recovery**
- 2 . **Fuel loading**
- 3 . **Loss of vegetation due to trampling (i.e. trails)**
- 4 . **Trail location**
- 5 . **Photo record from which accurate measurements can be taken**

Photopoint monitoring is easy to learn. Anyone who can use a camera can learn the procedure in one day. It uses inexpensive, readily obtainable equipment and provides a standardized and precisely *replicable* result that can be achieved *by different personnel at different points in time*. The results can be easily compared to standardized results from other areas or research projects.

Photopoint Monitoring *does not require a separate database* to describe the date and location of each photopoint because *all site-specific information is embedded into each photograph* with a data board.

ADVANTAGES OF PHOTOPOINT MONITORING:

Requires minimal effort to repeat future photographs.

Provides a precise method for measuring relative changes in target resource parameters over time.

Photographs provide a long term, permanent, visual record of site conditions that transcend periodic changes in staff and expertise.

Time-series photographs are a more effective communication tool than highly quantitative charts, tables and graphs.

Historical photographs taken without a meter board can be re-shot from the same location. A meter board can then be digitally added to the historical photographs to enable quantification and analysis.



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PHOTOPOINT MONITORING

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU ASKED YOURSELF:

- 1 . When was that picture taken?
- 2 . What stream/ field/ road/ trail was this?
- 3 . Where exactly was I standing?
- 4 . Who took this picture? Have we taken any since? Where are they?
- 5 . How far away was that tree?
- 6 . What is this picture for? Do we need it? Where should I file it?

Photopoint monitoring addresses these questions so you should never have to waste time asking them again.

PHOTOPOINT MONITORING

"A picture is worth a thousand words."



Above: An example of Photopoint Monitoring to monitor trail-widening and trampling over time.

What is Photopoint Monitoring?

Photopoint Monitoring is a standardized procedure for taking precisely replicable photographs of resources that require long term management. It can assist resource managers in detecting unacceptable conditions in target resources *before* severe or irreversible changes occur, and *allow time* to implement corrective actions.

How it Works:

The key to Photopoint Monitoring is the use of a meter board, which provides scale in all photographs, and a data board that allows the photographer to include all the site information in each photograph. By standardizing the camera, meter board and data board placement, and using the same focal distance every time, the photos can be used to make quantitative measurements over time. The site information cannot be separated from the photo, because it is an integral part of the picture. A n SLR 35 mm camera, tripod and meter board are the basic equipment necessary.