



CCS Field Cheat Sheet

Do you have everything before heading out into the field? Enough datasheets? All equipment?

To do:

- **String out transect**
 - Use magnetic north
 - Transects will be named as followed: XXX-MU#-T##
 - XXX is three letter abbreviation for project site, MU# is the map unit number (3-digits), and T## is the transect number (3-digits) (example: DBR-001-001)
 - **Always note any changes in transect location, methods, and bearings and the reason for the change. Photograph if you need to justify. Always make a note of rejections.**
 - Always stand on the right side of the transect; field data should be collected on the left side

- **Take Photos**
 - In landscape and step back away from the transect
 - Photo board at the 0m mark and at the bottom center of the photo

- **Distance to Sagebrush Cover**
 - Measure from the 30m mark, but if transect located within “cover”, record 0 meters
 - Cover is at least of 10% canopy cover in a min. 30x30 m patch size with average height of 30 cm

- **Line Intercept with Sagebrush Height**
 - Interceptions less than 5 cm are not recorded as canopy cover
 - If a gap is greater than or equal to 5 cm stop recording and resume once you reach canopy cover that is greater than or equal to 5 cm
 - Dead or decadent shrubs, if still rooted, count towards shrub canopy cover
 - If the entire sagebrush, including the parts not measured, is dead, label it “Other”
 - For each sagebrush, record the tallest vegetative part, not the inflorescence, to the nearest cm

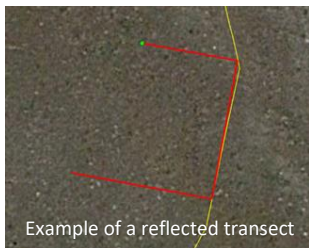
- **Daubenmire Cover and Forb Count**
 - Always use scientific names/USDA codes
 - Place the top of a Daubenmire frame on the left side of the transect line with the top at the 10 meter mark, angled back down the transect, with long side parallel to transect
 - Repeat these placements every 10 m, for a total of 5 plots along the 50 m transect
 - If the plant is rooted outside the plot, but its cover falls within the plot, those estimates should be counted towards cover, but not for unique species forb count
 - Identify each of the following functional group categories:
 - PF = perennial forb (live cover only)
 - PG = perennial grass (live or residual)
 - IAG = invasive annual grass (live or residual)

- **Other**
 - Anthropogenic Datasheet
 - Map Unit Datasheet
 - Resistance and Resilience Scorecard
 - One per ecological site/map unit
 - Wildfire Scorecard
 - One per ecological site/map unit
 - PFC
 - XXX-PFC-[ReachName] (Example: DBR-PFC-Lower)
 - Take detailed photos showing the reasons for the rating

Troubleshooting

Transect Issues:

- If the transect falls on or in a barrier and can be moved over $\leq 5\text{m}$ and be out of it, then move and sample. If not, then pick the next randomly generated point for that map unit.
- Reject a transect for
 - $>50\%$ slope
 - Unsafe conditions
 - Large talus slope or rock outcrop
- Do not reject for
 - Grazing
 - Inclusions
 - Similarity to other transects
- If a transect crosses a map unit boundary into another map unit, outside of the project area, into a fence, body of water, road, or through a shrub thicket too dense to sample properly
 - Reflect back into the map unit by 90 degrees at the point of contact, right then left. If that doesn't work for all provided bearings, pick the next randomly generated point in that map unit.
- If the map unit was mapped incorrectly and the transect falls outside of the designated map unit or you are in a transition zone between two discrete map units
 - **If you can see the correct map unit within a reasonable distance**
 - Starting with North, moving to East, South, and then West as each previous does not work, determine a direction that will, using the shortest route, place you within the map unit. At the border of the map unit, measure 50 meters in the cardinal direction you have determined, and at the end of the 50m is the location of your new transect.
 - If moving 50m will again place you outside the desired map unit, move as far as you can and stop just before exiting the desired map unit. This is the location of your new transect. Proceed as normal with your bearings, even with having to reflect the transect if needed. Record new UTMs and make note of the transect relocation and what direction was chosen.
 - **If you cannot see the map unit, or map unit is outside of a reasonable distance**
 - Sample and reassign the transect to the map unit it currently falls within. Go to the next backup transect for this map unit and just add the transect into the map unit that you sampled in.
- If sampling a very small meadow (e.g. upland spring or seep) in which a transect will reflect multiple times and has the potential overlap onto itself, follow one of the two procedures depending on what will be most effective for site specific conditions:
 - **For seeps or springs:** Reflect the transect off the boundary of the map unit using an angle of your choice that will keep the transect from overlapping on itself (this can be done in GIS to prescreen applicability of this method).
 - **For thin, linear stringer meadows:** Prescreen your points prior to field collection to ensure a point falls in an area that will ensure a full 50 meters can be sampled. The goal is to quantify the best habitat possible in the map unit. Starting at the transect location, choose an initial bearing and subsequent bearings that offer the least number of reflections.
- Do not move the transect locations except in the instances described.
- Always note what methods and bearings you used and the reason for the change on the datasheet if you deviate from the general methods or reject. Photograph if you need to justify.



Plant Identification Issues:

- If you can identify the genus, but not the species, use the PLANTS database genus code. ALWAYS define the genus portion of the code in the notes section of the transect datasheet. Note if it is annual or perennial for forbs and graminoids.
- If you *cannot* identify the genus, use the following codes and a short description/drawing:
 - **AF#** = Annual forb (also includes biennials)
 - **AG#** = Annual graminoid
 - **PG#** = Perennial graminoid
 - **PF#** = Perennial forb
 - **SH#** = Shrub