

Overview of Information for Researchers

There are four rectangular transect plots at each of the sites. The convention used to determine the size of each transect plot was three times the dominant overstory tree height by 1/3 times the dominant overstory tree height wide. (e.g. if a stand is 80 m tall, the transect plot will be 240 m long x 24 m wide.

Note that we have tagged all live trees ≥ 25 cm dbh at each of the sites. The exception is the Plantation site where we tagged all live trees ≥ 15 cm dbh. Some of the recently dead large snags may also have been tagged too (but this is the exception, rather than the rule).

Rigged trees are identified on the stem maps as red triangles. There are ONLY rigged trees for one of the four transects at each site—and only a subset of the overstory trees are rigged. The other three transects do NOT have rigged trees—so if you are interested in climbing in the other transects you will have to rig those. Note that some of these trees identified as rigged may have become de-rigged b/c of falling debris or previous users accidentally derigging them. Also, there may be additional rigged trees that we have not recorded and we will do our best to keep this information updated, but we are aware that some of the trees at Cedar Flats are currently derigged.

There is NOT a consistent color of flagging for all of the sites, but the paths to the start of each of the transects should be flagged. Note that rebar and/or PVC may be missing from the start of the transect, so if you cannot find it, don't be discouraged and think you aren't at the site—check for tags. The Wind River sites are generally flagged with permanent red flagging, while Cedar Flats (blue and orange) and Carbon River (primarily blue) are flagged with non-permanent flagging of assorted colors. At most of the sites you may notice ground-level wires with orange flags that travel the distance of the transects. Both ends of each transect should be well flagged to indicate that you are at the start or end of the transect.

Tags are positioned at \sim dbh, and they face the direction of the start of the transect, so that as you walk from the start to the end of the transect you should be able to see them. The exception to this was at Cedar Flats Transects 1 and 2 where they were positioned to face away from the path, and thus decrease their visibility to users of the trail.

There are rectangular silver tags adjacent to the road for the four Wind River Sites and the Cedar Flats (only Transects 3 and 4) site, and these provide bearings and distances to each of the transects. These are absent in the Mount Rainier Sites and Transects 1 and 2 of Cedar Flats because of their visibility and the need to comply with the aesthetics of these areas for other visitors.

The UTM values that are recorded in the information packets are not reliable. We are unsure of which datum they were recorded with. Their relative proximity to one another should be accurate, but the utm values themselves should be viewed with skepticism. They may be

in Nad27 or Nad83. We are not sure. Attempts to re-record GPS coordinates resulted in even worse data records, so this is the only coordinate information available at this time.

In the Plantation site the legacy snags and stumps that were clearly from the previous stand are not captured on the stem maps. They are recorded at all other sites.

Note that there are some special requirements at some of the sites. You will need to get a forest service gate key to access Martha Creek, and will need the combination for the gate lock for Trout Creek and Plantation. A high clearance vehicle would be beneficial for travel to the Martha Creek, Trout Creek, and Plantation sites.

A northwest forest pass is required at Cedar Flats (Transects 1 and 2), and a National Park Pass is required at the Mount Rainier sites.

For additional information please contact Nalini Nadkarni—NadkarnN@evergreen.edu

Also see relevant websites:

http://canopy.evergreen.edu/research_dataArchives_1kcs.asp?Id=2

<http://scidb.evergreen.edu/databank/studycenter/1kcsStudy>