

SCIENCE EYE -- PREPARATION - LINE TRANSECTS



High School Students – Repeatable and Random Sampling (An introduction to scientific surveying)

To better prepare your students, please briefly go over what type of scientific survey they will be conducting, why, and how.

- Explain that they are going to use a type of scientific survey, a line transect
 - A line is spread out over a distance, at predetermined intervals, data (plant identification & abundance and depth) will be collected
- Line transects are used to estimate population size, determine a dominant species, record, map and study various vegetation species &/or habitats, determine areas of special interest, calculate percent cover of vegetation both as overall vegetation and broken down by species, calculate species composition, determine changes in total vegetation cover, etc...
- During the field experience students will work together to sample data on only two line transects – more is better (gives a better understanding of the area because a larger area is sampled), but time is limited
- Please refer to the diagram below to see the set up of the line transect in which your students will be participating in and how to go about doing it (this will only be gone over briefly at the site):

