

Capturing Census Data Along Paired Fixed Transects
Smith River NRA Restoration and Travel Management Project
November 30, 2016

Data will be collected within one meter quadrats along paired transects that are monumented to improve accuracy in re-locating quadrat installation points and repeated sampling. Given its scattered, non-clumped distribution, sampling methodology for Howells jewelflower will depart from the quadrat methodology and instead focus on a count of individuals along a transect and paired sampling where it can be accommodated.

Paired transects will provide a comparison between plants in a setting most vulnerable to direct effects by motor vehicles (on travel way) against those that are not (off travel way). The respective transects will correspond to this gradient of disturbance with one located within the travel way and the other in close proximity on the edge or sides that are unlikely to be impacted by vehicular disturbance.

The length of transects will vary with the goal of capturing as many plants as possible. Data used in the example displayed on the following page was collected May 5, 2016 from an opposite leaved lewisia occurrence on Pine Flat Mtn. Each square represents a 1 meter by 1 meter quadrat within which plants are counted. The following abbreviations appear in the example; R = the number of reproductive (flowering or fruiting) plants, V = the number of vegetative plants (plants with more than one leaf), and S = the number of seedlings (plants with a single leaf). An Excel spreadsheet, shown in the example, is used to tally plant counts.

