

# Quantitative methods intro for field exercise

Volume I: Quick Start

## Monitoring Manual

for Grassland, Shrubland and Savanna Ecosystems

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# *Line point intercept*



# Line Point Intercept: page 11

Pt.	Top canopy	Lower canopy layers			Soil surface
		Code 1	Code 2	Code 3	
1	Fescue	Bluegrass	Clover	L	R
2	Fescue	L			Fescue
3	Fescue	L			S
etc.					

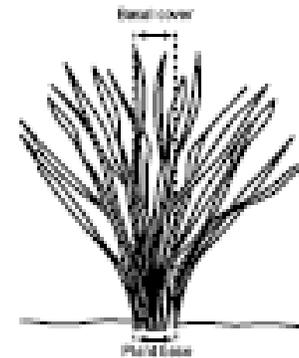
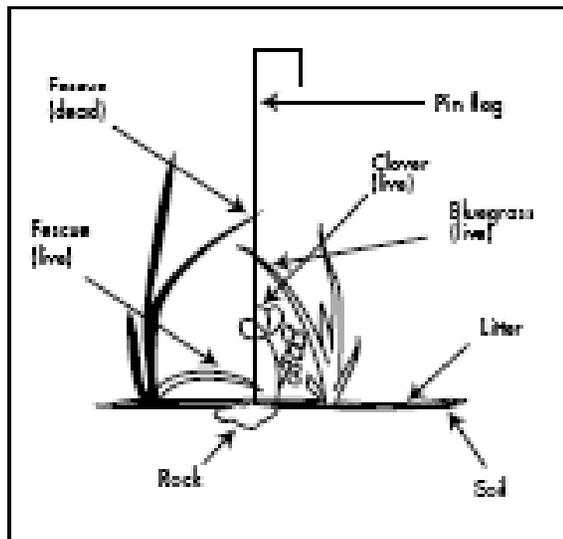
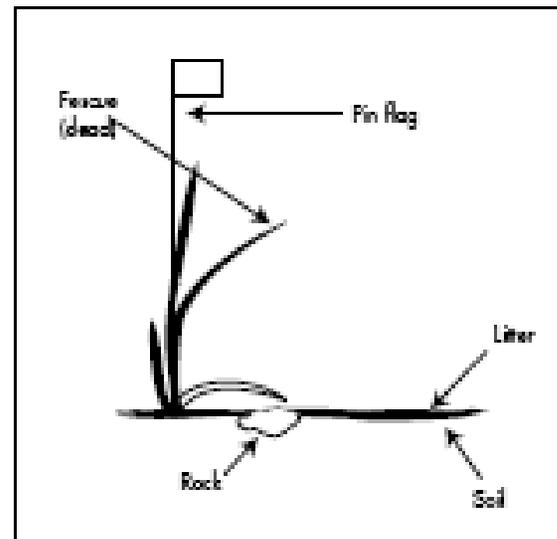


Figure 8. Area defined as plant base and included as basal cover.



Point 1



Point 2

# Line Point Intercept: page 12

## Line-point Intercept Data Form

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Shaded cells for calculations  
 Plot: \_\_\_\_\_ Line #: \_\_\_\_\_ Observer: \_\_\_\_\_ Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Direction: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Intercept (Point) spacing interval = \_\_\_\_\_ cm (\_\_\_\_ in)

Pt.	Top canopy	Lower canopy layers			Soil surface	Pt.	Top canopy	Lower canopy layers			Soil surface
		Code 1	Code 2	Code 3				Code 1	Code 2	Code 3	
1						26					
2						27					
3						28					
4						29					
5						30					
6						31					
7						32					
8						33					
9						34					
10						35					
11						36					
12						37					
13						38					
14						39					
15						40					
16						41					
17						42					
18						43					
19						44					
20						45					
21						46					
22						47					
23						48					
24						49					
25						50					

Top canopy column: plant name or "NONE"

Lower canopy columns (2-4): plant name, L or W

Soil surface column (5): plant name, R, BR, M, LC, S, EL or D

% canopy (total) cover = \_\_\_\_\_ canopy pts (1st col) x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 % bare ground\* = \_\_\_\_\_ pts (w/ NONE over S) x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 % basal cover = \_\_\_\_\_ plant base pts (last col) x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ %

**Top canopy codes:** Species code, common name, or NONE (no canopy).  
**Lower canopy layers codes:** Species code, common name, L (herbaceous litter), W (woody litter, >5 mm [1-1/2 in] diameter).

**Unknown Species Codes:**  
 AF = annual forb  
 PF = perennial forb  
 AG = annual  
 PG = perennial  
 SH = shrub  
 TR = tree

**Soil Surface (do not use litter):**  
 Species Code (for basal intercept)  
 R = rock fragment (>5 mm [1-1/2 in] diameter)  
 BR = bedrock, M = moss  
 LC = visible lichen crust on soil  
 S = soil without any other soil surface code  
 EL = embedded litter (see page 10)  
 D = duff

\*Bare ground occurs ONLY when Top canopy = NONE, lower canopy layers are empty (no L), and Soil surface = S.

Black grama grassland:  
42% canopy cover

# *Gap Intercept*

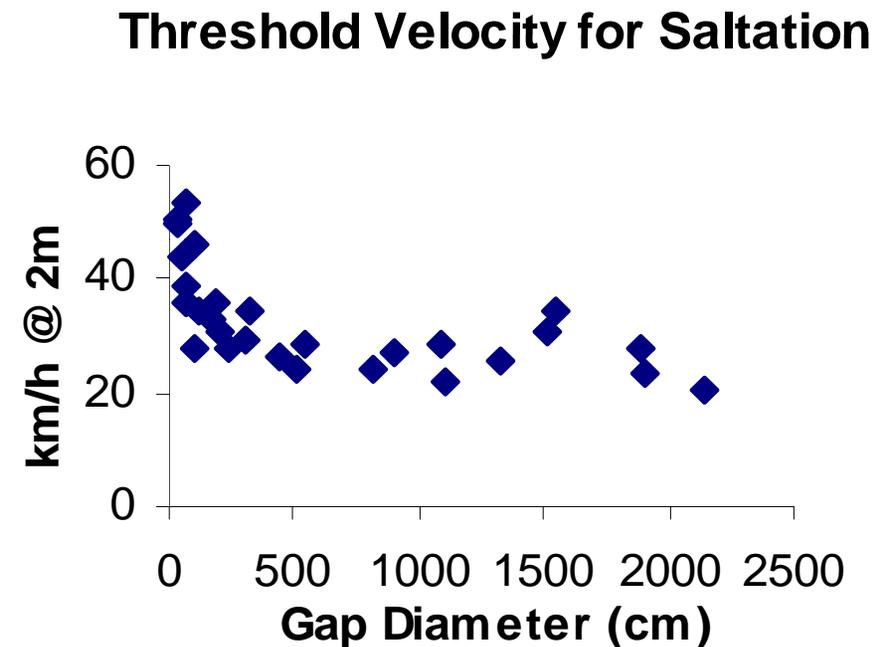


Mesquite shrubland:  
38% canopy cover



# Calibration example (gap intercept method)

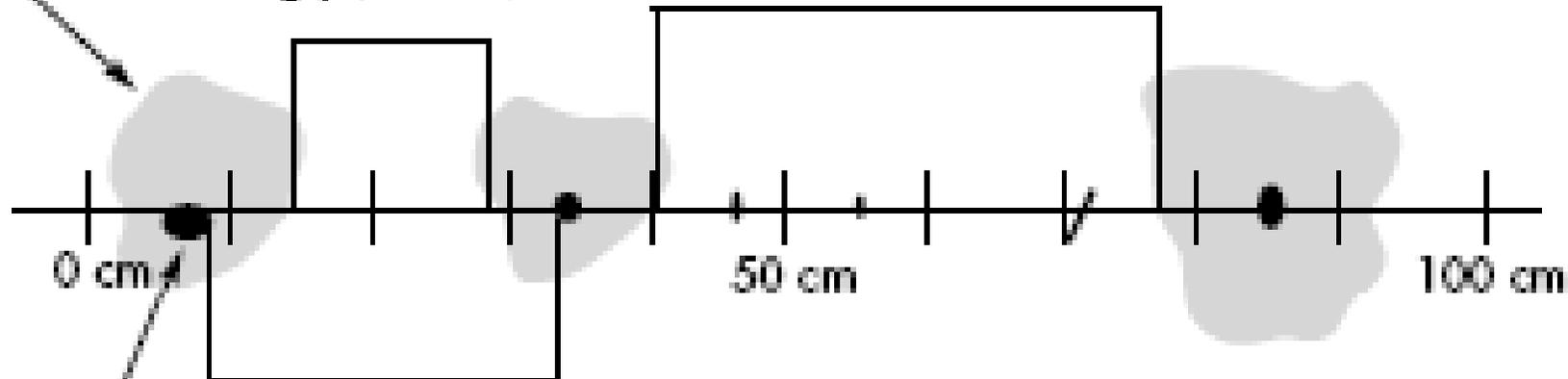
Wind erosion thresholds are often crossed during shrub invasion as gap sizes increase



Plant canopy  
(top-down view)

Not a canopy  
gap (< 20 cm)

Canopy gap from  
40 to 77 cm



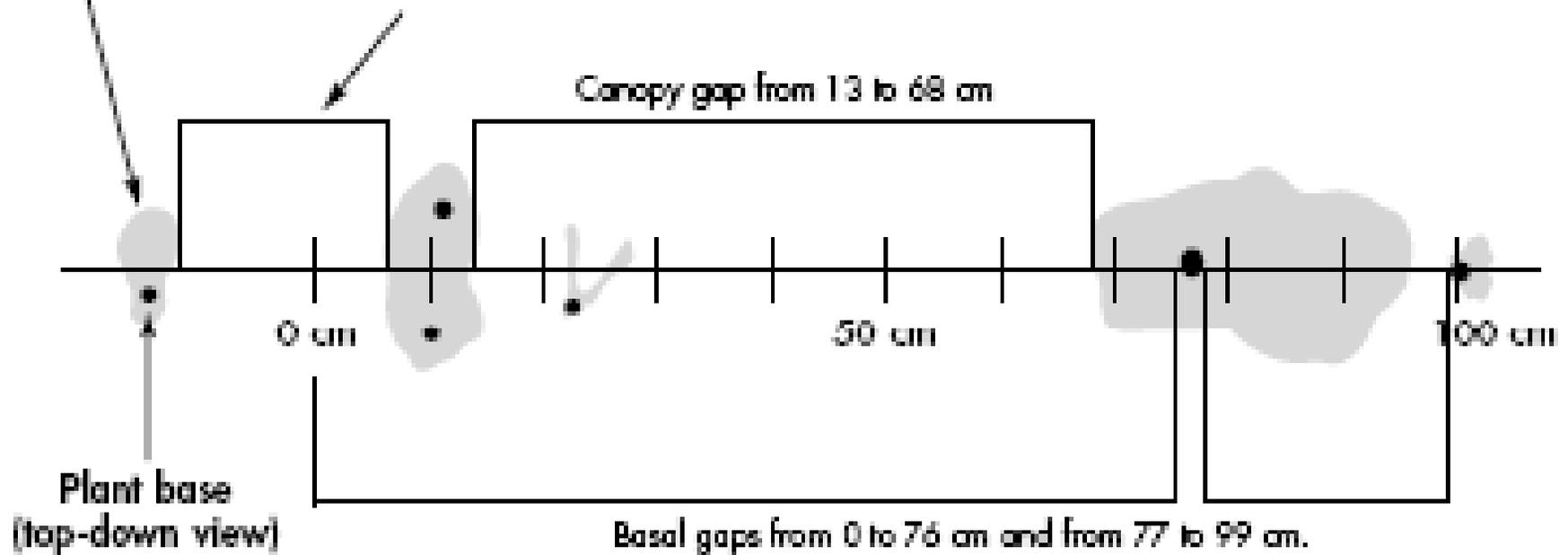
Plant base  
(top-down view)

Basal gap from  
8 to 34 cm

Note: Each hatch  
mark is 10 cm.

Plant canopy  
(top-down view)

Not a canopy gap because there is  
 $< 20$  cm of gap along the measured area,  
even though the gap is 20 cm long  
(remember, a "brick wall" at 0 m and 50 m).



Note: Each hatch  
mark is 10 cm.





CRUCE DE ZORRILLOS

