

M04t03_Pedestalls

Indicator number three is pedestals and/or terracettes and the difference between these is that a pedestal is where that you've had water or wind remove the soil from around the base of a plant or underneath the area where a rock may be perched and as the soil is eroded from the plant, then, it begins to expose the roots to dry and just simply makes the plant more susceptible to a variety of environmental factors that can ultimately lead to its death whether it be a pedestal plant or a pedestal rock, the indicator is one that in fact helps us understand that we have water moving in a way that is causing soil erosion, so, the indicators that we are looking for here are the attributes that we are looking for are soil site stability and hydrologic function. The terracettes which I will warn you if you use this word in a word document, it will tell you forever that it is misspelled, but, it's the word that we use to describe these little benches or little terraces, small, small terraces of soil that may have been as the water washes down a hillside and finally, for instance, comes off of a slope and hits a flatter area, the water slows down and the soil material is dropped out of the water flow and causes these little terraces. We call them terracettes because they are typically very small, but, what we see here where the two arrows are pointing is we see the accumulation of both soil and litter material, but, from water movement and I would point out again that a pedestal can be formed by either the soil being eroded by water or by wind. A terracettes is only a result of soil being deposited by water, but, not wind and here is our comparison again in Northern Nevada and I think you can clearly and easily see the difference in the landscape as result of the opening up the plant community, the opportunities for

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water to begin to flow and as a result of that water movement, in this instance, you see the pedestal as the lower part of the right-hand picture and you see the terracettes at the upper part of the right-hand picture and that is in fact in this picture the direction that the water is flowing from the bottom towards the top off of the site. Again, the attributes for both pedestals and terracettes are that we combine this information into a soil site stability and ideologic function. We also have a short video that we would like to watch at this time to look at the issues of pedestals. Running water erodes soil from the base of the plant creating a pedestal.