

# Land Cover Sample Site Protocol

## Field Guide

### Task

Locate and photograph a Land Cover Sample Site and classify the land cover type according to the MUC System.

### What You Need

- GPS
- Compass
- MUC Field Guide or MUC System Table and MUC Glossary of Terms*
- Camera
- Student Field Guide for GPS Protocol and GPS Data Sheet*
- Land Cover Sample Site Data Sheet*
- Pencil or pen
- Student Field Guides for Biometry Protocol and materials (some sites)*
- 50 m tape measure
- Local vegetation field guides
- Markers for permanent sites
- Clipboard

### In the Field

1. Locate the approximate center of the 90 m x 90 m homogeneous site. **Note:** The site can be much larger than 90 m x 90 m as long as it is homogeneous.
2. Complete the top of your *Sample Site Data Sheet* (School Name, Measurement Time, Recorded By, Site Name).
3. Identify the latitude, longitude and elevation of the center following the *Field Guide for GPS Protocol*. Record the average latitude, longitude and elevation from the *GPS Data Sheet* on the *Sample Site Data Sheet*.
4. Determine MUC class to the most detailed level using either the *MUC Field Guide* or the *MUC System Table* in combination with the *MUC Glossary of Terms*. Take any measurements necessary following the *Field Guides for Biometry Protocol* to help determine the class.
5. Note any unusual or helpful metadata. Record this in the appropriate place on your *Sample Site Data Sheet*.
6. Using the camera, take a photo in each cardinal direction – north, south, east and west. Use your compass to determine the directions. Record each photo number in the correct arrow on your *Data Sheet*.