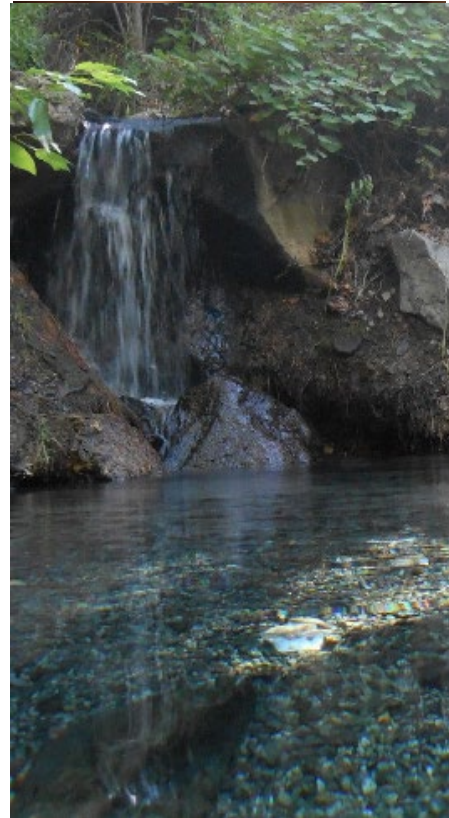


The effects of human impact in the Gila National Forest

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Research Questions/Hypothesis

- How do humans impact plant density?
- We thought that there was going to be less plants and more bare ground at the campsite. We also thought that there would be a larger percentage of forb, trees, and grass in a non-campsite area.

Background Information

Plant density, or plant spacing, describes the amount of space left between plants when planting a garden, field or other landscaping plants. The more closely spaced plants are, the higher the density.

What is?

Forb

- A plant without wood stem.
- Could be annual biannual or perennial.

Grass

- Grasses apply to vascular plants only.

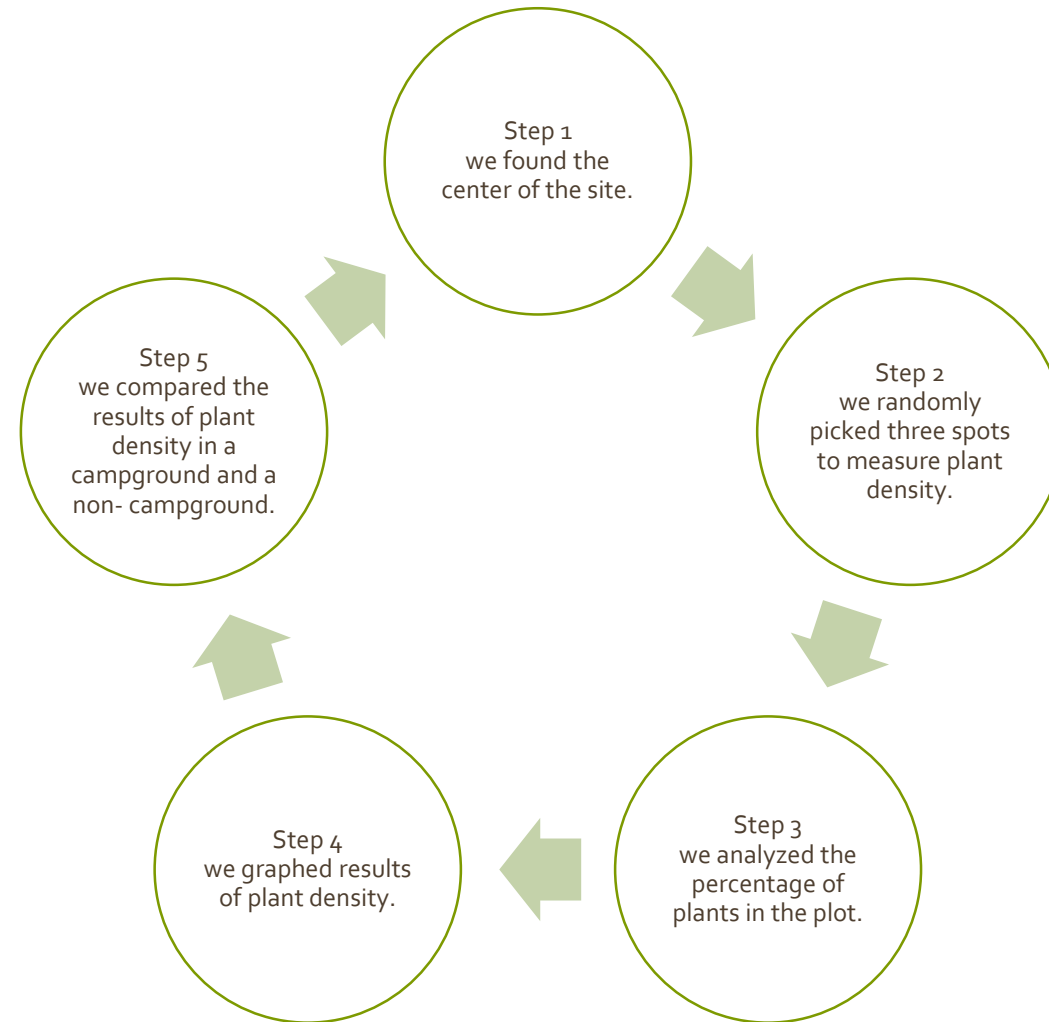
Materials

- Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Paper
- Sticks
- Pinecone
- Compass
- markers

Random selection

Start at the middle of the site and throw a pine cone after you spin for 10 seconds with our eye closed. You take a random number of steps and walk the direction the pine cone is.

Methods we used



Results of test



Camp site

- Each plot is 3 meters by 3 meters
- There is more bare ground in campsite

Plot	Steps took	Largest percentage
Plot 1	24	Bare ground
Plot 2	34	Bare ground
Plot 3	81	Tree

Non-camp site

- Each plot is 3 meters by 3 meters
- There was more forb found because of less human activity.

Plot	Steps took	Largest percentage
Plot 1	49	Forb
Plot 2	5	Forb
Plot 3	19	Bare ground

Conclusion

We found out that places where there are human activity have a lower plant density because human activity such as frequently walking on the land and throwing trash affect plant growth. Where there are less human activity such as non campsites have more plant density. If we were to measure plant density again we would have measured the plant density in more areas.

Resources

<https://www.hunker.com/13428295/planting-density>

https://plants.usda.gov/growth_habits_def.html