

Do you use photo points on your property? If so, use this section. Photo points are an easy, inexpensive, and effective way to help you track change on your property over time. Photo points can show whether management practices are working, if areas of your property that may need management attention, or to document changes after major events (such as a harvest or storm damage).

Photo points consist of repeat photography of an area of interest over a period of time taken from the same location with the same view. You want the instructions for your photo points to be precise, so anyone can replicate the photos.

Where are your photo points located on the land? Are they marked on a map, with in ground stakes, or with GPS points? Are there written instructions on how to get to the points?

Have you changed or removed photo points over time?

Do you have certain criteria you want to document with your photo points? Actively managed areas vs areas that are not? Areas of different age and species makeup?

Are your points marked with anything in your woodlands? Are points marked with some type of post or located using a structure/distinct skyline? Think of the management you will be doing on your land. For example, if you do prescribed burning you may want to use metal stakes instead of wooden posts.

How frequently do you take photos from your photo points? You want to take photos at relatively consistent intervals, but not so frequently that it becomes burdensome. One schedule example for long term tracking is to take photos in January, April, July, and October (once each season). The frequency of shooting photos can be adjusted to your goals- monitoring the effects of a specific project may require a more frequent interval.

What criteria/rules do you use to take your photos? Do you use the widest angle on your camera (zoomed out all the way)? Do you use a compass to take photos at a specific degree or in a general direction (N,S,E,W)? What do you use for scale in your photos?

Where are your photos located? Do you keep them in a photo album or stored in computer files?

How do you organize your photos? You may want to assign a name or code to each photo point to help keep track of photos. Include the point name and date in your notes/file names of digital photos. Example: A-2018.2.16 [Photo Point Location]-[Year.Month.Day]