

Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI)

Ground Sampling Certification: Ecology

The VRI Provincial Certification Exam is a field-based competency evaluation, which will test functionality, judgment, and complete mastery of the VRI procedures and principles. Short written exams are also part of the process, which test understanding of the principles of the VRI. Provincial Ecology certification will be issued following successful completion of this three-day evaluation process.

Day One

- Overview module will be taught for participants who have not already passed an overview written evaluation. It is a mandatory prerequisite to the field evaluation sessions.
- Written evaluations for the overview module and any other module that the participant may require. A prerequisite to the field evaluation is that the participants pass the written component for each module: plot establishment; navigation; plants, soils and old growth; range/forage; coarse woody debris (CWD).
- A review session to inform participants of changes to procedures and provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions or request demonstrations of procedure. It does not have any specified content and should not be considered as a teaching session.

Day Two and Day Three

- Field-based evaluation of ALL competencies necessary to obtain VRI Ecology certification. Participants will be expected to demonstrate competency in the prerequisite skills of equipment use, map reading, mapping, species identification, sampling theory, sampling procedures, as well as the navigation; plot establishment; plants, soils, old growth; range/forage; and coarse woody debris skills specific to the Vegetation Inventory.
- Field evaluation of all modules generally occurs over a two-day period. In some instances, the participant will be working with others taking the certification exam.
- Individuals who require ONLY one or more modules (e.g. coarse woody debris) may be required to complete only that portion of the evaluation process.



AUDIENCE:

- Individuals from previous training sessions requiring evaluation in only specific modules.
- Individuals who have completed the VRI training program and who have sufficient VRI experience to be successful in the certification process.
- Individuals who feel they are experienced and competent enough to **challenge** and pass both the written and field evaluation process.

PREREQUISITES:

- Registrants will be required to have successfully passed the written evaluation for the *overview* module of the VRI Training Program. **This module cannot be challenged.**
 - Any one who has not met this requirement will be required to take the overview training and write the evaluation test (Day One).
- Registrants will have completed the VRI Training Program or will have successfully challenged the training by passing the written evaluation portion for each module: field orientation; navigation; plot establishment; plants, soils, old growth; coarse woody debris; range/forage.
 - Any one who has not met this requirement will be required to write the evaluation test (Day One).
- Registrants will be required to demonstrate experience and learning appropriate to the skill level required to successfully complete the certification evaluations.
- The detailed prerequisites that must be met through accreditation or challenge to be eligible to participate in the VRI Provincial Certification Exam will be provided on request.

EQUIPMENT:

FULL complement (i.e. everything required on-the-job) of field equipment needed to do the work e.g. prisms/relaskop for establishing the variable plots, slope correction tables, stereoscope, altimeter, DBH tape, plant code list(s), site guide(s), tally book, field cheat sheets, flagging tape, soil sieve, shovel, etc.



DATES, LOCATION & FEE:

May 13-15, 2007, Lower Mainland.

Fee: \$700

To keep costs affordable a minimum class size is required. You will be contacted if less than the minimum required register.

A pro-rated fee structure is available for participants who have already passed Navigation/Plot Establishment and Coarse Woody Debris (i.e. timber certified participants)

COURSE CONTACT:

Michele Jones, R.P. Bio

Tel: 250.338.7733

Email: mimulus@shaw.ca

TO REGISTER:

Mail form and fee to: Mimulus Biological Consultants

1135 Arden Rd, Courtenay, BC V9N 9K3



VRI ECOLOGY REGISTRATION

Registration for: VRI Ecology Training <input type="checkbox"/>			Ecology Certification <input type="checkbox"/>		
Last name:			First name:		
Company Name:					
Address:			City:		Province:
Postal Code:			Phone:		
Email:					
Fees:				Amount	
VRI Ecology Training (May 6-12, 2007)			\$ 1200.00		\$.00
Navigation/Plot Establishment (<i>only</i>)			\$ 500.00		\$.00
Plant, Soils, and Old Growth (<i>only</i>)			\$ 800.00		\$.00
Range/Forage (<i>only</i>)			\$ 250.00		\$.00
Coarse Woody Debris (<i>only</i>)			\$ 250.00		\$.00
VRI Ecology Certification (May 13-15, 2007)			\$ 700.00		\$.00
Total fees due				\$0.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Courses require a minimum number of registrants. Fees may decrease with increased enrollment. ▪ Payment due at time of registration. If course is cancelled, fees will be reimbursed. 					

Please return form no later than **April 5, 2007** to:

Michele Jones
Mimulus Biological Consultants
1135 Arden Road
Courtenay, BC V9N 9K3
(250) 338-7733

Or email to:
mimulus@shaw.ca



Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI)

Ground Sampling Training

- Ecology Emphasis

(This is ***not*** the certification exam)

Two options are available for VRI Ecology Training, the full training course and training by separate modules. The course is recommended for all who want to become certified. The training course is an intensive 6.5-day workshop that includes both classroom instruction on the principles and procedures of the inventory, as well as field demonstrations and practice. The training covers an overview of the Vegetation Resources Inventory: field orientation and navigation; principles of sampling and plot establishment; plants, soils, and old growth determination; measuring coarse woody debris; and range/forage attributes. Participants will practice in the field on all modules, take a "mock" exam, and receive feedback from the instructor. Participants will also have the opportunity to take the written exams required to become certified.

Training for separate modules is also available. This type of training is recommended only for those individuals who have extensive field experience in similar inventories or who are already certified in the VRI Timber components.

OBJECTIVES:

To understand the overall principles of the VRI, and to develop the basic expertise and skills required to carry out VRI ground sampling.

AUDIENCE:

Consultants, Industry licensees, forest workers, and government staff who wish to carry out VRI ecology ground sampling and/or monitor ground sampling.

PREREQUISITES:

Field experience including a strong background in plant identification, cover estimation, soils identification, and assessment of site series is recommended.

EQUIPMENT:

Full complement of field equipment needed to do the work, e.g. manual, prisms/relaskop, slope correction tables, stereoscope, altimeter, DBH tape, plant code list(s), site guide(s), tally book, soil sieve, shovel, etc.



COURSE CONTENT:

May 6	Overview/Navigation/Plot Establishment
May 7	Completion of Navigation/Plot Establishment Plant, Soils, and Old Growth
May 8	Plant, Soils, and Old Growth
May 9	Plant, Soils, and Old Growth Range/Forage
May 10	Coarse Woody Debris Full Plot Practice
May 11	Written Exams (for certification) Practice Field Exams
May 12 (½ day)	Review of test results

DATES, LOCATION & FEE:

May 6-12, 2007. Lower Mainland.

Registration Fees:

VRI Ecology Training Course \$1200

Individual module fees:

Navigation/Plot Establishment	\$ 500
Plant, Soils, Old Growth	\$ 800
Range/Forage	\$ 250
Coarse Woody Debris	\$ 250

(You will be contacted if less than the minimum required register)

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VRI ECOLOGY REGISTRATION

Registration for: VRI Ecology Training <input type="checkbox"/>			Ecology Certification <input type="checkbox"/>		
Last name:			First name:		
Company Name:					
Address:			City:		Province:
Postal Code:			Phone:		
Email:					
Fees:			Amount		
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