

ESCI 197C INTRODUCTION TO FIELD RESEARCH

Forest Deduction

Deducing Disturbance Mechanisms

1 Identify a pattern you observed.

(Note: you should provide more detail for your field deduction report than description below)

- * 3 Douglas fir logs (≈ 70 cm dbh), lying along fall line of slope. Logs fell across trail/old road east of bend in East College Way (east of "Rock Rings" sculpture).
- * Left large gap (> 200 m²) in canopy
- * Roots attached to boles, depressions/cradles (~ 1 m deep) where roots pulled out.
- * Trees fell at least 20 yr ago: solid covering of moss on upper surface of one, another w/out bark.
Sword ferns growing in hole left by root wad.

2 Pose two hypotheses to explain the pattern. Both hypotheses must be plausible.

(Do not state hypotheses that obviously are implausible, e.g., College gnomes cast a fatal spell on the trees.)

Hypothesis 1:

Hypothesis 2:

3 Use your hypotheses to predict additional patterns related to the pattern in part 1.

Make your predictions *before* doing parts 4 and 5.

Predictions for hypothesis 1:

Predictions for hypothesis 2:

4 Search for the patterns predicted in part 3.

Search results for hypothesis 1:

Search results for hypothesis 2:

5 Use results of your search to evaluate your hypotheses from part 2.

Hypothesis 1 evaluation:

Hypothesis 2 evaluation: