

## Step 13

### Monitor vegetation condition

An initial vegetation assessment followed by regular monitoring can show if the condition of vegetation changes over time.

Use the vegetation assessment carried out in Step 4 as the starting point to find out if the presence and abundance of groundlayer vegetation in nominated management units has changed over time.

The condition of the vegetation in management units is influenced by management activities. This means that by comparing the changes in vegetation in the units over time it is possible to see if activities have made a difference to the vegetation condition. It is also possible to decide if changes to management are required in any of the units.

#### Aim

- Use plants that indicate levels of high and low vegetation condition to assess change in vegetation.



*Geranium retrorsum*



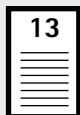
*Dichopogon fimbriatus*

#### Materials

Sheet 13

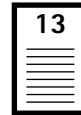
Map

Overlay 4



## Method

1. Select the management units to be monitored for changing vegetation conditions.
2. Mark the monitoring sites on Overlay 4. Note the location and monitoring method on Sheet 13.
3. Identify the presence and abundance of indicator groundlayer plants that reflect the vegetation condition in each monitoring site.
  - Use Table E to identify species that indicate high or low conservation significance.
  - Write the scores for the indicator species on Sheet 13.
  - Add the score for each management unit.
4. Record the vegetation condition ranking. The total score corresponds to a vegetation condition ranking shown in Table F on Sheet 4.
5. Repeat this monitoring process for the management units on a regular basis over a period of time.
6. Record changes in vegetation condition. Note any management activities or other relevant information. Decide whether follow-up activities are required.
7. Compare changes that have occurred within each management unit. Identify features that have changed and why changes may have occurred.
8. Take photos to assist with the assessment of vegetation condition.



## Example

### Step 13: Record of vegetation condition indicator species over time

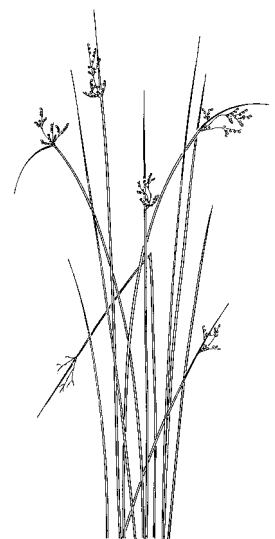
**Object(s) of monitoring:** To record any change in vegetation condition

**Details of monitoring** (*how it is being done and how often*): At three locations, identify the indicator species present in the units. Photos are taken from marked star pickets.

**Location** (*including management units, direction, height, reference points*): See monitoring map (Overlay 4) and sketch drawings on back of Sheet 11. VC1: Unit B; VC2: Unit D; VC3: Unit F in Button Wrinklewort patch.

**Management:** Unit B: rotationally grazed; Unit D not grazed for more than 10 years. F not grazed since 1998.

Location of monitoring site: Location VC1	Management unit: A4			
Monitoring date	11/12/97	21/12/98	31/12/00	4/12/02
Photo record no.	97-21	98-3	00-17	02-8
Introduced perennial grasses	1	2	2	2
Introduced annual grasses	0	0	2	2
Introduced disturbance specialists	0	0	1	2
Introduced perennial weeds	1	1	2	1
Disturbance tolerant wildflowers	0	0	1	1
Disturbance susceptible wildflowers (not daisies)	1	1	1	1
Disturbance tolerant native grasses	1	1	1	1
Disturbance sensitive daisies	0	0	0	0
Orchids or lilies	0	0	0	0
Disturbance sensitive native wildflowers	2	1	1	1
Lichen and fungi	0	0	1	1
Disturbance sensitive native grasses	0	0	0	1
<b>Total vegetation score</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total groundlayer vegetation condition rating</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>



*Juncus subsecundus*