

Inventory Philosophy and Protocol

1. The basic information we are looking for is species presence on the site. That's it.
2. **Species Lists:** If we have one, a master species list will be given to each group when you check in at basecamp at the start of your shift. As you go through the site, use these master lists to check off what you see. You may end up adding species to the lists. Record the presence of non-natives as well as natives. If you would like to take more information for your own purposes, like habitat affiliations, precise locations, etc. feel free to do so and feel free to share any interesting insights. Notes related to species ID, rare species, or photos should be recorded in the yellow notebooks provided.
3. **Rare species:** If you spot something rare please take a GPS reading of the spot in which you found it and also describe the habitat in which it was found and take pictures. Make sure this information makes it into the yellow notebook provided.
4. **Species ID:** To minimize our impact, we are opting for in-field identification or taking photographs rather than collecting specimens. There are some cases when taking specimens will be appropriate; however, our goal is to minimize collecting so we only take what is absolutely necessary. We will only count insects larger than 5 mm. All others will be let go as they can't be identified by photo. This means we might only be able to ID some things (particularly invertebrates) to family or genus. We are comfortable with a little mystery. These species are our neighbors.
5. **Setting up photos:** When using photography for ID use your knowledge of what traits will be important to identify the organism and photograph accordingly. Naturalist leaders will need to help photographers with this information. The basecamp will have a photo station, shaded area, white cards, and microscopes if photos cannot be taken with the right amount of detail in the field.
6. **Photography documentation:** Please get photos of as many species as possible, even if we don't need the photo for ID purposes. These photos will contribute to an on-line database of species for the island and will also be useful for education and outreach. We'd love photos and video clips of people as well for anyone who brings a camera.
7. **Data transfer and security:** When you are done with your shift please report back to basecamp. We will photograph your master species list notes. Then we are asking team leaders to take the master lists home, enter them into excel, and email them to Vashon Nature Center within 3 weeks of the Bioblitz. We will also have a hard drive available to download photos at base camp at the end of each shift.
8. **HAVE FUN, FIND LOTS!!!!**

Questions in the field? Call 206-755-5798 for Vashon Nature Center assistance

