

## Project Planning

Our projects often begin with a site assessment that provides a framework for classifying and describing open space hydrology, soils and vegetation; thereby delineating land units that share similar capabilities to respond to management activities or disturbance.

These generally follow Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) which are reports that provide detailed information about a particular kind of land - a distinctive Ecological Site. ESDs provide land managers the information needed for evaluating the land as to suitability for various land-uses, capability to respond to different management activities or disturbance processes, and the ability to sustain productivity over the long term.

ESD information is presented in four major sections:

- Site Characteristics -- physical geography, climate, soil, and water features
- Plant Communities – plant species, vegetation states, and ecological dynamics
- Site Interpretations – management alternatives for the site and its related resources
- Supporting Information – relevant permits, literature, information and data sources

The product of the assessment, either formal or informal, is a project plan that defines our goals for an area and a road map for how we can achieve our goals.